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Two terrorists killed in security forces operation in Balochistan's Kech district

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Security forces have killed two terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in the Dasht-Balangor area of Kech district in Balochistan, security sources said on Tuesday.According to security sources, the operation was launched on the basis of intelligence reports and involved an intense exchange of fire, resulting in the deaths of two terrorists.Modern weapons, ammunition, communication equipment and cash were recovered from the possession of the slain terrorists, the sources said.



Regional stability depends on respect for Indus Water Treaty: Dar

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has said that Pakistan will firmly safeguard its legitimate rights under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and oppose any attempt to weaponize water,

Addressing the Margalla Dialogue 2026 in Islamabad on Tuesday, Deputy PM Ishaq Dar emphasized that regional stability also depends on respect for the treaty obligations.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (centre), Chief of the Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and others at the dome placement ceremony of the Chashma-5 (C-5) Nuclear Power Plant in Mianwali

PM calls for building economically stronger, energy-secure Pakistan

■ **"Pakistan will not wait for anyone, but will build its own future through its hard work and untiring efforts," says premier**

SPECIAL REPORTER

MIANWALI

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called for building an economically dominant, energy-independent and environmentally resilient Pakistan, declaring that the country will harness its resources, technology and human capital to secure a prosperous future.

Addressing the dome placement ceremony of the Chashma-5 Nuclear Power Plant (C-5), the prime minister described the milestone as a reflection of Pakistan's determination to shape its own future through hard work, technological advancement and strategic partnerships.

The premier, while emphasising the importance of energy security, said Chashma-5 represented much more than steel and concrete — rather, it was a promise of clean, reliable, and affordable electricity that would strengthen the national economy and improve people's lives. He said that nuclear power would reduce Pakistan's dependence on imported fuels and international price fluctuations while ensuring a stable electricity supply for industries, hospitals, educational institutions and households."Pakistan will not wait for anyone, but will build its own future through its hard work and untiring efforts," the prime minister recalled, referring to his commitment at the project's groundbreaking ceremony in July 2023.(Continued on Page-5)



Trump nominates Natalie Baker as US ambassador to Pakistan

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

US President Donald Trump has nominated Natalie Baker, currently serving as the charge d'affaires at the US Embassy in Islamabad, for appointment as the next US ambassador to Pakistan, according to a White House statement.

Baker's nomination has been forwarded to the US Senate for consideration. It will first be reviewed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and, if cleared, will be placed before the full Senate for confirmation.

She will formally assume the position of US ambassador to Pakistan after securing Senate approval.Baker took over as charge d'affaires at the US Embassy in Islamabad in January 2025, following the departure of former ambassador Donald Armin Blome.



Trump says he will hold off on fresh Iran strikes for now

STAFF REPORTER

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said on Monday he plans to hold off on new military strikes against Iran for the time being after appeals from ?countries in the region, including from Qatar's prime minister in White House talks.

Trump, in a Reuters interview and a later appearance in the White House press briefing room, said he plans to keep up a naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz for now.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi shifted to PIC for medical examination

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has been shifted from Kot Lakhpat Jail to the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) for various medical tests.

'Why sit as ministers?': CM Maryam hits back at critics amid corruption allegations

■ **Punjab chief executive vows action against any minister if evidence of corruption is presented**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has challenged critics of her government over corruption allegations, questioning why "dissatisfied" ministers continue holding office instead of resigning.

"Those who have a problem should resign. Why are they sitting there as ministers?" the provincial chief executive said while addressing an event in Jhelum on Tuesday.Her remarks come after federal minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) political ally Chaudhry Salik Hussain of PML-Q MNA alleged corruption in Punjab.

In an interview with a private television channel on November 2, Hussain had said he did not possess evidence but heard stories about corruption in Punjab every day.



The Punjab chief minister later sought Rs5 billion in damages from Hussain over his allegations, according to a legal notice served on the minister.

The six-page notice, issued on CM Maryam's behalf by Additional Advocate General Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Nawaz, maintained that Hussain had failed to identify any document, official inquiry, audit observation, investigation, complaint or other verifiable source to substantiate his remarks.

Meanwhile, the provincial chief executive said that people who had not delivered anything in the past found it easy to accuse others of corruption, adding that she had never claimed corruption had been completely eliminated in Punjab.

"I have never said that corruption has been completely eliminated in Punjab."

However, she claimed that Punjab is the only province where the chief minister regularly uncovered corruption cases, questioning whether corruption did not exist in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

She challenged anyone possessing evidence against a member of her cabinet to come forward, saying she would not spare any minister found involved in wrongdoing. "If anyone comes forward with evidence against my minister, I will not spare them."

Iran calls on US to meet its demands to end war

WEB DESK

TEHRAN



Iran on Tuesday urged the United States to meet its demands in a plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, after President Donald Trump spoke of "positive momentum" to end their eight-month war.

"The conflict with Iran will not be resolved through military means, nor by intensifying sanctions," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Iran's IRNA news agency.

"The only solution is to adopt a language of respect, engage in diplomacy, and address Iran's demands and conditions -- which were outlined in the two-day proposal and remain on the table."

Sindh built 2.1 million homes for flood victims in three years, Bilawal Bhutto

■ **Bilawal Bhutto Zardari says Sindh has built one million homes for flood victims in three years, with land ownership transferred to beneficiary women.**

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said the Sindh government has made history by constructing 2.1 million houses for flood-affected families in three years.

Addressing a ceremony marking the completion of housing projects for flood victims in Karachi on Tuesday, Bilawal said the achievement reflected the government's commitment to fulfilling its promises to people affected by devastating floods.

He said the world was facing an economic crisis, while record inflation had increased public expectations of governments to provide relief during difficult times.Bilawal stressed that people wanted solutions to their economic problems rather than politics based on hatred and division.

He said the one million houses were not merely buildings, as land ownership had also been transferred to their beneficiaries.

He particularly highlighted the decision to register land ownership in the names of women in beneficiary families.

According to Bilawal, the initiative also represented the largest land-transfer programme since 1970.

He said that people without homes had been provided houses along with ownership rights, describing the programme as an important step towards economic security and social protection.

The PPP chairman said housing construction and free healthcare initiatives were among the measures being taken by the Sindh government to provide relief to the public.

He added that the provincial government was committed to achieving its next target of constructing two million houses after completing the one-million-home milestone.

Bilawal urged political parties to focus on practical solutions to economic difficulties, unemployment and educational challenges instead of promoting political confrontation.

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry says courts hold the only route to Imran Khan's release

■ **Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry says government has neither offered Imran Khan a deal nor granted any special concession.**

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has said the government has neither a deal nor any leniency for Imran Khan, adding that the only route to the PTI founder's release is through the courts.

Speaking to the media at Parliament House, the minister said Imran Khan had access to medical examination facilities. He added that Barrister Salman Safdar was a lawyer but had been acting as a medical expert in the media.

He reiterated that the only way for the PTI founder to secure his release was through the courts, stressing that the government had neither offered him a deal nor granted him any special concession.



Chaudhry said Imran Khan's release could become possible if Salman Safdar focused on legal points. He added that Safdar had acknowledged that the PTI founder had access to medical check-ups.

The minister said the government had neither neglected Imran Khan's treatment in the past nor would it do so in the future. He claimed that the former prime minister had been taken to hospital six times even before the Supreme Court issued its order for his hospitalisation.

He further said that when necessary, a doctor had been summoned from London over Imran Khan's blood pressure concerns. He maintained that Khan had received treatment according to the medical standards required for his condition.

Islamabad Police Accelerates Welfare Initiatives, Upgrades Residential Facilities at Police Lines

■ IGP Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry Directs Improvement of Living Conditions; DIG Muhammad Atiq Tahir Reviews Ongoing Renovation Work.



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Police Priorities Welfare of Officers and Officials; Residential Facilities at Police Lines Undergoing Major UpgradationFollowing the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, Islamabad Police is taking practical measures to improve the welfare and living conditions of its officers and officials. Renovation and upgradation work on residential accommodation at Police Lines Headquarters is progressing at a fast pace, with the aim of providing the force with better, more comfortable and improved living facilities.In this regard, DIG Law and Order and Training Muhammad Atiq Tahir visited Police Lines Headquarters and reviewed the ongoing development and renovation work. He directed the concerned officers to ensure high standards of workmanship and complete all projects within the stipulated timeframe. He also emphasized the importance of regular monitoring to ensure that the facilities being developed meet the required standards.Under the IGP's Islamabad directions, special attention is being given to the renovation of residential buildings, repair work and improvement of basic facilities at Police Lines Headquarters. The IGP has previously reviewed welfare and development projects for police officers and officials and directed the concerned officers to ensure their timely completion while maintaining quality standards. Progress on these projects is being monitored regularly to ensure effective utilization of resources and the provision of improved facilities to the force.IGP Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry has emphasized that police officers and officials perform their duties round the clock to protect the lives and property of citizens. Therefore, their welfare, professional development and access to essential facilities remain important departmental priorities. Providing better residential facilities and a comfortable living environment will help improve their quality of life and enable them to perform their duties with greater focus and dedication.

Virtual Asset Alliance of Pakistan Established to Protect Crypto Investors

■ Joint initiative with Japan's Asia Web3 Alliance aims to promote cybersecurity awareness, prevent digital asset fraud, support startups and strengthen Pakistan's presence in the global blockchain industry.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD



The Virtual Asset Alliance of Pakistan (VAAP) has been established in collaboration with the Asia Web3 Alliance, Japan, to protect investors associated with cryptocurrency and digital assets, promote cybersecurity awareness, and represent Pakistan's digital asset industry at the international level.Announcing the initiative at a press conference at the National Press Club Islamabad, Syed Ehtisham Hamdani, representative of the alliance, said the platform would bring together industry stakeholders and provide investors with guidance and protection against fraud, cyberattacks and fraudulent cryptocurrency exchanges.The press conference was attended by prominent industry opinion leaders, including Mubashir Irfan, Muhammad Ismail, Zain-ul-Abideen, Hamza Kiyani and Shafiq-ul-Hassan.Hamdani said the lack of reliable data regarding the number of cryptocurrency investors and the volume of investments in Pakistan remained a major challenge. He stressed the need to promote public awareness and develop accurate industry data to support the sector's growth.He clarified that the alliance would not serve as a substitute for any government or regulatory authority but would act as a bridge between the public and relevant authorities. It would also facilitate investors in registering complaints, obtaining legal guidance and learning about measures to secure their digital accounts.The speakers said the alliance would focus on creating entrepreneurial opportunities for young people in the blockchain and digital assets sectors. It would also guide companies and startups through registration and licensing procedures and organise awareness programmes at universities.They invited blockchain companies, startups, investors and other stakeholders to join the alliance, expressing confidence that an effective strategy, greater public awareness and strong investor protection could help Pakistan secure a prominent position in the global digital economy .

NCCIA DG Rizvi chairs meeting of additional directors nationwide, orders intensified action against cybercrime



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

:Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Tuesday chaired a meeting of additional directors from across the country to review the agency's overall performance, ongoing operations and pending cases, directing officers to intensify action against cybercrime and ensure timely justice for citizens.

NCCIA DG Rizvi chairs meeting of additional directors nationwide, orders intensified action against cybercrimeAccording to details issued by NCCIA, the meeting reviewed the agency's overall performance, ongoing operational activities, administrative matters and action against cybercriminals.The meeting also examined the performance of different NCCIA circles, progress on pending cases, ongoing investigations and challenges faced by field officers.

Participants discussed measures to strengthen professional capabilities, adopt effective strategies and further improve institutional performance. DG Rizvi directed the officers to accelerate action against cybercrime and make ongoing operations more effective to ensure timely justice for citizens.

He emphasised the need to improve professional efficiency and strengthen institutional performance to address emerging cybercrime challenges.

SSP Investigation Zain Asim Assumes Charge, Holds Open Court in Islamabad

News Desk

ISLAMABAD



SSP Investigation Zain Asim Assumes Charge, Holds Open Court to Address Citizens' ComplaintsAccording to the details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Investigation Islamabad Zain Asim has formally assumed charge of his office. Following his assumption of charge, he held an open court at his office in G-11 on the special directions of DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem to address citizens' issues and ensure the prompt resolution of public complaints.A large number of citizens attended the open court and presented their concerns and complaints. SSP Investigation Zain Asim listened to their issues in detail and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their prompt resolution.He directed the officers to process all applications strictly on merit and in accordance with the law, ensure timely relief to citizens and avoid unnecessary delays in addressing their complaints.Islamabad Police will continue holding open courts to facilitate the timely resolution of citizens' issues, provide effective redressed of public grievances and strengthen direct communication between the police and the public.

NCCIA Lahore Arrests Suspect Involved in Blackmailing Woman Through Objectionable



CRIME REPORTER

LAHORE

NCCIA Lahore Takes Action Against Accused Involved in Blackmailing, Accused ArrestedRevelation of Extorting Money by Blackmailing Through Objectionable VideosAccording to details, National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency Lahore took action against an accused involved in blackmailing and arrested him.The arrested accused has been identified as Imran Hussain.According to the complainant, the accused Imran Hussain was blackmailing her by demanding money and threatening to send her objectionable videos to her relatives.The accused also sent the complainant's videos to her relatives through the "View Once" feature and recently threatened to circulate her objectionable data if she refused to meet him.On receipt of the complaint, NCCIA Lahore took timely action and arrested the accused Imran Hussain, and a case was registered against him for blackmailing the complainant through her objectionable videos, demanding money, and threatening to circulate the videos among her relatives.On this occasion, Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that NCCIA is committed to taking strict action against elements involved in online harassment, blackmailing and sexual exploitation of women and no one will be spared. Citizens should report any cyber crime on 1799 or report to the nearest circle.



PMYP triples youth loan ceiling to Rs25m to unlock business growth opportunities

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Tuesday announced a more than threefold increase in the maximum financing limit under the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme (PMYBALS), raising it from Rs 7.5 million to Rs 25 million to enable young entrepreneurs to expand their businesses, establish larger enterprises and create employment opportunities across the country.

Addressing a press conference, he said the newly introduced Tier-4 of the scheme had been approved by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) and ratified by the Federal Cabinet, marking a significant expansion of financing opportunities for young business owners.

Under the new tier, eligible entrepreneurs would be able to obtain loans exceeding Rs7.5 million and up to Rs 25 million at an eight per cent markup for a maximum period of eight years.

Rana Mashhood said the enhanced financing facility would help successful youth led businesses graduate into small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), particularly in agro processing, cold chains, mechanised farming, solar energy, manufacturing and export-oriented industries.

He said the scheme is open to young Pakistanis aged 21 to 45, while individuals aged 18 and above could also apply for financing in information technology (IT) and e-commerce.

NCCIA Recruitment: Physical Tests Completed Across Country

■ DG NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi Says No Compromise on Merit; Tests Conducted in Peaceful, Organised and Transparent Manner

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Physical Tests Completed at All Centres Across the Country for Recruitment in NCCIATests Completed in Peaceful, Organized and Transparent Manner at All Centres, Best Arrangements for Candidates, No Compromise on Merit, DG NCCIAAccording to details, physical tests have been completed at all centres across the country in connection with recruitments in National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency.Physical tests were completed in a peaceful, organized and transparent manner at all centres including F-9 Park Islamabad and all stages were completed as per the prescribed procedure.During the physical tests, the physical fitness of the candidates was checked as per the prescribed standard and other physical stages including running were completed.Medical camps were established at the test centres for the convenience of the candidates, where medical teams were present for on-spot medical examination, first aid and emergency situations.No untoward incident occurred at any centre during the physical tests and all activities were completed smoothly.All stages of the tests were effectively monitored through drones and Safe City cameras to ensure transparency in all circumstances.Senior officers remained present at the test centres, conducted a detailed review of arrangements and transparency and observed the performance of the candidates.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 and there will be no compromise on merit, the next stages of recruitment will also be completed with the same transparency and merit. Citizens should report any cyber crime on 1799 or report to the nearest circle.



IG Punjab Opens Doors for Police Personnel, Orders Swift Action on Welfare Applications

Grievances of Police Employees and Family Members Heard at Central Police Office; Relevant DIGs Directed to Ensure Immediate Relief.

Crime reporter

LAHORE

Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem met police employees and their family members at the Central Police Office. IG Punjab listened to the problems of police employees and their family members and issued directions to the concerned officers for immediate relief According to details, on the request of the widow of late Constable Yasir Masih regarding the payment of



outstanding dues, IG Punjab issued necessary directions to the DIG Welfare and Finance. On the transfer request of Lady Constable Anum Aslam, the DIG Establishment-II was directed to consider the matter. On the requests for financial assistance for the medical treatment of Constable Syed Aamir Hussain and Constable Hammad Hussain, the DIG Welfare and Finance was directed to provide relief. On the transfer request of Lady Sanitary Worker Rukhsana Bibi, the DIG SPU was directed to consider the matter IG Punjab Abdul Kareem also issued directions on other applications related to discipline, administration, promotion and welfare issues of the force

Appointment of Five New Members to Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Board

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Government of Pakistan has issued a formal notification deciding to appoint five new members to the Board of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal. The appointment of the new members will take effect immediately, while the membership of the former members has been terminated.According to the notification issued by the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, the new appointments have been made in light of the relevant provisions of the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Act 1991 and the decision of the Federal Cabinet, which will apply with immediate effect.Syed Muhammad Azmat from Punjab, former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, G.M. Shah from Sindh, Maryam Hayat from Balochistan, while Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi has been appointed as a member of the Board to represent Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.The inclusion of new members from different provinces and regional units in the Board aims to ensure effective representation in the administrative, advisory and policy-making affairs of the institution and to highlight the welfare issues of different regions of the country.

Chairman WAPDA visits Tarbela 5th extension, reviews situation after raised intake incident

In the wake of the tunnel incident at Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project, Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Muhammad Saeed (Retd) visited Tarbela from 9-10 November to review the situation at the Project. Member (Water) WAPDA Asim Rauf Khan, other senior officers of WAPDA, Contractor and Consultants were also present on the occasion.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

In the wake of the tunnel incident at Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project, Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Muhammad Saeed (Retd) visited Tarbela from 9-10 November to review the situation at the Project. Member (Water) WAPDA Asim Rauf Khan, other senior officers of WAPDA, Contractor and Consultants were also present on the occasion.

The Chairman visited in detail the Intake Structure, Tunnel, Power House and other important sites of the Project.

The Consultants, Contractor and WAPDA Project Management briefed him on the current situation and the measures taken so far.

Chairman WAPDA visits Tarbela 5th extension, reviews situation after raised intake incident

Later, the Chairman presided over a meeting at



the Project Office. The possible causes of the incident were discussed in detail. Short-, medium-, and long-term preventive measures to handle such situations and a strategy to address the current issue were also deliberated upon.

Chairman WAPDA visits Tarbela 5th extension, reviews situation after raised intake incident Immediate response measures were also finalised. Execution of immediate response measures has been initiated. Moreover, Consultants, Contractor and WAPDA teams were unanimous in their assessment that as of now there is no threat to the integrity of the main Tarbela dam or any of its critical structures.

The Chairman directed the Consultants to submit a detailed report covering all aspects of the incident at the earliest.

He further directed the Consultants, Contractor and WAPDA Project Team to execute remedial measures immediately and also finalise the contingency plan to minimise the delay resulting from the incident in overall completion of the Project, said a message received here on Tuesday.

He ordered a departmental inquiry to probe the incident holistically.

Ministry for Water Resources had also sought an initial assessment report of the incident from WAPDA, which has been submitted today.

Minister for Water Resources Mian Muhammad Mueen Watto, who was following the incident all along, has also been briefed in person by Chairman WAPDAabout the details of the incident.



NCCIA Rawalpindi Recovers Rs. 800,000 in Fraud Case and Returns Money to Affected Woman

NEWS DESK

Rawalpindi

Excellent Performance of NCCIA Rawalpindi, Fraudulent Amount Recovered and Handed Over to Affected Woman Complainant Given Back 800,000 Rupees, Citizens' Trust in the Agency RestoredAccording to details, National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency Rawalpindi showed excellent performance by recovering a major portion of the defrauded amount and handing it over to the complainant.The complainant Uzma Shaheen had lodged a complaint with NCCIA Rawalpindi that she had suffered a loss of 11,30,000 rupees through fraud.On receipt of the complaint, the investigation of the case was entrusted to Sub Inspector Ghayoor Abbas Jafri, who investigated the matter in detail.Investigation Officer Sub Inspector Ghayoor Abbas Jafri, through timely, effective and professional efforts, recovered 800,000 rupees out of the defrauded amount.

Wajiha Qamar Represents Pakistan at ECO Meeting, Calls for Stronger Regional Education Partnerships



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Ms Wajiha Qamar represented Pakistan at the 5th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Educational Institute, held virtually, and presented Pakistan's national statement, reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening regional educational cooperation, academic partnerships and human capital development.

Pakistan reaffirms commitment to regional educational cooperation, innovation and youth development at ECO meeting

Addressing the meeting, the Minister of State said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the Government of Pakistan was pursuing comprehensive educational reforms aimed at improving access to quality education, addressing the challenge of out-of-school children, strengthening higher education and promoting technical and vocational training.

She emphasized that education, innovation and emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence and digital learning, were essential for sustainable development and economic prosperity across the ECO region.

"Education remains the foundation of regional connectivity, shared prosperity and sustainable development. Pakistan is committed to strengthening educational partnerships that create meaningful opportunities for our youth," she said.

CDA claims 92pc development work completed in Sector C-14



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has completed around 92 per cent of the basic infrastructure development work in Sector C-14, with arrangements for electricity supply nearing completion, officials said on Tuesday.

The progress was reviewed during a visit to the sector by CDA Chairman and Islamabad Chief Commissioner Sohail Ashraf, who directed the relevant departments to expedite the remaining work and ensure early possession of plots to allottees.

During a briefing, officials informed the chairman that installation of streetlight poles along main roads had been completed, while signboards were being installed on roads and streets. Landscaping and horticulture work was also under way.

16th Ju-Jitsu National Championship 2026 Pakistan Police Athletes Win 11 Medals

Pakistan Police male and female athletes secure 2 silver and 9 bronze medals; IG Punjab Abdul Kareem congratulates the players on their outstanding performance.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Pakistan Police Sports Board's male and female athletes delivered an outstanding performance at the 16th Ju-Jitsu National Championship 2026, winning a total of 11 medals. Pakistan Police athletes secured 2 silver and 9 bronze medals. Teams from across the country, including WAPDA, Pakistan Navy, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, participated in the championship IG Punjab Abdul Kareem congratulated the Pakistan Police athletes on their remarkable performance and appreciated their achievements. He said that the department takes pride in athletes who bring laurels to the department through their outstanding performances in national and international events Director General Pakistan Police Sports Board Additional IG Imran Arshad and Chief



Sports Officer DIG Athar Ismail also appreciated the performance of the victorious athletes and paid tribute to their achievements Muhammad Abid and Fazilat Aslam won silver medals, while Shoaib secured two bronze medals. Other bronze medal winners included Salman Tariq, Munir Ahmad, Rifat, Mubashir Butt, Sikandar, Abdul Wahab and MuhammadAbid

Three artists bring Iqbal's 'Saqi Nama' to life at PNCA

An art exhibition titled 'Saqi Nama', featuring artistic interpretations of Allama Muhammad Iqbal's celebrated poem by three artists, Geytee Ara, Lubna Jehangir and Zarar Haider Babry, opened at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Tuesday.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

An art exhibition titled 'Saqi Nama', featuring artistic interpretations of Allama Muhammad Iqbal's celebrated poem by three artists, Geytee Ara, Lubna Jehangir and Zarar Haider Babry, opened at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Tuesday.

The exhibition is being organized to commemorate the 149th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and celebrate his poetic vision and philosophical legacy through diverse forms of artistic expression. It will remain open to visitors until November 18.Bringing together three artists who were university fellows, the exhibition marks their reunion after pursuing different professional careers and following separate paths over the decades.

They have come together to explore Iqbal's poetry through their individual artistic perspectives, experiences and creative approaches.

Each artwork draws inspiration from a single couplet of Iqbal's 'Saqi Nama', offering an independent visual interpretation of the selected verse through different mediums, colours, forms and techniques.

Iqbal's 'Saqi Nama' is among the most



celebrated works in the Urdu and Persian literary traditions. Using the imagery of the cupbearer, wine and cup, the poem conveys a deeper philosophical message about self-awakening, personal growth, struggle and the courage to transform oneself. Its universal themes encourage individuals to move beyond complacency and pursue their potential through continuous effort and renewal.

The artists approached the poem with reverence, reflecting on its philosophical depth while drawing inspiration from earlier artistic interpretations. Their works explore different dimensions of human experience, identity, memory, aspiration and transformation.

Geytee Ara explores the relationship between material, memory and selfhood, using form, surface and texture to connect inherited ideas with contemporary experiences. Her work reflects on renewal and the courage to embrace change.

Lubna Jehangir focuses on rhythm, movement and illumination, using colour as a medium of expression and inquiry to explore the inner landscapes of the poem while retaining a sense of mystery in her compositions.

Zarar Haider Babry explores themes of ascent, struggle and transformation through line, colour and gesture, drawing inspiration from Iqbal's poetry to create independent visual expressions of energy, aspiration and the evolving self.

The exhibition also reflects the artists' personal journeys of introspection, as their engagement with the poem prompted

questions about identity, life experiences, personal growth and the continuing process of self-discovery.

Through their diverse artistic expressions, the three artists invite visitors to engage with Iqbal's timeless message, reflect on their own journeys and discover new meanings in the celebrated poem.

Saudi-led coalition says it intercepts two Houthi missiles fired towards Riyadh



Web DESK

Riyadh

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said on Tuesday it intercepted and destroyed two missiles launched by Yemen's Houthis towards Riyadh, amid weeks of escalating hostilities between the kingdom and the group.The coalition said its air defences destroyed a ballistic missile and a cruise missile fired at the Saudi capital.

Saudi Civil Defence ad earlier issued an early-warning alert for Riyadh before the coalition announced the interceptions, later saying the threat in the capital had passed.

In a separate statement, the coalition said that it had also intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by the Houthis towards Saudi Arabia's southern region.

Saudi Civil Defence had previously issued warning alerts for the southwestern cities ?of Abha and Khamis Mushait, before later saying the danger had passed.

Southern Saudi Arabia, which borders Yemen, has repeatedly been hit by Houthi missile and drone attacks on military sites and energy infrastructure.

Fighting between the Houthis and the coalition backing Yemen's internationally recognised ?government has intensified ?after the Houthis advanced in September towards the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a strategic shipping chokepoint at the southern entrance to the Red Sea, across the Arabian Peninsula from the Strait of Hormuz.



A resident with a dog looks on at the site of private car garages hit by a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine

Israeli forces kill Palestinian teen, wound 3 others in occupied West Bank

■ AJ reports Israeli soldiers join occupier groups, attack Palestinians in West Bank while wearing civilian clothes

Web Desk

GAZA

Israeli forces killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy and wounded three other people in Burqa, northwest of Nablus in the occupied West Bank.

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the boy as Moataz Iyad Daghlas. It said the General Authority of Civil Affairs had notified it that he was killed by Israeli gunfire.

Local sources said Israeli troops entered Burqa and fired live ammunition at residents. They also blocked the village's main road, cutting off access in both directions.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society said Israeli forces prevented its ambulance crews from reaching a wounded person and detained three volunteer medics responding to clashes in the village.

Earlier that evening, Red Crescent crews transported a young man to the hospital after he sustained gunshot wounds to his abdomen and pelvis. The Palestinian Medical Relief Society, a nongovernmental organisation, said its crews took another young man to the hospital after he was shot in the hand.

Israeli soldiers in civilian clothes join attacks on Palestinians in West Bank: probe



Israeli soldiers have joined armed groups of Israeli occupiers attacking Palestinians in the West Bank while wearing civilian clothes, an Al Jazeera investigation broadcast Monday found.

The Qatar-based network documented the killings of 14 Palestinians by Israeli occupiers who were found to be serving in the military or appeared in army uniform during attacks. The investigation showed soldiers taking part in assaults on Palestinian villages in civilian clothing, making them difficult to distinguish from armed Israeli occupiers.

It focused on the Israeli army's Hagmar regional defence units, which recruit Israeli occupiers as reservists. According to the investigation, their ranks have grown sixfold since 2023, while their role has shifted from guarding illegal settlements to directly supporting attacks on Palestinian communities. .

63 students hospitalised after fire at religious school in Bangladesh

■ Four children in critical condition as authorities suspect electrical short circuit as reason for blaze

Web Desk

DHAKA

At least 63 students were hospitalised after a fire broke out at an Islamic religious school in Bangladesh's central Narayanganj district early Tuesday, a fire official told Anadolu.

The blaze erupted on the second floor of a five-story building in Narayanganj, about 16 kilometres (10 miles) southeast of the capital Dhaka, said Abdullah Al Arefin, deputy assistant director of the Narayanganj Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Four firefighting units were dispatched and brought the blaze under control, he said, adding that most students escaped without burns, although several suffered from smoke inhalation.



The fire originated in the library and office rooms of Jamiatul Ashrafia Madrasa, which has about 1,300 students, most of them boarders.All 63 affected students were taken to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka. Four were admitted to the intensive care unit in critical condition, including one placed on life support, resident surgeon Sultan Mahmud Sikdar told local newspaper The Daily Star.

Turkiye steel factory blast kills 16; probe launched

● Footage posted online showed a huge cloud of thick smoke pouring into the sky as flames appeared to engulf a tall structure within the HABAS Demir Celik plant in Aliaga

Web Desk

Turkiye

An explosion ripped through a steel plant in western Turkiye on Monday, killing 16 people and injuring 13, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, announcing investigations into the tragedy.

Eight workers were trapped at the HABAS steel factory about 60 kilometres north of the port city of Izmir, where the blast struck around midday (2pm PKT), governor Suleyman Elban said.

Footage posted online showed a huge cloud of thick smoke pouring into the sky as flames appeared to engulf a tall structure within the HABAS Demir Celik plant in Aliaga.



"The circumstances surrounding this tragic incident, which has deeply saddened our nation, including how and why it happened, whether there was any negligence and who bears responsibility, will be established," Erdogan said on television, adding that two of the injured were in serious condition.

HABAS is a privately owned group and one of Turkiye's top steel producers.

Crane collapse

According to Izmir's governor, the blast was caused by an overhead crane that collapsed into a large industrial furnace used during the liquid steel casting process.

"While a boiler replacement operation was being carried out at the HABAS iron and steel factory, the overhead crane fell and landed in the arc furnace, causing an explosion in the steel mill behind it," Elban told reporters, referring to a large electric-powered steelmaking furnace.

An eyewitness, Deniz Ulker, said it felt like an "earthquake".

"When I looked at the factory across the street, thick black smoke was coming out. A fire broke out where the chimney was," Ulker told Anadolu news agency.

"It was like a bomb going off," said Turan Ilbay, who works as a truck driver at the factory and also spoke to Anadolu.

Izmir mayor Cemil Tugay said on X that rescue teams were "continuing their work to remove the collapsed platform" and that those affected were factory workers.

Workers' groups said there was a long record of safety issues at HABAS. Contacted by an AFP journalist, HABAS declined to answer questions.

Before Monday's explosion, the Evrensel daily said at least 11 workers had died over the past decade while working there.

Turkiye's Labour Party, a small Marxist faction, said on X it was the third time in three weeks that workers had lost their lives at HABAS.

Eleven dead, 50 injured in Bulgarian motorway pile-up

Web Desk

Bulgaria

Eleven people died in a traffic accident involving dozens of vehicles on both sides of a foggy stretch of highway in eastern Bulgaria on Tuesday, Prime Minister Rumen Radev said.

Police, firefighters and ambulance crews rushed to the scene on the A1 road that links the capital Sofia with the eastern city of Burgas. Images on local media showed cars and trucks piled up across six lanes of highway, many crushed, overturned, or veered off to the side.

50 injured people were transported to hospital, according to the interior ministry.

Radev described the accident as a "tragedy" in a statement during a visit to Bulgaria by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. He said that he had deployed aircraft to evacuate the wounded and planned to visit the scene.



Von der Leyen said she would cut her visit short. "I would like to express my deepest condolences and I would like to pay respects to the rescue teams," von der Leyen said.

Qatar PM joins G7 talks on Iran after Trump meeting



NEWS DESK

ISLAM BAD

Qatar's premier on Tuesday joined talks on the G7 sidelines in the French capital with four European top diplomats and the Saudi foreign minister hours after meeting US President Donald Trump to discuss ending Washington's war with Iran, Paris said. "The ministers will discuss the situation in the Middle East -- with a particular focus on the Iran crisis and its security and economic repercussions -- both for the region and for the international community as a whole," the French foreign ministry said ahead of the talks.

Trump had said after meeting Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman AlThani -- a key mediator who is also Qatar's foreign minister -- that there was momentum toward ending the war with Iran, which erupted on February 28 with the killing of supreme leader Ali Khamenei.

Houthi rebels say at least 44 killed in airstrike near Yemeni capital, and other Mideast news

■ The Houthis, who have repeatedly targeted Saudi infrastructure and exchanged attacks with the kingdom in recent months, did not immediately comment.

Web Desk

Yemen

The death toll from airstrikes near Yemen's capital has increased to 44, most of them women and children, health authorities from the Iran-backed Houthi rebels said overnight. Separately, Iran's foreign ministry on Monday dismissed comments by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio that Iranian demands for ending the war have been "ridiculous."

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Monday. Read our full coverage here.

Houthis say death toll from airstrikes increases to 44

The death toll from Saturday's airstrikes that hit homes near Yemen's capital, Sanaa, has increased to 44, most of them women and children, Houthi health authorities said late Sunday.



The strikes on the village of al-Shariya, east of Sanaa, wounded 40 others, including eight children and nine women, said Anees al-Asbahi, spokesperson for the Houthi-run Health Ministry. The dead included 21 children and 10 women, he said, making the strikes one of the deadliest attacks in the latest bout of violence in Yemen's yearlong civil war.

Al-Asbahi said rescue teams were still searching the area for missing people, raising fears that the death toll could rise. He blamed Saudi Arabia for the strikes.

On Monday, the Saudi-led coalition said it destroyed three facilities belonging to the Houthis, including a factory for assembling ballistic missile components, a chemical plant producing solid rocket fuel and an electronics workshop assembling missile systems. It did not specify their locations or provide further details.

Saudi Arabia says east-west pipeline targeted in Medina region

Saudi Arabia's Energy Ministry said the attack Monday in the Medina region caused a "limited fire" that was quickly extinguished. Operations were not affected and there were no casualties, the ministry said. It did not identify who was behind the attack.

The Houthis, who have repeatedly targeted Saudi infrastructure and exchanged attacks with the kingdom in recent months, did not immediately comment.

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Govt seeks $1.7b despite breaches

Pakistan plans to draw the full $1.7 billion multi-tranche World Bank loan to widen the tax base and align expenditure with the Constitution, even though the lender has twice rated implementation on the approved $600 million tranche as moderately satisfactory and the government has itself breached one of the package's conditions twice.



One condition of the package is implementation of the National Tariff Policy. Ironically, the government breached it in June when it raised taxes on imports, and again last month when the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved additional customs duty to extend protection to a tyre manufacturing company.

The $1.7 billion is being taken in the name of Public Resource for Inclusive Development under the Multiphase Programmatic Approach, with $700 million approved last year.

Beneficiaries of the tranches will be the federal and all four provincial governments, according to World Bank documents. The loans have been taken once again to ensure equity in taxes, cut expenditure and bring it in line with the constitutional scheme, and withdraw electricity and agriculture subsidies.

Government officials said there were no plans to abandon the package despite slow implementation on the first phase of the $700 million loan. Of that amount, $600 million was taken by the federal government in December last year.

The World Bank's last two implementation status reports on the $600 million loan declared the programme moderately satisfactory. In April this year, it described the federal component as moderately satisfactory on the grounds that "the operation was approved by the World Bank Board on December 19, 2025, but was not yet effective".

In the second report, released last month, the bank retained the rating while noting some improvements. It said the $600 million operation became effective on May 14, 2026, and an advance disbursement of $164.5 million was made on June 29, 2026. The next $200 million tranche is being approved for the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government.

The bank said the roughly $1.7 billion package will have four overlapping phases. The first, of $700 million, included two operations under the federal government and the Sindh government "to provide enhanced support for complex activities and procurements and enhanced project oversight".

Under the $600 million loan, the federal government is committed to implementing the National Fiscal Pact to end federal funding for projects and subjects of a provincial nature. However, the government is constantly violating the pact, and in June this year approved Rs87 billion for a Sindh project.

The Sindh government has taken a $100 million loan in the first phase to "demonstrate proof-of-concept for supporting provincial reforms under the national fiscal pact including reforms to mobilize agricultural and property taxation".

Under the third and fourth phases, the Balochistan and Punjab governments would receive loans.

World Bank documents state that accelerated progress on reforms, including trade liberalisation, a new National Finance Commission Award, power sector restructuring, private participation in state-owned enterprises and strengthened social service delivery, remains essential to support higher growth, create sufficient jobs for a fast-growing working-age population and reverse the recent trend of increasing poverty.

The bank said the fiscal pact aims to rebalance federal-provincial fiscal arrangements by reducing federal spending in areas devolved under the 18th Amendment and strengthening provincial revenue handles such as agricultural and property taxation.

The World Bank has set three main objectives for the $1.7 billion debt package: raising tax revenues; improving the efficiency and prioritisation of public expenditure; and strengthening the fiscal and service delivery data ecosystem.

The bank will support improvements in tax policy, including assessing the equity, efficiency and revenue impacts of proposed reforms.

Iqbal's Spiritual Legacy and the Unity of the Muslim Ummah



By: Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

The history of humanity is, in essence, a continuous journey in search of divine guidance. From the creation of mankind, when Allah Almighty bestowed His guidance upon Prophet Adam (peace be upon him), this sacred mission continued through a succession of prophets until it reached its ultimate perfection with the advent of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), the Seal of the Prophets. With his departure from this world, the institution of prophethood came to its completion, but the light of divine guidance did not diminish. It continued to illuminate human hearts through the teachings of the Holy Quran, the Sunnah and the lives of those chosen servants of Allah who devoted themselves to spiritual enlightenment, moral excellence

and the awakening of humanity. Among such distinguished personalities, Allama Muhammad Iqbal occupies an exceptional place.Iqbal was not merely a poet whose verses appealed to the imagination; he was a visionary who sought to restore the spiritual consciousness, intellectual confidence and collective dignity of the Muslim Ummah. His poetry was a call to awaken a nation that had gradually lost faith in its own potential and had become accustomed to political subjugation, intellectual stagnation and spiritual indifference. His message transcended geographical boundaries, reaching Muslims from the shores of the Nile to the valleys of Kashgar, reminding them that their strength lay not in territorial possessions or political arrangements alone, but in their common faith, historical identity and spiritual bond.The idea of Pakistan was deeply rooted in Iqbal's political and philosophical vision. His Allahabad Address of 1930 provided a significant intellectual foundation for the political aspirations of the Muslims of the subcontinent. He envisaged a political and social order in which Muslims could organise their

collective existence in accordance with their religious, cultural and civilisational identity. Although he did not live to witness the emergence of Pakistan, his intellectual contribution helped shape the aspirations that ultimately culminated in the establishment of an independent homeland in 1947. In this sense, Pakistan represents not merely a geographical achievement but also an enduring expression of a vision that sought dignity, identity and freedom for the Muslims of the subcontinent.Through his remarkable poetic collections, Iqbal attempted to revive the relationship between man and his Creator. His celebrated compositions, Shikwa and Jawab-e-Shikwa, hold particular significance in this regard. In Shikwa, he gives eloquent expression to the anguish of a Muslim community questioning its declining fortunes, while Jawab-e-Shikwa offers a profound spiritual response, reminding Muslims that the restoration of their former glory requires faith, unity, sacrifice, discipline and action. These works were not simply poetic exchanges; they were an intellectual and spiritual dialogue intended to awaken a dormant nation and make it conscious of its responsibilities.Perhaps one of Iqbal's most enduring contributions

was his insistence that the Muslim world must rise above geographical, linguistic, racial and political divisions. His memorable verse, "United by the guardianship of the Sacred Sanctuary, Muslims—from the shores of the Nile to the lands of Kashgar—are one," conveys a timeless message of fraternity. The unity he advocated was neither an artificial political arrangement nor a demand for uniformity among Muslim societies. Rather, it was a call for shared purpose, mutual respect, collective responsibility and solidarity founded upon the common spiritual heritage of Islam.Regrettably, the contemporary Muslim world presents a picture that would have deeply troubled Iqbal. Despite possessing enormous human resources, strategic locations, natural wealth and considerable economic potential, Muslim countries remain divided by political rivalries, regional conflicts and competing strategic interests. Tensions in the Gulf, instability in the Middle East and the continuing suffering of innocent people in different parts of the Muslim world demonstrate how far the Ummah remains from the collective strength that Iqbal envisioned. The tragedy is not merely that Muslim nations disagree; it is that their disagreements frequently prevent them from responding collectively to challenges that threaten their common interests and shared future.In these circumstances, Pakistan carries a particular responsibility. Established through a movement inspired by the intellectual and political aspirations of Muslim identity, it must continue to serve as a voice for reconciliation, cooperation and solidarity within the Muslim world. Its diplomatic engagement, efforts to reduce regional tensions and initiatives for dialogue among Muslim countries should be viewed in the light of Iqbal's philosophy. The Pakistani leadership's efforts to promote understanding between Saudi Arabia and Iran, strengthen relations among Muslim nations and encourage peaceful solutions to regional disputes reflect an important dimension of this vision. Such endeavours require consistency, wisdom and collective support, for lasting peace cannot be achieved through declarations alone; it demands sincerity, confidence-building and a willingness to place the greater interests of the Ummah above narrow political considerations.Iqbal's message also places a responsibility upon the intellectuals, scholars, political leaders and younger generations of the Muslim world. Unity cannot be secured merely through emotional expressions or ceremonial gatherings. It must be cultivated through education, scientific advancement, economic cooperation, institutional strength, social justice and the promotion of tolerance. A community that neglects knowledge, abandons moral discipline and

allows internal divisions to weaken its foundations cannot reclaim its rightful place in the world simply by recalling its glorious past.The spiritual legacy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal therefore remains as relevant today as it was during his lifetime. His poetry continues to awaken consciences, his philosophy continues to challenge intellectual complacency, and his vision continues to inspire those who believe that the Muslim Ummah can overcome its divisions and reclaim its dignity. His enduring message is that nations are not transformed by wishes alone; they rise when faith becomes conviction, conviction inspires action, and action is guided by wisdom and collective purpose.Iqbal's greatness lies not only in what he wrote or what he envisioned for Pakistan, but also in the spiritual confidence he sought to restore among Muslims. His legacy is a continuing invitation to rediscover the essence of Islam, strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and serve humanity with courage, compassion and wisdom. As long as the Muslim world continues to seek spiritual awakening and collective uplift, the light of Iqbal's thought will remain alive, reminding generations that the destiny of the Ummah lies in unity, knowledge, faith and purposeful action.

From Port to Plates



By: Shabana Mehmood

The dual challenge of rising fuel prices and supply chain disruptions has become the defining economic crisis of early 2026. For the common man whether in the bustling markets of Karachi or the industrial hubs of Europe these are not just abstract macroeconomic terms. They are the forces that dictate the price of a loaf of bread, the feasibility of a daily commute, and the overall stability of a household's future.

In Pakistan, where the economy is particularly sensitive to energy shocks, the recent volatility has fundamentally altered the

quality of life for millions?

In March 2026, Pakistan witnessed a historic surge in petroleum prices. Following intense regional tensions and a global supply crunch, petrol and diesel prices jumped by Rs. 55 per litter in a single notification on March 7. While Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently rejected further hikes as of March 28 to provide temporary relief, the existing rates (Petrol at Rs. 321.17 and Diesel at Rs. 335.86) remain a heavy burden.For a motorcyclist or a small-car owner, daily travel expenses have increased by nearly 30%. This forces families to make difficult choices? cutting back on healthcare or education to keep a vehicle running for work. Fuel is the lifeblood of the supply chain. When diesel prices rise, the cost of transporting wheat from the farms of Punjab to the markets of Sindh rises with it. This is why a fuel hike today becomes a food price hike tomorrow. While fuel prices are often influenced by local policy, they are currently triggered by severe global supply chain choke points. In March 2026, the effective disruption of the Strait of Hormuz through which 20 million barrels of oil pass daily has sent global oil prices toward $160 per barrel the slowing of major shipping lanes means that goods take longer to arrive and cost significantly more to ship. In Pakistan, inland freight costs have climbed by 15–25%? From life-saving medicines to raw materials for local factories, delays lead to artificial scarcity. This allows for black-marketing and further price manipulation, leaving the common consumer at the mercy of middle-men.

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In Pakistan, the supply chain begins at the farm. Diesel is essential for tube wells and tractors. When fuel becomes expensive? Farmers reduce their crop area to save costs. Yields drop, leading to a shortage of staples like wheat and sugar. The common man pays the price at the grocery store, where food inflation in 2026 has remained a persistent threat to household security. The most devastating effect of these shifts is the erosion of purchasing power. In 2026, the gap between stagnant wages and rising costs has widened into a chasm.

shortage of staples like wheat and sugar. The common man pays the price at the grocery store, where food inflation in 2026 has remained a persistent threat to household security. The most devastating effect of these shifts is the erosion of purchasing power. In 2026, the gap between stagnant wages and rising costs has widened into a chasm.

Impact of 2026 Economic are really Shocking Daily Wage Earners?Real income drops as transport consumes nearly 20% of daily earnings. Gig Workers?Delivery riders find it nearly impossible to maintain profit margins. Small Businesses? Higher operational costs and electricity bills lead to layoffs.

Students? Increased van and bus fares make education a luxury for many families. For the common man, the economy is not a graph on a screen? it is the physical weight of his shopping bag at the end of the week.It is a mistake to think these problems are unique to one region.

PM calls for building economically stronger, energy-secure Pakistan

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called for building an economically dominant, energy-independent and environmentally resilient Pakistan, declaring that the country will harness its resources, technology and human capital to secure a prosperous future.

Addressing the dome placement ceremony of the Chashma-5 Nuclear Power Plant (C-5), the prime minister described the milestone as a reflection of Pakistan's determination to shape its own future through hard work, technological advancement and strategic partnerships.

The premier, while emphasising the importance of energy security, said Chashma-5 represented much more than steel and concrete — rather, it was a promise of clean, reliable, and affordable electricity that would strengthen the national economy and improve people's lives. He said that nuclear power would reduce Pakistan's dependence on imported fuels and international price fluctuations while ensuring a stable electricity supply for industries, hospitals, educational institutions and households."Pakistan will not wait for anyone, but will build its own future through its hard work and untiring efforts," the prime minister recalled, referring to his commitment at the project's groundbreaking ceremony in July 2023.(Continued on Page-5)

He noted with satisfaction that the dome had been installed less than three and a half years after the groundbreaking, ahead of schedule, and expressed confidence that the project would also be commissioned earlier than planned.The prime minister stressed that Pakistan, as a climate-vulnerable country, had a particular responsibility to pursue energy solutions that simultaneously advance economic development and protect the environment.

Highlighting the strategic importance of national security for economic progress, he said no country could build a prosperous future without first safeguarding its present.

He acknowledged the role of the armed forces under the leadership of Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal SyedAsim Munir, in ensuring security and stability.

Referring to the country's experience during Marka-e-Haq, the prime minister praised the professionalism, courage and resolve of the armed



H.E. Hussain Muhammad, Consul General of Pakistan in Dubai, inaugurates the Pakistan Pavilion at Automechanika Dubai 2026, accompanied by Mr. Ali Zeb Khan, Trade and Investment Counsellor, and representatives of participating Pakistani tyre manufacturers on 10.11.2026

Saudi investors show Interest in Development Projects at Port Qasim

■ The Saudi investors also showed interest in the import and export auto zone and reviewed possible investment in the project.

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

A Saudi business delegation led by Prince Mansour bin Mohammed Al Saud has visited Port Qasim to explore investment opportunities and development projects at the country's major port,

The delegation expressed keen interest in different projects, including a multipurpose cargo terminal and an integrated container terminal at Port Qasim.

During the visit, Port Qasim Authority



(PQA) Chairman Rear Admiral (retd) Syed Moazzam Ilyas briefed the Saudi guests on ongoing and planned development projects and investment opportunities at the port.The Saudi investors also showed interest in the import and export auto zone and reviewed possible investment in the project.Proposals were also discussed for setting up petroleum storage facilities and mineral refineries at Port Qasim.

Both sides agreed to increase business cooperation and strengthen trade and investment ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The visit is expected to help bring new Saudi investment to Pakistan and create more opportunities for business growth.



Federal govt spends Rs103b on development projects in four months

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The federal government spent Rs103 billion on development projects during the first four months of the current fiscal year against Rs412 billion released between July and October, according to official documents.

The documents showed that Rs23.8 billion was spent on development projects in provinces and special regions during the four-month period.

Expenditure on water resource projects stood at Rs18.72 billion, while Rs15.92 billion was spent on power sector projects.

According to the documents, the National Highway Authority (NHA) utilised Rs13.29 billion for its development projects between July and October.

The Federal Education and Professional Training Division recorded development expenditure of Rs6.87 billion during the period.

Pakistan launches Virtual Assets Alliance to protect crypto users

■ Pakistan has established the Virtual Assets Alliance to promote crypto investor protection, cybersecurity awareness, reliable market data and responsible development of the digital assets industry.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has announced the establishment of the Virtual Assets Alliance of Pakistan (VAAP), a new industry platform aimed at protecting cryptocurrency users, promoting investor awareness and strengthening cybersecurity education.

The alliance has appointed Hunza Asif, founder of the Asia Web3 Alliance Japan, as its first chairperson, while HTX Country Manager Syed Ehtisham Hamdani will serve as senior vice-chairman.Announcing the initiative at a press conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, alliance representatives said the platform would bring cryptocurrency users, businesses and industry experts together to promote a more transparent and responsible digital assets market.

Hamdani said Pakistan ranked third globally in cryptocurrency adoption, but stressed that widely circulated estimates suggesting the country had around 20 million crypto users remained unverified.

He noted that independently verified figures on the number of cryptocurrency users in Pakistan were not currently available.



The alliance plans to develop reliable data on the country's cryptocurrency market through independent research and cooperation with local institutions.

Hamdani said the initiative would focus on investor education, cybersecurity awareness, responsible market practices and evidence-based policy discussions.

He added that industry experts and other key stakeholders had also joined the alliance to contribute to its objectives.

The VAAP leadership emphasised that the organisation does not possess regulatory powers and has not received government endorsement.

The alliance aims to help organise Pakistan's virtual assets industry by promoting international best practices, encouraging informed policy discussions and strengthening cooperation among market participants.

Pakistan Stock Exchange surges 5,448 points, reclaims 179,000 mark

■ Pakistan's benchmark KSE-100 Index surged 5,448 points on Tuesday, closing at 179,335 points and reclaiming the psychologically significant 179,000-point level.

Business Reporter

KARACHI

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) staged a strong rally on Tuesday, with its benchmark KSE-100 Index reclaiming the 179,000-point level after gaining more than 5,000 points during the trading session.

The benchmark index opened on a positive note on the second trading day of the business week, rising by more than 5,000 points to reach 179,200 points.

The bullish momentum continued throughout the session, with the KSE-100 Index closing at 179,335 points, up 5,448 points from the previous close.

The market had closed at 173,886 points on the final trading day of the previous week.

The latest rally marks a significant recovery in investor sentiment, with the benchmark index regaining ground above the key 179,000-point threshold.



Gwadar Port receives Panama-flagged vessel in major transshipment development

■ Gwadar Port has begun unloading more than 26,321 metric tonnes of cargo from a Panama-flagged vessel, marking another development in its transshipment operations.

Staff Reporter

GWADAR

Gwadar Port has recorded another significant development in its transshipment operations with the successful berthing of a Panama-flagged vessel carrying more than 26,321 metric tonnes of cargo.

The vessel, MV Great Wen Tao, arrived at Gwadar from the United Arab Emirates' port of Fujairah. Unloading operations have commenced, with the cargo temporarily stored at Gwadar before being transferred to another vessel for onward transportation to Fujairah.

Gwadar Port Chairman Noor-ul-Haq Baloch said the continuation of transshipment activities reflected growing confidence among international shipping companies and commercial stakeholders in the port.

He said Gwadar Port had the potential to play an important role in regional and international maritime trade because of its strategic geographical location and operational facilities.

Baloch said the arrival of transshipment cargo would create new commercial opportunities in shipping, logistics and cargo handling.

Pakistan-Uzbekistan economic Partnership in focus at SIFC

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) hosted H.E. Alisher Tukhtaev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, to explore avenues for expanding bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation between the two countries.The engagement focused on identifying mutually beneficial opportunities in key sectors, including textiles, food processing, agriculture, real estate and Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

Discussions also covered enhanced regional connectivity, greater business-to-business collaboration and opportunities to facilitate cross-border investment and commercial partnerships, said a release issued here on Tuesday.SIFC highlighted its role as a central platform for investment facilitation, providing coordinated institutional support to international investors and fostering effective linkages among relevant stakeholders.

The interaction underscored the considerable potential for strengthening Pakistan-Uzbekistan economic relations through increased private-sector participation, improved business connectivity and collaboration in areas of shared economic interest.

PSDP 2026-27: Govt authorizes Rs412.294bn in four months

■ The federal government has authorized development funds amounting to Rs412.294 billion under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) during the first four months (July-October) of fiscal year 2026-27, against a total allocation of Rs1 trillion.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

:The federal government has authorized development funds amounting to Rs412.294 billion under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) during the first four months (July-October) of fiscal year 2026-27, against a total allocation of Rs1 trillion.

According to the latest Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives data released on Tuesday, the PSDP 2026-27 allocation comprises Rs682.485 billion for federal ministries, Rs312.515 billion for corporations, Rs4 billion for project liabilities and Rs1 billion for new initiatives under CPEC 2.0.

Against the total allocation of Rs1 trillion, Rs412.294 billion was authorized while development expenditure stood at Rs103.876 billion during July-October 2026.

Among the federal ministries and divisions, the highest authorization was made for the Water Resources Division, amounting to Rs90.804 billion, against its allocation of Rs103.086 billion, while expenditure stood at Rs18.726 billion.

The Cabinet Division received an allocation of Rs64.080 billion, of which Rs60.378 billion was authorized and Rs59.99 million spent during the period.

The Provinces and Special Areas were allocated Rs233.386 billion, against which Rs59.796 billion was authorized and Rs23.808 billion spent.

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) was allocated Rs46 billion, of which Rs13.800 billion was authorized and Rs4.715 billion spent, while the Federal Education and Professional Training Division was allocated Rs36.312 billion, with Rs12.709 billion authorized and Rs6.877 billion spent.



The Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Division was allocated Rs22.626 billion, against which Rs6.788 billion was authorized and Rs2.152 billion spent.

The Railways Division received an allocation of Rs40.658 billion, with Rs14.230 billion authorized and Rs4.655 billion spent.

The Information Technology and Telecommunication Division was allocated Rs19.580 billion, including Rs9.801 billion in foreign assistance, against which Rs5.874 billion was authorized and Rs1.450 billion spent.

The Interior Division had an allocation of Rs21.825 billion, with Rs6.547 billion authorized and Rs714.21 million spent.

The National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Division was allocated Rs16.065 billion, of which Rs9.639 billion was authorized and Rs6.609 billion spent, while the Housing and Works Division had an allocation of Rs16.395 billion, with Rs1.918 billion authorized and Rs422.90 million spent.

Other notable allocations included Rs10.903 billion for the Defence Division, against which Rs2.816 billion was authorized and Rs462.10 million spent; Rs11.570 billion for the Revenue Division, with Rs3.471 billion authorized and Rs366.61 million spent; Rs6.658 billion for the Industries and Production Division, with Rs2.330 billion authorized and Rs649.03 million spent; Rs4.183 billion for the National Food Security and Research Division, with Rs1.352 billion authorized and Rs64.94 million spent; Rs3.567 billion for the Science and Technological Research Division, with Rs1.070 billion authorized and Rs154.89 million spent; Rs3.019 billion for the Information and Broadcasting Division, with Rs471.61 million authorized and Rs42.58 million spent; Rs2.478 billion for the Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

Abbas, debutant Saqib strike early as Sri Lanka trail Pakistan by 320 runs

● Visitors reach 114-3 at stumps on day two after Pakistan declare first innings at 434-9

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD



Sri Lanka staged a recovery after an early batting collapse to reach 114-3 in 27.1 overs at stumps on the second day of the first Test against Pakistan at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday, trailing the hosts by 320 runs.
The visitors had a difficult start to their innings, losing opener Pasindu Sooriyabandara for a seven-ball duck as Mohammad Abbas struck early to give Pakistan their first breakthrough.
Debutant Saqib Khan added to Sri Lanka's troubles by dismissing Dinesh Chandimal for just one off three deliveries, registering his maiden international wicket. The dismissal left the visitors reeling at 12-2 after 3.3 overs.
Sri Lanka, however, managed to steady their innings and recover from the early setbacks, finishing the day at 114-3 after facing 27.1 overs. They still have a 320-run deficit to overcome against Pakistan.
However, Lahiru Udara and Kamindu Mendis steadied the innings with a composed approach, gradually building a partnership to ease the pressure following the early setbacks.
The duo brought up a 50-run partnership, taking Sri Lanka past the half-century mark and providing much-needed stability to the innings.
Saqib struck again to claim his second wicket, dismissing Udara for 42 off 52 deliveries, including seven boundaries. His dismissal left Sri Lanka reeling at 65-3 after 16.5 overs.
Dhananjaya de Silva joined Kamindu Mendis at the crease, and the pair responded positively to Pakistan's bowling attack, putting together an unbeaten 50-run partnership to take the visitors past the 100-run mark.
However, play was once again halted early due to bad light, with Sri Lanka looking to build on their recovery when play resumes on day three.
Kamindu Mendis remained unbeaten on 40, while De Silva was not out on 22. The pair will resume Sri Lanka's innings on day three, looking to build n their recovery.
Earlier, Pakistan declared their first innings at 434-9 in 106.3 overs, with five batters, including three debutants, scoring half-centuries.
Resuming day two, Saud Shakeel and Ghazi Ghori added 96 runs for the sixth wicket, taking Pakistan past 300. However, Dilshan Madushanka dismissed Ghazi for 48 off 72 deliveries, including two boundaries, leaving Pakistan at 349-6 in 88.1 overs.
Arafat Minhas joined Shakeel and added 44 runs for the seventh wicket. Shakeel fell seven runs short of his century, scoring 93 off 199 deliveries, including nine boundaries, before Asitha Fernando dismissed him at 393-7 in 100.2 overs.
Minhas and Razaullah helped Pakistan cross 400, with the all-rounder registering his maiden Test half-century.
Madushanka dismissed him for 52 off 72 deliveries, including nine boundaries and a six, while Lahiru Kumara removed Razaullah for 10 before Babar Azam declared.
Asitha Fernando and Dilshan Madushanka claimed three wickets each, while Kumara, Milan Rathnayake and Sonal Dinusha took one apiece.
Earlier, openers Azan Awais and debutant TayyabArif provided an 86-run partnership on day one. Azan scored 30 off 50 balls, while Tayyab made 57 off 51 deliveries.



Cricket Australia chief rules out reopening 'sandpapergate' probe

SPORTS DESK

Australia

Cricket Australia chief Todd Greenberg on Tuesday ruled out reopening the investigation into the sandpapergate ball-tampering scandal, saying he did not see "any compelling reason" for a new probe.
Opening batsman Usman Khawaja said in his autobiography that the 2018 plot had been common knowledge throughout the team and not limited to a small number of players.
The book, released on Tuesday, has reignited the debate over the cheating controversy, in which Australian players were caught using sandpaper to make the ball swing against South Africa.
Greenberg said he would consider Khawaja's revelations -- which were on Monday backed as "100 percent accurate" by fellow opener David Warner -- but said there was no need for further action.

Scotland suspends cricket ties with Afghanistan over Taliban regime's treatment of women

■ Cricket Scotland says it will not schedule matches against Afghanistan outside International Cricket Council events



SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Cricket Scotland said it would not schedule matches against Afghanistan outside International Cricket Council (ICC) events, citing concerns over the treatment of women and girls under the Taliban government and broader human rights issues.
Women's sport has effectively disappeared in Afghanistan since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021, while access to education and employment opportunities for women has been severely curtailed.
The Taliban regime says they respect women's rights in accordance with their interpretation of religious law and local customs and that internal matters should be addressed locally.
Scotland's move aligns with decisions by Cricket Australia and the England and Wales Cricket Board to suspend bilateral ties with Afghanistan, which the ICC made a Full Member in 2017.
"This policy will be kept under review annually or following any significant ICC decision or material change in circumstances," Cricket Scotland said on Monday.
It added that its decision was based on its commitment to growing women's and girls' participation in the sport, as well as the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.
Reuters has contacted the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) for comment.
Scotland have not faced Afghanistan in a full international match since the 2021 Twenty20 World Cup, but the governing body said the ACB had requested training facilities in July ahead of their men's series against Ireland.
The ACB had made another request for training facilities in Scotland in September regarding the T20 Afghanistan Premier League, it added.

Saud Shakeel says scoring runs was not easy on Rawalpindi pitch

● Praises Arafat Minhas, backs young players

SPECIAL REPORTER

Rawalpindi



Pakistan batter Saud Shakeel has said the team made a good start but had to work hard later as the pitch became difficult to play on during the match at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.
Speaking at a post-match press conference, Saud said the team could not have reached a good total if it had lost more wickets early in the innings.
He praised Arafat Minhas for his late contribution, saying the young batter played well and scored a valuable half-century to help the team finish strongly.
Saud said he had no special plan to play fast and was dismissed when a delivery came a little quicker than expected, leaving him late in his shot.
He also admitted that the team was aware of the shortage of overs in the match and the limited number of days available.
Talking about young players, Saud said all the youngsters had the ability to become good cricketers.
He also praised Tayyab Arif, saying he rated him highly.
Saud added that no batter wants to get out after scoring a half-century, but sometimes a good delivery can end a player's innings.
He felt that most batters received good deliveries after reaching their fifties.
Talking about the pitch, he said it had good grass and the ground was looking greener.
He felt that spin bowling could also play a role as the match continued, while reverse swing might not be seen much.

Starc denies knowledge of ball-tampering plot, Cricket Australia rules out new probe

■ CA boss says players have different views from those of Usman Khawaja

SPORTS DESK

Australia



Fast bowler Mitchell Starc denied on Tuesday any prior knowledge of Australia's plot to tamper with the ball during the 2018 tour of South Africa, as Cricket Australia boss Todd Greenberg ruled out another investigation into 'Sandpapergate'.
Starc is the first of Australia's bowlers to respond to Usman Khawaja's assertions in his autobiography and on social media that the whole team knew of a plan to manipulate the ball in order to get it to reverse swing.
Starc reiterated the bowlers' position from a 2021 statement that they did not know a "foreign substance" had been taken onto the field to alter the condition of the ball.
“I haven’t really paid much attention to be fair, obviously there’s differing opinions of eight years ago," Starc told reporters in Sydney on Tuesday.
"We were heavily drilled through the process at the time, and since and I guess I won’t speak on behalf of the bowlers, but where I stand, my opinion hasn’t changed. My recollection hasn’t changed from what we said in 2021."
The scandal triggered an integrity probe by Cricket Australia (CA) and led to bans and other penalties for then-captain Steve Smith and former test openers David Warner and Cameron Bancroft four days after the incident came to light during the Cape Town Test.
Khawaja said the team began tampering with the ball at the second test against South Africa in Gqeberha, not in the third at Cape Town, where they were caught.
Starc said Khawaja's account was the first time he was aware of ball-tampering taking place in Gqeberha.
"I'll leave said authors to explain," he said.
Warner, who retired from international cricket more than two years ago, broke his silence about the scandal on Monday to throw his support behind Khawaja.
In a video posted on social media, Warner described his former teammate's account as 100% accurate and the CA investigation as "botched" and "rushed".
'Very different views' Media pundits, including former captain Michael Clarke, have demanded CA re-investigate the case.
However, Greenberg told local radio station SEN on Tuesday there was "no compelling reason" to reopen the investigation and could not see anything to be gained from it.
He said players had "very different views" from Khawaja's version of events.
“There are specific details in his book that contradict the versions that have been provided by others," he said.

Sabalenka downs Muchova to win WTA Finals opener

■ The Belarusian edges Muchova 7-6 (7/2), 7-5, while Andreeva cruises to a 6-4, 6-0 victory

SPORTS DESK

LOS ANGELES



Aryna Sabalenka battled past Karolina Muchova in straight sets to make a winning start at the season-ending WTA Finals in Indian Wells on Monday.
Former world number one Sabalenka was forced to dig deep before finally prevailing 7-6 (7/2), 7-5 in just under two hours.
Second-seeded Sabalenka is chasing her first ever WTA Finals victory after suffering defeats in the 2022 and 2025 finals.
The four-time Grand Slam champion from Belarus looked to be in trouble after conceding a break of serve to go 5-4 down in the opening set.
But she broke back immediately for 5-5 and subsequently went on to hold her nerve in the tie-break 7-2 to seize the early initiative.
Both players struggled on serve in the second set, with Sabalenka suffering her fourth break as she served for the match at 5-4 up.
Crucially though, Sabalenka responded to that stumble by breaking back immediately to lead 6-5 and she made no mistake when serving for the match again, wrapping up victory when Czech opponent Muchova netted a backhand.

"I'm just trying to win every match I play, and at the same time trying to stay in the moment and focus on my game on each point and trying to stay calm and in control," Sabalenka said afterward.
In Monday's other group game, WTA Finals debutant Mirra Andreeva motored past Ukraine's Elina Svitolina in straight sets, winning 6-4, 6-0, despite overcoming pre-match tightness.
Third-seed Andreeva, the 19-year-old reigning French Open champion, took control with a break to open up a 4-2 first-set lead and never looked back against her sixth-seeded opponent.
She duly held serve to close out the first set, and then demolished Svitolina in the second set, rattling off three service breaks to wrap up victory.
“I was so tight, I felt I was moving like a turtle," the teenager said afterwards. "I felt like I couldn't really hit the ball so I'm just very happy to get through the match and control my emotions."

Daily The Spokesman

Wednesday
November 11,2026

Naqvi orders completion of all Islamabad hotels ahead of SCO Summit

■ **Interior Minister directs officials to accelerate work on hospitality sector: Construction work on One Constitution Avenue project will start on January 1**



OUR Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has directed the relevant authorities to accelerate work on Islamabad's hospitality sector ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, ensuring that all hotels under construction are completed on time and existing facilities are upgraded to meet international standards,

Chairing a meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reviewed progress on measures to improve the capital city's hospitality sector before the SCO Summit. He directed the authorities to take effective steps to ensure the early completion of all hotels currently under construction.

Naqvi directed the concerned officials to remain in regular contact with hotel owners and resolve their problems without delay. He also directed them to take special measures to renovate existing hotels and improve their facilities and standards.

The minister said local hotels should be connected with international hotel chains. He asked the relevant authorities to establish contacts between local hotel owners and international hotel chains and promote cooperation between them to improve hotel standards.

The meeting was briefed on the plan to convert One Constitution Avenue into an international-standard hotel. It was also decided that an international-standard shopping mall would be developed in the building adjacent to One Constitution Avenue.

Naqvi said a comprehensive plan for the One Constitution Avenue project was being prepared in consultation with an international hotel chain. He directed the authorities to ensure that construction work on the project starts on January 1 under all circumstances.

The Interior Minister also called for special training courses in cooperation with relevant training institutions to meet the hospitality sector's workforce requirements.

He directed the authorities to start preparations immediately to ensure the availability of trained staff when the new hotels become operational. He stressed the need to ensure that the sector has the required trained workforce to meet its needs.

The meeting also reviewed progress on the renovation of the Convention Centre and the construction of a new hall.

Naqvi said Islamabad must be fully prepared for the SCO Summit and directed the authorities to ensure arrangements that meet the requirements of the distinguished guests attending the event.

Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad and other relevant officials attended the meeting. .



CHAIRMAN SENATE, SYED YOUSAF RAZA GILANI ATTENDING THE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY REFERENCE IN HONOUR OF LATE SENATOR IRFAN SIDDIQUI, INTELLECTUAL, POET, WRITER AND COLUMNIST AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON NOVEMBER 10, 2026.

PM leaves on 3-day Türkiye visit to attend COP-31 Leaders' Summit

Our Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday left for Antalya, Turkiye, on a three-day visit to participate in the Leaders' Summit of the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), PM Shehbaz was accompanied by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi and PPP leader Sherry Rehman.

The Prime Minister will address the Leaders' Summit tomorrow during which he will urge the global community to take concrete actions to address the threat posed by climate change to the planet. He will highlight Pakistan's steps towards rapid solarization and expansion of its renewable energy capacity.

Sindh completes construction of one million homes for flood victims, targets 2.1 million: CM Murad

● **Sindh completes one million homes for flood victims under its housing programme, with a target of 2.1 million climate-resilient houses.**

NEWS REPORTER
KARACHI

Sindh has completed the construction of one million houses for flood victims, while the provincial government has set a target of building 2.1 million homes.

Addressing a ceremony, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said the province had suffered massive destruction during the floods, leaving thousands of people homeless.

He said the government had faced several challenges in rehabilitating affected families, but the completion of one million houses under the Sindh Peoples Housing Programme marked the fulfilment of a promise made to flood victims and a historic



milestone.

Murad Ali Shah said the target was to construct 2.1 million climate-resilient houses for flood-affected people across 23 districts of the province.

He added that all completed houses had been verified through geotagging and digital monitoring.

The chief minister said the World Bank had contributed $500 million to the project, while the Sindh government had provided $179 million from its own resources. He also acknowledged the support of the Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and European Investment Bank.

He said one of the major achievements of the Sindh Peoples Housing Programme was the empowerment of women. Millions of women in rural Sindh had become homeowners for the first time, he added, describing registration of houses in women's names as a guarantee of their security and dignity, beyond mere property ownership.

Murad Ali Shah said work was now under way on clean water, sanitation and drainage projects following the construction of houses. Through a combined investment of around $1 billion, basic facilities would be provided to 4,800 villages.

FBR allows late tax filers to join ATL without surcharge under new conditions

■ **The six-month period will begin from the date specified on the electronic receipt generated after submission of the undertaking.**



Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has allowed taxpayers filing income tax returns after the deadline to join the Active Taxpayers List (ATL) without paying a surcharge, subject to certain conditions.

The FBR has introduced an amendment to Rule 81B of the Income Tax Rules, 2002, allowing late filers to avail themselves of the facility by submitting an undertaking through the IRIS portal.

Under the revised rules, taxpayers must undertake that they will neither purchase property nor acquire ownership of or any interest in, property for six months.

The six-month period will begin from the date specified on the electronic receipt generated after submission of the undertaking.

The facility applies to taxpayers who submit their income tax returns after the original or extended deadline.

The FBR may verify compliance with the undertaking by obtaining information from relevant authorities, property registries and financial institutions.

If a taxpayer is found to have purchased property or acquired ownership or an interest in property during the six-month period, the FBR will provide an opportunity to respond electronically.

If a violation is established, the exemption from the surcharge will be withdrawn with effect from the date of the violation.

The FBR said the standard rules governing inclusion in the Active Taxpayers List would apply in such cases.

IHC grants lawyers access to Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi in Al-Qadir Trust case

● **The Islamabad High Court ordered one-hour meetings between Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi and their lawyers at Adiala Jail amid health concerns.**

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has allowed former prime minister Imran Khan's lawyer, Salman Safdar, and his wife Bushra Bibi's counsel, Sardar Latif Khosa, to meet their respective clients at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

The court directed jail authorities to arrange a one-hour meeting between the lawyers and their clients tomorrow.

The order was issued by a two-member bench headed by IHC Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar during the hearing of appeals challenging the convictions in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case.

During the proceedings, the court told Salman Safdar that the meeting permission was being granted in accordance with the law. The bench cautioned that the lawyers should not subsequently seek permission to include five additional individuals in the list of visitors allowed to meet Imran Khan at Adiala Jail.

Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar questioned Salman Safdar about the need for another meeting, noting that he had met Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi a few days earlier.

In response, Safdar explained



that although the previous meeting had taken place, the time allocated was insufficient, making another meeting necessary.

The court initially permitted Sardar Latif Khosa to meet Bushra Bibi and Imran Khan before granting similar permission to Salman Safdar to meet his client.

Petrol drops by Rs8, diesel by Rs7 for Nov 11

■ **Petrol price decreases to Rs338 per litre, while HSD will cost Rs371 under daily price mechanism**

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The federal government on Tuesday slashed the price of petrol by Rs8 per litre and that of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs7 per litre for November 11.

According to a notification issued by the Petroleum Division, the price of petrol was fixed at Rs338 per litre, while HSD would cost Rs371 per litre for Wednesday.

The revision also comes after the government slashed the price of petrol by Rs6.59 per litre and that of HSD by Rs4.25 per litre from November 7 to November 10.

On November 2, the government announced that oil refineries would bear a burden of Rs15 billion per month, which would



allow petrol to be sold Rs15 cheaper than it was in the global market amid the US-Israeli war on Iran. On July 17, the government announced a new pricing mechanism under which petroleum product prices would be reviewed and notified daily, replacing the weekly pricing mechanism, as renewed tensions between the United States and Iran continued to drive volatility in global oil markets and raise concerns over fuel supplies.

On September 13, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced a special relief scheme offering Rs100 per litre off petrol for motorcycles, three-wheeler rickshaws and cars with engines up to 800cc, in an attempt to shield lower-income consumers from the impact of rising petroleum prices.

Under the proposal, an estimated 11.8 million beneficiaries would be covered. Around 10 million two-wheeler users and 800,000 three-wheeler users would be entitled to relief on 20 litres of fuel per month, translating into a maximum monthly benefit of Rs2,000 per beneficiary.

Motorway M-4 closed to heavy vehicles amid dense fog and smog

■ **Motorway Police has advised citizens to avoid unnecessary travel during foggy conditions and prefer travelling between 10am and 6pm.**

STAFF REPORTER
LAHORE

The M-4 Motorway has been closed to heavy traffic between Pindi Bhattian and Abdul Hakeem due to dense fog and smog,

According to the Motorway Police spokesperson Syed Imran Ahmed, the closure was imposed to protect the lives and property of commuters.

Motorway Police has advised citizens to avoid unnecessary travel during foggy conditions and prefer travelling between 10am and 6pm.

Drivers have also been urged to reduce speed, maintain a safe



distance from other vehicles, follow lane discipline and avoid unnecessary overtaking and sudden braking.

Motorists have been advised to use fog lights and ensure that headlights, taillights and windscreen wipers are in proper working condition.

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