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Saudi-led coalition launches operation to 'neutralise' Houthi military resources in

WEB DESK

Riyadh

The Saudi-led coalition said on Sunday that it had carried out a military operation to "neutralise vital resources" used by the Houthi group to support its war effort and strengthen its military capabilities, particularly ballistic missiles and drones.Coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki said in a statement that the operation took place on Sunday morning following continued Houthi attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.



DPM, Maldives' FM to agree to enhance bilateral ties

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister of Maldives, Ms. Iruthisham Adam, who is currently in Antigua and Barbuda to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).
Foreign Minister Iruthisham Adam expressed appreciation for Pakistan's warm hospitality during the recent visit of the President of Maldives and his delegation to Islamabad.



Senior PML-N leader Malik Sultan Mahmood Hunjra called on Prime Minister(PM),Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday.During the meeting, Malik Sultan Mahmood Hunjra appreciated the government's initiatives for national development and public welfare.

India biggest sponsor of terrorism in Pakistan, says DG ISPR

■ Military spokesperson says Pakistan has capability, strategy to impose cost over terrorism

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

The Afghan Taliban do not have the capability to absorb the "punishment" Pakistan can inflict in response to threats emanating from Afghanistan, the military's spokesperson has warned.
Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry told Reuters Pakistan possessed the capability to counter threats from the Afghan Taliban, including those involving drones, and was prepared for attempts to test its operational readiness.
"Whatever they want to send, they can; they may try. We have the capability to take them on," the ISPR DG said in an interview. "They don't have, I think, the



capability to then absorb the punishment that we can put on them," he added.
The military spokesperson was responding to a question about the potential threat posed by drones in the hands of the Afghan Taliban and whether Pakistan could face a situation similar to drone threats elsewhere in the region.
Lt Gen Chaudhry said that whatever drone capability the Afghan Taliban possessed was not indigenous, saying that such technology was being supplied by their sponsors.
The ISPR DG said that India is the "biggest terror sponsor" in the context of threats facing Pakistan and added that the Afghan Taliban and terrorist groups operating against Pakistan were acting as Indian proxies.
Referring to Pakistan's previous conflict with India, he said New Delhi had sent "dozens and dozens" of sophisticated drones, which Pakistan successfully countered. "We turned them into dust everywhere," he said, adding that Pakistan had since moved further ahead in terms of its operational readiness.
'There will be a cost' The ISPR DG also said that the Afghan Taliban regime is
(Continued on Page-5)

Pakistan welcomes US mediation, urges Afghan Taliban to address security concerns



News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has welcomed a statement by the US Secretary of State, expressing its readiness to support sincere efforts by the United States and other friendly countries to facilitate dialogue between Islamabad and Kabul.
According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office spokesperson in Islamabad, meaningful negotiations require a clear commitment from the Afghan Taliban authorities to take concrete action against terrorist groups operating from Afghan territory.



KP governor Kundy says illegal Afghan residents have to return

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said that Afghan nationals living illegally in Pakistan will have to return to their country, Addressing a ceremony for doctors in Peshawar today, the governor said Afghan citizens wishing to visit Pakistan must obtain valid visas.
He made it clear that no foreign national could be allowed to stay in the country without proper legal documents.Speaking about provincial priorities, Kundi said improving the health sector was among the government's key goals and steps would be taken to address shortcomings in public healthcare services.

IED BLAST NEAR POLICE VEHICLE IN BANNU, PERSONNEL REMAIN SAFE

STAFF REPORTER

BANNU

An improvised explosive device (IED) exploded near a police vehicle close to City Maryan Gate in Bannu on Sunday, leaving police personnel unharmed.According to police, the explosion damaged the police vehicle, while all personnel remained safe.

Maryam Nawaz, French envoy discuss expanding investment in Punjab

■ The chief minister emphasised the need for continued diplomatic engagement and effective dialogue with France to safeguard Pakistan's GSP+ status

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met newly appointed French Ambassador to Pakistan Jean-Noël Poirier to discuss ways to strengthen trade, economic, industrial and investment cooperation between Pakistan and France.During the meeting, both sides agreed to explore new opportunities for expanding trade, investment and industrial partnerships between Punjab and France.
Maryam Nawaz warmly welcomed the French ambassador, congratulated him on assuming his diplomatic responsibilities and thanked him for visiting Lahore.
The French envoy invited the chief minister



to visit France to promote bilateral trade relations, an invitation she appreciated.
The chief minister invited French investors to explore investment opportunities in Punjab's agriculture, industrial and livestock sectors under the PIVOT initiative. She said direct engagement at the provincial level could open new avenues for industrial cooperation and development partnerships.The meeting also included detailed discussions on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) and the potential for increasing Pakistani exports to European markets.
Maryam Nawaz described GSP+ as a lifeline for Pakistan's exports and Punjab's industrial economy, noting that the European Union was Pakistan's largest trading partner. She stressed that preferential access to European markets was crucial for boosting the country's exports.She said preferential access was particularly important for Punjab's textile, garments, sports goods and leather industries, adding that aligning with the requirements of the new GSP+ framework was essential for Pakistan's export prospects.

Naqvi urges politicians to put Pakistan ahead of personal ties

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi has urged politicians to set aside their personal differences and work together for Pakistan's progress, saying the country would need little else if they put national interests first.
Speaking at the opening ceremony of Health Rex, organised by the American Centre for Excellence, Naqvi said that those entrusted with public responsibilities would be held accountable by Allah Almighty.
He said young people were the country's greatest asset and stressed that the government had given strong support to the information technology sector.

Pakistan assumes G24 chairmanship, vows to champion developing countries' interests

■ Pakistan assumes the G24 chairmanship, with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb pledging to advocate fair representation, financial support and sustainable development for developing countries.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has assumed the chairmanship of the Group of 24 (G24), with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb appointed as the group's new chairman, in a move aimed at strengthening the voice of developing countries in the global financial system.
Speaking on the occasion, Aurangzeb said Pakistan would advocate for fair representation of developing countries in the international financial system and work towards a more equitable financial order.
He stressed the need to place development at the centre of global economic policies,



saying the benefits of economic stability should translate into investment, employment opportunities and public prosperity.
The finance minister called for greater representation of developing countries in international financial institutions and a fair share for all countries in decision-making processes.
He also emphasised the need to provide developing nations with affordable and timely financial assistance, find sustainable solutions to debt-related challenges and take effective measures to address climate change.
Aurangzeb said Pakistan would work with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank during its G24 chairmanship. Increasing public and private investment in developing countries, supporting economic reforms and ensuring financial resources for sustainable development would also remain among the group's priorities.
He said the real measure of the G24's success would be improvements in the lives of people in developing countries, adding that Pakistan would play its role in turning their collective voice into practical action.

Govt revises petrol pricing formula amid Iran-US war

■ New mechanism changes import, refinery price calculations for next 30 days, says document

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The federal government has revised the mechanism for determining petrol prices amid volatility caused by the Iran-US war, changing how imported and locally refined petrol will be priced.
The federal cabinet approved the revised mechanism on October 30, according to Petroleum Division documents seen by Geo News. The changes apply specifically to Motor Spirit (MS), or petrol, while all other parameters for petroleum product pricing will remain unchanged.
Under the revised formula, the import price of petrol will be



determined on the basis of the actual import cost of the relevant Pakistan State Oil (PSO) cargo.
If the actual import cost is unavailable for daily pricing, the premium, incidentals and customs duty of the last available cargo will be used to determine the import price.
The change modifies the mechanism introduced earlier this year under which petrol prices were determined using PSO import data and different averaging arrangements.
Refinery pricing frozen at pre-war levelThe government has also introduced a temporary mechanism for local refineries for the next 30 days.
During this period, the premium, incidentals and customs duty used to calculate the ex-refinery price of petrol will be fixed at the levels effective on March 7, 2026 — before the Iran-US war.
Energy Ministry sources said refineries had continued charging premiums equivalent to those on imported petrol following the outbreak of the Iran-US war.

Islamabad Police Arrest 175 Suspects in Weeklong Crackdown, Recover Drugs and Illegal Weapons

■ 48 Grand Search Operations Conducted; 2,257 Individuals, 987 Houses, 1,352 Motorcycles and 490 Vehicles Checked

CRIME REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Islamabad Police Arrests 175 Accused in Weeklong Crackdown; Drugs and Illegal Weapons Recovered48 Grand Search and Combing Operations Conducted; 2,257 Individuals, 987 Houses, 281 Shops, 92 Hotels, 1,352 Motorcycles and 490 Vehicles CheckedFollowing the special directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary, Islamabad Police is continuing its effective crackdown to prevent crime and take action against criminal elements. During various operations conducted over the past week, Islamabad Police teams arrested 175 accused involved in serious offences and recovered narcotics, illegal weapons, and ammunition from their possession.Of the arrested accused, 90 were court absconders, proclaimed offenders, and previously recorded criminals, while 85 were arrested on charges of drug peddling and illegal possession of weapons. The recovered items included 8,567 grams of ice (methamphetamine), 5,698 grams of hashish, 4,812 grams of heroin, 33 bottles of liquor, six daggers, and 37 pistols of various bores along with ammunition. Cases have been registered against the arrested accused, and further investigations are underway.Furthermore, to curb criminal activities and protect the lives and property of citizens, 48 grand search and combing operations were conducted in various areas under the supervision of Zonal SPs. During these operations, 2,257 individuals, 987 houses, 281 shops, 92 hotels, 1,352 motorcycles, and 490 vehicles were checked. For further verification, 52 suspicious individuals, 131 motorcycles, and one vehicle were shifted to various police stations.DIG Islamabad Ali Wasim stated that Islamabad Police is working around the clock to protect citizens' lives and property and eliminate crime. He added that search, combing, and intelligence-based operations would continue to make action against criminal elements more effective.He further stated that, under Islamabad Police's "No to Weapon" campaign, indiscriminate action is being taken against the illegal possession and display of weapons, as well as aerial firing. Effective measures are also being taken to arrest proclaimed offenders and previously recorded criminals, eliminate narcotics, and ensure the prompt provision of justice to citizens.DIG Islamabad directed officers to make checking during search operations more effective while ensuring that citizens' dignity is respected and all legal requirements are duly observed. He also instructed them to maintain close surveillance of suspicious activities.Emphasizing that effective cooperation between the police and citizens is essential to eliminating crime and maintaining peace and order in the city, he appealed to citizens to immediately report any suspicious activity or person to their respective police station or through the emergency helpline "Pukar-15", so that timely action can be taken to prevent crime.

IG Punjab Directs Timely Investigation and Prosecution of Heinous Crime Cases

■ DPOs instructed to update region-wise challan and proclaimed offender data on PRMS by November 15; strict accountability for corruption and abuse of authority reiterated

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE



Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem chaired a meeting on investigation matters and the investigation and prosecution of heinous crime cases at the Central Police Office. The meeting reviewed progress in the investigation, challan submission and prosecution of cases involving sexual abuse and violence against women and children, murder, kidnapping and other heinous crimesIG Punjab said that under Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Safe Punjab Vision, timely justice in cases of sexual abuse and violence against women and children is the police's red line. He directed police officers to pay special attention to the timely resolution of cases involving crimes against women and childrenHe directed that the timely resolution of heinous crime cases, including murder and kidnapping, must be ensured. All DPOs were instructed to ensure that region-wise data on challans and proclaimed offenders from 2024 onwards is updated on PRMS by November 15. The concerned SDPOs and SHOs should be assigned targets to be completed within the stipulated timelines, while compliance reports should be obtained through scrutiny and inspectionIG Punjab further directed DPOs to personally review FIRs registered in heinous crime cases and called for improving the role and performance of SDPOs and DSPs Legal. Investigation officers must brief the concerned DPOs about their cases before appearing in court and ensure that they attend court proceedings with complete preparation and all relevant recordsThe meeting also discussed proposed measures and a future course of action to improve coordination between investigation officers and the prosecution. IG Punjab directed the RPOs to set targets for improving the investigation and challan submission mechanismIG Punjab made it clear that strict accountability would continue for those found involved in corruption, abuse of authority and violations of the code of conductThe meeting was attended by DIG Legal, DIG Welfare and Finance, DIG Investigation Punjab, AIG Legal and other concerned officers. Additional IG South Punjab, all RPOs, CPOs and DPOs participated in the meeting via video link. .

Gilgit-Baltistan's 79th Independence Day: Senate Chairman Felicitates People

ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD

Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has extended heartfelt congratulations to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan on the occasion of their 79th Independence Day, paying tribute to their historic struggle, sacrifices and unwavering commitment to Pakistan.In his message, the Chairman Senate said that the liberation of Gilgit-Baltistan from Dogra rule and its accession to Pakistan was a proud chapter in the region's history.He highlighted the significant reforms introduced in Gilgit-Baltistan by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, saying that the empowerment measures taken by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) government in 2009 marked important milestones in the region's history.Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani stressed that improving education, healthcare, infrastructure and employment opportunities was essential for the sustainable development and prosperity of Gilgit-Baltistan.

He said the prosperity of Gilgit-Baltistan was closely linked to Pakistan's overall development and stability, adding that the people of the region were playing an important role in promoting national unity and contributing to the country's progress.The Chairman Senate reaffirmed the importance of continued efforts to ensure the socio-economic development of Gilgit-Baltistan and improve the quality of life of its people.



Kashmir Chowk underpass project 85pc complete in 22 says, says CDA chief

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has completed 85 per cent of the construction work on the Kashmir Chowk underpass in just 22 days, with the remaining work expected to be finished within the 30-day deadline, This was revealed by CDA Chairman Sohail Ashraf during a visit to the project site on Sunday to review the progress of construction work.On the occasion, he directed officials and engineers to maintain the current pace and ensure that the project was completed on time.

He stressed that the remaining work must be finished within the given deadline without compromising on construction quality and safety standards.

Police, FIA, NCCIA join hands to raise awareness against cybercrime through flag march



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

:Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, traffic police, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) jointly organised a flag march to raise public awareness about cybercrime and educate citizens on protecting themselves from online financial fraud, harassment and other digital threats.

Police, FIA, NCCIA join hands to raise awareness against cybercrime through flag march

According to details shared by NCCIA, the joint initiative aimed to promote safe internet use and encourage citizens to take necessary precautions against growing cyber threats.

During the awareness activity, citizens were informed about online financial scams, fake social media accounts, identity theft, cyber harassment and other methods used by criminals to deceive internet users.

Participants were advised not to share their passwords, one-time passwords (OTPs), banking details, or personal information with anyone, as such information could be misused for financial fraud and other illegal activities.

They were also urged to avoid suspicious links, verify online information before sharing it and remain careful while dealing with unknown persons on social media.

The awareness campaign particularly stressed the importance of reporting cybercrime without delay.

DRAP alerts public to counterfeit flu vaccines circulating in Pakistan

■ DRAP has flagged counterfeit Influvac Tetra and Vaxigrip Tetra flu vaccine batches, warning that their use could pose serious health risks.

CITY REORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has issued nationwide product alerts after detecting counterfeit batches of influenza vaccines allegedly being supplied to markets across the country.

The regulator identified fake batches of two flu vaccines, Influvac Tetra and Vaxigrip Tetra, warning that their quality, safety and effectiveness could not be guaranteed and that their use could pose serious health risks.

According to DRAP, counterfeit products have been circulated in the names of multinational pharmaceutical companies Abbott Pharma and Sanofi Winthrop.



The packaging of the counterfeit Influvac Tetra vaccine carries the address of Abbott Biologicals, Netherlands, while the Vaxigrip Tetra packaging bears the address of Sanofi Winthrop, France.

DRAP said Sanofi's distributor in Pakistan had reported the suspected supply of counterfeit flu vaccines.

47pc of government schools in KP Declared unsafe after structural audit

SPECIAL REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Nearly half of government schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) have been declared structurally unsafe, raising concerns about the safety of students and teachers, according to an official report.

The Communications and Works (C&W) Department has completed structural safety audits of 8,928 government schools across the province following the Dir Colony tragedy in Peshawar, on the provincial government's directives.

According to the audit findings, 4,792 schools, or 53 per cent of the inspected buildings, were declared safe, while 2,448 schools, accounting for 47 per cent, were classified as unsafe, the report said. The audit was conducted to assess the structural condition of government school buildings across the province following the tragedy.

PMAS-AAUR Marks World Food Day with Food Festival, Seminar and Awareness Walk

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Emphasizes Healthy Diets, Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems

SPECIAL REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), through its Institute of Food and Nutritional Sciences, organized a series of special events to mark World Food Day, aiming to raise public awareness about healthy eating, food security and sustainable food systems.The activities included a food festival, poster competition, seminar and awareness walk. The events highlighted the importance of balanced and nutritious diets, innovative approaches to addressing food-related challenges and collective efforts to ensure food security.Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman attended the event as the chief guest. He visited various stalls and the poster exhibition set up as part of the food festival and also participated in the seminar and awareness walk.Addressing the participants, the Vice Chancellor said that ensuring food security and promoting healthy dietary habits were essential for building a healthy society. He emphasized that universities must play a leading role in promoting research, innovation and public awareness to find sustainable solutions to food-related challenges.He further stated that encouraging responsible food choices and adopting modern practices were vital to ensuring access to safe, healthy and sustainable food for everyone.Professor Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman expressed confidence that joint efforts by educational and research institutions could make a significant contribution to strengthening food security and promoting a healthier lifestyle in society.



KPT handles two bulk carriers carrying 101,000 tonnes of fertiliser, wheat: Junaid Anwar Chaudhry

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, on Sunday, said that Karachi Port Trust (KPT) has simultaneously handled two foreign bulk carriers carrying a combined 101,000 tonnes of diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertiliser and wheat.

STAFF REPORTER

Islamabad

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, on Sunday, said that Karachi Port Trust (KPT) has simultaneously handled two foreign bulk carriers carrying a combined 101,000 tonnes of diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertiliser and wheat.

The minister commended KPT engineers, port operators, pilots, terminal operators, dockworkers and transporters for managing the two vessels and maintaining cargo discharge operations.

He said the timely handling of



essential imports was important for supporting agricultural production and ensuring food security.

The two vessels, MV ZHONG CHANG 538 and MV GOKOVA M, carrying 50,000 tonnes of DAP fertiliser and 51,000 tonnes of wheat, respectively, were berthed at Karachi Gateway Terminal Multipurpose (KGML).

According to KPT operational data, MV ZHONG CHANG 538 was berthed at Berth 10/11 with its 50,000-tonne DAP consignment. Of the total cargo, 48,525 tonnes had been discharged, bringing unloading operations close to completion. The vessel recorded a discharge rate of 5,481 tonnes during the preceding 24 hours.

Meanwhile, MV GOKOVA M, carrying 51,000 tonnes of wheat, was berthed at Berth 16/17. More than 7,200 tonnes had been discharged, while unloading operations were continuing.

Junaid Chaudhry said the simultaneous handling of the two vessels reflected KPT's operational capacity and efforts to improve berth utilisation, cargo-handling efficiency and supply chain performance.

He said the Ministry of Maritime Affairs was pursuing reforms to reduce vessel turnaround times, improve port management and strengthen maritime infrastructure to facilitate international trade and ensure the uninterrupted supply of essential commodities.

SECP Marks Over 39,000 Non-Filing Companies Inactive

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has marked 39,704 companies "Inactive by Registrar" after they failed to file annual returns and/or financial statements for four years. Marking non-filing companies as inactive will make the corporate register more reliable and help prevent dormant companies from being misused.The inactive status will appear in the SECP's system and be visible to banks and other stakeholders. These companies will not be able to open new bank accounts until they file their overdue documents with the SECP and regain active status. They will also be unable to access financial services or register changes in their directors.The inactive companies include 13,927 in Lahore, 13,859 in Islamabad, 4,868 in Karachi, 2,031 in Peshawar, 1,861 in Multan, 1,384 in Faisalabad, 1,102 in Gilgit, 436 in Quetta and 236 in Sukkur.Filing annual returns and, where required, financial statements is a legal requirement under the Companies Act, 2017. These filings keep public information about companies, their ownership and their management up to date. The SECP said prolonged non-filing weakens the corporate register and can hinder efforts to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.The corporate register continues to grow. Pakistan had 317,002 registered companies at the end of September 2026.

Private Educational Institutions' Representatives Hold Emergency Meeting in Rawalpindi

Educationists discuss challenges facing private schools, institutional security and education standards; participants pledge joint efforts to protect institutional interests and promote quality education



STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

An important emergency meeting of representatives of private educational institutions was held at Al-Rafai Mall, Rawalpindi, bringing together central and regional office-bearers of various educational organisations to discuss key challenges facing the private education sector and explore a joint strategy for addressing them.The meeting focused on issues confronting private educational institutions, the current state of education, institutional security, mutual consultation, and the need for stronger coordination among representative bodies to safeguard the interests of the education community.Participants emphasised that education is the foundation of national development and that no nation can achieve sustainable progress without promoting quality education and ensuring access to learning opportunities. They stressed that private educational institutions play a significant role in educating the younger generation and complementing national efforts to strengthen the education system.Zofran Ellahi, President of the Private Schools Association Islamabad (PSAI), highlighted the importance of promoting education through collective efforts, constructive engagement, and cooperation among educational organisations. He stressed that the protection of private educational institutions and the resolution of their longstanding issues require a united approach, effective representation, and continuous dialogue with the relevant authorities.Hafiz Muhammad Basharat, Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), also shared his views on the promotion of education and the importance of strengthening the education sector.



Sindh governor says federal-provincial cooperation vital for KP's peace and stability

NEWS DESK

KARACHI

Sindh Governor Nihal Hashmi said maintaining peace and ensuring lasting development in KP are among the government's top priorities, He expressed these views while having a meeting with Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam at Governor House today, where they also exchanged views on the province's security situation and development needs.

Both the PML-N leaders discussed the country's overall situation, with a special focus on peace, security and development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Surveillance drone crashes into CTD headquarters building in Lahore

A surveillance drone crashed into Lahore's CTD headquarters after allegedly monitoring its internal areas. The bomb disposal squad cleared the device, and police launched an investigation.



STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

A surveillance drone crashed into the outer wall of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) headquarters in Lahore triggering alarm at the facility.

According to police, the incident occurred at around 12:30am when the drone approached the CTD headquarters from the Jallo Mor direction.

Officials said the sophisticated surveillance drone struck the building's outer wall and fell to the ground. It was reportedly being used to monitor the internal areas of the CTD headquarters.

The security team took the drone into custody. Its attached cameras and battery lights were still operational at the time. The bomb disposal squad later examined the device and declared it clear.

Police said unidentified suspects had sent the drone towards the CTD headquarters with alleged terrorist intentions.

Authorities said investigations were under way from all angles. The CTD headquarters security team has also submitted an application to Harbanspura Police Station for legal action.

Lahore's air quality deteriorates as smog level reaches hazardous levels



STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Air pollution levels in Lahore have increased, with the city's average smog reading reaching 475, putting its air quality in the hazardous category, while dry weather is expected to prevail on Sunday.

According to the Meteorological Department, the minimum temperature in the city was recorded at 17 degrees Celsius, while the maximum is expected to reach 30 degrees Celsius. The current temperature stood at 21 degrees Celsius, with wind speed recorded at 2 kilometres per hour and humidity at 69 per cent.

Meanwhile, Lahore ranked second among Pakistan's most polluted cities as air pollution levels continued to rise.

The average smog reading across the city was recorded at 475. The Air Quality Index (AQI) reached 704 in Allama Iqbal Town, while Model Town recorded an AQI of 481.

Experts have warned that the high levels of air pollution could pose serious health risks to residents.

Punjab govt to fill 149 vacant posts across province

The Punjab government has also approved appointments on 70 vacant vacancies in PMU project of Youth Affairs and Sports Department.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab government has decided to fill 149 vacant posts in three departments across the province, These posts are lying vacant in Youth Affairs and Sports, Intelligence Fusion Center and Special Branch.

The Punjab government has also approved appointments on 70 vacant vacancies in PMU project of Youth Affairs and Sports Department.Appointment for 79 vacant posts in the Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Center is also approved, which will strengthen coordination.

New recruitments will enhance the capacity for the timely identification and analysis of security threats, as well as the ability to address potential risks.

New recruitments in the Special Branch will strengthen field monitoring and the system for gathering intelligence.

Additional manpower will assist in maintaining law and order and preventing crime. Additional positions within the PMU for Youth Affairs and Sports will lead to improvements in the monitoring, administration, and implementation of sports projects.

M-4 motorway section to be upgraded to six lanes beautified with green belts: Aleem Khan

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday said the 53-kilometre Faisalabad–Pindi Bhattian section of the M-4 Motorway was being upgraded from four to six lanes to provide safer and more convenient travel facilities to commuters.

CTY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday said the 53-kilometre Faisalabad–Pindi Bhattian section of the M-4 Motorway was being upgraded from four to six lanes to provide safer and more convenient travel facilities to commuters.

M-4 motorway section to be upgraded to six lanes, beautified with green belts: Aleem Khan

During a visit to the Kamalpur Interchange to inspect the ongoing construction work, the minister said the project would fulfil a long-standing demand of the people of Faisalabad, pending for the last three decades, said a press release.

He added that the M-4 Motorway would be transformed into a state-of-the-art highway, with trees planted along both sides, green belts developed in the central section and date palm trees added to enhance its landscape & Beautification rest areas will also be established to facilitate commuters travelling between Pindi Bhattian and Faisalabad.

The minister said that by ensuring the timely completion of the M-4 expansion project, the Government would present the people of Faisalabad with a modern motorway as a New Year gift.

Abdul Aleem Khan said that the expansion of the M-4 Motorway would help ease traffic congestion make travelling safer and more convenient and contribute to preventing road



accidents. He paid tribute to the motorway police personnel who had sacrificed their lives while performing their duties adding that a key objective of the project was to ensure safe travelling facilities for both commuters and motorway police personnel.

Abdul Aleem Khan directed the authorities to increase the number of machinery units and workforce to accelerate construction activities. He made it clear that while timely completion was essential no compromise would be tolerated on construction quality. He added that since all project funds had been arranged by the National Highway Authority (NHA) through its own resources there should be no reason for any delay.

He further directed that the beautification of the motorway should meet modern standards. He also instructed the authorities to ensure complete lighting arrangements along the Pindi Bhattian–Faisalabad section and finalise the designs of rest areas within one week to facilitate travellers.

Appreciating the satisfactory performance of the NHA and Motorway Police officials, the minister said that the construction of modern highways and provision of safe travel facilities remained among the government's top priorities.

US not directly involved in Flavio Bolsonaro's flight from Brazil: Rubio

■ President Donald Trump said that Bolsonaro could, however, stay in the United States "as long as he wants."



Web DESK

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday that Washington was not directly involved in Flavio Bolsonaro's arrangements to leave Brazil after his election loss.

President Donald Trump said that Bolsonaro could, however, stay in the United States "as long as he wants."

Bolsonaro, who lost his bid to be president in Sunday's run-off vote, arrived with his family in the US on Wednesday after a court ordered his passports to be seized amid multiple investigations against him.

"He had previously held a visa, and the president made a decision to allow him to enter the country," Rubio told a press conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where he hosted G20 foreign ministers for a two-day meeting.

Rubio added that "the US government was not involved directly" in arrangements Bolsonaro made to leave his country.

Following the vote, the 45-year-old bolted from Brazil via Argentina and Ecuador in a plane that some US media, including The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, reported was chartered by Jason Miller, an adviser to Trump.

The plane that whisked the Bolsonaro family to the US was paid for by an intermediary from a US bank account, the head of the airline has told AFP.



Russian strikes cut power to thousands in Ukraine as drones damage Russian facility

Iran FM says US outreach a 'positive step' as delegation in Qatar for talks

■ Araghchi said one of his aides is in Qatar to continue consultations.

Web Desk

TEHRAN

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says a United States effort to open dialogue with Tehran is "a positive step", but that there are currently no plans for meetings with US officials regarding the eight-month-old war.

Speaking to Al Jazeera on Saturday, Araghchi said Iran had studied a letter sent by US Vice President JD Vance in high-level meetings, and set out Tehran's conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, which he said would pave the way for renewed negotiations with Washington.

He added that an Iranian delegation has travelled to Doha, a day after Qatari mediators were in Tehran in an apparent bid to negotiate a revival of the US-Iran ceasefire.



Araghchi said one of his aides is in Qatar to continue consultations.

"The American side's attempt to open the door to dialogue and understanding more broadly is a positive step," the foreign minister told Al Jazeera.

However, he warned: "If Washington's goal in sending this letter is to stir up discord, it would be yet another mistake to add to its previous ones."

'No need to meet with the Americans'

Araghchi played down talk of upcoming meetings between the two sides.

"What is being circulated in this regard is merely media speculation," he said.

"We see no need to meet with the Americans at this stage. Our conditions are clear, and mediators are continuing their consultations regarding them," he added.

Araghchi said whether Iran would hold direct or indirect talks with the US depended on Tehran's conditions being met.

"Mediators have presented proposals concerning the nuclear dossier, which we are currently reviewing as part of the second phase," he said.

"Qatari and Pakistani mediators are continuing consultations regarding our conditions," he said.

Rouzbeh Parsi, an Iran analyst and affiliated researcher at Lund University's Department of History and Human Rights Studies, told Al Jazeera that any progress in Friday's talks in Tehran was most likely on "the sequencing of the first steps needed to establish the barest of trust – without which further bolder steps are not possible".

Conditions for Hormuz

Araghchi said talks with Qatari mediators had shortened the time needed to implement Iran's proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran warns US, Israel against new attacks after Trump, Netanyahu threats

■ President Donald Trump has warned of fresh military action after the US holds midterm elections on Tuesday, saying last weekend he was weighing up whether to "finish them off".

Web Desk

TEHRAN

Iran's supreme leader warned the United States and Israel against launching new attacks following their threats to resume strikes after crucial elections.

President Donald Trump has warned of fresh military action after the US holds midterm elections on Tuesday, saying last weekend he was weighing up whether to "finish them off".

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has spoken of a "historic, one-time opportunity" to topple the Iranian government.

Both countries are holding legislative polls that could determine the direction of the conflict, with Israel having voted on Tuesday and the US midterms set for next week.



"If the enemies once again launch military or terrorist attacks, it is the armed forces of the Islamic republic and the Iranian nation that will determine the time and conditions for ending them," Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei said Saturday in a statement.

"Any level or type of threat must be met with an immediate, impactful and geographically unrestricted response," he is said to have told top military commanders in a meeting.

The encounter was the first reported between Khamenei and military top brass and included armed forces chief of staff Ali Abdollahi.

Thousands protest in India's capital against voter roll revision

● The nationwide revision of electoral rolls has sparked political disputes and street protests in the world's largest democracy over the last month.

Web Desk

INDIA

Thousands joined a protest led by opposition politicians in India's capital on Sunday, renewing demands for the country's election chief to resign over an overhaul of voter lists they say unfairly benefits the ruling party.

The nationwide revision of electoral rolls has sparked political disputes and street protests in the world's largest democracy over the last month.

The Election Commission says the initiative is necessary to ensure accurate voter lists, but the opposition claims it is being manipulated to favour Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).



Both the Election Commission and the BJP deny the accusations.

On Sunday, protesters led by opposition Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi chanted "vote thief, leave your seat" and beat drums while marching from central parts of New Delhi to Ramlila Maidan, a large outdoor venue.

"I have been a voter since I was 18 and now I find myself struck off the list," protester Nandita, 46, told AFP, giving only one name.

"It's important to be here because of the way things are going. The cost of living is going up... The only option is to take to the streets peacefully."

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), an online youth-led protest movement, has also thrown its weight behind the campaign against the voter-roll revision.

he overhaul of India's voter rolls has resulted in more than 133 million names being removed from electoral lists, according to figures reported by Indian media and cited by opposition parties in court filings.

Critics say the removals have disproportionately affected

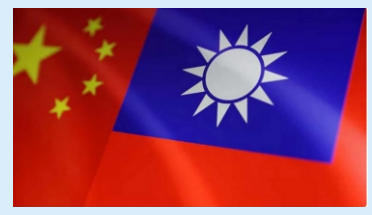
Taiwan says China harassing shipping with east coast patrol

Web Desk

TAIPEI

China's Coast Guard is harassing shipping with its latest patrol off Taiwan's east coast and trying to exert a fictional jurisdiction, the Taiwanese Coast Guard said, adding it had sent its own ships to keep watch.

China, which views Taiwan as its own territory, has stepped up activity off the island's east coast since June with regular coast guard patrols. Officials in Taiwan, which rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims, say they believe China is practising for a potential maritime blockade using overlapping military, paramilitary and civilian assets.Taipei regards the area off its east coast as ?critical to wartime



supply routes from allies in the event of a blockade or conflict. China recognises no claims of sovereignty by Taiwan.

Responding late Saturday to China's announcement of its latest east coast patrol, Taiwan's Coast Guard said two Chinese ships were involved and it had sent its own forces to monitor.

Chinese state media showed video of one of its ships broadcasting a radio message that it was carrying out law enforcement and offering help should any be needed.

PIA's first Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner lands at Islamabad airport



Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) first Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner landed at Islamabad airport from London on Sunday,

The plane is the first of its kind to have been inducted in the fleet of any airline of the country.

CEO PIA Air Vice Marshal Amir Hayat, along with his team, welcomed the plane at the airport.

Boeing 787-9 is equipped with latest technology, including inflight entertainment and a comfortable and spacious cabin.

PIA's spokesman has said that the goal of the airline is to provide facilities to its passengers at par with international airlines so that they could have a comfortable journey.

US midterm campaign enters final weekend as Alaska, California ballot fights heat up

■ It is one of 35 Senate races, along with all 435 House seats, that will decide whether Trump's Republicans keep control of Congress for his final two years in office

Web Desk

WASHINGTON/ANCHORAGE

President Donald Trump's administration pressed a criminal investigation into Alaska's pivotal US Senate race and said it would likely take its fight over thousands of California mail-in ballots to the Supreme Court, as the midterm campaign for control of Congress entered its final weekend.

In Alaska, federal prosecutors are investigating whether aides to Democratic challenger Mary Peltola helped to recruit a retired schoolteacher, Daniel J. Sullivan Jr., to run because his name is similar to the Republican incumbent, Senator Dan S. Sullivan. The closely contested race is seen as crucial to Democrats' hopes of taking the Senate in Tuesday's vote.

It is one of 35 Senate races, along with all 435 House seats, that will decide whether Trump's Republicans keep control of Congress for his final two years in office.



Republicans hold a 53-47 Senate majority and a narrow edge in the House.

Early voting has set a record. More than 51 million Americans have already cast ballots in person or by mail, according to the University of Florida's Election Lab, up from nearly 46 million who voted before Election Day at the last midterms in 2022.

In California, a federal appeals court this week ruled 2-1 that the ?Justice Department had failed to justify its emergency bid to force the state to set aside mail ballots from more than 20,000 registered voters it alleges are likely noncitizens.

"I hesitate to give a final answer, but I think probably the Supreme Court's next on this one," acting Deputy Attorney General Trent McCotter told Fox News on Saturday, adding that any request for Supreme Court consideration would come before Tuesday's election.

Trump has been on a campaign blitz in multiple states over the past month but is spending Saturday at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida. He returns to the campaign trail on Sunday in Kansas and Iowa.

The Justice Department's top prosecutor in Alaska, US Attorney Michael Heyman, said at a Friday press conference that a recent New York Times article, saying there had been an effort to recruit Daniel J. Sullivan Jr. had driven a "surge" of FBI resources onto the case.

Heyman said he had assigned several prosecutors to it and that investigative steps were taking place "intensely and swiftly."

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Karachi's Development Depends on Financially Empowered Local

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and economic hub, plays a vital role in the country's trade, industry, business and employment sectors. Despite its enormous economic contribution, the city continues to face serious challenges in providing basic municipal facilities to its residents. Broken roads, inadequate drainage systems, overflowing sewage, poor street lighting and deteriorating urban infrastructure remain persistent problems. The approval of $150 million by the World Bank for the Sindh Property Revenues



Enhancement Programme (Sindh PREP) offers an important opportunity to address these challenges by strengthening property tax collection and improving the financial capacity of local governments.The programme is significant not merely because of the financial assistance involved, but because it seeks to establish a system in which cities can generate their own revenues and invest those resources in public services. According to the World Bank, Sindh's local councils currently depend on provincial transfers for more than 95 per cent of their revenues. Such heavy dependence limits the ability of municipal institutions to independently plan development projects and respond to the growing needs of urban populations. Financially empowered local governments are essential for sustainable urban development, and the proposed programme could help move Sindh towards that objective.Karachi's property tax collection figures highlight the scale of the challenge. Despite being one of the world's largest cities, Karachi currently collects only around $8.5 million annually in property taxes, while cities of comparable size generate between 82 and 350 times more revenue. Under Sindh PREP, the target is to increase Karachi's annual property tax collection to $85 million and improve tax compliance from 20 per cent to 50 per cent. Achieving these targets will require more than introducing new tax mechanisms. Accurate property records, comprehensive surveys, efficient administration, transparent procedures and public cooperation will all be essential.One of the most important features of the programme is the proposed reinvestment of approximately 70 per cent of collected urban property tax revenue directly into municipal infrastructure and services. This approach can help establish a stronger connection between tax payments and the facilities citizens receive in return. People are more likely to fulfil their tax obligations when they can see visible improvements in their neighbourhoods, including better roads, functional drainage systems, improved sanitation and adequate street lighting. Therefore, the government must ensure that the collected revenue is spent transparently and that details of development projects remain accessible to the public.The programme is expected to benefit 25 local councils in Karachi, covering approximately 3.58 million people. Its performance-based funding mechanism will link financial allocations to annual assessments conducted by an independent verification agent. The funds will support climate-resilient municipal infrastructure, including drainage, sewerage, schools, fire stations, roads and street lighting. If implemented effectively, these investments could improve the quality of life in several urban communities while strengthening the institutional capacity of local councils.Another important component is the allocation of $40 million through Investment Project Financing to expand property surveys and improve property tax administration in 20 local councils across other urban centres of Sindh. This component is expected to indirectly benefit approximately 4.5 million people. Extending these reforms beyond Karachi is important because urban development challenges are not confined to one city. Other towns and municipal centres also require better infrastructure, improved financial management and reliable public services.However, the success of the initiative will depend on how effectively the provincial government addresses the weaknesses of the existing property tax system. A comprehensive and updated database of residential, commercial and industrial properties must be developed. Tax assessments should be fair, consistent and based on transparent criteria. The government must also ensure that influential property owners and large commercial establishments are not allowed to escape their tax obligations while the burden falls disproportionately on ordinary citizens.Public confidence is another critical factor. Taxpayers in Pakistan frequently complain that despite paying various taxes, they do not receive adequate public services. This perception cannot be addressed through digitalisation alone. The authorities must introduce effective complaint mechanisms, publish details of tax collection and expenditure.

75 years of Pak China Everlasting Friendship



By: Arshad Khan



The 75 years of everlasting friendship and diplomatic relationship between Pakistan and China has continued to grow stronger with the passage of time. Throughout these decades, there have been no significant ups and downs in the ties between the two countries. In recent years, China has not only emerged as a global superpower, but has also stood by Pakistan during every difficult period.

May it be the fight against terrorism, or through major economic initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), at the United Nations, through timely financial assistance by supplying vaccines during Pakistan's COVID-19 crisis, or through defence cooperation including projects such as the JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft, China has consistently demonstrated its commitment to Pakistan through practical actions. These steps have reinforced the belief that China's friendship with Pakistan is "higher than the Himalayas". Likewise, by helping operationalize the Gwadar Port project and contributing to Pakistan's position on the global economic stage, China has demonstrated that its ties with Pakistan are "deeper than the oceans".

Over the past 75 years, China has nurtured its friendship with Pakistan sincerely, sticking by the country as a true brother through thick and thin, rather than offering assistance based solely on its strategic interests. Unlike some Western countries, which have at times supported Pakistan only when it suited their interests and later imposed sanctions, China has maintained a consistent partnership. This is why these 75 years of diplomatic relations have transcended governments, political personalities and ideologies, evolving into a bond rooted at the people-to-people level. Today, the relationship between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has become a relationship between two nations, one that is expected to continue strengthening in the years ahead.

Having gained independence on October 1, 1949, our neighboring country China has become one of the world's strongest and largest economic powers through sheer hard work, determination and an unwavering drive for development. The 75-year friendship between Pakistan and China has consistently fulfilled the highest standards of bilateral relations. This friendship is often described as being higher than the mountains and deeper than the seas.

From the perspective of national interests, China has frequently been one of Pakistan's strongest advocates and protectors. Pakistan's history bears witness to the fact that among its most dependable friends, especially during times of hardship and national trials, have been Saudi Arabia and China.

The true measure of any friendship lies in the test of time and shared experiences. Although China is a non-Muslim country with a political system different from Pakistan's, differences in governance have never prevented the two nations from maintaining close relations. Instead, their partnership has been based on mutual friendship, economic cooperation and shared interests.

Today, China is investing billions of dollars in development projects across Pakistan, representing a significant milestone in bilateral relations. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and related initiatives, involving approximately US$46 billion in investment, constitute one of the largest foreign investment programs in Pakistan's history. These projects have drawn considerable attention from countries that are skeptical of Pakistan's economic progress.

May the friendship between Pakistan and China continue to promote peace throughout the world! At the same time, both countries should remain vigilant against the schemes of those who oppose this partnership and seek to weaken the bond between the two friends.

It is evident that Pakistan-China relations rest on strong foundations. Both countries have consistently supported each other at every critical moment. Although China was established two years after Pakistan, it has transformed itself into one of the world's leading economic powers through clear priorities, sustained effort and long-term planning. The Chinese people have demonstrated how determination, courage, self-reliance and perseverance can elevate a nation to remarkable success.

The year 2019 proved to be particularly significant for China on the global political stage. President Xi Jinping expanded the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), broadening its international reach while strengthening China's economic partnerships across the world. Rather than becoming entangled in international conflicts, China focused on promoting economic cooperation and encouraging peaceful solutions to disputes.

During this period, the United States initiated a trade war with China. Many in the United States and Europe believed China would struggle under the pressure, but China

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani: A Glorious Chapter in Journalism Banking and Pakistan-China Friendship



By: Arshad khan



Deeply sorrowful day for Daily Al-Jamiat Sarhad, Peshawar, the journalistic community, the banking sector and all those associated with Pakistan-China friendship. On this day, renowned journalist, banker, distinguished writer, social figure and sincere ambassador of Pakistan-China friendship, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, passed away. Today, on the occasion of his first death anniversary, his personality, services and cherished memories are being recalled with renewed respect and affection.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani was not merely a journalist or a banker; he was a multifaceted personality who made valuable contributions to various fields through his abilities, experience and sincerity. His personality reflected a love for knowledge and literature, journalistic insight, professional integrity and a strong commitment to social service.

He was the son of the late Syed Muhammad Hassan Gilani, founder of Daily Al-Jamiat Sarhad. This newspaper represents the journalistic tradition and dedication of his family. Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani carried this legacy forward and fulfilled his responsibilities as its Chief Editor. His long association with journalism demonstrated that he regarded journalism not merely as a profession or means of livelihood, but as a platform for promoting social awareness, public understanding and positive change.

For him, journalism was not limited to the publication of news. He considered it an important means of guiding society, highlighting public issues and conveying the concerns of ordinary people to the relevant authorities. His professional integrity and intellectual insight earned him a distinct place of respect within journalistic circles.

Alongside journalism, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani also rendered valuable services in the banking sector. His professional experience in this field reflected his practical abilities and administrative understanding. Despite his involvement in different professional fields, he always gave importance to courtesy, sincerity and maintaining positive social relationships.

One of the most significant aspects of his personality was his contribution to promoting Pakistan-China friendship. As General Secretary of the Pakistan China Friendship Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he played an important role in strengthening friendly relations, promoting people-to-people contacts and encouraging mutual cooperation between the two countries. For him, Pakistan-China friendship was not merely a matter of diplomatic relations; it represented a strong bond built on public goodwill, mutual trust, cultural harmony and a shared future.

Relations between Pakistan and China span several decades. Alongside government institutions, writers, journalists, intellectuals and social figures have also played an important role in strengthening this friendship. Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani belonged to those dedicated individuals who considered promoting this relationship at the public level an important responsibility.

His family also has a distinguished identity in journalism and social services. His late brother, Syed Ahmed Nawaz Gilani (PID), and his brother, Syed Shah Nawaz Gilani, a banker, were also associated with their respective professional fields. This family background reflects traditions in which knowledge, professional responsibility and social relationships have always been valued. On his first death anniversary, his absence is being felt not only by his family and close friends but also by everyone who had the opportunity to work with him.

India biggest sponsor of terrorism in Pakistan, says DG ISPR

harbouring terrorist leaders and allowing armed groups to operate from Afghan soil against Pakistan. He said Islamabad was not seeking Afghanistan's isolation and remained engaged with Kabul, but expected the Afghan Taliban to "act like a state" and prevent terrorism from its territory.

"We only ask you that don't support terrorism inside Pakistan. Stop harbouring the terrorist leaders," he said.

The spokesperson said that terrorist formations were coming from Afghanistan and receiving weapons from there, while Afghan citizens and even personnel of the Taliban regime had been found among groups involved in attacks against Pakistan.

"If you do it, then there will be a cost," he warned. "And we are capable of imposing that cost and we have a clear strategy how to impose that cost."

He also said that Afghanistan are providing an environment where multiple militant organisations were able to operate, while rejecting allegations that Pakistan was hosting or coordinating anti-Taliban elements.

'Afghanistan producing terrorism and drugs'

Rejecting the suggestion that Kabul should be isolated, the ISPR DG said the international community and regional countries instead needed to engage the Afghan Taliban and press them to behave like a state.

"What Afghanistan is producing right now, it has only two products: terrorism and drugs," he said, adding that both posed threats to the region and the wider world.

The spokesperson said Pakistan had no interest in dictating how Afghanistan should be governed, maintaining that this was for Afghans to decide.



A street vendor is selling fresh vegetable salad to his customers.

Second high-level Chinese delegation to arrive in Pakistan today

■ **The delegation will be headed by the Communist Party's Minister for Global Coordination and Development, Leo.**

Business Reporter

KARACHI



Second high-level delegation from China will reach Pakistan on a three-day visit today, Sources said that this would be the second visit by a high-level delegation during the last three weeks.

The delegation will be headed by the Communist Party's Minister for Global Coordination and Development, Leo.

Sources further revealed that officials from Pakistan and China are set to hold consultations on advancing CPEC 2.0.

It is necessary to mention here that a Chinese delegation, led by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning, had arrived in Pakistan on October 24.The delegation comprising officials from the Chinese Foreign Ministry and the information sector signed several agreements, including one regarding the China-Pakistan Information Corridor.

The visits by high-level Chinese delegations to Pakistan are part of the celebrations marking 75 years of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations, sources added.

Pakistan to Receive Adequate Qatar Gas Supplies in December, January: Petroleum Minister

■ **Ali Pervaiz Malik Says Gas Imports Continue Despite Strait of Hormuz Uncertainty; Government Maintaining Transparent Fuel Pricing Mechanism**

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Federal Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik on Sunday assured that Pakistan would continue to receive sufficient gas supplies from Qatar during December and January, easing concerns over energy availability amid uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, Addressing a convocation at a private university in Lahore, the minister said gas imports from Qatar were continuing and supplies were expected to remain adequate over the coming months.



He acknowledged that uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz had affected international oil and gas prices, creating challenges for energy-importing countries, including Pakistan.

Malik said Pakistan had successfully managed the situation over the past six months despite international market pressures and uncertainties in energy supplies.He maintained that the government was setting petroleum prices through a transparent mechanism to ensure that consumers were charged according to prevailing market conditions.

The petroleum minister also highlighted the government's efforts to provide relief to financially vulnerable sections of society through subsidized petrol.

He said the government was continuing to extend targeted subsidy to low-income people to reduce the impact of rising energy costs on household budgets.

Two ships, loaded with fertilizers, wheat, dock at Karachi port

Staff Reporter

KARACHI



Two ships, loaded with fertilizers and wheat, docked at Karachi Port (KP) on Sunday, Karachi Port Trust (KPT) successfully handled 1,01000 tonnes of imported cargo; 50,000 tonnes of DAP urea and 51,000 tonnes of wheat.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said that the successful handling of both ships showed professionalism of the KPT employees.

The minister said that timely arrival and smooth handling of edible items is essential.

He said that the government is taking steps to enhance the capacity of cargo handling at the Karachi port.

Chaudhry said that reforms are underway to reduce the duration of ships' stay at ports. "Karachi Port plays a pivotal role in national trade and the supply chain."

Karachi Port Trust Chairman Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed said that port infrastructure is being modernized, and cargo-handling capacity is being enhanced. "



SNGPL extends ban on new domestic gas connections indefinitely

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has extended its ban on new domestic gas connections indefinitely amid growing gas shortages and supply disruptions, sources said on Sunday.

According to sources, the suspension has also been extended to commercial connections, including those for tandoors and hotels, from the current month.

Thousands of consumers remain without gas connections despite having paid urgent processing fees, sources added.

They said the supply of regasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG) had been disrupted, while the gas shortfall in the existing distribution system had also increased.

With the onset of winter, gas demand has surged several times, creating additional difficulties in maintaining supplies even to existing domestic consumers.

Despite the growing demand, SNGPL has decided to continue the suspension of new domestic connections for an indefinite period.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia Agree to Expand Bilateral Trade, Investment and Agricultural Cooperation

■ **Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, Saudi Ambassador Dr. Rajeh Albugamy Discuss Economic Partnership, Vision 2030 and Early Signing of Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Newly appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Rajeh Albugamy, called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan at his office in Islamabad to discuss strengthening bilateral trade, economic cooperation and investment opportunities between the two brotherly countries. Commerce Minister, Saudi Ambassador discuss expanding trade, investment, agricultural Cooperation

Welcoming the Ambassador, Jam Kamal Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's deep-rooted and historic relations with Saudi Arabia, highlighting the Kingdom's special significance as the custodian of the Haram. He said the Government of Pakistan had made sustained efforts over the past three years to further strengthen bilateral relations through enhanced government-to-government, business-to-business and people-to-people engagement, said a press release issued on Saturday. The Commerce Minister emphasized that the longstanding brotherly relationship offered considerable opportunities for greater economic integration, particularly in view of Saudi Arabia's economic diversification under Vision 2030 and Pakistan's production and industrial capabilities.

He highlighted the potential for cooperation in scaling up production, improving product quality, adopting modern technologies and strengthening industrial competitiveness. He noted that collaboration in these areas could enable Pakistani businesses to better meet the requirements of the Saudi market while creating mutually beneficial economic opportunities.The Minister also underscored the importance of expanding Pakistan's export base and strengthening private-sector partnerships to translate the growing economic engagement into tangible trade outcomes.During the meeting, the Saudi Ambassador reaffirmed the enduring bonds of brotherhood between the two countries and assured continued support for strengthening bilateral economic relations.

FBR faces Rs129bn tax shortfall in first four months of FY2026-27

■ **FBR faced a Rs129bn tax shortfall in July-October despite 7% growth, while its retailers' tax scheme attracted only 1,750 registrations.**

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD



The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has faced a tax shortfall of Rs129 billion during the first four months of the current fiscal year, from July to October, despite recording a 7% increase in tax collection compared to the same period last year.

According to sources, the FBR collected Rs4,088.2 billion in taxes between July and October, against the target of Rs4,217 billion set for the period. Officials said the revenue authority has been assigned a tax collection target of Rs15,264 billion by June 2027. To achieve this target, the FBR will need to maintain a growth rate of 17%.Sources said the FBR collected Rs1,002 billion in taxes during October, while an additional Rs27 billion was collected on the last day of the month, October 31. The board had received 7.6 million income tax returns by October 31.

Meanwhile, the retailers' fixed tax scheme has also failed to deliver the desired results. According to officials, only 1,750 retailers registered under the scheme out of an estimated 3.6 million potential non-filer retailers, while just 220 new taxpayers submitted their tax returns.

Sources said the FBR had set a tax collection target of Rs50 billion under the retailers' scheme.

Governor Punjab assures support to addressing key issues of business community

■ **Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has assured the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) of his full support in addressing key issues of the business community, particularly with regard to the allocation of suitable land for a new industrial estate for Islamabad and the establishment of a facilitation desk of the Banking Mohtasib Pakistan at the Chamber.**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD



Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has assured the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) of his full support in addressing key issues of the business community, particularly with regard to the allocation of suitable land for a new industrial estate for Islamabad and the establishment of a facilitation desk of the Banking Mohtasib Pakistan at the Chamber.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony at the Chamber House, on Saturday, said a press release.

He congratulated ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia, Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatha and Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan Swati on their election and expressed confidence that the new leadership would effectively represent the business community and contribute to national economic development.

The Governor said that a modern industrial estate in Islamabad could attract fresh investment, expand industrial production and generate employment opportunities.

He assured the Chamber that he would take up the proposal with the relevant authorities and make every possible effort to facilitate the identification and allocation of suitable land. Regarding the proposed Banking Mohtasib Pakistan facilitation desk, he observed that the initiative would provide businesspeople with convenient access to guidance and assistance in resolving banking-related complaints. He also expressed his willingness to facilitate coordination with the concerned authorities to take the proposal forward. He said the doors of the Governor House were open to the business community and expressed his desire to maintain regular engagement with ICCI leadership so that its concerns and investment proposals could be effectively taken up at relevant forums. He also underscored the importance of overseas Pakistanis in promoting investment, exports.

South Africa dethrone Australia to become world number one test team

● Throughout the three-match series, Bavuma led from the front scoring an impressive 218 runs as South Africa's leading run scorer. He also scored his 4000th career Test run throughout the series.



SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

South Africa claimed top spot in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings after thrashing Pat Cummins' Australia by 176 runs on Day 5 of the pivotal third Test at Newlands in Cape Town.

After being asked to chase 288 in the fourth innings, Temba Bavuma's side bowled Australia out for just 111 in 57.1 overs to complete a sensational 2-1 series comeback in the first Test rubber to be played in South Africa since 2018.

The series win means current World Test Championship winners claim the number one spot in the ICC Test Rankings for the first time since January 2016, completing a long awaited 10-year wait for them to be back at number one in Test cricket.

Throughout the three-match series, Bavuma led from the front scoring an impressive 218 runs as South Africa's leading run scorer. He also scored his 4000th career Test run throughout the series.

Australia were looking to chase down their 288 target with all of their 10 wickets intact however they were quickly dismantled by Rabada.

In the first half hour of play the fast bowling spearhead dismissed opener Matt Renshaw for just 0 runs. He then dismissed Marnus Labuschagne for 4 LBW in the very first over of the chase to reach 600 wickets in international cricket.

Three overs later he dismissed dangerous left hander Travis Head for 14 to reach 350 wickets in Test cricket after bowling 13,808 deliveries, the most ever in world cricket. This brought Australia to 20/3.

After Rabada dismantled the top order as Harmer struck in spectacular fashion. The 37 year old off-spinner took 6 wickets for 16 runs in the second innings. He got rid of Alex Carey (2), Cooper Connolly (0), Mitchell Starc (0), Cameron Green (27), Pat Cummins (11) and Josh Hazlewood (0) as he claimed a 10-wicket maiden haul in Tests.



England players depart after ODI Tri-Series as Pakistan-Sri Lanka Test preparations begin

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE

England players have departed for home following the conclusion of the One-Day International (ODI) tri-series, while Sri Lanka's ODI squad is also scheduled to leave Lahore for Colombo today, according to sources.

Preparations have begun for the upcoming two-match Test series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Members of Pakistan's Test squad will report to Islamabad on November 5 to begin preparations for the series, while Sri Lanka's Test squad members are scheduled to arrive in Islamabad today.The opening Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka will commence on November 9 at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Both teams will be looking to make a strong start to the two-match series as they shift their focus from limited-overs cricket to the longer format of the game.

Pakistan beat Oman to claim Hong Kong Sixes Plate title

■ Pakistan posted a massive 154-4 in their allotted six overs, with captain Abbas Afridi delivering a sensational performance



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan defeated Oman by 18 runs in the Plate final of the Hong Kong Sixes 2026 on Sunday to claim the second-tier title and finish fifth in the tournament after failing to defend their championship crown.

Batting first at Mission Road Ground in Mong Kok, Pakistan posted a massive 154-4 in their allotted six overs, with captain Abbas Afridi delivering a sensational performance.

Afridi smashed 73 off just 16 balls, hitting one four and 11 sixes, before retiring and later returning to the crease in the final over.

Abdul Samad contributed a quickfire 26 off five deliveries, including two fours and three sixes, while Ahmed Daniyal struck 25 off five balls, smashing four sixes.

Muhammad Shahzad added 13 off four deliveries, including two sixes, while opener Khawaja Nafay scored seven off three balls. Irfan Niazi was dismissed for a first-ball duck.

In reply, Oman could manage 136-4 in their six overs despite a strong batting display from their top order.

Usman Ali led the chase with a blistering 67 off 17 deliveries, featuring four boundaries and eight sixes, while Zohaib Amanat scored 61 off 18 balls, hitting four fours and eight sixes.

Oman captain Aamir Kaleem was dismissed for a duck following a run-out effected by Ahmed Daniyal.

Sami Hassan, Shafiq Jan and Muzahir Khan were retired out as Oman attempted to keep its leading batters at the crease. Usman later returned to the batting crease after the first wicket fell.

The Plate victory helped Pakistan end their campaign on a positive note, although the six-time champions failed to retain the main Hong Kong Sixes title and finished fifth overall. .

Yamaha pulls out of Qatar MotoGP over 'Middle East situation'

● Among the racers on the MotoGP grid riding Yamaha bikes is France's Fabio Quartararo, the 2021 world champion.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Yamaha said on Sunday it won't participate in next weekend's Qatar MotoGP, citing "the situation in the Middle East".

"Yamaha has not identified sufficient grounds to change its existing company-wide travel restrictions," the Japanese manufacturer said.

Among the racers on the MotoGP grid riding Yamaha bikes is France's Fabio Quartararo, the 2021 world champion.



The MotoGP Group said it was "disappointed" by the decision and said that "Yamaha's non-participation also carries sporting implications".

"While we recognise the team is subject to a broader corporate policy restricting travel to the Middle East, we do not believe this decision reflects the extensive assurances provided to all championship stakeholders," it said.

'Canelo' Alvarez wins back WBC title from Mbilli in Riyadh

■ The 36-year-old Mexican won a 12-round decision in Riyadh after exerting his influence in the second half of fight

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez produced a convincing performance to defeat French fighter Christian Mbilli and regain his WBC super middleweight title in an emotional victory in Saudi Arabia .

The 36-year-old Mexican won a 12-round decision in Riyadh after exerting his influence in the second half of a fight that went ahead despite the escalating conflict between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthi movement.

Alvarez was returning to the ring for the first time since he was beaten by American Terence Crawford in September 2025.

He faced 31-year-old Mbilli, who was elevated to titleholder in January, but a fight that started off as a tight contest turned into a convincing victory for Alvarez.



The Mexican superstar was struggling for words after receiving the belt.

"It's so difficult to explain, it's so difficult to explain," Alvarez said. "It's something unbelievable. It feels like my first title. Now, after 20, 21 years as a professional — 16 years ago, I won my first title. Now I won the title again."

A host of other sporting events have been called off in Saudi Arabia since the Houthis launched drone attacks and the Saudis intercepted missiles.

The Six Kings Slam tennis exhibition and the final round of the World Rally Championship have been cancelled, but the world of combat sports has continued.

Alvarez was the more composed boxer in the opening round in Riyadh, but by round three Mbilli was ripping off combinations and looking the more active of the two.

The Frenchman took the initiative in round five, although the bout remained a tactical battle.

Alvarez showed his class in the sixth, easily winning the round, but it was in the seventh that he pressed home his advantage, pinning Mbilli to the ropes and delivering a right uppercut that had the Frenchman rocking on his feet.

In the eighth, Mbilli had a point taken away for punching behind the head, and he seemed to lose more momentum from then on, allowing Alvarez to begin dictating the fight in the next round as the wily veteran pulled ahead of his younger opponent.

Shnaider beats Fernandez to win Tokyo title

■ The Russian overcomes Fernandez 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 to claim her first title of the season

SPORTS DESK

TOKYO

Russia's Diana Shnaider won her first title of the year with a hard-fought victory over Leylah Fernandez in Tokyo on Sunday and couldn't wait to tell her mum all about it.

The world number 13 beat Canada's Fernandez 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 to win the Pan Pacific Open and then went straight to her phone to call home.

"I was calling my mum -- I wanted to hear her voice after winning a title and share a first few moments with her," the 22-year-old Shnaider said."She said 'you've just finished and already you're calling me'."

It was Shnaider's first title since Monterrey in August last year and the sixth of her career.

She looked to be cruising to victory after winning the first set and taking a 4-0 lead in the second.



World number 23 Fernandez came back to win the second set, but Shnaider regained control to close out the match."It was definitely a tight, close match," Shnaider said. "It makes me even more happy that I was able to fight for the title and in the end win it."Fernandez went into the final with 16 wins in her previous 20 matches.

That run included victory at the Singapore Open in September and a runner-up finish at last week's Ningbo Open in China behind world number one Elena Rybakina.

Fernandez struggled with her serve, double-faulting five times throughout the match and landing only half of her first serves in the first set.

She got it together when it mattered though, stunning Shnaider in the second set with some tenacious tennis to even the score at one set each.

Shnaider regained her composure when she returned for the final set, breaking Fernandez's serve twice and clinching the title with her first match point.

She was appearing in her first final of the year after losing in the semi-finals four times before this week.

"Very happy that I was able to win the title," she said.

"It definitely means a lot to me, to my team, my family to finish on a high note."

Fernandez shed tears as she thanked her family in her on-court interview and said that she had received some "bad news".

Daily The Spokesman

Monday
November 2,2026

Master plan for 14 cities of Sindh prepared: CM Murad

■ Referring to illegal constructions on the city's drains, he said that shops were built on the drains and handed over, which created problems.



Our Correspondent

KARACHI

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said a master plan of Karachi and Hyderabad is being prepared, while the Sindh Master Plan Authority has also been working in this regard for a long time.

Master plan for 14 cities of Sindh have been prepared keeping in mind the needs of the people.

Addressing a ceremony here on Saturday, he said that steps will be taken to improve the deteriorated urban appearance of Karachi. All relevant parties will have to work together for the betterment of the city.

Master plan is also being prepared for Karachi and Hyderabad so that the development of the cities can be carried forward in an organised manner.

The Sindh CM said that the deteriorated appearance of Karachi city will be improved, and joint efforts are needed to solve the city's problems and improve the basic urban infrastructure.

Referring to illegal constructions on the city's drains, he said that shops were built on the drains and handed over, which created problems.

Murad Ali Shah said that issues related to urban issues and development works are becoming the center of media attention, and a ring road is being constructed in Hyderabad.

In his speech, he expressed his determination that everyone would work together for the betterment of Karachi and the resolution of urban problems.



Prime Minister's Special Adviser on Political and Public Affairs Senator Rana Sanaullah Khan is distributing green tractors and cheques among selected farmers under the Chief Minister Punjab Green Tractor Programme 2026 (Phase-IV) and the Chief Minister Punjab Apna Khet Apna Rozgar Scheme at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), Faisalabad.



Gilgit-Baltistan celebrates 79th Independence Day with national spirit

■ Gilgit-Baltistan celebrates its 79th Independence Day as leaders pay tribute to freedom fighters, while PM Shehbaz highlights development projects and economic opportunities.

Staff Reporter

GILGIT

Gilgit-Baltistan is celebrating the 79th anniversary of its liberation from Dogra rule with national enthusiasm and patriotic spirit, commemorating the historic struggle and sacrifices of those who secured freedom for the region on November 1, 1947.

The main ceremony was held at Chinar Bagh in Gilgit, where Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah and Chief Minister Amjad Hussain hoisted the national flag. A contingent of Gilgit-Baltistan Police presented a guard of honour on the occasion.

Following the ceremony, the governor and chief minister visited the memorial dedicated to the martyrs of the 1947 freedom movement, laid floral wreaths and offered Fateha for those who sacrificed their lives during the struggle.Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Amjad Hussain described November 1 as an important and memorable day in the history of Gilgit-Baltistan, saying it symbolised freedom, sacrifice, unity and patriotism.

He paid tribute to the people who struggled against Dogra rule and said Gilgit-Baltistan's accession to Pakistan after independence reflected the people's love and commitment to the country.

Expressing his resolve to transform Gilgit-Baltistan into a developed region, the chief minister said addressing the challenges facing the area required unity, consistent efforts, effective planning and good governance.

He stressed the need to work beyond sectarian, linguistic and group-based divisions and called for promoting tolerance, harmony and brotherhood among communities. He said elements spreading hatred, mistrust and division must be discouraged.

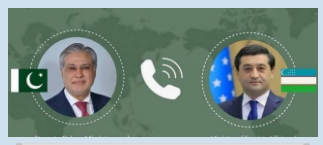
Gilani pays tribute to historic struggle, patriotism of Gilgit-Baltistan

Amjad Hussain identified quality education, improved healthcare facilities and dignified employment opportunities as key government priorities. He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing women with equal opportunities in education, skills development and economic activities.

Paying tribute to the sacrifices of the armed forces in the war against terrorism, he said the entire nation stood firmly with them.

Governor Syed Mehdi Shah, addressing the ceremony, said Gilgit-Baltistan's freedom was the result of the sacrifices made by its martyrs. Describing November 1 as a historic and joyous occasion.

Uzbek FM lauds Pakistan's efforts for regional peace



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Odilovich Saidov.

Ishaq Dar congratulated Uzbekistan on assuming the Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government for 2026-2027 and assured Uzbekistan of Pakistan's full support and assistance.

Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov, in turn, expressed Uzbekistan's support for Pakistan as it has assumed the Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State for 2026-2027.Also Read: Ishaq Dar discusses bilateral cooperation with Maldivian foreign minister

The two ministers discussed the dates and preparations for the upcoming SCO Council of Heads of State Summit 2027.

AJK PM calls for strict action against banned JAAC, facilitators

■ Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani said that the five months of terrorism, threats and violent acts by the banned organisation Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) have caused great suffering to the people

Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD

AJK Prime Minister Expresses Deep Grief over Loss of Innocent Lives in Bagh, Vows to Protect CitizensIftikhar Gilani extends condolences to bereaved families, says five months of violence, threats and terrorism have caused immense suffering; calls for strict accountability of banned JAAC and its facilitatorsPrime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent lives in Bagh, extending his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families. He shared the pain of the affected families and expressed solidarity with them during this difficult time.In his statement, Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani



said that the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir had endured five months of terrorism, threats and violent acts allegedly carried out by the banned organisation Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC). He said these activities had caused great suffering among the public and seriously affected the peace and normal life of citizens.The AJK premier stressed that targeting civilians and creating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity were unacceptable acts. He said the outlawed JAAC and its facilitators must be held strictly accountable for their role in acts of violence, attacks on civilians and efforts to undermine peace and stability.Iftikhar Gilani said that every citizen had the fundamental right to live in an atmosphere of peace, security and dignity. He emphasised that the people of Azad Kashmir deserved a normal life free from fear, violence and threats. The government, he added, stood firmly with its citizens and would not abandon them in the face of challenges.The prime minister further stated that the government was committed to taking all necessary steps to protect human lives, restore the rule of law and ensure the safety and security of the public. He said the protection of citizens and the preservation of peace remained among the government's foremost responsibilities.He also reiterated the government's resolve to uphold the rights of every citizen while ensuring that law and order were maintained across the region.

Anti-Encroachment Drive to Continue Nationwide Without Discrimination: Talal Chaudhry

■ Talal Chaudhry says political influence and financial power will not protect illegal occupants; Mohsin Naqvi personally supervising operations, public roads and state land to be cleared

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry has vowed that the government's anti-encroachment operations will continue across the country, regardless of the political or financial influence of those involved in illegal occupation of public land.

In a statement, Talal Chaudhry said Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi was personally supervising the operations and ensuring action against illegal encroachments.

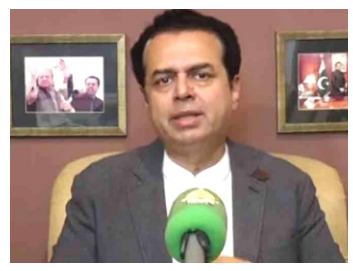
He revealed that authorities had demolished a wall constructed illegally by a five-star hotel, while illegal encroachments established by influential business figures in Peshawar were also being removed.

The minister said illegal occupation could not be justified in the name of Islam, questioning whether blocking public roads and restricting people's movement could ever be considered lawful.

He maintained that Islamic teachings emphasised keeping public pathways open rather than obstructing them.

Chaudhry questioned whether occupying a public road and naming it after a family member could make the encroachment legitimate. He also rejected the notion that political influence could be used to claim public roads or other state property.

He urged influential individuals



to respect the law and refrain from illegal activities, saying that those who had benefited from the state should at least avoid actions that deprived the public of its rights.

The minister further said that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had faced personal attacks, but his position on the issue had not been adequately challenged. He added that the government would not respond through personal attacks and would instead continue taking action against illegal occupations.

Referring to properties and plots allocated in the names of martyrs, Chaudhry alleged that certain individuals were mocking the sacrifices of martyrs while occupying land designated in their honour.

He said the state had previously shown considerable leniency towards such individuals, but authorities were now taking action against illegal occupation.Chaudhry also claimed that anti-encroachment operations in Islamabad had targeted wealthy and influential individuals without discrimination.

Chairman Senate Gilani Accepts Honorary Chairmanship of Pakistan-China Research Center

■ Vows to promote parliamentary cooperation, policy research and institutional exchanges; says Pakistan-China friendship is a shared responsibility for future generations.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has formally accepted the Honorary Chairmanship of the Pakistan-China Research Center for Party and State Governance, reaffirming his commitment to promoting parliamentary cooperation, institutional exchanges, policy research and mutual learning between Pakistan and China.Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Pakistan-China Research Center for Party and State Governance as Chief Guest, Mr. Gilani welcomed the establishment of the Center by the Pakistan-China Economic and Cultural Council (PCECC) and expressed gratitude for being invited to



serve as its Honorary Chairman. He said the Center would provide an important institutional platform for research, policy dialogue and practical cooperation, bringing together scholars, universities, think tanks, public institutions and parliamentary forums of both countries.The Chairman Senate expressed confidence that the Center would contribute to strengthening multidimensional Pakistan-China cooperation by bridging the gap between academic research and policymaking. He said that, as Honorary Chairman, he would encourage greater engagement between the Center and parliamentary institutions, while promoting exchanges among parliamentarians, policymakers, academics and younger generations of the two countries.Mr. Gilani warmly welcomed Leo Hye-shing, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and his distinguished delegation to Pakistan. He said that China's experience in governance, institutional development, long-term planning and economic transformation offered valuable insights for strengthening Pakistan's legislative and policy institutions.

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui urges public participation in politics, calls for new provinces

■ Addressing a gathering in Karachi, Siddiqui said the country needed a democratic system whose benefits reached ordinary citizens

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said that Pakistan can no longer afford feudal democracy and dynastic politics, urging people to actively participate in the political process.

Addressing a gathering in Karachi, Siddiqui said the country needed a democratic system whose benefits reached ordinary citizens.He stressed that national resources must be distributed among the people and political authority transferred to local communities.

He said a parliament in which capitalists represented workers could not be



considered truly democratic, adding that the middle class should have the right to represent ordinary citizens.

Siddiqui called for unity among oppressed people against exploitation and praised the MQM workers. He said the party had challenged what he described as a feudal and illegitimate system, recalling that MQM had demanded the creation of new provinces 45 years ago.

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