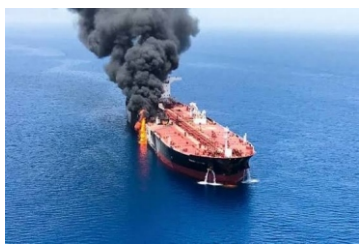
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Oil tanker catches fire after hitting naval mine east of Strait of Hormuz, navy says

WEB DESK

TEHRAN

An oil tanker caught fire after striking a naval mine east of the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's navy said on Sunday, according to Iranian media.

Reuters was unable to immediately confirm the report.

Earlier, explosions were heard in southern Iran. However, Iranian media suggested they were linked to the country's military activities rather than US strikes, while both sides reported that shipping had been hit in or near the Strait of Hormuz.

Pakistan to host major diplomatic events next week

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Delegations from different foreign countries will visit Islamabad during the next week, Diplomatic sources said that three international diplomatic events would be held in the federal capital.

Renowned security experts will participate in the Margalla Dialogue. Pakistan Mineral Investment Summit will be held, in which delegations from foreign countries and experts will participate.



Electoral reforms body incomplete as Opp gives no names of members

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The opposition has so far failed to name members of the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms.

According to government sources, the formation of the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms has not yet been completed. Despite the passage of two weeks, the opposition has not given names of its members for the committee. On the other hand, sources said that the names of the government coalition parties have been received by Chief Whip Tariq Fazal Chaudhry.



PM Shehbaz briefs Nawaz Sharif on K-P security, economic challenges

■ The two hold detailed consultations on national political matters and steps to improve the economy

Atif Saeed

LAHORE

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif in Lahore on Sunday and briefed him on the security situation in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), the country's economic challenges and the government's ongoing reform agenda, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

According to the PMO, the meeting took place at Jati Umra, where Nawaz was briefed on the government's ongoing reforms, particularly economic reforms, the challenges facing the country and measures being taken to address them.

The two leaders held detailed consultations on national political matters and steps to improve the economy, according to the PMO.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also attended the meeting.The meeting took place as consumers faced another increase in electricity prices. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) notified a Rs2.36 per-unit increase on Saturday under the monthly fuel cost adjustment for September.

The higher electricity costs came amid expensive LNG imports and uncertainty over supplies. Pakistan was expected to spend about $1.29 billion on 22 LNG cargoes between November 2026 and February 2027, including 10 spot-market cargoes estimated to cost $863 million.

The Power Division also warned that fuel price adjustments could rise two to three times between December and February as international LNG and coal prices increased and hydropower generation declined during winter. The department cautioned that consumers could face a further financial burden, alongside increased power load management. The meeting also followed the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in K-P on October 11, after President Asif Ali Zardari approved the summary on PM Shehbaz's advice under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution.

The federal government cited a deterioration in the law and order situation and a rise in terrorist attacks as grounds for the decision. Under the proclamation, the provincial chief minister, cabinet members, advisers and advocate general ceased to hold office, while the governor assumed powers assigned to him by the federal government. The measures also included the deployment of the Pakistan Army to assist the civil administration under Article 245 and the appointment of Dr Muhammad Fakhr Alam Irfan as the

(Continued on Page-5)



DG ISPR highlights Pakistan's regional security challenges and peace efforts

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) highlighted Pakistan's regional security challenges and efforts to maintain peace during interactive sessions with students.

The DG ISPR visited the University of Lahore, the University of Central Punjab (UCP) and King Edward Medical University (KEMU), where special sessions were organised with students and faculty members.

During the discussions, national and international affairs, the geopolitical situation in the region, particularly Afghanistan, and the Pakistan Army's role in maintaining regional peace came under discussion.



Hafiz Naeem accuses PPP of denying Karachi's 35m people

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Jamaat-e-Islami chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has accused the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of taking over Karachi's public mandate and depriving not only his party but also the city's 35 million people of their rights.

He also alleged that the establishment had imposed people on the city who knew nothing except corruption and looting.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi lauds FC's performance in fight against terror

News Reporter

PESAHAWR



Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday said that the Frontier Constabulary had showed outstanding performance in the fight against terrorism, as they were trained by Special Services Group (SSG) commandos and instructors,

He was addressing the participants during the passing-out parade of the first batch of Frontier Constabulary's Special Protection Wing and Anti-Riot Wing in Shabqadar area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Maryam Nawaz removes Jhelum DC over exam postponement ahead of her visit

■ Maryam ordered that the postponed examinations be conducted according to their original schedule

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Sunday removed Jhelum Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgen from his post after the postponement of intermediate examination papers in the district ahead of her scheduled visit on November 10.

In a letter to the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi, Ozgen said the deployment of administrative and security personnel could affect the smooth conduct of examinations and cause inconvenience to students.

Reacting to the development, Maryam announced the deputy commissioner's removal with immediate effect, saying she had issued explicit instructions that her visits to districts should not disrupt public activities or cause inconvenience to residents.



"This is a clear disregard for my directions," she said in a post on X.

In a subsequent post, the chief minister shared the transfer notification, directing Ozgen to report to the Punjab Services and General Administration Department for further orders.

Maryam also ordered that the postponed examinations be conducted according to their original schedule on Tuesday, November 10.

"Notwithstanding any acts of foolishness or misplaced over-smartness on part of the district administration, the examinations shall be held strictly in accordance with the original schedule," she said.The chief minister further directed regional and district police officers, commissioners and deputy commissioners to ensure that her visits did not lead to the closure of markets, shops, businesses or other establishments.

She also instructed authorities not to block or seal residential streets or restrict residents' movement in the name of security arrangements.

Maryam emphasised that security measures should remain discreet and must not cause inconvenience, disruption or hardship to the public.

Khawaja Asif calls for creation of new administrative units in Pakistan

■ Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has called for considering new administrative units in Pakistan, arguing that population growth and centralised powers have weakened public service delivery.



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has called for the creation of new administrative units in Pakistan, saying the country's growing population makes it necessary to reconsider the existing administrative structure to improve public service delivery.

Speaking to a private television channel on Sunday, Asif said Pakistan should examine the possibility of establishing additional administrative units, pointing out that several countries have adopted similar arrangements to facilitate governance.

He said the concentration of power should not remain limited to provincial capitals such as Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar. Instead, administrative authority should be transferred to smaller units to ensure better governance and access to public services.

Referring to Pakistan's administrative history, the defence minister recalled that the country had previously introduced the One Unit system by merging provinces, but the decision was subsequently reversed.

Asif also cited Afghanistan as an example, saying the country had increased the number of its provinces from around eight to 10 to approximately 30 to 32 through administrative restructuring.He argued that funds transferred from the federal government often remain at the discretion of provincial governments, although local government institutions should be the ultimate beneficiaries.

JUI-F's Asad Mahmood declared defaulter after failing to appear before FIA



News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has intensified its investigation into alleged illegal recruitments in Pakistan Post and other cases involving Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Asad Mahmood, declaring him a deliberate defaulter and an absconder from the investigation after he failed to appear despite being formally summoned.

Governor Kundi, Tariq Fazal discuss peace, development and public welfare in KP

■ During the meeting, the two leaders held detailed discussions on strengthening coordination, consultation and cooperation between the federal government and KP

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Sunday met Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi to discuss the country's overall political situation, developments in the province and matters of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the two leaders held detailed discussions on strengthening coordination, consultation and cooperation between the federal government and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government.

The political and administrative situation in the province, along with various national issues, also came under discussion.

Both leaders underscored the need for joint efforts to ensure lasting peace, promote development and improve public welfare in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



A female vendor displays traditional oil lamps to attract customers during the Diwali festival at Market Road

Pakistan, Azerbaijan Explore New Avenues for Bilateral Trade and Investment

■ Azerbaijan's Ambassador Irfan Davudov Meets Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan Chairman and CEO Mazhar Hussain Thathal in Islamabad

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD



In a significant step towards strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Irfan Davudov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, held a meeting with Mr. Mazhar Hussain Thathal, Chairman and CEO of Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan, at the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Islamabad.The meeting was attended by Mr. Samir Ahmadi, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Azerbaijan; Mr. Liaqat Ali Thathal, Director International Trade and Relationships, Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan; and representatives of the business community from Sialkot, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Lahore.The discussions focused on exploring new avenues for bilateral trade, investment opportunities, business-to-business cooperation and strengthening commercial linkages between the business communities of both countries.During the meeting, Ambassador H.E. Mr. Irfan Davudov appreciated the interest and efforts of the Pakistani business community in promoting economic relations with Azerbaijan. He welcomed initiatives aimed at enhancing bilateral commercial engagement and developing stronger connections between businesses in the two countries.Mr. Mazhar Hussain Thathal iterated the Ambassador on Pakistan's industrial, commercial and export potential, highlighting key sectors where Pakistan and Azerbaijan could expand cooperation. He also discussed the role of Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan in facilitating international trade, connecting businesses and promoting business delegations and commercial partnerships.Mr. Liaqat Ali Thathal further highlighted potential trade sectors and emphasized the importance of regular business exchanges, direct engagement between companies, and stronger institutional cooperation to increase bilateral trade volumes and establish sustainable business partnerships.The meeting concluded with a shared emphasis on strengthening Pakistan - Azerbaijan economic relations, encouraging private-sector collaboration and exploring practical opportunities for trade and investment between the two brotherly countries.Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating business-to-business engagement and promoting stronger trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Iqbal's philosophy of self-respect, unity key to national progress: Aleem Khan



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

:Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday said that the philosophy of selfhood (Khudi), dignity, honour and self-respect preached by Allama Muhammad Iqbal continued to serve as a guiding light for the nation, particularly the younger generation.

In his message on the occasion of Allama Iqbal Day, he said the Poet of the East had envisioned the Muslims of the subcontinent as a self-respecting, dignified and sovereign nation, whose aspirations and struggle ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan.

Abdul Aleem Khan stated that Iqbal's thoughts and teachings form the foundation of national progress, sovereignty and unity. He emphasized that a strong national defence, a stable economy and national solidarity are essential to realizing Iqbal's vision of Pakistan. A strong, prosperous, sovereign and invincible Pakistan, he added, represents the true fulfillment of Allama Iqbal's dream.

Aleem Khan said that the Armed Forces of Pakistan are the guardians of the country's sovereignty, security and national honour. He paid tribute to the Pakistan Army for its unparalleled sacrifices in safeguarding the country's defence and stability.

He added that the courage, professionalism and bravery of the armed forces are a source of pride for the entire nation. He further stated that Pakistan's Armed Forces have demonstrated exceptional courage and professionalism in fulfilling their responsibilities towards national defence and security during every challenging situation.

Rs117m import fraud unearthed at Risalpur Industrial Unit

News Desk

Risalpur



Pakistan Customs has unearthed an import fraud involving an industrial unit operating in the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Risalpur,

According to Pakistan Customs, a first information report (FIR) has been registered against M/s Shippo Private Limited over alleged import fraud and the import of unauthorised goods.

The case came to light during the checking of an imported consignment at Karachi Port, where customs officials found goods that did not match the activities allowed under the company's licence.

A special audit and stock inspection at the industrial unit in Risalpur also revealed a large shortage of goods.

This raised suspicions that customs duties and taxes may have been avoided.

Pakistan Customs estimated that the missing stock could have caused a loss of Rs117 million to the national exchequer.

The FIR was registered on November 6 over alleged fraud, false information and loss of government revenue.

Meanwhile, a fire broke out at the industrial unit on November 8. However, its cause has not yet been established.

DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem Rewards Investigation Officers for Outstanding Performance



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

DIG Islamabad Rewards Investigation Officers for Outstanding Professional PerformanceAccording to details, DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem awarded cash prizes and commendation certificates to investigation officers in recognition of their outstanding professional performance and dedicated services.On the occasion, DIG Islamabad appreciated the officers and officials for their efforts and encouraged them to continue performing their duties with the same dedication, hard work, sense of responsibility and professional commitment. He said that recognizing good performance not only motivates individual officers and officials but also inspires the entire force to serve citizens more effectively.DIG Islamabad further stated that the welfare of officers and officials, the prompt resolution of their legitimate issues and the provision of better facilities remain among the key priorities of Islamabad Police.



ITP Conducts Road Safety Awareness Session at International Islamic University

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

ITP Conducts Road Safety Awareness Session at International Islamic UniversityStudents briefed on traffic laws, road safety, and legal requirements for obtaining a driving licenseeAccording to the details, Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) Education Wing conducted an awareness session on traffic laws and road safety for students at the International Islamic University Islamabad.During the session, students were educated about the importance of obeying traffic rules, safe driving practices, and responsible behavior on the road.

Muqam accuses PTI of corruption in 13-year rule in KP, vows to make it accountable

STAFF REPORTER

MALAKAND

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Ameer Muqam, here on Sunday said that PTI's rule was marked by rampant corruption and poor governance and claimed to make PTI accountable for its 13 years of corrupt practices in the province.

"Peace, development and resources will now be delivered to the people at their doorsteps," he said while addressing a public gathering in Batkhela, Malakand district, on Sunday.

The PML-N organised a large public gathering in Batkhela under the banner of "Youm-e-Nijat" to celebrate the end of PTI's 13-year incompetent, poor rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Thousands of party workers and local residents attended the gathering led by Federal Minister Ameer Muqam amid pro-Pakistan and PMLN slogans.

NCCIA recovers Rs 2.94 mln for woman defrauded of Rs 9.5 mlin

■ More Than 3.73 Million People Questioned, Over 19,000 Suspects Detained; IG Punjab Directs Intensified Search and Intelligence-Based Operations

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad has recovered Rs 2.94 million and returned the amount to a woman who had allegedly lost Rs 9.5 million in an online financial fraud case, while efforts are underway to recover the remaining money.

According to an NCCIA official, the recovery was made during an investigation conducted under the supervision of Inspector Waqar Masih Ghouri.

He said the woman had suffered a financial loss of Rs 9.5 million in the alleged fraud, prompting the agency to initiate an investigation into the matter.

The official said Rs 2.94 million had so far been recovered and handed over to the complainant, while further investigation was underway to trace the remaining amount and determine the involvement of those responsible.

Meanwhile, the woman expressed satisfaction over the recovery of part of her money and thanked NCCIA Islamabad for its timely action and cooperation.

She appreciated the efforts of the investigation team, particularly the assistance provided during the recovery process, and expressed hope that the remaining amount would also be recovered.

Former AJK President Raja Zulqarnain Khan Laid to Rest with Full State Honours

President AJK, Supreme Court Chief Justice, Speaker Assembly, former presidents and prime ministers, and senior civil and military officials attend funeral prayers in Kasmah

STAFF REPORTER

BHIMBER



Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Zulqarnain Khan was laid to rest with full state honours in his native village of Kasmah, Bhimber, amid the presence of thousands of mourners. The funeral prayers were attended by the President of AJK, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, former presidents and prime ministers, senior civil and military officials, political leaders and people from different walks of life.Raja Zulqarnain Khan passed away on Saturday after a prolonged illness. His funeral prayers were offered in his ancestral area of Kasmah, following which he was laid to rest in the presence of a large number of mourners.The deceased former president was accorded full state honours. A police contingent presented a guard of honour, while the national flag remained at half-mast across Azad Kashmir as the government declared a one-day mourning period. His son, Raja Babar Ali Zulqarnain, thanked all those who attended the funeral prayers and shared the family's grief.Leaders Pay Tribute to His Five-Decade Political CareerAddressing the funeral gathering, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dr Najeeb Naqi Khan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of AJK Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, former prime ministers Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan, Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas and Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, former MNA Chaudhry Abid Raza Kotla, Member Kashmir Council Chaudhry Muhammad Saeed, Lieutenant General (Retd) Sher Afqan Khan, Abdul Rasheed Turabi and other speakers paid rich tribute to Raja Zulqarnain Khan's political services.The speakers lauded his five-decade political career, describing him as a dignified, principled and politically astute leader who rendered valuable services to Azad Kashmir.The funeral prayers were attended by President AJK Dr Najeeb Naqi Khan, Chief Justice Supreme Court Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan, Senior Supreme Court Judge Justice Raza Ali Khan, Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, former AJK president Sardar Yaqoob Ahmed Khan, former prime ministers Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan and Raja Farooq Haider Khan, General (Retd) Ikram-ul-Haq, Lieutenant General (Retd) Sher Afqan, senior civil and military officials, political and social leaders, local dignitaries and people from various walks of life.Condolences and Prayers for the Departed SoulOn the occasion, Fateha was offered and prayers were held for the forgiveness and eternal peace of the departed soul.

Lahore remains among world's most polluted cities as smog persists

NEWS DESK

LAHORE



Lahore remained at the top of the list of the world's most polluted major cities on Sunday morning, as air quality continued to reach hazardous levels across several cities in Punjab.
The air pollution level in Lahore was recorded at 291 particulate matter, while several other cities in the province also reported extremely unhealthy air quality.
According to an international environmental monitoring website, Nankana Sahib recorded the highest pollution level at 685, followed by Dera Ghazi Khan at 611.
Meanwhile, Jhang recorded an air pollution level of 498, Multan 301, Gujranwala 296 and Faisalabad 294, highlighting the worsening air quality across Punjab.



ICT Police conduct psychological tests to assess officers' mental abilities, decision-making skills

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police are conducting psychological tests to assess the mental abilities, professional behaviour and decision-making skills of police officers and personnel, with a focus on improving their performance under pressure.
An ICT Police official told APP on Sunday that the psychological assessment process is underway at the office of the Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Islamabad.
He said the tests were designed to evaluate officers' mental abilities, professional attitudes and capacity to work effectively under stressful conditions.
The official said particular attention was being given to assessing how police personnel respond to different situations and make timely and effective decisions while performing their duties.
He said the initiative was aimed at improving the profession



AJK Prime Minister Holds Late-Night Open Court in Leepa Valley, Directs Immediate Resolution of Public Issues

Despite Severe Cold, Large Number of Residents Attend; Iftikhar Gilani Hears Grievances and Directs Officials to Take Effective Measures

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani held a late-night open court in Leepa Valley, where he listened to public issues and directed the relevant authorities to take immediate steps for their resolution.Despite the severe cold, a large number of people attended the open court and met the AJK Prime Minister directly to apprise him of their problems, difficulties and public needs.Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani directed the district administration and officials of the relevant departments present on the occasion to take effective measures to address the issues highlighted by the public and give priority to the redressal of their complaints.The Prime Minister also held meetings with public delegations and listened to their concerns.Minister for Energy and Water Resources Saqib Majeed Raja, former minister Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, Kashmir Council Member Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Valley and other district administration officials were also present during the open court.

Police constable, five-year-old son shot dead in Tank

Police constable was heading to the market with his son to purchase groceries when unidentified gunmen targeted them



COURT REPORTER

TANK

A police constable and his five-year-old son were killed after unidentified armed men opened fire on them in Khadrianwala neighbourhood of Tank on Sunday, police said.
According to the District Police Officer (DPO), Constable Saadat was heading to the market with his son to purchase groceries when unidentified gunmen targeted them.
The constable died on the spot, while his injured son was shifted to Dera Ismail Khan for medical treatment, where he later succumbed to his injuries.
The bodies of the father and son were shifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital.
Following the incident, police launched a search operation in the area to trace the assailants.

35% Work Completed on Margalla Avenue N-5 to M-1 Extension, Sangjani Interchange Project

Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf Reviews Development Progress, Directs Round-the-Clock Construction to Ensure Timely Completion

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Sohail Ashraf, accompanied by relevant senior officers, visited the Margalla Avenue N5 to M1 Extension and Sangjani Interchange project and carried out a detailed review and inspection of different sections of the Margalla Avenue N5 to M1 Extension and Sangjani Interchange project.While briefing Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Sohail Ashraf, on the progress made so far on the project, relevant senior officers said that construction activities are underway on a 24/7 basis, vigorously and daily across the various sections of the project and that overall, 35 percent of the development work on the project has been completed to date.During the briefing, Chairman CDA was informed that work on the widening and extension of the main road over an approximate length of 2.7 kilometers is progressing rapidly, and that work on the service road alongside the main road is also proceeding swiftly.While briefing Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf, it was apprised that the structural work on the underpass included in the Sangjani Interchange project has been completed. Similarly, the pile work for the abutments on both sides of the N-5 Interchange Bridge has been completed. During the briefing, he was informed that four of the culverts included in the project have been completed, while work on one culvert is ongoing while the work on all the loops and ramps included in the project is also proceeding rapidly, day and night.Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Sohail Ashraf expressed satisfaction over the construction work carried out so far on the Margalla Avenue N5 to M1 Extension and Sangjani Interchange project in Islamabad and directed that all obstacles in the way be removed in order to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe.Chairman CDA said that special attention should be given to speed, quality and transparency in the project's construction work. He said that the completion of the project will provide easy access to Islamabad for citizens travelling within and outside the City, particularly those coming from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Similarly, this project will serve as a gateway for those coming from Abbottabad, Mansehra and other cities.

SP Saleem Chughtai Retires After Completing His Service in the Police Department

A Dignified Farewell Ceremony Held at Central Police Office on His Retirement; IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Presents Honorary Shield and Gifts

Crime Reporter

LAHORE



SP Saleem Chughtai has retired from the Police Department after completing his service. A dignified farewell ceremony was held at the Central Police Office on the occasion of his retirement IG Punjab Abdul Kareem presented Saleem Chughtai with an honorary shield, gifts and a bouquet of flowers. Additional IGs, DIGs, SSPs and other senior police officers attended the ceremony IG Punjab and senior officers congratulated Saleem Chughtai on completing his service and expressed their best wishes for his future life IG Punjab said that Saleem Chughtai had demonstrated excellent professional performance while serving in various positions throughout his career. His 30 years of service to the Police Department were commendable. He added that retired officers and officials of Punjab Police were a valuable asset to the department Punjab Police spokesperson said that Saleem Chughtai joined the Police Department as Inspector Legal in 1996 and served in various important positions during his service. He was serving as AIG Legal at the time of his retirement On the occasion, Saleem Chughtai thanked the IG Punjab and other senior officers for the honour and the dignified farewell ceremony.

Pakistan's climate vulnerability underscores urgency of global emissions cuts, experts warn

The report estimates that a pathway offering roughly a 50 per cent chance of returning warming to 1.5C by the end of the century remains possible, but would require unprecedented reductions in emissions.

Crime Reporter

ISLAMABAD



:Pakistan's growing exposure to floods, heatwaves, glacial melting and other climate-related hazards highlights the urgent need for deeper global greenhouse gas emission cuts, as the world risks exceeding the 1.5-degree Celsius warming threshold for decades, according to a new United Nations assessment.
Despite contributing less than one per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, facing mounting threats to its agriculture, water resources, livelihoods and economic stability.
The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report 2026: The Point of Return estimates that global greenhouse gas emissions must decline by 18 per cent by 2030, 45 per cent by 2035 and 69 per cent by 2040, compared with 2025 levels, to limit temperature overshoot and eventually return global warming to 1.5C by 2100.
Mohammad Saleem Shaikh, a climate policy advocacy and governance expert and member of the Climate and Environmental Change Group at the University of Portsmouth, told APP that the opportunity to prevent global warming from exceeding 1.5C without or with limited overshoot had passed, but the extent and duration of the overshoot could still be reduced.
For Pakistan, the stakes are particularly high as rising temperatures and changing weather patterns threaten an already climate-sensitive economy.
The devastating 2022 floods, which affected around 33 million people, displaced millions and caused more than $30 billion in damage and economic losses, demonstrated the scale of the country's vulnerability. The risks extend from extreme monsoon rainfall and urban flooding to prolonged heatwaves, water stress and accelerated melting of glaciers in the northern mountain ranges.
Saleem Shaikh said further warming could have devastating consequences for ecosystems, biodiversity and human societies, making deep and sustained emission reductions essential across all major sectors of the global economy.
The UNEP assessment projects that even under the lowest-emissions pathway, global temperatures could peak at 1.7C to 1.8C above pre-industrial levels around the middle of the century before declining towards 1.5C by 2100.
The report estimates that a pathway offering roughly a 50 per cent chance of returning warming to 1.5C by the end of the century remains possible, but would require unprecedented reductions in emissions.
However, existing national climate commitments remain insufficient. Even if countries fully implement their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), global emissions would decline by only 5 to 8 per cent by 2030 and 11 to 15 per cent by 2035, compared with 2025 levels.

US army announces new task force to disrupt Iran's supply routes

Web DESK

Washngation

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) announced the establishment of a new task force aimed at disrupting Iran's use of land routes to transport advanced weapons and other materials, expanding Washington's pressure on Tehran.

In a statement shared on US social media platform X, CENTCOM said Adm. Brad Cooper, the command's chief, directed the formation of Task Force Iron Gate on November 7. The unit, comprising approximately 20 civilian and military personnel, will be based in Tampa, Florida.

The task force will work with other US government agencies to monitor and prevent the movement of advanced weapons systems, dual-use technologies, sanctioned materials and what Washington describes as illegal revenue streams across Iran's land borders and the Caspian Sea.

"The establishment of Task Force Iron Gate reinforces the success of our ironclad blockade against Iran at sea," Cooper said.

He added that closer cooperation with US government agencies would further limit Tehran's ability to finance terrorism, rebuild weapons factories and replenish its military.

The announcement comes as Washington maintains its naval blockade of Iranian ports, which CENTCOM said has prevented Iran from exporting more than $25 billion worth of crude oil in recent months.



Magnitude 5.7 quake injures dozens in central Japan 20 injured in 5.7 magnitude earthquake in central Japan

Trump confirms new US strikes on Iran's Qeshm island

■ Trump said that US forces had carried "minor strikes" against Iranian air defence systems.

Web Desk

Washington

US President Donald Trump has confirmed United States military strikes on Iran's Qeshm island, while also claiming Washington has made "a lot of progress" in talks with Iran.

Trump said that US forces had carried "minor strikes" against Iranian air defence systems.

Trump told reporters in West Palm Beach, Florida, "They knocked out – they built a little bit of an anti-aircraft device, and we knocked it out in about 15 minutes, maybe five."

The US president spoke shortly after Iranian state media reported two missile strikes in the Suza area of Qeshm island in the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial route for oil shipments.



State broadcaster IRIB also reported an Iranian army statement, saying that the country's air defence forces intercepted and destroyed an American MQ-9 drone over Qeshm island.

In response to reports of explosions heard on Qeshm, US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees US military operations in the Middle East, said the situation is "relatively calm".A CENTCOM official told Al Jazeera that they were aware of the reports, adding they had no further comment.

CENTCOM announced in a post on X late on Friday that the US "is offering a reward of up to $20 million and possible relocation for information about Iran's nuclear program, including its facilities, equipment, and associated personnel, such as those in the scientific community, or the movement of any of the above".

Iranian media reported several explosions on Qeshm island, as American media outlets reported that the US military carried out what officials called "defensive strikes" in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran warns foreign powers against forming alliance to confront Tehran

■ Abolfazl Shekarchi said Donald Trump and his allies had sought to destroy Iran but had instead found themselves facing a strategic crisis

Web Desk

TEHRAN



Iranian military spokesperson Abolfazl Shekarchi has said that any alliance formed by foreign powers against Iran is destined to fail. Shekarchi said US President Donald Trump and his hardline allies had sought to destroy Iran but had instead found themselves facing a strategic crisis.

He further claimed that the United States had reached a deadlock in the Middle East, adding that the Trump administration and Republicans' defeat in US elections reflected Washington's failure in confronting Iran.

The Iranian military spokesperson also said that US threats and policies against Iran had shaken the White House's power and influence.He maintained that Washington's policies of aggression, terrorism and pressure against Iran had failed to achieve their objectives.

Meanwhile, Iran executed three men on Sunday after they were convicted of carrying out operations for Israel and the US and taking part in armed unrest during anti-government protests in January.

The executions are the latest in a series Iran has carried out in recent ?months over the January protests, including of people accused of links to Israel and the US.

Gunman 'fascinated by far-right' kills six in Krakow, Poland

● Tusk also announced Poland would hold two days of mourning over the shooting that he called an act of "terrorism".

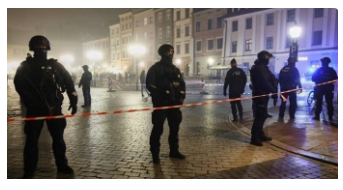
Web Desk

Beijing

Six people were killed and at least 15 wounded when a gunman opened fire in the landmark historic centre of Poland's second city of Krakow, in the country's deadliest shooting in decades.

Three bodies -- of two women and a man -- were later found at the suspect's home, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said, adding there was "much to suggest that they are members of the (suspect's) immediate family".

Tusk also announced Poland would hold two days of mourning over the shooting that he called an act of "terrorism".



Polish Interior Minister Marcin Kierwinski said the gunman appeared to be "fascinated by far-right ideologies".

A British national was among the killed, according to Polish police chief, Marek Boron, and five foreigners were among the wounded in hospital, the authorities said.

"Two people who have not yet been identified," Boron said referring to the victims killed.

Britain's Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he was "shocked and saddened by the appalling shooting".

"My thoughts are with the families of those who have lost their lives, everyone injured and all those affected by this senseless violence," he wrote on X. The suspect -- a Polish citizen born in 2002 -- drove a car onto Krakow's Main Market Square and began shooting at random people, said police.

Two officers were wounded as they tried to stop the man, the police said, before shooting the suspect who was later detained and taken to a hospital.

An AFP reporter at the scene saw ambulances and multiple police cars as personnel cordoned off the area -- one of Poland's landmark tourist hotspots popular with locals and foreign visitors.

"Everything suggests that the perpetrator held very, very radical views. A number of weapons were found in the car he was driving," Kierwinski said.

"Everything suggests that he was fascinated by far-right ideologies" and held "ultra-nationalist views," he added.

The man was wearing military-style clothing at the time of the attack, said Kierwinski.

Heavy rains wreak havoc in war-torn Gaza

Web Desk

GAZA

Heavy rains have flooded tens of thousands of displaced people's tents in the war-devastated Gaza, Palestinian authorities said, leaving many of them without shelter.

About "70,000 tents sheltering tens of thousands of displaced people were flooded on the first day" of rains, the Hamas-run government media office stated.

There were also reports of "collapse of dozens of cracked walls and roofs, which caused injuries", some critical, in various areas of the tiny territory, it added.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmoud Bassal told AFP his teams had received more than 1,500 calls during the night from



residents requesting urgent assistance after their tents were flooded, explaining that the agency "is operating without any equipment or capabilities".

"We have issued an urgent distress call to the international community and hum-a-nitarian organisations to intervene immediately to save hundreds of thousands of displaced people from the flooding of their tents. We cannot face the consequences of this storm on our own," he said.

After close vote, New Zealand must wait weeks for new government



NEWS DESK

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealanders faced weeks of uncertainty on Sunday over who will govern the country after their general election, with the current coalition holding a slim majority but a potentially decisive slice of votes still to count.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's National Party and its partners ACT and New Zealand First were on track for 67 of the currently projected 131-seat parliament, Electoral Commission preliminary results of Saturday's vote showed. Sixty-six seats are needed for a majority.

But special votes, around 14% of the total, remain to be counted, the commission said. These — including ballots from overseas New Zealanders and people voting outside their electorates — have historically favoured the left.

Thousands of Syrian troops to deploy to Yemen, Saudi Arabia: sources to AFP

■ Those already stationed on the Yemeni side of the border at the moment are leading drone operations against the Houthis in the area, one of the military officials told AFP.

STAFF REPORTER

Syria

Thousands of Syrian troops are set to deploy to Saudi Arabia and Yemen, with some already on the ground, multiple Yemeni officials told AFP, as Riyadh rallies international help to repel the Houthis and bolster the government in Aden.

It came after the two countries signed cooperation agreements this week including a defence deal, with Syria considering joining the recently enacted mutual defence pact between Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan.

Hundreds of Syrian troops have already been deployed to both sides of the border, according to three separate Yemeni military sources and a defence official, with more to come.

Later on Saturday, Syria's official SANA news agency cited a diplomatic source who insisted Damascus had not



sent troops to Yemen "at this time".

However, a source from the Presidential Leadership Council, Yemen's top governing body, told AFP that Syria would send as many as 3,000 troops to help fend off the Houthis.

The arrangement was greenlit during Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa's visit to Riyadh this week, during which the two countries agreed to various deals, according to the PLC source.

Later, a high-level Yemeni defence ministry source told AFP that while the first phase would involve around 3,000 troops, with some already in place, as many as 10,000 could eventually be deployed.

Those already stationed on the Yemeni side of the border at the moment are leading drone operations against the Houthis in the area, one of the military officials told AFP.

The kingdom -- a key backer of Syria's post-Assad government in place since late 2024 -- has been pressing allies for help as it comes under daily fire from the Iran-backed group that recently seized swaths of the Red Sea coastline from the Riyadh-backed government.

The Houthis have ramped up attacks on the kingdom in recent weeks, forcing Riyadh airport to close for two weeks after fatal strikes there and threatening Saudi Arabia's vast economic diversification plans.

Boots on the ground

According to the Yemeni defence ministry source, technical teams from the Syrian and Saudi defence ministries are currently in Riyadh putting the final touches on arrangements for Syrian forces to take part in operations against the Houthi militias.

Daily The Spokesman

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Pakistan's New Auto Policy

Government aims to reduce vehicle prices, boost exports to $6 billion, strengthen local manufacturing and promote electric vehicles, but effective implementation will determine the policy's successPakistan's economy continues to face serious challenges, including a heavy reliance on imports, high production costs, limited industrial competitiveness and sluggish exports. In this difficult economic environment, the government's proposed Automotive Industry Policy represents an important opportunity to transform the country's automobile sector into a competitive, export-oriented manufacturing industry. The policy aims to gradually reduce vehicle prices, increase localisation, improve safety standards and encourage the adoption of electric vehicles. However, the real success of this initiative will depend not on ambitious announcements but on effective implementation, consistent policies and tangible benefits for consumers and manufacturers alike.Adviser to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar recently unveiled the final draft of the policy, stating that it had been approved by the prime minister and would now be submitted to the cabinet for consideration. According to the government, the framework has been finalised after extensive consultations to address structural weaknesses in the automotive sector and create a more sustainable foundation for industrial growth.Pakistan's automobile industry has expanded over the years, but its growth has largely remained confined to domestic demand, vehicle assembly and dependence on imported components. Despite several policy initiatives over the past decade, the country has failed to achieve the desired growth in automotive exports. The new policy seeks to address this structural weakness by encouraging manufacturers to move beyond assembling completely knocked-down (CKD) kits and importing completely built-up (CBU) vehicles towards developing a strong domestic manufacturing base.One of the most ambitious targets under the proposed policy is to increase automotive exports from the existing $200 million to $6 billion within five years. This target, if achieved, could significantly strengthen Pakistan's foreign exchange earnings, reduce pressure on the external account and create new employment opportunities. However, the scale of the challenge cannot be overlooked. Moving from $200 million to $6 billion in exports requires a fundamental transformation of the industry, including improved product quality, modern technology, competitive pricing and access to international markets.The government plans to assign export targets to manufacturers and offer incentives to companies that achieve them. Under the proposed framework, manufacturers meeting their prescribed targets will receive a reward equivalent to five per cent of their export value in the first year. Companies failing to achieve the targets will face penalties. While this approach may encourage export-oriented production, it must be supported by a transparent and realistic mechanism. Manufacturers should be provided with the necessary facilities to compete internationally, including affordable raw materials, reliable energy supplies, access to technology and a predictable business environment.A major weakness of Pakistan's automotive industry has been its dependence on imported components. Although local assembly plants have expanded their operations, the domestic production of critical components remains limited. The development of a strong auto-parts manufacturing industry is therefore essential for sustainable growth. Greater localisation can reduce import dependence, improve the balance of payments, create employment opportunities and retain more economic value within the country.The policy's emphasis on strengthening domestic vendor industries is a step in the right direction. Local manufacturers of auto parts will also be encouraged to expand their exports. However, achieving this objective requires investment in research and development, modern production facilities, technical training and quality control. The government must ensure that local vendors are not merely protected from international competition but are also equipped to meet global manufacturing standards.The introduction of 45 additional safety standards is another significant feature of the proposed policy. Road accidents caused by defective brakes, tyre failures, inadequate safety features and non-functional seat belts have raised serious concerns about vehicle safety in Pakistan. Bringing locally manufactured vehicles closer to international safety benchmarks is essential for protecting consumers and improving the reputation of the country's automobile industry.Nevertheless, announcing safety standards will not be sufficient. Effective monitoring, independent testing and strict enforcement will be necessary to ensure compliance. The safety of imported used vehicles must also be addressed, as consumer protection should not be limited to locally manufactured automobiles. Every vehicle operating on Pakistani roads should meet appropriate safety requirements.The proposed restriction on advance payments is also a welcome consumer-protection measure. Under the policy, manufacturers will not be allowed to demand advance payments exceeding 20 per cent of a vehicle's price at the time of booking. For years, Pakistani consumers have faced problems related to delayed vehicle deliveries, unexpected price increases and excessive booking payments. Limiting advance payments could reduce the financial burden on buyers and discourage unfair business practices.The proposed third-party audits are equally important.

Jammu Martyrs' Day: 237,000 Martyrs, A Silent History and Our Collective Conscience



By: Professor Imran Ismail



November 6 is not merely a date on the calendar; it is a tragic chapter in the history of Kashmir, an enduring lament whose echoes can still be heard in the deserted streets, abandoned homes, and painful memories of displacement in Jammu. It is a day of remembrance for the countless Muslims whose lives, homes, dreams, and centuries-old cultural identity became victims of the bloody events of 1947. Jammu Martyrs' Day reminds us that alongside the celebrations of independence during the Partition of the subcontinent, an immense human tragedy was unfolding, the wounds of which have yet to heal. In 1947, the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh. Although Muslims constituted the majority of the state's population, political power remained concentrated in the hands of the Dogra ruling dynasty. Muslims faced various forms of political, economic, and administrative discrimination. The events of 1931 had marked a turning point in the political awakening of the Muslim population. The political struggles of leaders such as Sheikh Abdullah and Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas further highlighted the question of the state's future. Following the end of British rule in 1947, when princely states were required to decide their political destiny, the Maharaja attempted to preserve his authority despite the aspirations of the majority population. This political conflict eventually became part of a much larger human tragedy.

Violence against Muslims in Jammu had reportedly begun as early as August 1947. During October and November, it assumed an extremely horrifying form. According to various historical accounts and research studies, Dogra state forces, armed Hindu and Sikh groups, and elements associated with extremist organisations targeted Muslim communities. Muslim villages were devastated, houses were set ablaze, properties were looted, and large numbers of people were forced to abandon their ancestral homes. The atrocities committed against women and children remain among the darkest aspects of this tragedy and deserve an honest place in historical records.

One particularly significant historical reference concerning this tragedy is a report published by The Times, London, on August 10, 1948. The report claimed that 237,000 Muslims in the eastern districts of Jammu were systematically killed or managed to escape to Pakistan. It attributed these events to the Dogra state forces under the Maharaja's authority and the armed Hindu and Sikh elements assisting them. This figure relates to the combined tragedy of killings and displacement, rather than representing the number of deaths alone. The report was subsequently cited by Pakistan's representative, Sir Zafrullah Khan, during a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on February 8, 1950. (The Times, London, August 10, 1948; United Nations Security Council, 464th Meeting, February 8, 1950).

Renowned researcher Christopher Snedden examined this tragedy in detail in his research paper, What Happened to Muslims in Jammu? Local Identity, "The Massacre" of 1947 and the Roots of the Kashmir Problem, published in 2001 in the South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies. His book, Kashmir: The Unwritten History, is also an important research contribution to this subject. Snedden critically examined various historical accounts and figures, highlighting the difficulty of establishing an exact number of casualties. Nevertheless, his research draws attention to the large-scale killings, violence, and forced displacement experienced by Muslims in Jammu. (Christopher Snedden, 2001, pp. 111–134).

The magnitude of this tragedy can be understood from the fact that the demographic composition of areas where Muslims had lived for generations changed dramatically within a few weeks. Those who survived were forced to migrate towards Pakistan, leaving behind their ancestral homes. These migration caravans included mothers holding their children close to their hearts, elderly people carrying their final memories of their homes, and young men uncertain about their future. The stories of attacks, killings, and separation along the migration routes remain among the most painful accounts in human history.

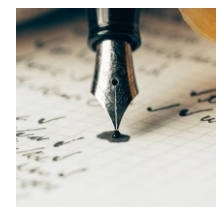
Tourism Festeval 07 Novmber

A fundamental question arises here: Was the right to self-determination of the Muslims respected during Partition? Were the people of a Muslim-majority state allowed to decide their own future? Maharaja Hari Singh's accession to India, the arrival of Indian forces on October 27, 1947, and the subsequent war transformed the Kashmir issue into an international dispute. Violence against Muslims in Jammu had already begun before the arrival of Indian forces. Subsequent military and political developments further complicated the conflict. A comprehensive and evidence-based examination of these events is essential to understand the role and responsibility of every party involved.

The tragedy was not limited to the loss of human lives; it also shattered an entire social and cultural existence. The Muslims of Jammu lost not only their homes but also their lands, businesses, educational institutions, family connections, and historical heritage. Their families were scattered across borders, and subsequent generations had to rebuild their lives in refugee settlements and unfamiliar cities. The memories of Jammu remained alive in the hearts of their elders, but the responsibility of preserving these memories for future generations remains an important challenge.

It is unfortunate that while certain human

The Rise of Islamic Civilisation: Lessons from History and the Imperatives of the Present Age



Muhammad Tayyab Khan



History is not merely a chronicle of events consigned to the irretrievable past; it is a mirror in which the rise and decline of human societies, the ordering of their intellectual priorities, and the consequences of their collective decisions are reflected. Within its accumulated wisdom lie intimations of the future and the means by which its direction may be more wisely determined. Civilisations do not attain enduring greatness through territorial dominion, military strength, or the abundance of natural resources alone. Their true vitality springs from the cultivation of knowledge, the administration of justice, the stability of institutions, the observance of moral responsibility, and the capacity to comprehend and respond intelligently to changing circumstances. The historical experience of Islamic civilisation offers a particularly instructive illustration of this enduring principle. For the contemporary Muslim world, its study ought therefore to signify something more consequential than a retrospective contemplation of former glory: it should constitute an earnest summons to intellectual renewal and practical reform.

Following the emergence of Islam in the seventh century of the Christian era, Muslim societies, within the space of a few centuries, established a formidable intellectual and cultural tradition. Between the eighth and thirteenth centuries, in particular, such centres as Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo, Córdoba, Bukhara, and Samarkand became prominent seats of learning and scientific inquiry. These cities were not merely the administrative strongholds of political authority; they were also flourishing environments in which philosophy, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, geography, and literature received sustained attention. Scholars working within them encountered intellectual traditions inherited from diverse civilisations, and the resulting exchanges enlarged the horizons of human understanding. The distinction of this age lay not simply in the preservation of earlier knowledge, but in its translation, critical examination, further development, and, in numerous instances, the production of original insights through observation and experiment. The achievement was thus not the passive inheritance of an intellectual patrimony, but its active transformation into a living tradition of inquiry.

The opening revelation of the Holy Qur'an, expressed in the imperative Iqra—"Read"—possesses profound significance within the intellectual history of Islam, directing attention towards knowledge, comprehension, and reflection. During the Abbasid period, Baghdad's Bayt al-Hikmah, or House of Wisdom, became an enduring emblem of the scholarly endeavours associated with that flourishing age. Greek, Syriac, Persian, and Indian traditions were studied and translated, furnishing Muslim scholars with materials through which inherited ideas could be examined, adapted, and extended.

Al-Khwarizmi made foundational contributions to the development of algebra; Ibn Sina's Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb exerted a substantial influence upon the history of medicine; and Ibn al-Haytham advanced the study of optics and the disciplined investigation of natural phenomena. The chemical tradition associated with Jabir ibn Hayyan likewise bears witness to the importance accorded to experiment and observation. The legacies of these scholars demonstrate that intellectual advancement is not secured by the accumulation of information alone.

PM Shehbaz briefs Nawaz Sharif on K-P security, economic challenges

province's chief secretary. An 11-member advisory council was formed to assist the governor, while a separate administrative arrangement was announced for 12 districts to be placed directly under the federation.

At a briefing in Peshawar on Saturday, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said the provincial government had planned Rs70 billion for the police and Rs10.3 billion for the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) during the current financial year.

Plans also include installing anti-drone systems in Dera Ismail Khan, Lakki Marwat and Bannu, as well as addressing vacant police posts and improving security infrastructure. Officials said the province faced a shortage of about 17,000 police personnel.

Despite continued intelligence-based operations (IBOs) by security forces, terrorist attacks across K-P have persisted, with police and security personnel increasingly coming under fire. Terrorist incidents in the province rose by 195 per cent between March 2024 and September 2026, according to security reports presented to the federal cabinet. The reports also recorded 170 drone attacks against police and security forces in 2026, compared with none in 2024.



Director General of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) Meets KP Business Community.

Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum to be held in Islamabad

■ **All the leading investors, global mining executives, policy-makers and experts, and Pakistan's political and military leadership will attend the forum.**

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is ready to host global mining companies that will participate in the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum from November 12-13 in Islamabad,

All the leading investors, global mining executives, policy-makers and experts, and Pakistan's political and military leadership will attend the forum.

An exhibition of companies, projects, products, services, equipment and technologies related to the minerals and mining value chain will also be held.

The objective of the Forum is to promote domestic and foreign investment in the minerals sector by leveraging Pakistan's valuable mineral reserves and resources.



The Minerals Investment Forum is being organized in collaboration with the SIFC to attract investment into Pakistan's vast minerals sector.

The Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum will pave the way for global technical partnerships, policy reforms, investment, and sustainable mining.

Finance Ministry allocates Rs300 billion export financing scheme exclusively to SME exporters

■ **Government reserves Rs300 billion under Pak Exim Bank's export finance scheme exclusively for eligible SME exporters to boost exports and investment.**

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The Ministry of Finance has announced measures to facilitate small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) exporters and boost the country's exports.

According to the ministry's announcement, the entire Rs300 billion allocation under the Pakistan Export-Import Bank's (Pak Exim Bank) Export Finance Scheme has been reserved for eligible SME exporters.

Previously allocated across different business categories, the entire amount will now be exclusively available to small and medium-sized exporters, providing them with access to financing at lower interest rates and opportunities to expand their business activities.



Officials said the fiscal year 2026-27 budget also included measures to reduce the financial burden on businesses through tax cuts and various incentives.

Affordable financing and improved investment facilities are expected to strengthen the competitiveness of Pakistani exporters in international markets, promote business activity and create new employment opportunities.

Pak Exim Bank has issued necessary instructions to the relevant banks to ensure effective implementation of the decision and optimal utilisation of the allocated funds.

The Ministry of Finance said the initiative aimed to support small and medium-sized businesses financially, encourage investment and industrial activity, and increase national exports.

Gold prices remain unchanged in local market, silver becomes cheaper

Staff Reporter

KARACHI

Gold prices remained unchanged in Pakistan, while silver became slightly cheaper in the local market,

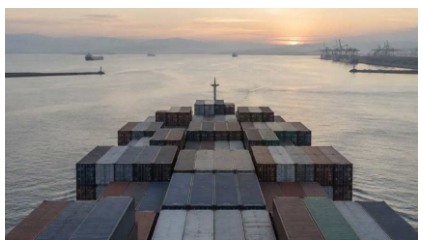
According to the All Pakistan Sarafa Association, the price of one tola of gold stayed at Rs429,136.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of gold remained unchanged at Rs367,914.

In the international market, gold prices also remained stable at $4,066 per ounce. However, silver prices dropped by Rs10 per tola to Rs5,668.



Gold prices in Pakistan are affected by changes in international rates, the value of the US dollar against the rupee, and the overall economic situation.



Pakistan's trade deficit rises 16pc to 14.6 billion dollars in four months

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's trade deficit increased by around 16 percent to 14.6 billion dollars during the first four months (July-October) of the current fiscal year, compared to 12.6 billion dollars recorded in the corresponding period last year.

According to documents released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the trade deficit also widened by 19.7 percent in October 2026 compared to the same month last year. On a month-on-month basis, it increased by 10.3 percent compared to September.

The data showed that Pakistan's exports rose by 2.2 percent in October compared to the same month last year, while imports registered an increase of around 12 percent.The country's exports stood at 2.93 billion dollars in October, while imports reached 6.8 billion dollars, resulting in a monthly trade deficit of 3.87 billion dollars.

Government introduces new LPG auction system, sales to be held in presence of media

■ **The government is moving to auction 90% of locally produced liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) while reserving the remaining 10% for state-owned marketing companies**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The government has initiated measures to ensure transparent auctions and fair distribution of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), introducing a new mechanism under which sales will be conducted in the presence of media representatives.

The first meeting of a committee established for the purpose was held under the chairmanship of the Petroleum Secretary.

Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik said addressing public concerns over LPG availability and unfair pricing was a government priority.

He said the new auction mechanism would help ensure equitable distribution, stabilise the supply chain and strengthen energy security.

Under the arrangement agreed upon at the meeting, local LPG producers will reserve 10 percent of their total production for government marketing companies, while the remaining 90 percent will be sold through transparent



auctions in the presence of media representatives.

The committee decided that each company would be allowed to purchase a maximum of 20 metric tonnes of LPG per day, with equal opportunities provided to all eligible companies.

It was also decided that daily LPG production would be monitored and relevant figures presented to the prime minister.

Ali Pervaiz Malik said the government's objective was to ensure better LPG supplies to consumers at reasonable prices. .

NEPRA increases electricity price by Rs2.36 per unit under fuel adjustment

■ **NEPRA has increased electricity prices by Rs2.3673 per unit under the September 2026 fuel adjustment, with the additional charges set to appear in consumers' November bills**

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has increased electricity prices by Rs2.36 per unit under the monthly Fuel Charges Adjustment (FCA), adding to the financial burden on power consumers.According to a notification issued by NEPRA, the increase has been made on account of the fuel cost adjustment for September 2026.

The adjustment reflects the difference between the actual fuel cost of electricity generation and the reference fuel cost determined earlier.Under the decision, electricity consumers will face an additional charge of Rs2.3673 per unit in their bills, in line with the applicable FCA mechanism. The adjustment will be reflected in electricity bills for November 2026.

Meanwhile, NEPRA has approved a Rs2.32 per unit increase in electricity rates for additional consumption by industrial and agricultural consumers, raising the applicable rate from Rs22.98 to Rs25.30 per unit.



The decision has been forwarded to the federal government for further action, with the revised rate proposed to take effect from the November 2026 billing month.Under the existing relief package, the government provides subsidised electricity rates to industrial and agricultural consumers on consumption exceeding the units used during the corresponding month of the previous year. The federal government had introduced a three-year relief package under which agricultural consumers were offered electricity at Rs22.98 per unit instead of Rs38, while industrial consumers received the same rate instead of Rs34 per unit for their additional consumption.

Pakistan, Turkiye set to revive landmark offshore exploration as seismic vessel arrives this month

■ **Pakistan expects a Turkish seismic vessel in Karachi on November 17-20, 2026, reviving offshore exploration after nearly two decades and strengthening bilateral energy cooperation.**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik chaired a high-level meeting to review preparations and arrangements for the arrival of the seismic vessel of Turkish Petroleum Offshore Company (TPOC) in Pakistan.

The vessel is expected to arrive in Karachi between November 17-20, 2026 marking the revival of Pakistan's offshore exploration efforts after nearly two decades.

The Minister described the occasion as a special milestone in Pakistan-Türkiye relations, particularly following the signing of the Mecca Agreement. He said the arrival of the vessel represented a new chapter in the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

"This is a special moment for Pakistan-Türkiye friendship. I will try to personally receive the vessel upon its arrival in Karachi," the Federal Minister said.

Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik emphasized that the government was fully committed to facilitating the offshore exploration initiative and ensuring all necessary arrangements for the successful commencement of operations. He assured the Turkish delegation of Pakistan's full support, stating that both countries



would work together to achieve a landmark success that would be remembered for generations to come.Secretary Petroleum also expressed enthusiasm over the upcoming arrival, saying that the Petroleum Division was eagerly looking forward to welcoming the vessel to Pakistan. He underscored the importance of coordination among all relevant departments and stakeholders to ensure smooth arrangements.

Project Manager TPOC appreciated the support and cooperation extended by Pakistan, expressing confidence in the project. He said that the team had received encouraging support from Pakistani authorities and hoped for a successful outcome from the exploration effort.

The meeting reviewed operational, logistical, maritime, security and interdepartmental arrangements for the vessel's arrival and commencement of the offshore exploration campaign to build Pakistan's energy security. Relevant departments were directed to maintain close coordination to ensure timely facilitation.

The meeting was attended by the Project Manager TPOC, Secretary Petroleum, Additional Secretary Petroleum, Director General Petroleum Concessions, Managing Directors of OGDCL, PPL and GHPL, and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Hydrographic Office Pakistan (NAVAREA IX), Karachi, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Board of Investment, and Directorate General Ports and Shipping, Karachi.

Pakistan Clinch Asian Men's Team Squash Championship Title After a Decade

● Pakistan Defeat Korea 2-0 in Final as Hong Kong China Claim Women's Crown; Five-Day Championship Concludes in Islamabad

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD





In a spectacular display of skill, resilience and sporting excellence, Pakistan clinched the Men's Team title at the 23rd Asian Team Squash Championship-2026, defeating Korea 2-0 in a thrilling final at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad. Hong Kong China emerged victorious in the Women's Team event, overcoming Malaysia 2-1 in a fiercely contested final. The electrifying encounters brought the curtain down on five days of exhilarating Squash action, featuring some of Asia's finest talent. Organized by Pakistan Squash Federation under the patronage of Pakistan Air Force, the prestigious continental championship was held from 03 to 07 November, 2026. The tournament witnessed intense matches, exceptional athleticism and remarkable displays of determination, as participating teams battled for continental supremacy. Pakistan's commanding victory in the Men's Team Final marked a proud moment for the nation, reaffirming its determination to reclaim its illustrious place in international Squash. Mr Adel Jassim Al-Ghareeb, Vice President, Asian Squash Federation, graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest and awarded trophies and medals to the triumphant teams and outstanding players. The ceremony was attended by Squash legends, senior officials of Pakistan Squash Federation, representatives of participating nations, players, coaches and an enthusiastic gathering of sports enthusiasts. Speaking on the occasion, Air Marshal Kazim Hammad, President Pakistan Squash Federation, hailed Pakistan's historic triumph, highlighting that the national team had reclaimed the prestigious Asian title after a decade. He attributed this remarkable achievement to the unwavering patronage of Chief of the Air Staff, who has consistently played a pivotal role in promoting Squash across Pakistan. He particularly acknowledged the Air Chief's steadfast commitment to nurturing emerging talent, providing opportunities to young players and extending sustained institutional support to restore Pakistan's standing in international Squash.



Anti-smog cycle rally held in Lahore

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE

A 13-kilometer-long anti-smog cycle rally was held in Lahore on Sunday, The rally started from Liberty Market and culminated at the same point after passing through CBD, Main Boulevard, Qaddafi Stadium and Jail Road.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Lahore Captain (r) Mohammad Ali Ejaz and Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Lahore Abdul Rahim Sherazi led the rally in which several families participated.

The purpose of the rally was aimed at creating awareness among people about smog.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that a healthy environment was essential for smooth communication.

He said that the anti-smog campaign would continue till Lahore became clean and green again.

Abdul Rahim Sherazi said that road accidents could be prevented by implementing traffic rules and regulations.

Pakistan edge India by three wickets in U-19 Asia Cup

■ Ton-up Hamza leads as Green Shirts chase down 209-run target in 48.1 overs



SPORTS Desk

Oman

Pakistan defeated arch-rival India by three wickets in the U-19 Asia Cup, with Hamza Zahoor leading the Green Shirts' successful chase with a century.

Chasing a target of 209 runs, Pakistan reached the total in 48.1 overs to seal the victory.

Pakistan made a remarkable recovery led by Zahoor and Hasnain Abbas Dar after the Green Shirts had slipped to 65-5.

Pakistan suffered an early setback when Jahangir Bilal departed in the third over, scoring five off four deliveries, including a boundary, against Ishan Sood.

Usman Khan, who had struck a century against the UAE in Pakistan's previous match, also failed to make a significant contribution, scoring 16 off 23 balls, including two boundaries, before Mohit Ulva dismissed him. Manal Chauhan then struck to remove Abdul Qadir, who scored 20 off 27 deliveries, including two boundaries and a six, leaving Pakistan struggling at 55-3 in 12.3 overs.

India continued to tighten their grip as Kavya Paresh Patel dismissed Pakistan captain Farhan Yousaf for just two runs. Chauhan then struck again, removing Ahmed Hussain for eight off 27 deliveries, including a boundary, to leave Pakistan reeling at 65-5.

However, Zahoor and Hasnain Abbas Dar joined forces to turn the tide, stitching together a crucial 107-run partnership for the sixth wicket to revive Pakistan's run chase.

The pair displayed remarkable composure under pressure, taking Pakistan past the 150-run mark while frustrating the Indian bowlers with their determined batting.

Zahoor brought up his half-century in Youth ODIs during the partnership, while Abbas Dar provided valuable support at the other end.

Their resistance eventually ended when Chauhan struck again, dismissing Abbas Dar for a fighting 38 off 67 deliveries, including two boundaries, with Pakistan placed at 168-6 in 38 overs.

Babar Azam to lead Pakistan as three uncapped players added to squad for Sri Lanka Test

● Pakistan have added three uncapped players and recalled Aamir Jamal to their 16-member Test squad for the two-match home series against Sri Lanka starting November 9.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan have added three uncapped players to their Test squad for the upcoming two-match home series against Sri Lanka, with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announcing four changes ahead of the opening encounter in Rawalpindi on November 9.

Pace-bowling all-rounder Aamir Jamal has also earned a recall, joining fast bowler Ali Shabbir, right-handed batter Muhammad Tayyab Arif and pacer Saqib Khan in the expanded squad. The three newcomers have received their maiden call-ups to the national Test side following impressive performances in domestic cricket.

The PCB confirmed the selections on Saturday, November 7, while announcing that Ali Usman and Abdullah Fazal had been released from the Test squad. The board did not specify the reasons behind their release.

Ali Shabbir, Tayyab and Saqib were all part of the Patron's XI side that faced Sri Lanka in a three-day practice match at Islamabad Club from November 4 to 6. Their inclusion comes just days before Pakistan begin their campaign against the visitors.

Australia's Khawaja claims entire team knew about 'Sandpapergate'

■ Bowlers Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon all denied publicly in 2021 that they knew about it.

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD



Usman Khawaja claimed the entire Australian team knew about the 2018 "Sandpapergate" scandal in Cape Town and said they also employed the tactic during the previous Test at Port Elizabeth.

Captain Steve Smith, his deputy David Warner and Cameron Bancroft were sent home in disgrace and found by a Cricket Australia investigation to be the only three players with prior knowledge of the ball-tampering plot.

Smith was banned for a year and sacked as skipper, Warner was suspended for 12 months and stripped of all leadership roles, while Bancroft was slapped with a nine-month ban.

But former opener Khawaja, who retired this year after 88 Tests, told the Sydney Morning Herald that everyone knew.

"It was all of us. Not the batters, not the bowlers, not the staff. All of us," he said ahead of the release of his autobiography next week where a chapter is dedicated to the issue.

Bowlers Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon all denied publicly in 2021 that they knew about it.

Khawaja said he spoke in the dressing room after the Cape Town Test urging the team to take collective responsibility, rather than scapegoating Warner, Smith and Bancroft.

"In an ideal world, I don't want to do this." Khawaja said.

"I don't want to be the one who comes out and talks about the truth. The issue is that I genuinely thought after eight years the truth would have been out by now.

"Maybe I thought Davey (Warner) would have exposed it, or someone else would have talked about it more. I just didn't think it was going to come down to this."

Darren Lehmann, who was head coach at the time, denied there was widespread knowledge of the plot, while claiming ball-tampering was once ever-present in international cricket.

"I don't think everybody would have known," he told national broadcaster ABC.

"I can't speak for them (the players) at all. I only know what I know, and I know that ball-tampering was a big part of the game of cricket.

"Now it's obsolete, but that doesn't make it right either and we paid a heavy price for that."

Lehmann, who quit after the series, said Khawaja's claims dredged up "bad memories" for him, the players and their families.

"For the families and the people involved, I feel for them right now because it's taking them back to a really bad place," he said.

Real Madrid beat Valencia as Spanish football honours De Miguel

■ Valverde, Guler and Mbappe seal a comfortable 3-0 win for Madrid

SPORTS DESK

RAWALPINDI



Real Madrid pulled level with La Liga leaders Barcelona with a 3-0 win at Valencia on Saturday, as Spanish football paid tribute to Jesus de Miguel.

Tenerife striker De Miguel died Tuesday after a collision with Andorra's goalkeeper in a Spanish second division match on Monday, and matches across the country were stopped in the ninth minute to pay homage to the number nine.

In Tenerife, fans and players gathered at the stadium for a memorial and farewell to De Miguel.

"You knew what it meant to work towards a common goal, you understood football as something that went far beyond oneself," said Tenerife captain Enric Gallego in an emotional speech.

"Just a few days ago, we were sharing all of that with you -- today we have to speak of you in the past tense. It's terribly unfair." De Miguel's funeral took place on Thursday and around 400 mourners attended, including Spain coach Luis de la Fuente and Real Madrid president Florentino Perez.

Spain's footballers' union had asked for all weekend matches to be paused as a mark of respect, but most games went ahead. There was a minute of silence before kick-off for De Miguel and matches were stopped for a minute's applause in the ninth minute -- his shirt number.

'This team smells good'

Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe scored for the seventh match running in the win over 10-man Valencia.



Hong Kong China won the women's title at the 23rd Asian Team Squash Championship 2026 after defeating defending champions Malaysia 2-1 in the final at the Mushaf Squash Complex,

Daily The Spokesman

Monday
November 9,2026

Ramesh Singh Arora joins Hindu community in Diwali celebrations

■ **The participation of people from different religious communities in each other's festivals reflected the spirit of a peaceful and united Pakistan,he added.**



Our Correspondent
LAHORE

Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora has said that all religious minorities in Punjab enjoy religious freedom and equal rights in line with the vision of Chief Minister(CM) Punjab,Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

He was addressing a Diwali celebration organized by the Government of Punjab in collaboration with BARGAD, an organization for youth development at a local hotel,here on Sunday.

The minister extended heartfelt Diwali greetings to the Hindu community and appreciated BARGAD's efforts to promote interfaith harmony,peace and mutual respect.

He said promoting love, tolerance, acceptance and peaceful coexistence at the grassroots level was essential for building a harmonious society.

Ramesh Singh Arora joins Hindu community in Diwali celebrations

The participation of people from different religious communities in each other's festivals reflected the spirit of a peaceful and united Pakistan,he added.

Minister Ramesh Singh Arora said that the Punjab government was taking practical measures to protect minority rights, ensure religious freedom and promote interfaith harmony in accordance with the vision of the chief minister.

Representatives of Hindu,Sikh,Christian and Muslim communities,Punjab University students and members of civil society attended the event.

The celebration began with the traditional lighting of diyas,followed by a special Diwali prayer.

Professor Ashok Kumar said the light of diyas symbolized positivity, hope and happiness while appreciating BARGAD's efforts to promote interfaith harmony over the past 12 years.

Jaspreet Singh described the participation of people from different faiths as an example of interfaith harmony and appreciated the organizers for arranging a vegetarian dinner to accommodate all participants.

BARGAD Executive Director,Sabiha Shaheen said the joint celebration reflected the Pakistan envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah,where people of all faiths could celebrate their religious festivals with freedom, dignity and mutual respect.

Hindu community leader Amar Nath said the Hindu community in Pakistan enjoyed the freedom to observe its religious traditions and festivals.

He termed collective celebrations a positive tradition and concluded his remarks with the slogan "Pakistan Zindabad".



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chaired the meeting on PM's Youth Business & Agriculture Scheme in Lahore .

TV anchor Rabia Ahsan shot dead at home in Rawalpindi



STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

A female television anchor, Rabia Ahsan, was found dead at her residence in Gulshanabad, near Adiala Road, Rawalpindi, on Sunday, prompting police to launch an investigation.

According to rescue officials, the deceased was identified as Rabia Ahsan, who worked as an anchor for a television channel.Police confirmed that her husband, Ahsan, had been taken into custody for questioning as investigators began examining the circumstances surrounding her death.According to police sources, the husband told investigators in his initial statement that a gun went off accidentally and the bullet struck Rabia.Police sources also said that the couple had no reported marital disputes. Rabia's mother and sisters were reportedly present at the house when the incident occurred.

Leepa Valley to Get Comprehensive Tourism Plan, Says AJK PM

● **Iftikhar Gilani announces development initiatives, improved infrastructure, educational opportunities and phased upgradation of health facilities**

STAFF REPORTER
LEEPA VALLEY



Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani has paid tribute to the courage, determination and unwavering spirit of people living along the Line of Control (LoC), saying that Indian forces have failed to dampen their resolve. He stressed that maintaining peace in the state requires the exclusion of elements spreading unrest from their ranks."Unfortunately, elements creating disorder have become part of our ranks. We must identify those who are spreading unrest and seeking to promote their personal agendas," the prime minister said while addressing a public gathering in Leepa Valley.He said that while public demands had their own significance, the method adopted to pursue them was a matter of concern. He urged people to avoid statements and conduct that could fuel unrest and undermine the freedom movement in Kashmir.The public gathering was also addressed by Minister for Health and Population Welfare Dr Mustafa Bashir, former minister Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, Member Kashmir Council Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmed, Raja Sohail Nasir Khan, Aziz Ahmed Budhan, Ehsan-ul-Haq Shami, Riaz Gilani, Saif-ur-Rehman, Malik Shaukat, Salman Awan and others.Tribute to Pakistan Army and Kashmir Freedom MovementAddressing the gathering, Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani said that elements working to damage the Kashmir freedom movement must be discouraged. He also paid tribute to the personnel of the Pakistan Army deployed along the LoC for the defence of the country.

He said the people of Leepa Valley had demonstrated remarkable courage and determination despite difficult circumstances. The prime minister stressed that unity and solidarity were essential to safeguarding the interests of the state and advancing the Kashmir cause.



12 farmers receive tractor keys under Punjab's Green Tractor Scheme in Mandi Bahauddin

■ **Twelve farmers receive high-powered green tractors under Punjab's subsidy scheme, with 174 beneficiaries selected through a transparent online balloting process.**

Staff Reporter
MANDI BAHAUDDIN

Twelve farmers in Mandi Bahauddin have received keys to high-powered tractors under the Green Tractor Scheme.

A ceremony was held at the district office to distribute tractor keys among farmers under the farmer-friendly initiatives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

Member of the Provincial Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary Khalid Mahmood Ranjha distributed the keys among the farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalid Mahmood Ranjha said the Punjab chief minister was providing a subsidy of Rs750,000 on each tractor.

He said 174 farmers in the district would receive green tractors through transparent online balloting, adding that the keys had initially been handed over to 12 successful applicants.

Ranjha said the distribution process would be completed in phases. He added that access to modern agricultural machinery would improve farming practices and help significantly increase crop yields.

Farmers who received the tractors thanked Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for introducing the farmer support package and expressed their gratitude to the Punjab government. .

Sindh governor says democracy requires all stakeholders to work together

● Praises Punjab government's transparency; highlights Nawaz Sharif's development record

STAFF REPORTER
KARACHI

Sindh Governor Syed Nehal Hashmi has praised the Punjab government for its transparency, saying he has not witnessed a government as transparent as Punjab's elsewhere.

He called for political cooperation and said democracy required all stakeholders to work together.Speaking to the media at the Lahore Press Club here on Saturday, Hashmi appreciated the role of journalists in promoting truth, justice and social accountability. He described the Press Club's initiatives as exemplary and paid tribute to journalists for their commitment to society.

The governor said that journalists continue to play an important role regardless of which political party is in power. He acknowledged the challenges facing the media and stressed the need for stronger communication between the government and journalists.

Hashmi also praised former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for his contributions to Pakistan's development, particularly the construction of the motorway network and efforts to strengthen the constitutional framework and rule of law. He said Lahore had undergone significant development over the years and that people in Karachi also



appreciated Nawaz Sharif's services.Commenting on corruption, the governor described mental corruption as the first form of corruption, explaining that denying people their rightful entitlements was also a serious injustice.

Hashmi further stated that he would not support any legislation that violated human rights and emphasised that national issues should be resolved through parliament. He also urged society to take responsibility in areas where government institutions could not reach.

Speaking about Karachi, he highlighted the city's historical and economic importance, pointing out that despite contributing substantial taxes, it did not receive its fair share of resources. He called for institutional accountability and said corruption should be addressed according to the law rather than personal preferences.

The Sindh governor also criticised the recruitment of ghost employees in public institutions, saying such practices had damaged the country's institutions and undermined public trust.

Punjab Police Remain on High Alert During Christian Prayer Services Across Province

■ **IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Directs Enhanced Security at Churches, Deployment of Snipers and Continued Search Operations to Ensure Safety**

Crime Reporter
LAHORE

Punjab Police officers and personnel remained on high alert and performed security duties very diligently during Christian prayer services at churches across the province, including Lahore Earlier, Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem issued directives to RPOs, DPOs, and senior police officers to further enhance security at churches. He said that supervisory officers should personally inspect the security arrangements at



churches as well as other important and sensitive locations. Additional police personnel and snipers should be deployed at sensitive churches, while teams of the Dolphin Squad, Police Response Unit (PRU), and Elite Force should ensure effective patrolling around churches. IG Punjab directed that all deployed police officers and personnel should remain highly vigilant and keep a close watch on miscreant elements. He further instructed that search and sweep operations should continue around churches, Christian localities, and other sensitive locations.Abdul Kareem said that religious scholars, the Christian community, and members of Peace Committees should promote interfaith harmony

MQM stresses need to address Karachi's challenges, ensure fair treatment

STAFF REPORTER
KARACHI



Federal Minister and Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has called for greater attention and support for Karachi, saying the city that sustains the country should be allowed to survive.

In a statement, Siddiqui said that Karachi is the heart of Pakistan and deserves kindness and fair treatment. He said his political struggle was neither linked to the feudal system nor hereditary politics.

He added that politics was not a business for him but a form of public service. Siddiqui further stated that Pakistan's ruling class represents a particular segment of society with which his party has no association.

He said their real competition was with a mindset that opposes education.Commenting on electricity distribution, the MQM leader alleged that electricity was taken away from the homes of poor people and supplied to affluent areas.

He also criticised K-Electric, saying its electricity was not reaching the homes of the underprivileged.

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