

Come to your senses: PM to PTI over long march

Prim Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to abandon its agitational politics and call off its long march, saying that dialogue could only take place if the party ended its protests. He warned that continued agitation would severely harm the country's economic growth and international standing.

"I still ask them to come to their senses. End your long marches and sit-ins. Once you end them, we will certainly sit down with you and talk so that Pakistan moves forward with mutual hard work, honesty, and integrity. This is the desire of the nation, the voice of every Pakistani," the prime minister said, addressing the ground breaking ceremony of Kashmir Chowk Underpass, being constructed to ease the traffic flow between Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

As per the briefing, the PC-1 cost of the project was Rs1.6 billion, but the contract was awarded at Rs1.4 billion, which would feature four slip roads. The intersection currently handles 107,000 vehicles and faces congestion during peak hours, particularly during VIP movement.

The prime minister, who earlier performed the

Protests may hurt economy, PM warns PTI

ground breaking, told the gathering that the PTI had again resorted to the politics of sit-ins and long marches despite the government's sincere efforts to engage in meaningful negotiations.

He said that a joint committee comprising representatives from the PML-N and the Pakistan Peoples Party had held talks with the opposition, but the process stalled after the PTI demanded last-minute changes to the finalized draft, indicating that their sole objective was to sabotage the dialogue.

"As a result of the politics of sit-ins and long marches, the primary target will be your economy. There will be disruptions in your exports, your manufacturing, and your imports. If your laborer or your engineer fails to reach the factory, the manufacturing site, or their office on time, whose loss is it? It is the loss of this nation, the loss of this country," the prime minister said.

He said that the government had successfully restored macroeconomic stability and was striving for growth through collective teamwork, with positive indicators reflected in rising exports, remittances, and industrial production. He cautioned that undermining these hard-won achievements would amount to hostility toward the state.

"We will not allow this to happen. The law will take its course. Protecting the lives and property of the people is our responsibility, and we will ensure this by all means," he resolved.

He appreciated Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his team for setting the target to complete the Kashmir Chowk project within a month.

He said that as the intersection was

Law has taken its course in AJK: Prime Minister

known as Kashmir Chowk, the milestone would one day reach Srinagar when the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) achieve their inalienable right to freedom.

Separately, Shehbaz Sharif, in his capacity as Chairman of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Council, on Tuesday administered the oath to four newly elected members of the Council and assured the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir that the federal government would mobilise all available resources for the region's progress and prosperity.

The newly elected members are Ch Latif Akbar, Mushtaq Ahmed Minhas, Ch Muhammad Saeed and Ch Manzoor Ahmed. They were elected by the AJK Legislative Assembly under Article 21(4) of the AJK Interim Constitution, 1974, in line with the Constitution, they took the oath before the Council's chairman before assuming office.

Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister congratulated the newly sworn-in members and expressed the hope that they would play their role in the Council to the best of their abilities and in the larger interest of Azad Kashmir.

"The Council serves as a bridge between Azad Kashmir and Pakistan," he said, adding that as its head he considered it an honour to work with the members to strengthen that bridge. He said all of them should work day and night for the development and prosperity of AJK, so that the mandate given by the people in the recent elections could be honoured sincerely.

Referring to unfortunate incidents in AJK in recent months, the prime minister

Prime Minister orders winter gas plan

expressed regret and said sincere efforts had been made to persuade the concerned groups through dialogue. He recalled that an all parties conference had been held in Muzaffarabad, where it was agreed that, after fresh elections, any law or decision made by the elected Assembly, whether by consensus or majority, would be respected by all.

He said that this advice was not accepted and that the law therefore took its own course, as the state had a political and legal responsibility to act against vandalism and against elements.

Concluding his address, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that under the leadership of PML-N Qasid, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the government would work to bring development and prosperity to Azad Kashmir that its people would remember in the years ahead.

Moreover, Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to take all necessary measures to ensure the uninterrupted import of gas in view of the prevailing regional situation, while ordering a comprehensive strategy and proactive steps for winter gas load management.

The prime minister, chairing a high-level meeting on winter gas load management, said a robust public awareness campaign should be launched to support the implementation of the gas load management strategy.

During the briefing, the participants of the meeting were informed that domestic consumers would remain the top priority for local gas supply, while RLNG will be prioritized for power generation and industrial sectors. **NEWS DESK**

4 FBR officials, traffic police officer killed in DI Khan firing

Five people, including four Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) officials and a traffic police officer, were killed in separate firing incidents in Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) on Tuesday, District Police Officer (DPO) Ziauddin said.

The firing took place at Bhatti Pump on University Road, within the jurisdiction of University Police Station, at around 11:40am. Rescue 1122 media coordinator said its control room received information about the firing at Bhatti Pump and immediately dispatched emergency teams to the scene.

The rescue teams recovered the bodies of four people killed in the incident and began shifting them to DHO Hospital, the coordinator said.

"In a separate incident, a highway patrol mobile came under fire at Gulistan Chowk on the DIK bypass, killing its driver and injuring two others," DPO Ziauddin said.

The deceased driver was identified as Habib, and the mobile in-charge, Subhan, and another constable were injured in the attack. The injured and the deceased were being shifted to the trauma centre, police said.

Separately in Bannu, two terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire with police in Feroz Fateh Khel, within the jurisdiction of Mandan Police Station. Police identified the two deceased as Sher Ayaz Khan and Adnan, police confirmed. Their bodies were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital for post-mortem examinations and legal formalities.

Elsewhere, three people working at basic health units (BHUs) under the Aga Khan NGO were reportedly abducted from Grah Mitro in Tank, according to DPO Tank Abdul Samad. The abductees were identified as Saeed Anwar, Sofiullah and Syed Bashe.

In South Waziristan's Khasokhel, unidentified individuals targeted the main gate of Prime Minister's committee member Maulana Mubashirullah's house with explosives at around midnight, demolishing the gate. No casualties were reported.

In another incident in Upper Kurram, terrorists fired an RPG-7 round at a house in Dal, within the jurisdiction of Agra Police Station, at around 3:30am. The attack damaged the house's door, but caused no casualties, DPO Kurram Malik Habib.

Meanwhile, mobile phone services began to be restored in Dera Ismail Khan after three days.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed concern over the recent incidents of terrorism in DI Khan and conveyed his condolences over the martyrdom of four Customs officials and one traffic police official. "The recent incidents of terrorism in Dera Ismail Khan are a matter of concern," he said. **NEWS DESK**

UN Chief hails Pakistan's mediatory role in US-Iran row

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday praised Pakistan for its role as a trusted mediator between the United States and Iran, saying Islamabad's credibility with countries at odds with each other had helped create conditions for negotiations and de-escalation in one of the world's most dangerous conflicts.

Speaking alongside Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar during a joint press stakeout at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Antonio Guterres said Pakistan's initiative in relation to the Gulf conflict was remarkable and demonstrated the importance of having countries that could be trusted by opposing sides.

"What Pakistan has done in relation to the conflict in the Gulf, namely between the United States and Iran, is a remarkable initiative. And what is important is for the world to have countries that can be trusted, ... And that trust that Pakistan deserved was essential to allow for peace negotiations to take place," the UN Secretary General said.

He said Pakistan's diplomatic efforts had helped deliver the June 17 Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, the subsequent ceasefire and a framework for future negotiations.

"Pakistan has been an extremely important example of mediation," Guterres said, adding that Islamabad's role showed the value of bridge-building and diplomacy at a time of deep international divisions.

DPM/FM Ishaq Dar said



Pakistan's efforts had brought the United States and Iran to direct dialogue after 47 years, describing Islamabad's contribution as a humble but significant effort rooted in the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, non-interference, self-determination and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Antonio Guterres urged all parties to end conflict, return to diplomacy and fully restore navigational rights and freedoms in accordance with international law.

The UN chief also warned that the international community's focus on the wars in Ukraine and the Gulf must not overshadow the suffering of the Palestinian people.

He stressed that the scale of death and destruction witnessed in Gaza was unprecedented in his tenure as UN secretary-general.

Antonio Guterres called for an immediate end to the suffering of Palestinians and the full implementation of the peace plan. He also expressed concern over violence and settlement decisions in the West Bank, warning that such developments could undermine the two-state solution.

He reiterated that lasting peace in the region required realization of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of two states, Palestine and Israel, living side by

side in peace and mutual respect.

Ishaq Dar said Pakistan had consistently supported diplomatic efforts for peace in Gaza and recalled Pakistan's participation with seven other Arab and Muslim countries in engagement with US President Donald Trump. He said the group's sole agenda had been achieving peace in Gaza, which subsequently contributed to the formulation of a 20-point peace plan.

The deputy prime minister expressing Pakistan's concerns regarding Jammu and Kashmir, welcomed the UN's continued reference to the UN framework and Security Council resolutions for resolving the dispute.

He urged the international community to ensure implementation of Security Council resolutions, arguing that resolutions concerning Kashmir and Palestine had remained unimplemented.

The deputy prime minister also raised India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, calling it a violation of international law. He urged India to stop "weaponizing water" and fulfill its obligations under the treaty.

Antonio Guterres highlighted Pakistan's longstanding humanitarian role in hosting Afghan refugees, recalling that millions of Afghans had found protection in the country over several decades. **APP**

Pakistan vows Saudi security non-negotiable

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday reiterated that Pakistan's commitment to the security of Haramain Sharifain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was non-negotiable, while terming recent reports regarding the 'Mekkah Joint Defence Agreement' speculative. Taking note of speculative reports by Reuters regarding the agreement, the ministry said Pakistan had already made its commitment to the security of Haramain Sharifain and Saudi Arabia abundantly clear.

It said the operational details concerning the actualisation of collective deterrence were a matter of operational confidentiality and should not be made the subject of media speculation.

The ministry said it would be prudent to avoid reports based on non-attributable and unidentified sources, adding that media outlets should refer to official statements issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant authorities in this regard. "Queries, if any, may be referred to them instead of coming out with invented numbers and details," the ministry said. **AGENCIES**

Fatah-4 test-fire successful: Pakistan



Pakistan on Tuesday successfully conducted the test launch of an indigenously developed extended-range version of the Fatah-4 Ground-Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM). Equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigational aids, the weapon system is capable of engaging targets at extended ranges with high precision and lethality, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The test also validated additional technical parameters of various sub-systems incorporated for improved accuracy and enhanced survivability.

Today's launch was witnessed by senior officers from Pakistan Army along with scientists and engineers of developing agency.

The President, the Prime Minister, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces and Services Chiefs commended successful test launch of Fatah-4 Extended Version and appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of all those who contributed towards achieving this milestone. **APP**

National



PTI was on board till KP CM intervened: Talal Chaudhry

World



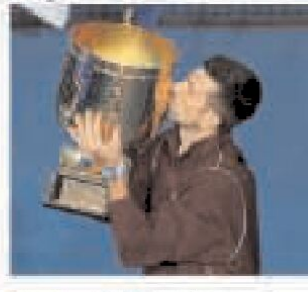
'Ghost particle' hunter Francis Halzen wins 2026 Nobel Physics Prize

Business



Pakistan, IFC in talks to launch startup fund

Sports



Djokovic wins China Open as de Minaur retires injured

Lifestyle



Hulu thriller taps Kylie Jenner for first major acting role

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Govt raises petrol by Rs 1.19, cuts diesel by Rs 1.91 per litre

NATIONAL

DTM

Govt preparing Karachi uplift plan: Memon



Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has said that the Government of Sindh is working on a comprehensive

plan for the development of Karachi, with particular focus on improving infrastructure, industrial and commercial connectivity, water supply and drainage systems, and other essential urban facilities.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that work was underway on several important projects, including the Link Road from Port Qasim to M-9, Red Line and Yellow Line, aimed at improving connectivity and easing traffic congestion in the city.

He said that projects such as the Elevated Expressway from Karachi Port to Qayyumabad would play a significant role in connecting the port and industrial areas with major highways. The Karachi Port-Qayyumabad Corridor is aimed at establishing an effective transportation link, reducing the pressure of heavy traffic on urban roads and promoting economic activities.

The Senior Minister said that

the project would facilitate connectivity between Karachi Port, M-9 and other major road links through Qayyumabad and Shahrah-e-Bhutto, thereby improving the movement of freight and traffic between key economic and industrial areas. He said that the vision of the Government of Sindh was to develop a modern, well-connected and sustainable Karachi by improving urban facilities through an integrated development system.

"Karachi is not only the economic hub of Sindh but also the economic centre of Pakistan. Therefore, investment in Karachi's infrastructure is, in fact, an investment in the country's overall economic growth and development," he added. **NEWS DESK**

Sindh, World Bank discuss measures to boost disaster resilience

A World Bank delegation, as part of its ongoing mission for the proposed Sindh Flood Resilience Project, held a meeting with Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh Syed Salman Shah to discuss measures for strengthening disaster risk assessment, preparedness, response and resilience across the province.

During the meeting, DG PDMA Sindh Syed Salman Shah briefed the delegation on the Authority's performance and said that different areas of Sindh are exposed to various natural and other disaster risks, making it essential to reassess these risks on comprehensive and modern lines.

He said the existing Multi-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (MHVRA) was conducted a few years ago and therefore needs to be upgraded and updated in view of emerging and changing risks. He emphasized that the new assessment should include emerging hazards such as sea-water intrusion and urban flooding, while datasets covering all districts of Sindh should also be upgraded in accordance with modern requirements. This would strengthen the evidence base for preparedness, planning and investment related to disaster risks. The meeting also discussed assessment of risks associated with industrial areas, including hazards related to fires,

explosions, leakage or release of toxic and chemical gases or materials, and industrial accidents resulting from natural disasters. The proposed assessment would include industrial risk mapping, identification of priority hotspots, development of a GIS-based database, and preparation of risk and crisis plans tailored to the needs of each area.

The World Bank delegation also emphasized the importance of protecting cultural and historical heritage sites, which may be affected by heavy rainfall, waterlogging and other disasters. The delegation noted that these sites form an important part of the country's cultural heritage and should therefore be incorporated into disaster risk reduction and resilience planning. The delegation further stressed the need for special attention to the desert areas of Sindh, where local communities face a range of hazards and vulnerabilities. It was proposed that the upgraded MHVRA should include a dedicated assessment of desert areas, covering drought, extreme heat, water scarcity, food and livelihood insecurity, ground-water availability, and access to essential services during emergencies.

The proposed project also includes the establishment of a Humanitarian Response Facility (HRF) in the coastal area of Badin, aimed at strengthening preparedness for cyclones, storm surges and floods. **NEWS DESK**

Wahab inspects restoration work at Soldier Bazaar

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) is carrying out restoration and beautification work at the historic Soldier Bazaar. The area had been severely affected for a long time due to encroachments and neglect, resulting in a deteriorated condition. However, the situation is now undergoing a significant transformation.

He expressed these views while inspecting the ongoing restoration and beautification work at historic Soldier Bazaar. Municipal Commissioner KMC Abrar Jaffer, Senior Director KMC Estate Sumaira Hussain and other officials were also present on the occasion. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the KMC was taking measures to restore Soldier Bazaar with the objective of bringing this historically and commercially important area back to a better condition. He said that encroachments and deterioration had adversely affected the original character of the market; however, the situation was gradually improving following the commencement of restoration work.

According to the Mayor Karachi, municipal-level initiatives for the improvement of urban areas, provision of basic civic facilities and restoration of historic places would continue. The restoration of Soldier Bazaar was part of these efforts and was expected to provide a better environment for residents, shopkeepers and citizens.

He said that development and rehabilitation projects were underway in various parts of Karachi and that municipal institutions would fulfil their responsibilities wherever required.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab further said that the KMC was also continuing road rehabilitation work across the city to maintain smooth traffic flow and facilitate citizens in their daily commute.

He said that roads affected by various development and other works, particularly important arteries of the city, were being reconstructed and rehabilitated so that traffic flow could remain uninterrupted and citizens would not face difficulties in travelling.

The Mayor said that road rehabilitation work was also underway in the areas surrounding the National Stadium and National Coaching Centre. Relevant KMC teams were engaged in the repair and reconstruction of damaged sections so that the roads could be restored to a better condition.

He said that the rehabilitation of major roads and improvement of infrastructure were among the priorities of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation. Road construction and repair works were being carried out while keeping the convenience of citizens and smooth traffic flow in view. **NEWS DESK**

Lanjar assures transporters of early resolution of issues

Home minister says LTV, HTV licences to be issued after tests, legal formalities

Sindh Minister for Home and Law Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar chaired a meeting with delegations of transporters' associations to review their concerns and discuss measures for resolving issues relating to driving licenses, third-party motor vehicle insurance, traffic management and law and order.

The transporters' representatives briefed the Minister on difficulties being faced by commercial and goods transport operators, particularly regarding the issuance of LTV and HTV driving licences, third-party insurance and security concerns in SITE, North Karachi and other areas. The Home Minister directed the concerned authorities to facilitate eligible drivers and ensure that LTV and HTV licences are issued after completion of the prescribed tests and all legal formalities.

The DIG Driving Licence informed the meeting that licences would be issued to eligible applicants upon successful completion of the required tests and prescribed formalities. The issue of third-party motor vehicle

insurance was also discussed in detail. The Secretary Excise briefed the meeting on the existing mechanism and measures for addressing the concerns raised by the transporters. It was stated that insurance-related matters concerning public and commercial transport would be dealt with in accordance with government policy and applicable laws. The Home Minister directed the Secretary Excise, Secretary Law, DIG Driving Licence and DIG Traffic to coordinate and work out practical solutions to issues concerning driving licences and motor vehicle insurance.

The meeting was also briefed on

directions were issued to the DIG Traffic to facilitate transporters while ensuring compliance with traffic laws and regulations.

Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar assured the delegations that the legitimate issues of the transport community would be addressed on a priority basis and directed all concerned departments to maintain close coordination for their timely resolution. "Transporters play an important role in economic activity and the movement of goods and passengers. Their legitimate concerns must be addressed in accordance with law and government policy," the Home Minister said. The meeting was



matters relating to land for truck stands and transport terminals. The Secretary Transport apprised the participants of progress made towards resolving the matter and informed the meeting that a summary had been submitted to the competent authority. The transporters' representatives highlighted security concerns faced by their members in SITE, North Karachi and other parts of the city. Taking notice of the matter, the Home Minister directed the Additional IG Karachi to ensure appropriate security arrangements for transporters in the concerned districts and areas. Issues relating to traffic management were also discussed, and necessary

attended by the Additional Chief Secretary Home, Commissioner Karachi, Secretary Transport and Mass Transit, Secretary Law, Secretary Excise, Additional IG Karachi, DIG Driving Licence and DIG Traffic, along with other senior officials.

Representing the transport community were Nisar Hussain Jafri, Chairman, All Pakistan Goods Transport Alliance; Malik Shahzad Awan, Pakistan Goods Transport Alliance; Malik Shehar, Sindh Goods; Yaseen Niaz, United Goods Transport Alliance; and Ubaid Gul, General Secretary, Karachi Goods Carrier Association, besides other representatives of the transport sector. **NEWS DESK**

Another surgical procedure done at SIUT

The family of 21-year-old Abdul Samad, a dialysis patient at SIUT (Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation), has donated his corneas to two other people to regain their sight. Samad, a resident of Purana Golimar, was a dialysis patient at SIUT since April last year. He developed kidney failure due to a genetically inherited family kidney ailment.

Elder brother of Samad had also been a dialysis patient at SIUT since 2016. The two brothers used to come to the hospital together for their dialysis sessions. Nephrologists who attended the two brothers said, "They supported each other during the treatment." Organ donation was also part of Samad's family history, as his maternal uncle earlier received a kidney transplant at SIUT in 1986, with his mother donating her kidney to him.

Samad's mother, Pervin, is an employee at SIUT and works as a technologist in the Pathology Department. Samad had studied up to class five and helped his father at his shop. These personal losses inspired the family to do something meaningful to help others. They decided to donate Samad's corneas for transplantation, giving two other people an opportunity to regain their sight and improve their lives. **NEWS DESK**

Khairpur mourns passing of last ruler of former state

All government and semi government institutions remained closed across Khairpur Mirs district on Tuesday due to the death of the last ruler of the erstwhile Khairpur State, Mir Ali Murad Khan Talpur II.

The district administration announced a local public holiday in the entire district for today to mourn his demise.

Accordingly, all government offices, educational institutions, and semi government departments remained closed. An atmosphere of grief prevails in Kot Diji and across the district. Mir Ali Murad Khan II, 93, died on Monday at a private hospital where he was under treatment. His son, Prince Mir Mehdi Raza Talpur, confirmed his death. **APP**

Malaysian consul general, Sindh Assembly speaker discuss trade, investment

Consul General of Malaysia in Karachi, His Excellency Mohd Yunus bin Ibrahim, called on Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh Syed Awaiz Qadir Shah at his office at the Provincial Assembly of Sindh. The meeting focused on bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia, parliamentary cooperation, trade, investment, tourism, and ways to further strengthen bilateral ties.

On the occasion, Secretary Sindh Assembly GM Umar Farooq and Director General Media Irfan Ahmed Memon were also present along with Speaker Sindh Assembly.

Welcoming the Malaysian Consul General, Speaker Syed Awaiz Qadir Shah recalled his meeting with his predecessor during the 7th CPA Asia Regional Conference and 2nd Joint CPA Asia & South-East Asia Regional Conference,

hosted by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh.

Speaker Syed Awaiz Qadir Shah said that the two sides had remained in regular contact and added that he had also met the Speaker of the Malaysian Parliament during the 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town.

The Malaysian Consul General said that his posting in Pakistan was his first

importance, its role in connecting Sindh with other provinces, as well as its airport, railway connectivity, road network, and strong industrial base. He also briefed the Consul General about the population, geographical features, and economic characteristics of various districts of Sindh, highlighting the province's unique combination of desert areas, fertile

chambers of commerce.

The Malaysian Consul General said that promoting economic cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia was among his key priorities. Referring to his recent meeting with the business community at the Karachi Association of Trade & Industry (KATI), he said that various avenues for economic cooperation had been explored.

He added that Malaysia's economic division was also looking to expand its international economic engagement and identify viable business and investment opportunities. The meeting also covered opportunities for promoting tourism. The Speaker recalled his visit to Malaysia around 13-14 years ago and appreciated his experience of travelling across different parts of the country. Both sides discussed possibilities for enhancing tourism links and people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and Malaysia.

Speaker Syed Awaiz Qadir Shah also briefed the Consul General about various initiatives of the Government of Sindh, particularly the World Livestock Expo, and highlighted opportunities for Malaysian businesses and relevant stakeholders to participate in such programmes. The Consul General expressed keen interest in the expo, while the Speaker assured him that he and his team would be invited to participate in the next edition hosted by the Government of Sindh. **NEWS DESK**



assignment in the country and his third

overseas posting. He said that he had arrived in Pakistan about a month ago and described Pakistan as a highly energetic country, appreciating the hospitality, warmth, and enthusiasm of the Pakistani people.

Speaker Syed Awaiz Qadir Shah invited the Consul General to visit different parts of Sindh, particularly Sukkur. He highlighted Sukkur's historical and geographical

agricultural regions, and industrial zones.

Speaker Syed Awaiz Qadir Shah said that Sukkur and other cities of Sindh offered significant opportunities for economic cooperation, trade, and investment with Malaysia. He suggested that the Malaysian Consulate explore business opportunities in major cities, including Sukkur and Hyderabad, and strengthen engagement with the respective

NATIONAL



PTI was on board till KP CM intervened: Talal Chaudhry

State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Tuesday said a consensus on terrorism had been reached during negotiations between the government and the opposition, but the process failed at the final stage after new conditions were presented by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Chief Minister.

He said the government had agreed to provide political space to the opposition in exchange for full cooperation on efforts to eliminate terrorism. Addressing a press conference, Talal Chaudhry said negotiations between the government and the opposition had progressed positively on both terrorism and political issues before breaking down at the last moment. He said discussions began with the government's position on terrorism, the implementation of the National Action Plan, and the KP government's role in supporting counter-terrorism efforts. Talal said that on the first day of talks, both sides moved forward and agreed on the basic structure of an agreement covering terrorism and political matters. The opposition team later traveled to Peshawar and met the KP Chief Minister, senior party leaders, and ministers. After those consultations, they returned and assured the government that there was complete agreement on the federal government's position regarding terrorism. He said Mohsin Naqvi had requested even before the talks that a representative of the KP

government, preferably the Chief Minister himself, should participate in the negotiations. However, opposition leaders repeatedly assured the government that they had full authority from the party and the KP government and that any agreement reached would be accepted by all concerned. Talal said that after receiving confirmation that there was full agreement on terrorism, Mohsin Naqvi traveled to Lahore and briefed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The Prime Minister was informed that PTI and the KP government had agreed to cooperate on terrorism-related matters, he added. He said the Prime Minister directed the government team to provide the opposition with maximum political space. Talal quoted the Prime Minister as saying that Pakistan's security and the elimination of terrorism were more important than political gains or losses. He said the Prime Minister emphasized that political parties could gain or lose popularity, but national security must remain the top priority. He said, terrorism-related issues had already been settled by the second day of negotiations and discussions then focused on political matters. He said agreement was eventually reached on political points as well, and a first draft of the deal was completed. Talal described the development as the beginning of a "Charter of Democracy 2" and said the government's biggest achievement would have been bringing PTI onto a shared national narrative against terrorism. He said the government viewed cooperation against terrorism as more important than political competition. Referring to the sacrifices of security personnel, he said government leaders regularly attend funerals of soldiers and officers who lose their lives in operations against militants. He said these sacrifices made national unity against terrorism a priority. Talal said the first draft of the agreement was finalized around 9:00 pm. Mohsin Naqvi then met the Prime Minister and the President to brief them on the progress. He said some amendments were later proposed, consensus

was reached again, and differences over a few words were resolved. However, he said the situation changed during the final phase of the talks. According to him, opposition representatives remained in a separate room for some time while maintaining contact with the KP Chief Minister. When they returned, they informed the government that consensus could not be achieved despite the negotiations being conducted with patience and good faith. Talal argued that the campaign against terrorism was not the agenda of any one party but a national consensus. He pointed to National Action Plan 1 and National Action Plan 2, saying both were supported and implemented by governments led by PTI's own leadership. During the press conference, Talal also played video clips containing statements from political and military leaders. The clips stressed concerns over terrorist attacks originating from Afghan territory, called for cooperation against Fatah al-Khawarij, highlighted support for Pakistan's security forces, and emphasized action against those involved in terrorism. He questioned whether the National Action Plan was ever directed against a particular province or ethnic group and noted that PTI governments themselves had supported and implemented the policy. He further questioned why PTI political activities continued in areas affected by terrorism while other political parties, journalists, government employees, civil society members, and ordinary citizens faced security threats. Talal also raised questions regarding PTI's opposition to the use of drones in security operations. He argued that drones are now an important tool in modern warfare, internal security operations, and surveillance, and questioned whether preventing their use would weaken the security forces in the fight against terrorism. Concluding his remarks, Talal Chaudhry said that once consensus on terrorism had been achieved, the government provided political space to the opposition in line with the Prime Minister's instructions. He claimed that after receiving those assurances, the opposition had no remaining reason to withdraw from cooperation against terrorism but ultimately chose to walk away from the negotiations. AFP

PUNJAB ON EDGE

No gatherings as threats, PTI march loom

Section 144 imposed across Punjab until Oct 15

Pakistan's most populous province Punjab on Tuesday banned public gatherings for 10 days, citing intelligence warnings of possible militant attacks, as supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan continued a protest march toward Islamabad.

The order, effective from Oct. 6-15, prohibits gatherings, rallies, sit-ins, processions and demonstrations of five or more people in public places across Punjab, as well as carrying or displaying weapons and inciting participation in prohibited assemblies. The restrictions coincide with a march led by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party from neighboring Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province toward the federal capital. The procession, which began on Sunday to demand Khan's release, reached Kohat on Monday and is due to travel toward Peshawar on Tuesday before converging near the Punjab border at Khairabad on Oct. 8. The Punjab government said, however, the restrictions were imposed because law enforcement and intelligence agencies had reported a "serious and imminent threat" to public peace and safety from militant groups and "hostile intelligence agencies." "Multiple threat alerts have been received from IAs regarding possible terrorist activities being planned by such hostile agencies by employing

suicide bombers, Vehicle Bound Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) and target killings during large public gatherings across Punjab," said the Home Department order. It said rallies, demonstrations, sit-ins and other gatherings could provide "easy targets" for militant attacks and risk loss of life and damage to property or critical infrastructure. The order exempts weddings, funerals and gatherings at mosques and other places of worship, as well as courts, official government duties and events specifically authorized by district authorities. Law enforcement, intelligence and security personnel on duty are also exempt. Punjab had already imposed similar restrictions from Sept. 23 through Oct. 5, covering the period in which PTI had initially planned to begin its march. The provincial government cited militant threats when announcing those measures as well. Security has also been tightened in Islamabad ahead of the possible arrival of Khan's supporters. The federal government has extended the deployment of paramilitary Rangers in the capital and parts of Punjab until Oct. 15, while authorities have positioned shipping containers and additional security personnel around Islamabad. PTI launched the march after negotiations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government ended without agreement, including over access to Khan and differences on counterterrorism policy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which has been hit by a resurgence in militant violence. Khan, who was ousted in a parliamentary no-confidence vote in April 2022, has been imprisoned since August 2023 on corruption and other charges that he says are politically motivated. His party is demanding his release and greater access to him for relatives, lawyers and political associates. The march's announced itinerary currently ends at Khairabad on Oct. 8, where PTI has said it will reveal its plans for the next phase. NEWS DESK

FCCP: No right to regularization for probationers

Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan (FCCP) has held that an employee appointed on probation has no vested right to permanent appointment or continuation in service, while termination during probation on grounds of unsatisfactory performance ordinarily does not amount to dismissal or removal from service. A three-member bench comprising Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Asmer Farooq and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi gave the ruling while deciding a petition filed by the Director General of the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and others against Rahat Mahmood. The court set aside the Balochistan High Court judgment of March 31, 2026, and restored the order terminating Rahat Mahmood's services during probation due to unsatisfactory performance. The FCCP held that probation enables an employer to assess an employee's competence, suitability and performance and determine whether continuation in service is in the institution's interest. Although appointed against a civil post, a probationer remains temporary during the probationary period and acquires no vested right to permanent appointment. The court observed that ordinarily no hearing was required before termination solely for unsatisfactory performance. However, where termination was based on allegations of corruption or misconduct that could adversely affect the employee's future, a show-cause notice and proceedings in accordance with law would be necessary. The court cautioned that an employer could not use "unsatisfactory performance" as a pretext for punitive or male fide termination and that a probationer's future should not be unnecessarily stigmatized. It held that no violation of Articles 4 or 25 of the Constitution was established. The FCC converted NUML's petition into an appeal and allowed it, holding that Rahat Mahmood's termination was in accordance with the terms of his appointment. AFP

Over 75% hajj pilgrims go digital for 2nd payment

More than 14,600 pilgrims make payments worth Rs 9.3 billion (\$33 million) as collection begins Pakistan has allocated 107,526 government slots from its 179,210 quota for Hajj 2027

More than three-quarters of Pakistani pilgrims paying the second instalment for next year's Hajj used digital channels on the opening day, the religious affairs ministry said on Tuesday, as Islamabad moves toward an increasingly digital system for managing the annual pilgrimage. Pakistan has been allocated 179,210 places for Hajj 2027, with 107,526 reserved for the government scheme and 71,684 for private operators. All places under the government scheme were booked in August through an online reservation system, according to the ministry. The digital push forms part of Pakistan's first four-year Hajj policy, covering 2027-2030, which replaces annual policies and calls for the digitization of payments, complaints and monitoring as authorities seek to improve transparency and oversight of pilgrimage operations. "More than 75 percent of pilgrims made their payments online from home through the Digital Hajj Portal," a religious affairs ministry spokesperson said in a statement.

The ministry said 14,605 pilgrims paid their second instalment on Monday, bringing in Rs9.3 billion (\$33 million). Of those, 10,000 paid from home through the OneLink payment network, while 899 used bank cards and 3,612 opted for manual bank challans. The deadline for pilgrims under the government scheme to pay the second instalment is Oct. 20, according to the ministry. Pilgrims must upload a medical fitness certificate to the Hajj portal before making the payment. The ministry's website lists the second instalment collection period as Oct. 5-20. Pakistan has increasingly moved Hajj registration, payments and other services online after problems with private operators contributed to tens of thousands of Pakistanis missing the pilgrimage in 2025. Under the new system, registration for Hajj 2027 was made mandatory for both government and private pilgrims and could be completed from home through the Hajj portal or Pak Hajj mobile application. The four-year policy also allows prospective pilgrims to register continuously for future Hajj seasons through 2030, creating a priority waiting list rather than requiring a new registration exercise each year. The government has also moved private Hajj bookings and payments online. The National Information Technology Board says 25 approved Hajj companies have uploaded 16 basic packages to the digital system, while the ministry has instructed private pilgrims to make payments through official digital channels rather than directly to operators. Government packages for Hajj 2027 have been set at Rs1.2 million (\$4,300) for the standard roughly 40-day program and Rs1.3 million (\$4,660) for a shorter 20-25-day option. The 2027 allocation is unchanged from Pakistan's 179,210-person quota for Hajj 2026, but the distribution has shifted. The 2026 policy allocated 119,210 places to the government scheme and capped the private scheme at 60,000, compared with 107,526 government and 71,684 private places for 2027. NEWS DESK

ECP final notice to PkMAP over amended constitution

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday gave the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) a final opportunity to submit its response on amendments to its constitution and adjourned until October 13 the hearings of cases concerning the party's amended constitution and intra party elections. A five member ECP bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the two cases. PkMAP counsel Advocate Eimal Khan Mandokhail appeared before the commission. During the hearing on objections to PkMAP's amended constitution, the commission noted that the party had been asked at the previous hearing to submit its response but had failed to do so. The party's counsel told the commission that the Balochistan High Court had heard the matter on October 5 and reserved its judgment, while also extending the stay order concerning the party's intra-party elections. The CEC directed the counsel to read out the petition filed before the high court. However, the counsel could not produce the relevant record before the commission. The CEC directed the lawyer to appear at the next hearing with all relevant records and observed that the ECP would give PkMAP a final opportunity to respond to the issue of amendments to its constitution. He said the commission would examine whether the high court's stay order was limited only to the intra-party elections or also applied to the amended constitution. He remarked that it appeared PkMAP was not taking the case seriously, saying the counsel should have appeared fully prepared or not appeared at all. The ECP subsequently adjourned the hearings of PkMAP's amended constitution and intra party election cases until October 13. AFP

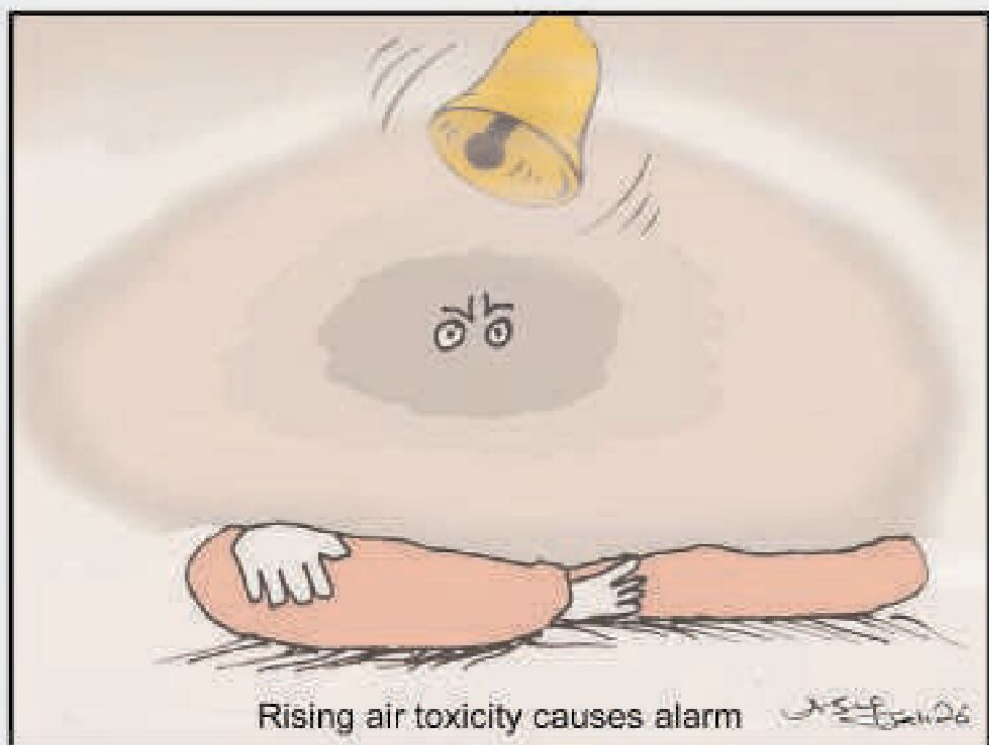
Women Safety: Panic buttons placed on Lahore bridges

On the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has launched a major safety initiative to strengthen the security of women and female students at overhead pedestrian bridges across Lahore. Under the initiative, emergency panic buttons and surveillance cameras are being installed at pedestrian bridges to enable women to seek immediate assistance in case of harassment, threats or any other emergency situation. According to a PSCA spokesperson, emergency panic buttons have been installed at the overhead pedestrian bridges of Lahore College for Women University and Kinnaird College in the first phase. In the second phase, similar panic buttons and surveillance cameras will be installed at other key pedestrian bridges across Lahore. The spokesperson said that women and female students facing harassment or an emergency situation at these bridges will be able to press the panic button to establish direct contact with the Safe City Control Room. The control room will immediately

assess the situation through the surveillance system and, where required, dispatch the concerned police team for prompt assistance. The installation of cameras will also enable live monitoring and enhanced surveillance of pedestrian bridges, helping authorities identify suspicious activity and respond swiftly to incidents involving women's safety. The spokesperson emphasized that PSCA is making effective use of modern technology to prevent harassment and improve security at public places. The initiative will provide women and female students with quick access to police assistance and an enhanced sense of security while using overhead pedestrian bridges. He added that other important pedestrian bridges in Lahore will also be gradually integrated with the Safe City system as part of the initiative. The Punjab Safe Cities Authority remains committed to leveraging advanced technology to create a safer environment for women and all citizens in addition to strengthening timely police response and public safety across the province. NEWS DESK



EDITORIAL



Makkah alliance is taking shape

The emergency meeting in Riyadh, held amid growing security threats to Saudi Arabia, has given the Makkah alliance a more concrete shape. The agreement to provide and rapidly deploy agreed military forces and capabilities shows that the three countries want to turn their political commitment into a working security arrangement. The appointment of Pakistan's Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood (Ret.) as the alliance's first Secretary-General for three years also gives the new grouping an institutional structure. Most importantly, the language of the agreement is defensive. The three countries have spoken about protecting their security, sovereignty and territorial integrity and responding to threats against Saudi Arabia. Their condemnation of attacks targeting cities, civilian facilities and economic infrastructure, as well as the attempted targeting of Makkah and Madinah, is understandable. At a time when tensions are high and the region is already suffering from repeated conflicts, a clear commitment to collective defence can provide reassurance. It is also welcome that the agreement refers to national laws and approved arrangements, rather than giving the alliance an open-ended military mandate.

The larger question, however, is how this new security arrangement will be used. The Middle East has seen too many examples of defensive alliances becoming part of wider military confrontations. The Makkah Alliance should be deterrence, protection and stability. The deployment of forces in Saudi Arabia must therefore remain strictly linked to the defence of the Kingdom and the security of the member states. Pakistan and Türkiye, in particular, have an opportunity to help shape the alliance as a responsible security mechanism rather than another instrument of regional rivalry. The protection of Makkah and Madinah carries a special importance, but it must also be accompanied by restraint and wisdom. A strong defence does not necessarily mean an aggressive posture. Indeed, the alliance will gain greater credibility if its strength is used to prevent war rather than prepare for one. The Makkah framework can become a useful example of regional cooperation if it remains defensive, transparent and respectful of sovereignty. Its real success should be measured not by the number of troops deployed, but by whether it makes the region safer and reduces the possibility of a wider conflict.

The Houthis have also paid a heavy price for their policy of confrontation with neighboring countries and their involvement in the wider conflict over strategic sea routes. Inside Yemen, the group has failed to provide a convincing model of governance.

Ordinary Yemenis have continued to suffer from poverty, declining public services and insecurity. Instead of reconciliation and development, there has been little room for accepting political differences.

The Houthis have moved closer to the Bab Al-Mandab Strait after years of conflict that have weakened Yemen, exhausted its people and created instability across the region. The group was offered several opportunities to return to reconciliation and work within the Yemeni state. However, it continued to place its regional agenda above Yemen's interests.

With these opportunities for peace exhausted, Yemen's legitimate authorities say they have been left with no choice but to take comprehensive action against the Houthis. President Rashad Al-Alimi announced on Sunday that military operations would begin to recover the remaining territory of the republic and restore the authority of the state.

Al-Alimi said the decision came after all efforts to reduce tensions had failed. Instead of responding positively to peace efforts, the Houthis continued their attacks against Yemenis, neighboring countries and international waterways.

The group's involvement in the wider regional conflict after the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Flood has also brought it closer to the Bab Al-Mandab Strait. The Houthis have sought to connect the situation around Bab Al-Mandab with the Strait of Hormuz. This has raised concerns about the security of important international trade routes and the global economy.

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of governance. Ordinary Yemenis have continued to suffer from poverty, declining public services and insecurity. Instead of reconciliation and development, there has been little room for accepting political differences.

Those who disagree with the Houthis have often been treated as enemies. Advice and criticism have been viewed with suspicion. Rather than building support through better governance and public services, the group has relied heavily on weapons and force.

As a result, poverty has increased, public services have declined and fear has spread among the people living in areas controlled by the Houthis.

The group has also failed to deal properly with the complex social and political structure of Yemen. Instead of bringing different parts of society together, it has followed a policy aimed at controlling people and weakening their ability to resist.

The Houthis have also challenged international rules and norms. They appear to have believed that a militia could change the regional balance of power by relying on a wider regional agenda.

Their use of missiles and drones against neighboring countries has added to regional tensions. They also

appear to have misunderstood the patience shown by neighboring states, which hoped the group would eventually change course and return to a more peaceful approach.

Yemen cannot allow its future to remain controlled by a group that has deepened the country's divisions. At the same time, regional countries cannot accept the idea of a militia controlling an important international waterway such as Bab Al-Mandab.

If the international community does not accept Iran controlling the Strait of Hormuz, the same principle should apply to Bab Al-Mandab. Such an important waterway cannot safely be placed under the control of an armed group.

Repeated efforts to bring the Houthis into serious dialogue have failed. According to this view, the group has shown little acceptance of the idea of a state in which different political and social groups can live together.

The concept of state institutions has remained weak in the group's political approach. Instead, the Houthis have acted as if their mission goes beyond Yemen itself. Their actions have brought more conflict into Yemen and have also connected the country to wider regional struggles.

Yemen does not need more mili-



GHASSAN CHARBEL

The writer is editor-in-chief of Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper.

Netanyahu cannot afford for Gaza war

There is a clear contradiction at the centre of the Gaza war. Israel continues to talk about ceasefires, negotiations and security arrangements, but military operations continue to kill Palestinians and destroy an already devastated Gaza. This raises an important question: why does the war continue when it has failed to produce a lasting political solution?

Recent events have made this question even more important. Despite a US-backed ceasefire framework, Israeli forces have continued to carry out strikes in Gaza. An Israeli airstrike in Gaza City recently killed at least five Palestinians, including four women. Israel said the strike targeted a Hamas political leader. Hamas, however, accused Israel of breaking the ceasefire.

For Palestinians, a ceasefire that exists only on paper means very little. A real ceasefire should stop the killing, allow humanitarian aid to reach people and create space for rebuilding. It should also open the way for a political solution. Instead, much of Gaza remains destroyed, Israel continues to control large parts of the territory and reconstruction has hardly started.

More than 100,000 Gazans remain displaced outside the Gaza Strip. Those who have returned face destroyed homes, damaged roads, weak public services and continuing insecurity. Their lives remain far from normal.

Israel says its main goal is to eliminate Hamas and protect its people. But the continuation of the war also has a domestic political side. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under serious political pressure because of the security failures surrounding the Oct. 7, 2023 attack. The debate in Israel is no longer only about how the attack happened. It is also about who should be held responsible for the failures that allowed it to happen.

Nearly three years later, Israel still does not have the independent state commission of inquiry demanded by many victims' families and opposition groups. Netanyahu has opposed such an inquiry, saying it could be biased. His government has instead supported another form of investigation that critics say may not be independent enough.

This issue is highly sensitive because an independent investigation could raise difficult questions about the decisions made before and during the Oct. 7 attack.

As long as Israel remains focused on Gaza, hostages and security threats, these questions can remain in the background. The national debate is dominated by the war. Questions about intelligence failures, military preparedness and political responsibility can easily be pushed aside in the name of national security.

This does not prove that Netanyahu is continuing the war only to avoid accountability. But it does show that a prolonged conflict can serve political interests as well as military ones.

There is another important contradiction. The Oct. 7 attack exposed serious weaknesses in Israel's security system. Yet the government also needs to show the Israeli public that the military has restored control and deterrence.

Continued military operations can therefore be presented as proof of strength. But military action alone has not solved the larger problems. Israel has caused enormous destruction in Gaza and displaced almost the entire population. It has also maintained military control over large areas. Yet Hamas has not disap-

peared. The hostage issue remains deeply sensitive. Reconstruction has barely begun, and there is still no clear and lasting political plan for Gaza.

Israeli military investigations have also found serious failures around Oct. 7, including a lack of preparedness at important positions along the Gaza border. These findings make calls for accountability difficult to ignore.

The war is also costing Israel heavily. Its 2026 defence budget was about 184 billion shekels, or around \$60 billion, as the country continues to deal with the costs of several conflicts. Despite these huge costs, there has not been enough political pressure to bring the military campaign to a complete end.

International pressure has also remained limited. The United States has pushed for a political framework and reconstruction, while Israel continues to receive major security support. Governments around the world have repeatedly expressed concern over the suffering of Palestinian civilians. But without stronger consequences, such criticism has had limited effect.

This creates a situation in which the Israeli government may believe that continuing military operations carries fewer immediate political costs than accepting a full and permanent transition to a postwar situation.

A genuine end to the war would force difficult questions. Who will govern Gaza? Who will provide security? Who will pay for reconstruction? What will happen to Hamas? What will happen to Israeli forces? And how will Gaza become part of a legitimate Palestinian political system?

These questions cannot be solved through military force alone.

Israel is also have a right to know how the Oct. 7 security failure happened. They deserve to know whether warnings were ignored, what decisions were made and whether senior political and military leaders should accept responsibility. At the same time, Palestinians have a right to live in safety and dignity. They cannot be expected to accept an end less state of war simply because Israel continues to raise security concerns.

Security is important for both sides. But so are human life, dignity, political rights and the right to live without constant fear.

The greatest victims of this conflict are also those with the least power: Gaza's children.

Children have lost homes, schools, parents and relatives. Their education has been interrupted. Hospitals and health facilities have been damaged. Families have been forced to move again and again. Many children are growing up surrounded by destruction, fear and uncertainty.

The effects of this war will continue for many years, even if the fighting stops tomorrow.

A child who has lost several years of education cannot simply recover them because a ceasefire has been announced. A destroyed hospital cannot be rebuilt in a few days. A family that has lost its home or loved ones cannot return to its old life. The damage is therefore much greater than the number of buildings destroyed or people killed. When children lose their education, Gaza loses part of its future workforce. When healthcare systems collapse, injuries and illnesses can affect people for years. When young people grow up with displacement and insecurity, the effects can become social, economic and psychological.

Yemen begins battle to restore state

The Houthis have moved closer to the Bab Al-Mandab Strait after years of conflict that have weakened Yemen, exhausted its people and created instability across the region. The group was offered several opportunities to return to reconciliation and work within the Yemeni state. However, it continued to place its regional agenda above Yemen's interests.

With these opportunities for peace exhausted, Yemen's legitimate authorities say they have been left with no choice but to take comprehensive action against the Houthis. President Rashad Al-Alimi announced on Sunday that military operations would begin to recover the remaining territory of the republic and restore the authority of the state.

Al-Alimi said the decision came after all efforts to reduce tensions had failed. Instead of responding positively to peace efforts, the Houthis continued their attacks against Yemenis, neighboring countries and international waterways.

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of governance. Ordinary Yemenis have continued to suffer from poverty, declining public services and insecurity. Instead of reconciliation and development, there has been little room for accepting political differences.

Those who disagree with the Houthis have often been treated as enemies. Advice and criticism have been viewed with suspicion. Rather than building support through better governance and public services, the group has relied heavily on weapons and force.

As a result, poverty has increased, public services have declined and fear has spread among the people living in areas controlled by the Houthis.

The group has also failed to deal properly with the complex social and political structure of Yemen. Instead of bringing different parts of society together, it has followed a policy aimed at controlling people and weakening their ability to resist.

The Houthis have also challenged international rules and norms. They appear to have believed that a militia could change the regional balance of power by relying on a wider regional agenda.

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appear to have misunderstood the patience shown by neighboring states, which hoped the group would eventually change course and return to a more peaceful approach.

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Yemen does not need more mili-

tary adventures. It needs stability, functioning state institutions and legitimate security forces. It needs a government capable of bringing together its divided people and restoring hope.

This is why President Al-Alimi has described the new military operation as a battle to recover the state.

Yemen has already suffered greatly. It cannot remain an open wound controlled by forces that continue to increase the suffering of its people. The country needs a new direction.

The battle announced by Al-Alimi could therefore represent a new chapter in Yemen's long crisis. The Yemeni people have suffered for years and have waited a long time for peace and stability.

Yemen deserves the chance to step away from regional conflicts and focus on its own future. It deserves the opportunity to repair its damaged institutions, rebuild its economy and help its people recover from years of war.

Al-Alimi has also stressed that the campaign is not meant to be a war of revenge or subjugation. He has presented it as a battle for truth and justice.

He said the objective is not only to recover Yemeni territory but also to return the state to that territory. He also stressed that weapons should return to their proper place under the authority of the law.

This issue is not limited to Yemen. Other countries in the region are also dealing with armed groups whose weapons operate outside the full control of the state.

The wider question of armed factions and state authority is being discussed from Gaza to Iraq and

Lebanon. In several countries, armed groups have become deeply involved in regional conflicts, placing additional pressure on their own governments and societies.

The conflict that began with the Al-Aqsa Flood has spread across the region and has also created problems for the groups and countries associated with the so-called Axis of Resistance.

The Middle East cannot continue as a region filled with armed groups, wars, political divisions and occupations. The people of the region have already paid a heavy price.

The international community also has an interest in ending this cycle. Strategic waterways such as Bab Al-Mandab and Hormuz are important not only for regional countries but for global trade and economic stability.

Yemen's future should therefore not be decided by regional military ambitions. Its people should have the right to rebuild their country and restore state institutions.

The immediate challenge is difficult. Ending the power of an armed group and restoring state authority will not be easy. But the alternative is to allow Yemen to remain divided and unstable.

The country needs a government that can represent its people, security institutions that operate under the law and a political system that gives different groups space to participate.

For Yemen, the real goal should be to leave behind years of conflict and return to a normal national life.

The people of Yemen have waited long enough. They need peace, stability and a state that serves them rather than another chapter in the region's continuing wars.



HANI HAZAIMEH

The writer is a senior editor based in Amman.

OPINION

DTM



ISLAMABAD: Police block road leading to local hotel amid strict security for international cricket team. ONLINE

Letters To The EDITOR

Sukkur market needs urgent traffic control

The historic Sukkur Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar) market should be a lively and pleasant shopping area, but it has become increasingly difficult for people to walk and shop there comfortably.

One of the biggest problems is the large number of motorcycles entering the narrow streets of the market. Riders often drive through crowded areas and try to reach shops directly on their bikes, leaving very little space for pedestrians and families.

The roads around the market are also badly congested because of scattered pushcarts and the absence of proper parking facilities. Many visitors have no option but to leave their cars and motorcycles along the main roads, making the traffic situation even worse.

Unfortunately, there appears to be little effective regulation of traffic and encroachments in the area. The local administration and police need to take immediate action to improve the situation.

Motorcycles and cars should not be allowed inside the narrow inner streets of the market. Pushcarts should be moved to properly designated areas, while a suitable parking facility should be established nearby.

The Ghanta Ghar market is an important part of Sukkur's identity and history. It deserves better management so that residents and visitors can shop and walk there safely and comfortably.

RAINA NASEEM AKHTER

Students must not surrender their minds to AI

Artificial intelligence is becoming an important part of modern life, but its growing use also brings serious responsibilities. If AI is used without care, it could have negative effects on education and society.

Many students are increasingly using AI to complete their assignments instead of doing their own research and thinking. While such tools can be useful for learning, excessive dependence can weaken students' ability to think independently and develop practical skills.

Another serious concern is the misuse of AI to create fake pictures, videos and voices. Such material can be used to spread false information, mislead the pub-

lic, damage people's reputations and create confusion.

At itself is not the problem. The real issue is how people choose to use it. Students should use technology as a learning aid rather than allowing it to replace their own thinking and effort.

Schools, teachers and parents should also guide young people on responsible AI use. Students must continue to develop their creativity, research skills and ability to form independent opinions.

Technology should support human intelligence, not replace it. Responsible use of AI today will help ensure that it becomes a useful tool rather than a source of educational and social problems.

SHAYHAQ M SHARAF
Turbat

Children deserve privacy in the digital age

The growing use of social media has created a new concern that parents and society need to take seriously: children's online privacy.

Parents often share photographs, videos and personal information about their children on social media to record happy family moments. However, many may not realise that material posted online can remain available long after it is shared.

Pictures showing school uniforms, locations, birthdays or children's daily routines may appear harmless, but such information can expose children to unnecessary risks. It can also create a permanent digital record before children are old enough to decide what they want to share about themselves.

Parents and guardians should therefore think carefully before posting information about their children. Personal details that are not necessary should be kept private.

Schools and community organisations can also help by educating families about online safety and responsible use of social media. Children should be taught from an early age that information shared online can travel far beyond its original audience.

Social media can help families stay connected and share special moments, but this should not come at the cost of a child's privacy and safety.

Parents must remember that an online post may take only a few seconds to upload, but its consequences can remain for many years.

MUHAMMAD SHAHEER HABIB
Lahore

Philippines can turn floods into opportunity

A dam can only control water within its catchment area. It cannot stop heavy rain that falls directly on cities. Coastal flooding and storm surges also require different solutions. Poor urban drainage can make flooding worse and must be addressed separately. Reservoirs can also change rivers and affect ecosystems. Sediment can build up inside reservoirs and reduce their useful life. Changes in river systems can also affect fish, local communities and natural habitats.

The Philippines faces a serious flood problem, but its large amount of water could also become a major economic opportunity. Building dams across the country's major river basins could help control floods while also improving water supplies, farming and electricity production.

National Irrigation Administration Administrator Eddie Guillen has suggested building dams across the Philippines' 18 major river basins. The idea is to use these projects for several purposes at the same time. They could store floodwater; provide water for farms; support food production and generate hydropower.

The financial figures are also significant. If one dam costs about ₱10 billion, or around \$159 million, 18 dams would cost approximately ₱180 billion, or \$2.87 billion. Spread over five years, that would mean around ₱36 billion, or \$574 million, each year.

However, the ₱10-billion figure should only be seen as an initial assumption. It should not yet be treated as the final cost of building 18 dams. Each project would have different costs depending on its location, size, design and environmental and social requirements.

The Philippines already has experience in using dams for more than one purpose. The country has many rivers and waterfalls and has developed several hydropower projects.

There are currently around 21 major and large operational dams in the country. The Philippines also has about 15 run-of-the-river hydropower systems. Existing hydropower facilities produce electricity while also supporting irrigation and agriculture.

The country has 421 principal rivers and 18 major river basins. Some of its important rivers include the Cagayan River, the longest river in the Philippines, the Mindanao River, the Agusan River, the Pampanga River and the Pasig River.

The Philippines also has more than 1,500 estimated waterfalls across its islands, although there is no exact official number.

One important example is the Agus-Pulangi Hydropower Complex in Mindanao. The facility began operating in 1953 and includes seven hydroelectric power plants. Together, they form a major clean-energy system with a capacity of about 1,000 megawatts.

Six of the plants are located along the Agus River in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte. Water flows from Lake Lanao and eventually drops toward Maria Cristina Falls.

The project shows how natural water resources can support several parts of the economy. Water can be used for electricity, farming and other needs. It can also help reduce some flood risks.

Another important example is the Calinaya-Botocan-Kalayaan pumped-storage hydropower plant. It was first energised in 1983 and can produce nearly 797 megawatts of electricity. It also supports nearby farms and fishponds and provides income to the government through payments made by private operators.

These examples show why dams can be useful when they are properly planned and managed.

A reservoir can store water during periods of heavy rain. This can reduce the amount of water flowing downstream at one time and may lower flood peaks. During dry periods, the stored water can be released for irrigation and public water supplies.

The water can also be used to produce electricity.

The Jeleur project is another example of

this approach. It is designed to expand irrigation by about 9,500 hectares and benefit around 25,000 farmers. It can also provide additional water and hydropower.

This means the economic value of a dam should not be measured only by its construction cost.

The benefits can include lower flood damage, greater agricultural production, improved water supplies and more electricity. These benefits could become especially important during dry periods and El Niño conditions.

But the costs must also be taken seriously. They include construction, buying land, moving communities when necessary, environmental protection, operation, maintenance and dealing with sediment in reservoirs.

There are also strong environmental and social concerns about new large dams.

One major example is the Kaliwa Dam in the Sierra Madre. Civil society groups have raised concerns about environmental laws, the rights of local communities and the possible effects on forests and people living downstream.

There has also been long-term opposition to some dam projects in the Cordillera region. The resistance is connected to indigenous land rights and concerns about changing natural river flows.

Another example is the proposed Mazon Pumped-Storage project in Apayao. The planned 2,000-megawatt project has faced concerns about habitat loss, freshwater fish and the possible impact on Isneg ancestral lands.

Such concerns should not simply be ignored.

Environmental groups can play an important role by forcing governments and developers to improve project designs, protect legal rights and consider long-term environmental risks. Their concerns can also encourage governments to consider other climate-resilient solutions.

Dams, however, cannot solve every flood problem.

A dam can only control water within its catchment area. It cannot stop heavy rain that falls directly on cities. Coastal flooding and storm surges also require different solutions. Poor urban drainage can make flooding worse and must be addressed separately.

Reservoirs can also change rivers and affect ecosystems. Sediment can build up inside reservoirs and reduce their useful life. Changes in river systems can also affect fish, local communities and natural habitats.

For this reason, building 18 dams does not mean building 18 identical projects.

Every river basin is different. Rainfall, geography, population, farming needs and water demand vary from one area to another.

Some areas may need large reservoirs. Other areas may benefit more from wetlands, restored floodplains, smaller water-storage projects, reforestation or better drainage systems.

The real question is therefore not whether the Philippines should build 18 dams or build none.

The better question is where each peso of public money can provide the greatest combined benefit.

A dam can make strong economic sense when there is a suitable location, enough water, sufficient storage capacity and a real need for irrigation. It should also provide meaningful flood protection and have manageable environmental and social effects.



JAY HILOTIN

(The writer is journalist at Gulf News)

Iran exposes the hidden cost of war

Retired Navy commander Bryan Clark warned that Iran's missile and drone launchers are located very close to the shipping route. He said drones can fly at different speeds and altitudes and can still cause serious damage to a ship. There is also an economic advantage for Iran. Defence analyst Kris Osborn has pointed out that Shahed-style drones can cost around \$20,000, while the missiles used to destroy them can cost millions of dollars.

On September 14, an Iranian cruise missile hit a vessel in the Strait of Hormuz carrying eight US Marines. The Marines breathed smoke, and some showed signs of brain injuries. But the Pentagon did not publicly announce the attack.

Americans learned about it weeks later through NBC News. The eight Marines were added to the official US casualty database almost 10 days after the missile strike.

The same database also recorded 29 Navy sailors who were wounded in incidents that the Navy has still refused to identify. A Navy official told The Intercept that the casualties had been "fully validated", but he would not reveal the units involved.

This secrecy has now become an important part of the war. Seven months into a conflict that Washington says it is winning, the United States appears unwilling or unable to clearly tell its people how much the war is costing.

The official casualty figures continue to rise. Out of 880 American troops reported wounded or killed, 444 became casualties after July 7. That was the day the administration announced that Operation Epic Fury had ended.

Iran chooses a different kind of war: Iran lost much of its navy during the first month of the conflict. But it did not lose control of the Strait of Hormuz.

The United States attacked Iran's naval forces heavily at the beginning of the war. On March 4, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth announced that a US submarine had sunk the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena off Sri Lanka.

By March 11, Washington claimed that 60 Iranian warships had been destroyed.

But Iran was never planning to fight the US Navy ship for ship.

Instead, the Revolutionary Guard has used an asymmetric strategy. It operates from the coastline, hides mobile missile launchers in difficult terrain and sends fast boats from island areas. It also uses

drones in large numbers and then moves away before American aircraft can locate the launch sites.

This strategy became clear on May 7, when Iran used missiles, drones and small boats against three American destroyers - USS Truxtun, USS Mason and USS Rafael Penita - as they passed through the Strait of Hormuz. US Central Command said no American vessel was hit. However, the attack forced the ships to use defensive weapons and led to further US strikes.

The geography of the strait makes the problem even more difficult. At its narrowest point, the Strait of Hormuz is only about 21 nautical miles wide.

Retired Navy commander Bryan Clark warned that Iran's missile and drone launchers are located very close to the shipping route. He said drones can fly at different speeds and altitudes and can still cause serious damage to a ship. There is also an economic advantage for Iran. Defence analyst Kris Osborn has pointed out that Shahed-style drones can cost around \$20,000, while the missiles used to destroy them can cost millions of dollars.

This creates an expensive exchange for the US Navy. A destroyer has a limited number of missiles. If it uses too many interceptors, it may have to leave the area and return for reloading.

Iran has continued to add new weapons and tactics.

On September 7, Mohsen Rezaei claimed that a new Iranian anti-ship missile had flown over an American warship. US Central Command confirmed an attack but said no damage had been reported.

The following day, Iran's Revolutionary Guard announced that it had captured a US Dive-LD under-

water drone. Iranian officials said they planned to study and reverse-engineer it.

US strategy faces a serious test.

The US Navy was designed mainly for large-scale warfare in open seas. Its destroyers have advanced air-defence systems, while aircraft carriers allow the United States to project air power over long distances.

But the Strait of Hormuz presents a very different battlefield.

Iran does not have to fight according to America's preferred methods. It can use small boats, drones, missiles and hidden launchers in a narrow and crowded environment.

Washington has already changed its approach several times.

On April 13, the United States imposed a blockade on Iranian ports. On May 4, it launched Operation Project Freedom to protect commercial shipping. The operation was stopped only a few days later. After the ceasefire collapsed, Washington brought the blockade back on July 14.

Analysts now believe helicopters, fighter aircraft and surface drones are being used to protect tankers during night-time convoys.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt is also moving towards the region.

In early September, American forces attacked Iranian oil tankers after the Revolutionary Guard fired ballistic missiles at a US aircraft carrier and destroyer.

Retired Navy commander Paul Viscovich argued that Iran had used tactics that the US Navy and Marine Corps were not fully prepared to face.

He suggested that American warships should



JASIM AL-AZZAWI

(The writer is a prominent news anchor in Doha)

operate with cheaper and expendable unmanned systems. But building and deploying such a new system will take time.

The growing gap between words and numbers. The biggest concern is not only the fighting. It is the difference between what American officials say and what official records show.

In March, Defence Secretary Hegseth complained that even when a few drones got through or serious incidents happened, they received major media attention.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick later claimed that there had been no American deaths.

President Donald Trump described the conflict as "small potatoes".

But the casualty record tells another story.

The Pentagon's own database has listed at least 19 American deaths, including 11 caused by hostile action. On September 18, The Washington Post reported that five US officials estimated the number of deaths at no fewer than 22. A sixth official put the number at 23.

At the same time, the public database showed only 18 deaths.

Hegseth strongly rejected the report, calling it false.

The delay in releasing casualty information is also unusual. Joan Grenshaw, who worked on the US casualty system during the war on terror, said casualty information was normally received quickly.

A current official told The Intercept that the present delays appear to involve both poor administration and deliberate efforts to slow the release of information.

A similar pattern was seen after attacks on US bases.

For months, the Pentagon played down the February 28 attack on American naval facilities in Manama. Later, acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao admitted that Iran had caused serious damage in Bahrain.

NATIONAL

DTM

Pakistan, UK reaffirm cooperation on human rights

British Minister of State Stephen Doughty called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Naezer Tarar on Tuesday, with discussions focusing on human rights, protection of women and children, human trafficking, prevention of child marriages, the Indus Waters Treaty and regional peace and security.

The British High Commissioner and other members of the British delegation were also present during the meeting.

The Federal Minister raised the issue of India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and its potential implications for Pakistan's agriculture, food security and regional peace and security.

Senator Azam Naezer Tarar said a large segment of Pakistan's population was associated with agriculture, while Punjab served as the country's food hub. He stressed that protection of water resources was directly linked to Pakistan's economy, food security and the well-being of its people.

The minister said India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty was beyond the procedures provided under the agreement. He emphasized that water-related matters should be addressed in accordance with international law and the existing treaty framework. British Minister of State Stephen Doughty acknowledged the importance of water-related issues and emphasized the need for continued coop-

eration and engagement.

He said water and climate change were directly linked to agriculture, human security and preparedness for and effective response to natural disasters.

The meeting also discussed measures to prevent child sexual abuse, human trafficking and forced marriages, besides strengthening the protection of women and children. Senator Tarar said Pakistan had legislation in place to prevent child marriages and that the legal marriage age had been set at 18 years.

He said work was under way to link the marriage registration system with the national database, which would enable verification of age and facilitate timely action against violations.

The Federal Minister also briefed the British delegation on measures being taken to combat human trafficking, including immigration controls, airport screening and pre-arrival clearance mechanisms.

He said efforts were also under way to centralize and automate access to criminal records and relevant information.

The minister said timely exchange of crime-related information with relevant countries would be made more effective through mutual arrangements. Both sides agreed to continue cooperation on human rights, protection of women and children, prevention of human trafficking and other matters of mutual interest. **APP**



Bugti salutes police as heroes in war on terror

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday said that police are playing key role in war against terrorism with the aim to maintain durable peace in the province.

He said that all possible support would be provided to enhance their operational capacity of police for interest of peace and development of Balochistan.

He said this while presiding over a meeting here, in which discussed for making the province's security and policing systems more effective and modern.

The meeting included a detailed review of the overall security situation, police reforms, the use of modern technology, and measures to tackle the challenges posed by terrorism.

During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Muhammad Hamza Shafiq and Inspector General of Police (Balochistan) Muhammad Tahir Khan provided detailed briefings

on the security situation, the policing system, departmental reforms, and security measures. It was decided during the meeting to launch the 'Quetta Integrated Security Project' to align the province's security and policing systems with modern requirements.

The briefing revealed that 2,900 cameras would be installed across the city under the 'Quetta Green Digital Corridor' initiative to enhance the effectiveness of the security surveillance system.

It was also stated that new stations for the Quick Response Force (QRF) would be established under the project to ensure a swift and effective response to any emergency situation. In the meeting said that the operational capacity of security agencies will be enhanced through the use of modern technology and an integrated command-and-control system.

The meeting was also appraised of the ongoing reforms within the Balochistan Police and the process of departmental self-accountability. The briefing revealed that 871 police personnel have been dismissed for absenteeism and negligence of duty, while the services of 1,005 officers previously deployed with various dignitaries



have been returned to the police department.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the police play a pivotal role in the war against terror, with personnel standing on the front lines and sacrificing their lives for the peace of the country and the province. He directed that the police would be provided with modern training, essential equipment, and all necessary resources to tackle current challenges related to terrorism.

The Chief Minister affirmed that since the police have been deployed to the field against terrorism, they would receive full backing; the provincial government stands shoulder-to-shoulder with its brave police and security forces, and every possible support to be extended to enhance police operational capacity.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti maintained that the aim of reforming the policing system is to make the institution stronger, more accountable, and

public-friendly; there would be no compromise on departmental discipline and accountability; negligence and absenteeism to be discouraged, while personnel demonstrating good performance would be encouraged.

The Chief Minister said that the province's limited resources would be utilized for public welfare through better management and the setting of priorities saying that by curbing non-development expenditures, available resources to be spent on meeting the basic needs and ensuring the welfare of the public. He emphasized the need to work for the common man of Balochistan, the one who shivers in the biting cold and swelters in the scorching heat, the focus of all government policies and initiatives is to ensure the protection and convenience of the ordinary citizen and to improve their quality of life. **APP**

Administrative convenience no substitute for law: SC

The Supreme Court has held that the 2014 Service Rules of the Punjab School Education Department clearly provide for promotion of an Elementary School Teacher (Physical Education) to the post of Assistant Education Officer (Physical Education), and administrative convenience cannot be used to deprive an employee of a lawful promotion.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Shahid Waheed converted Muhammad Shafiq's civil petition into an appeal and allowed it, setting aside the March 12, 2025 judgment of the Punjab Service Tribunal.

The court also set aside the Education Department's May 24, 2023 order withdrawing Shafiq's promotion and declared him entitled to all consequential financial benefits from the date of withdrawal.

The court observed that under the 2014 Rules, an EST (Physical Education) possessing the requisite qualifications could be promoted to AEO (Physical Education), with promotion based on seniority-cum-fitness.

It clarified that a note providing for filling the AEO post from among Secondary School Teachers through transfer did not bar promotion of EST (Physical Education). Since both posts were in BS-16, such movement constituted transfer for administrative purposes rather than promotion. The court noted that Shafiq had been serving in the Education Department since 1995 and was the senior-most EST (Physical Education) eligible for promotion, but his promotion was withdrawn on the basis of an interpretation of the explanatory note.

The Supreme Court held that ambiguity in rules could not be used to deprive an employee of a lawful right. It stressed that matters relating to salary, seniority and promotion were fundamental aspects of a government servant's service rights. The court accordingly restored Shafiq's promotion and ordered payment of all consequential financial benefits. **APP**

OTP launched for filing of complaints with Mohtasib

Wafaqi Mohtasib Naveed Karam Baloch inaugurated a system of introducing a 'One Time Password (OTP)' at the Wafaqi Mohtasib Regional Office, Lahore during the monthly review meeting held Tuesday with a view to discourage fake complaints and maintain the sanctity of personal records in online filing of complaints.

The new system will not only promote efficiency and transparency but would also be instrumental in protecting the privacy and data of individual complainants there by eliminating the chances of irregularities and mishandling of cases.

The OTP system would serve as a strong check to discourage filing of fake complaints motivated by ill will and personal score settling, said a statement issued here.

During the review meeting, it was informed that the number of cases received during the period Jan-Sep 2026 were 216,719 compared to 192,755 in the same period of the corresponding year indicating an increase of 12 percent over the last year. The total cases disposed of during the year 2026 upto 30th September were 202,415. **APP**

PA speaker calls for strong institutions to sustain democracy

Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said on Tuesday that sustainable democracy requires more than elections, stressing the need for constitutional governance, representative institutions, accountability and strong public institutions.

Speaking at an international conference on "Leadership, Sustainable Democracy and National Cohesion" here, the speaker said the real test of leadership was not the attainment of power, but leaving behind institutions that were strong, credible and capable of serving the public.

He said democracy provided a constitutional framework for differences of opinion and that disagreements should be addressed through institutions and the law rather than becoming a source of division. "Listening to one another is an essential part of democratic practice," he said, adding that strong institutions were fundamental to public trust and sustainable democracy.

Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said the Punjab Assembly had established a Parliamentary Minorities Caucus to strengthen the participation of minority communities in the parliamentary process and contribute to the protection of their constitutional rights. He said nearly two-thirds of Pakistan's population was under the age of 30, making young people a central part of the country's national and democratic life.

"Young people are not merely the future; they are already shaping the country's future," he said.

The speaker urged universities to encourage dialogue, research, intellectual freedom and constructive disagreement among students. Young people, he said, should be encouraged to question, debate on the basis of evidence and listen to differing viewpoints.

He also called for stronger interaction between universities and legislatures, saying academic research and evidence could contribute to the legislative process and help connect young people with public institutions. He said the system of governance should operate according to law and that all citizens should enjoy their rights. Elected representatives, he added, brought public issues before the Assembly, where they were debated by members from both the treasury and opposition benches.



Inviting university students to visit the Punjab Assembly, Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said he wanted young people to "dream big", adding that the country's future was closely linked to their aspirations.

Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said his return to Government College University Lahore as Speaker of the Punjab Assembly and an Old Rawian was a matter of special honour. He said the university had played an important role in shaping his intellectual and academic life. **APP**

Shaza, Kamal review progress on 'One Patient, One ID' project

Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday reviewed progress on the "One Patient, One ID" project and agreed on a joint roadmap to make it operational soon. The meeting was held on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

According to the Ministry of IT, under the proposed system, a citizen's Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) number will serve as their unique medical record number, allowing all medical records to be linked to a single identification number.

The ministry said the system would enable doctors and hospitals to access a patient's complete medical history and previous records when the patient is shifted from one hospital to another.

"Technology and healthcare are being combined in the best possible way to make the medical treatment system more transparent and modern through digital medical records," Shaza Fatima Khawaja said.

The meeting stressed taking practical measures and

preparing clear terms of reference (TORs) to ensure the early implementation of the project. It was also decided in the meeting to conduct a third-party review of the "One Patient, One ID" project to ensure quality and transparency.

The participants agreed that all relevant institutions would work under a unified mechanism to finalise the project at the earliest in the public interest.



The meeting also agreed to activate an IT wing in the Ministry of Health to help understand and properly operate the new system. Under the initiative, patients' medical records will no longer remain scattered across different hospitals. Instead, they will be linked to their single CNIC number, enabling easier access to their medical history. **APP**

ATC extends interim bails of PTI leaders

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday extended the interim pre-arrest bail of PTI founder's sisters, Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, former federal ministers Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar, and other party leaders until November 6 in six cases related to the May 9 violence.

ATC Judge Malik Abid Hussain heard the bail petitions, including cases involving the alleged burning of a PML-N office and a container at Kalma Chowk.

Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar appeared before the court to mark their attendance.

Former provincial minister Masrat Jamshed Cheema, Jamshed Iqbal Cheema and Hafiz Farhat Abbas also appeared.

The court extended the interim bail of the accused until November 6 and directed their lawyers to complete their arguments on the bail petitions at the next hearing.

A one-day exemption from personal appearance was sought for former senator Azam Swati and Aleema and Uzma Khan. The court granted the exemption and extended their interim bail until November 6.

The court also extended the interim bail of Bilal Ejaz, Rai Hassan Nawaz, Ali Imtiaz Warraich, Muhammad Ahmad Chattha, Muhammad Ashraf Sohna, Rai Murtaza Iqbal and other PTI leaders until the next hearing.

The suspects are facing cases related to the May 9 unrest, including allegations of setting fire to a PML-N office and burning a container at Kalma Chowk, among other incidents. **app**

Hearing in Adaila Jail rioting case adjourned to Oct 20: The Special Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi adjourned the hearing of a case involving rioting outside Adaila Jail and interference in state affairs until, October 20, following the absence of defense counsel representing key accused.

During court proceedings on Tuesday, prosecution lawyers and nominated accused Chaudhry Nazir appeared before the bench.

However, defense counsel submitted one-day exemption applications for accused Nadia Khatolik, Asif Iqbal, Asad Abbas and Tayyaba Raja, which were accepted by the court before postponing further trial proceedings to October 20. **APP**

IHC seeks reply on appointment of attaches abroad

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday sought a response from the Establishment Division by October 26, on a petition challenging the appointment of community welfare attaches at Pakistani missions abroad.

Justice Ayaz Sheikh heard the petition filed by Raza Hassan.

The court extended its earlier order restraining the issuance of notifications for the appointment of community welfare attaches abroad. It also extended until October 26 the order restraining the announcement of results of interviews conducted in August 2026 for the posts.

The court observed that despite its directions, the Establishment Division had failed to submit its response. The court directed the Establishment Division to submit its reply by October 26, warning that if the response was not filed by the next hearing, the Establishment Secretary would have to appear in person.

The court also directed all parties to submit their written replies before the next hearing and adjourned the case until October 26. **APP**

NATIONAL

DTM

Sindh govt, Gates Foundation review polio eradication efforts

Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to eradicating polio and strengthening routine immunization during a meeting with a six-member Gates Foundation delegation led by Greg Widmyer, Director of Immunization.

The meeting reviewed efforts to interrupt poliovirus transmission, improve vaccination coverage and reach children among mobile and migrant populations. Particular attention was given to vaccination at transit points to ensure that children travelling between areas receive protection against polio.



The Chief Secretary said polio eradication remained the government's foremost priority. He stated that the Chief Minister Sindh, the provincial Health Minister and he himself were closely involved in overseeing polio campaigns and reviewing progress. He emphasized the importance of continuity in field operations, saying that transfers of officials involved in polio campaigns were discouraged during campaigns to maintain effective implementation and accountability. Appreciating the Gates Foundation's support, Asif Hyder Shah said its assistance had contributed to the province's efforts against polio. He stressed the importance of sustained cooperation to reach every eligible child and strengthen routine immunization alongside polio vaccination campaigns. Briefing the delegation on

measures to improve routine immunization, the Chief Secretary said the provincial government had hired vaccinators to expand vaccination coverage. He emphasized the need to reach children who had missed vaccinations, particularly those belonging to mobile and migrant families. He also informed the delegation about the provincial government's birth registration initiative, which aims to achieve 100 per cent birth registration. He highlighted the initiative's relevance to identifying children and supporting the planning and delivery of essential services, including immunization. The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Coordinator briefed the meeting on polio surveillance and reported that 28 of the 29 environmental samples in Karachi had tested negative for poliovirus. The Coordinator described the findings as an encouraging indication of the quality of vaccination campaigns and routine immunization efforts. The Gates Foundation delegation assured the Sindh government

of its continued support for polio eradication and the strengthening of routine immunization. The meeting emphasized sustained coordination, focused outreach to mobile populations and consistent vaccination coverage to advance the shared goal of a polio-free Sindh. Earlier, Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah visited various offices in Block 4B of the Sindh Secretariat and checked officials' attendance. He also reviewed the condition of the offices, including their cleanliness and upkeep. During the visit, the Chief Secretary expressed dissatisfaction over the standard of cleanliness and maintenance in some offices. He directed that the offices be kept clean and properly maintained. Shah also instructed officers to observe office timings and ensure their attendance. NEWS DESK

Punjab, Oman explore agri and skilled workforce ties

Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with Oman's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources Saud bin Hamoud bin Ahmed Al Habsi in Muscat and discussed enhanced cooperation between Punjab and Oman in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, aquaculture and other sectors.

The Omani minister warmly welcomed CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif and congratulated her on receiving the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award for the "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" program, said a handout issued here on Tuesday. The two sides agreed to expand cooperation between Punjab and Oman in agriculture, fisheries and livestock, while the Omani minister offered assistance in establishing Punjab's first shrimp center. CM offered to export quality meat from Punjab to Muscat at competitive international market rates and said measures would also be taken to increase exports of livestock for milk and meat production.

She proposed measures for lifting restrictions on the arrival of skilled workers from Punjab to Muscat. The Omani minister agreed to consider the proposal, saying that the demand for skilled workers in Oman remained high and Pakistani youth were endowed with exceptional talent. He said Punjab would be informed about the demand for skilled workers in different sectors in Oman, adding that skilled workers from Punjab would be welcomed in construction, aquaculture, agriculture and other fields. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said thousands of young people in Punjab had already received training under the skills development program according to market requirements. "Pakistan's 65 per cent youth is a valuable asset, and they are being equipped with skills through modern training programs," she said, adding that the exceptional abilities of Pakistani youth were recognized across the world. She said millions of young people in Punjab were being equipped with skills according to the requirements of local and international job markets, while modern technical training was being imparted in different sectors. Talking about the "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" program, the Chief Minister said construction of 200,000 to 250,000 houses under the initiative was a game changer in the housing sector. She said people from other



provinces were also coming to Punjab in search of better employment opportunities and a brighter future. CM Maryam Nawaz said former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had described her visit to Oman as a matter of good fortune while seeing her off for Muscat. "My father Muhammad Nawaz Sharif told me that I was fortunate because despite serving as prime minister three times, he could not visit Muscat," she said. The CM said Punjab was the backbone of Pakistan's agricultural economy and appreciated Oman's progress in fisheries and other sectors under the leadership of Minister Saud bin Hamoud bin Ahmed Al Habsi. She said Punjab had successfully conducted a pilot program for shrimp farming since last year as part of its efforts to promote aquaculture. Trial shrimp farming was under way in Shah Garh and Ali Wala areas of Muzaffargarh as well as Sangodha. She said Pakistan's first state-of-the-art aquaculture mall and shrimp diagnostic laboratory would be established at Shah Garh. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif

said modern machinery and techniques were being used for aquaculture farming in Punjab following the models of China, Norway, Vietnam, Indonesia and other countries. She said the provincial government was planning shrimp farming on 30,000 acres across Punjab, including Bahawalpur, and would welcome cooperation from Muscat for further promotion of aquaculture. The CM said she would request Prime Minister (PM) Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to facilitate the export of live livestock from Punjab to Muscat. She said Punjab was ready to export high-quality meat to Muscat at competitive rates in line with international market prices. Oman's Minister Saud bin Hamoud bin Ahmed Al Habsi welcomed Punjab's first woman Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to Muscat and said the demand for skilled workers in Oman remained strong. He said Pakistani youth possessed exceptional capabilities and assured that Oman would welcome skilled workers from Punjab in construction, aquaculture, agriculture and other sectors. NEWS DESK

'Miles of Hope' raises awareness about brain tumour

The Pakistan Academy of Neurological Surgery (PANS), in collaboration with the Vintage & Classic Car Club of Pakistan (VCCCP), the Pakistan Society of Neuro-Oncology (PASNO), and the Brain Tumor Foundation Pakistan (BTFPak), successfully hosted the inaugural "Miles of Hope" Brain Tumor Awareness Drive and Vintage Car Show yesterday in Karachi.

The landmark initiative combined the prestige of heritage automotive culture with an urgent national campaign for brain tumor awareness and neurosurgical education. The event commenced in the afternoon as a magnificent convoy of over 30 rare classic automobiles journeyed on a heritage drive from Feroz Hall to the Fort Grand Main Promenade. Hundreds of visitors, families, and healthcare advocates gathered along the waterfront to view the historic vehicles, interact with classic car owners, and

engage with medical professionals and patient advocacy groups to learn more about the critical importance of early diagnosis and continuous public support. The "Miles of Hope" drive demonstrated the remarkable power of community when we unite for a critical health cause," said Prof. Dr. Syed Ather Enam, S.N., Founding President of PANS and PASNO. "A brain tumor diagnosis remains a formidable challenge, but seeing citizens, medical professionals, and partners come together reinforces our resolve to build robust national infrastructure for neurosurgical training and patient care. It was an important step forward for neuro-oncology in Pakistan." Mr. Mohsin Ikram, Founder and President of the Vintage & Classic Car Club of Pakistan (VCCCP), reflected on the success: "VCCCP has always been dedicated to preserving automotive heritage, but driving through Karachi for brain tumor awareness gave our passion a profound purpose. We are thrilled by the overwhelming public reception and proud to stand alongside PANS to demonstrate how our community can drive meaningful, lifesaving advocacy." The success of the inaugural drive marks the beginning of an annual initiative aimed at continually expanding neurosurgical access, medical education, and patient support nationwide. NEWS DESK

Sindh, ADB plan Rs 278 billion investment in five major cities

The Government of Sindh in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will invest approximately US\$1 billion equivalent to Rs 278 billion in urban development and climate resilience projects in five divisional headquarters of Sindh - Sukkur, Hyderabad, Larkana, Mirpurkhas and Shaheed Benazirabad. Mayor Sukkur and Spokesperson for the Sindh Government Barister Arsalan Islam Sheikh, while addressing the Climate Adaptation Investment Planning (CAIP) Forum held at the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank in Manila and speaking to the media said that the investment would cover a wide range of projects including clean water supply, sewerage, solid waste management, modern landfill sites, climate-resilient infrastructure, plantation, urban forests and comprehensive master plans. Barister Arsalan Islam Sheikh said that the Sindh Secondary Cities Improvement and Investment Program were among the province's major urban development initiatives. The programme aims not only to improve basic urban services but also to strengthen the economic potential of cities and create employment and economic opportunities for youth, women and vulnerable segments of society. He said that modern scientific landfill sites would be established under the programme, incorporating resource recovery and revenue-

generation systems. Climate-resilient infrastructure, plantation and urban forestry initiatives, international-standard master plans and detailed development plans for various sectors would also be prepared. The Mayor of Sukkur said that documentation related to Project Readiness Financing was almost complete and was expected to be published shortly. He said the programme would also include public-private partnership projects to improve municipal services, create sustainable sources of revenue for local government institutions and enable municipal corporations to gradually become financially self-sufficient. Barrister Arsalan Islam Sheikh described the approval of a US\$2 million grant for Sukkur as an important development and thanked the Rockefeller Foundation, the British Government and the Asian Development Bank for their support. He said that the amount approved under the Urban Resilience Trust Fund for Sukkur's Climate and Heat Adaptation Investment Planning was a complete grant, not a loan, and therefore would carry no repayment obligation or service charges. He said that international consultants would begin work in Sukkur in November 2026. With their assistance, investment-ready projects would be developed, opportunities for securing additional financial resources would be explored and long-term planning would be

undertaken to improve urban infrastructure and protect citizens from the impacts of extreme heat. Special attention would be given to protecting vulnerable communities, including low-income families and residents of informal settlements. He said climate change was among the most serious challenges facing the world while extreme heat, floods and water shortages had adversely affected public life, livelihoods and basic urban services. To address these challenges, climate-resilient infrastructure and integrated planning were essential. Barister Arsalan Islam Sheikh said that government representatives, development partners and international financial institutions participated in the CAIP Forum, where climate-resilient infrastructure and effective partnership models for investment were discussed. He said it was an honour for him to represent Pakistan, Sindh and particularly Sukkur at the forum. He further said that ADB Vice President for South, Central and West Asia, Ying Ming Yang had assured full cooperation to the Government of Sindh and relevant local government institutions for the timely implementation of the projects. He said the assurance reflected international confidence in Sindh's urban development and climate priorities. On the sidelines of the forum Barister Arsalan Islam Sheikh met with Krishna Prasad Yadav, Chief Minister of Nepal's Madhesh Province and expressed condolences over the loss of precious human lives in the recent floods in Nepal. He said that Pakistan and Sindh were also well aware of the difficulties caused by climate-related disasters, making global cooperation, climate-resilient planning and exchange of experiences more important than ever. NEWS DESK



SC rejects plea to repatriate traffic wardens to district police cadre

The Supreme Court (SC) has held that personnel permanently absorbed into the Punjab Police Traffic Wardens Service Cadre cannot be sent back to the General District Police Cadre, stressing that police authorities must ensure compliance with rules and regulations in administrative matters.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Ayeshah A. Malik and Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui dismissed a civil petition challenging the retention of Punjab traffic wardens in their service cadre and upheld the Punjab Service Tribunal's judgment. In its detailed judgment, the court observed that a separate cadre had been created for the Traffic Police under a 1995 standing order, under which the concerned personnel were permanently absorbed into the Traffic Wardens Service Cadre. Their service was subsequently regulated under the Punjab Police Traffic Wardens Service Rules, 2017. The court noted that the personnel had served in the Traffic Wardens Service Cadre for a considerable period and had undergone various traffic-related training courses. Their repatriation to the General District Police Cadre

was therefore unjustified. The Supreme Court observed that disregard of rules and regulations by institutions and departments contributed to unnecessary litigation. It said that where the same administrative process repeatedly resulted in complaints, litigation or judicial intervention, the department should identify and rectify shortcomings in its rules, implementation or administrative procedures. The court further held that judicial proceedings were meant to correct unlawful administrative actions and should not become a permanent mechanism for running routine administrative affairs. The Supreme Court dismissed the Punjab Police's civil petition and declined to interfere with the Punjab Service Tribunal's December 20, 2024 judgment. AP



BACKPAGE

Pakistan pitches \$26bn, 35 projects to investors

By 2030, country aims to eliminate poverty, protect the earth, and promote peace and health for all

Pakistan on Tuesday sought global investment worth \$26 billion in 35 projects prepared with the support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aiming to eliminate poverty, protect the earth, and bring peace and health to all people by the year 2030.

"Working with the federal and provincial governments, UNDP's SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] Plus Programme has helped prepare 35 projects across nine sectors, worth around \$26 billion in potential investment," said UNDP Pakistan's Deputy Resident Representative Van Nguyen.

She was speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day conference and exhibition titled 'National SDGs Investment Fair - Investing in Pakistan's Sustainable Future'.

Federal and provincial governments set up their stalls at the fair that disseminated information about their

respective projects in the sectors including agriculture, food, energy, transport, water, waste, tourism, and road infrastructures.

The United Nations set up 17 global goals (SDGs) in 2015, aiming to end poverty, protect the earth, and bring peace and health to all people by the year 2030.

Nguyen said: "Pakistan's SDG financing gap, the difference between what is needed and what is currently available, is estimated at around 16% of the economy's annual output (Pakistan GDP calculated at \$410 billion in FY26). At a time when public finances are tight and development assistance is becoming more constrained, public money alone cannot close that gap."

"Pakistan's government should not simply tell investors about its investment requirement. Rather, it should show investors what Pakistan can offer (like return on investment). And investors should not simply tell Pakistan what risks they see. They should help articulate what would make those risks manageable."

That is where, she believes, UNDP can play a useful role, helping bring those perspectives together and helping turn development priorities into opportunities that investors can properly assess. **NEWS DESK**

Govt raises petrol by Rs 1.19, cuts diesel by Rs 1.91 per litre

The government has increased the price of petrol by Rs 1.19 per litre to Rs 394.83 and reduced high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs 1.91 to Rs 395.85 per litre for October 7, 2026.

The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) revised the ex-depot prices of petroleum products under the government's petroleum pricing mechanism, according to a Petroleum Division notification.

The notification said the revised prices were linked to changes in petrol and diesel prices in the international market.

It added that petroleum product prices were adjusted in line with changes in global market rates, Platts rates, premiums and other applicable costs.

The revised prices will take effect from October 7, 2026.

On Monday, the federal government reduced the diesel price by Rs1.88 per litre to Rs397.76, while increasing the petrol price by Rs0.88 to Rs393.64.

Meanwhile, the oil prices fell nearly 2% on Tuesday as supply concerns eased due to increased Middle Eastern crude exports and an agreement by the Group of Seven countries to release emergency diesel and crude stockpiles.

Brent futures were down \$1.84, or 1.8%, at \$98.48 a barrel at 10:30 a.m. EDT (1430 GMT), while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell \$1.42, or 1.6%, to \$88.01.

Those moves put Brent on track for its lowest close since September 8 and WTI on track for its lowest close since August 31. **NEWS DESK**

SBP ANNUAL REPORT ON PAYMENT SYSTEMS

Bank retail payments up 58% in FY26

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) released its Annual Report on Payment Systems FY26 on Tuesday, informing that retail payments through formal banking channels grew 58% to reach 14.3 billion transactions, of which 13.2 billion were conducted through digital channels.

Providing an overview of the key trends, developments, innovations, and financial transactions shaping the country's formal payment ecosystem during Jul 01, 2025, to Jun 30, 2026, the SBP report highlighted the continued expansion of Pakistan's payments landscape and the growing role of digital channels in everyday financial transactions conducted through formal banking and payment channels, said a statement issued here.

The Report stated that retail payments through formal banking channels during FY26 registered significant growth, reaching 14.3 billion transactions valued at Rs 673 trillion, representing year-on-year growth of 58% in volume and 10% in value.

Out of 14.3 billion transactions conducted through formal banking channels, 13.2 billion transactions were conducted through digital channels, representing year-on-year growth of 65%. It said and added that the trend reflected continued traction of digital channels in everyday payments.

Attributing the growth to various policy measures, improved digital infrastructure, and industry-led initiatives, it reported that fiscal year 2025-26 witnessed strong momentum in the ongoing transformation of the payment landscape, with consumers, businesses,

and financial institutions increasingly embracing mobile apps, internet banking, e-money wallets, QR-based payments, and other digital channels.

The share of digital channels in total retail payment transactions surged to 92%, up from 88% in FY25; Mobile phone-based solutions led digital transactions with over 11.1 billion transactions, registering 79% growth, while internet banking portals processed 0.3 billion transactions, up 15% from the previous fiscal year.

The growth was also supported by the expansion of digital acceptance infrastructure at merchants' or retailers' outlets as the POS network expanded to 337,791 terminals across 295,367 merchant locations, supporting nearly 1.5 million daily card payments compared to 1.0 million in the previous fiscal year.

E-commerce payments also continued to gain traction, with account-based online payments accounting for 96 percent of total e-commerce transactions conducted through banking channels.

Branchless banking mobile app users increased to 99.1 million, while banks' mobile app users reached 30.4 million, highlighting the continued shift of everyday banking activities towards smartphone-based platforms.

According to the Report, the introduction of PRISM+ in August 2025 was a major development in payment infrastructure, marking the transition of the RTGS system to the ISO 20022 standard. With the implementation of the new PRISM+ system, Pakistan joins the league of countries with both wholesale and retail (Instant Payment System) built on ISO 20022. **AP**

President confers Nishan-i-Imtiaz upon UN Secretary General Guterres

President Asif Ali Zardari, on Tuesday, conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz, one of Pakistan's highest civil awards, on United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in recognition of his distinguished international service, leadership of the United Nations and contribution to global peace and development.



The award, first to any UN Secretary General by Pakistan, was conferred in a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr which was also attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Speaker of the National Assembly, members of the Federal Cabinet, members of Parliament and members of the diplomatic corps.

Earlier, during a meeting with the UN Secretary-General, the president appreciated his principled leadership of the United Nations, his efforts for international peace, dialogue, diplomacy and peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as his constructive engagement with Pakistan and attention to the concerns of developing countries.

The president said Pakistan remained steadfast in its support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. He appreciated the UN Secretary General's consistent advocacy for Palestinian statehood and a two-state solution and said Pakistan would continue supporting efforts towards implementation of the relevant UN Security Council

resolutions.

The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability in South Asia, stressing that durable peace requires sustained dialogue between Pakistan and India as equal neighbours and resolution of all outstanding disputes, particularly Jammu and Kashmir, as agreed under the UN resolutions respecting the sentiments of the Kashmiri people, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

The president also conveyed Pakistan's position that the Indus Waters Treaty is a binding international agreement and cannot be unilaterally suspended or placed in abeyance.

He stressed that water should not be used as a weapon and an instrument of political pressure and that Pakistan's water rights under water treaty, recognized by international courts, under the treaty must be respected.

Discussing regional peace and diplomacy, President Zardari said Pakistan's diplomatic efforts, including the Islamabad Talks, had been guided by the imperative of de-escalation, dialogue and protection of human life.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to facilitate diplomacy

wherever it could be helpful, stressing that there is no alternative to dialogue for addressing regional disputes.

On counter-terrorism and Afghanistan, the president said Pakistan remains a committed partner in the global fight against terrorism and has made enormous sacrifices in this cause.

He said Pakistan continues to face terrorism from groups operating from Afghan territory and has shared evidence concerning external support to terrorist proxies targeting Pakistan. He stressed that Afghan territory must not be used against Pakistan or any other country.

The president reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to dialogue and regional cooperation while safeguarding its people and territory in accordance with international law.

The president highlighted Pakistan's longstanding contribution to United Nations peacekeeping, noting that more than 270,000 Pakistani peacekeepers had served in 48 UN missions across the world.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's firm commitment to UN peacekeeping as a vital instrument for maintaining international peace and security.

President Zardari appreciated Secretary-General's leadership of the UN80 initiative and supported efforts to make the United Nations more efficient, coherent and effective.

He stressed that reform must safeguard the interests of developing countries, accelerate sustainable development and strengthen conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

He expressed the hope that the next Secretary-General would carry forward the reform process while preserving the UN's central role in peace, development and international cooperation.

On climate change, President Zardari said that for highly climate-vulnerable developing countries such as Pakistan, climate change poses an existential challenge. He called for stronger international action on mitigation, adaptation and climate finance.

Pakistan, he said, supported the democratisation of the United Nations Security Council and opposes the induction or expansion of unelected membership in the Council, adding, it supported greater representation through elected, non-permanent members with equitable geographical representation. **AP**

Imran Health Row: Medical report surfaces

Doctors assessed PTI Founder's anxiety level at 3+ during Aug 10 exam: Report

A medical report from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's check-up at Adiala Jail on August 10 surfaced on Tuesday, revealing that a four-member medical board assessed his anxiety level at three-plus.

Dr Farqad Alamgir, who was called from London for the former prime minister's treatment, was part of the medical board along with Dr Arif Khan, Dr Akhtar Ali Bandesha and Dr Ali Arif. The board was constituted by the federal government to examine Imran.

Dr Alamgir's name has also emerged in the recent negotiations concerning Imran's

treatment.

The medical board recommended a daily one-hour walk to help control Imran's blood pressure and anxiety. It also recommended providing him access to his family, newspapers, television and books, while suggesting an increase in his meetings with his wife.

The report comes against the backdrop of a wider controversy over Imran's medical treatment and access to special care.

The August 10 examination followed an earlier checkup by consultant cardiologist Dr Bandesha on August 1, when Imran complained of fluctuations in blood pressure, headaches and anxiety. His blood pressure was recorded at 140/100 and his pulse at 50 beats per minute.

Dr Bandesha had also recommended increasing Imran's meetings with his wife and providing him access to newspapers and television to help reduce mental stress.

The newly surfaced report stated that Imran's blood pressure was recorded at 140/80 on August 10, while his pulse rate was 54 beats per minute. He did not report chest pain, heaviness, shortness of breath or palpitations.

His ECG was normal, while an echocardiogram showed normal heart valves and chambers.

An Adiala jail report submitted to the Supreme Court on August 17 stated that Imran had undergone 39 medical check-ups by different specialists between November 2023 and August 10, 2026.

The report also stated that Imran's affected eye had almost regained normal vision following treatment for central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO), a condition affecting blood flow in the retina.

The matter subsequently came before the Supreme Court, which on August 18 ordered authorities to transfer Imran to Shifa International Hospital for

medical assessment and treatment and sought his complete medical record.

The government instead took him to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), citing security concerns. Imran was taken to PIMS during the night of August 20-21, where doctors conducted a detailed examination.

Information Minister Attaullah Taseer said the medical team included an ophthalmologist, cardiologist and physician and declared Imran medically fit before he was returned to Adiala jail.

The hospital administration later said two specialists from Shifa International Hospital had participated in Imran's eye examination, while PIMS specialists conducted his other medical tests.

The hospital also said its medical board had finalised his medical fitness report but did not disclose its contents. **NEWS DESK**

5 months on, three more Pakistani hijack survivors to return today

The final three Pakistani survivors of an oil tanker hijacked by Somali pirates will return home on Wednesday, their families and officials said, ending a more than five-month ordeal that left five crew members dead and underscored a resurgence of piracy off Somalia.



The Palau-flagged MT Honour 25 was seized on April 21 off Somalia's northeastern Puntland region with 17 crew members aboard, including 10 Pakistanis. Puntland forces retook the vessel last week and detained 16 suspected pirates, according to

regional authorities.

Five crew members, three Pakistanis, an Indian and a Myanmar national, were killed and four Pakistanis wounded during the operation to recover the vessel, according to Puntland authorities and Pakistan's Foreign Office.

Four injured Pakistani survivors and the remains of their three compatriots were repatriated to Karachi on Sunday. The remaining Pakistanis, Syed Hussain Yousuf, Imran Ali and Muhammad Yasin, are now in Addis Ababa awaiting their flight home.

"We are in constant contact with them," Syed Talib, nephew of Yousuf, the vessel's second engineer, told Arab News on Tuesday. "They are not injured. They are otherwise fine."

Talib said the three men had travelled through Garowe, the capital of Puntland, before flying to Ethiopia. Yousuf and Ali are from Karachi, while Yasin is from Swat in northwestern Pakistan. **NEWS DESK**

GLAMOURDTMUR

Hulu thriller taps Kylie Jenner for first major acting role

Kylie Jenner is set to star in her first major acting role in a new Hulu thriller series titled *Bachelorette Weekend*. Jenner's casting was announced on Monday, and it was also revealed that her sister Kim Kardashian will be executive producing the series alongside Jenner. In the forthcoming television adaptation of an upcoming book, the cosmetics mogul will play a bride who is found murdered, leaving her bridesmaids as the prime suspects. Kardashian was the one who thought of Jenner for the role and reached out to her younger half-sister, who is dating Oscar nominee Timothée Chalamet, about the acting opportunity. Per Deadline, the script was sent to Kardashian as a potential project for her to produce, and she 'felt it was a great starring vehicle for Jenner and passed it

onto her with both quickly coming on board.' Lauren Oliver, who is known for penning young adult novels including *Panic, Before I Fall* and the *Delirium* trilogy, created the series. *Bachelorette Weekend* is based on an unpublished novel by Flora Collins, and the synopsis reads: 'In the series, a bachelorette weekend turns deadly when the bride winds up murdered in the pool, and her closest girlfriends all become suspects.'

Mona Tougaard walks for Chanel, Sacai in Paris

Model Mona Tougaard recently walked the runway for Chanel and Sacai at Paris Fashion Week, where the houses unveiled their Spring/Summer 2027 collections. At Chanel's show, held at the Grand Palais on Oct. 5, Tougaard, who is of Danish, Turkish, Somali and Ethiopian descent, wore a sand-colored textured sleeveless top cinched at the hips with a red leather belt, paired with a drop-waist, knee-length skirt in white and black boucle. She carried a dark quilted Chanel bag and matching shawl. The collection was the latest from creative director Matthieu Blazy, whose designs have attracted new customers to the French house since his first collection a year ago. The venue's glass dome was hung with a giant moon and a flock of luminescent seagulls, while the floor was laid in an orange-and-green pattern in reflective resin. Front-row guests included British singer Dua Lipa, Australian actress Nicole Kidman and Chilean-American actor Pedro Pascal. Models wore skirt suits in sheer cream or black fabric embroidered with flowers and beads, and tweed reworked into a window-pane print with mesh panels or a red-and-white tiger print. Some skirts were sliced into swinging panels, while others were shortened into pleated mini-skirts. Blazy ran out to greet the crowd after the finale to US singer Britney Spears' 'Gimme More.' At Sacai, Tougaard wore an all-black look made up of a long-sleeved shirt with a crystal-embellished collar, a slim neck scarf and a voluminous feathered midi skirt with a ribbed drawstring waistband. She finished the look with pointed ankle boots. The Paris appearances came after a busy year for Tougaard with Chanel. In August, she was among the leads of the house's revived Coco Crush jewelry campaign, staged at Hollywood's Chateau Marmont. In July, she fronted Saint Laurent's summer campaign alongside French-Algerian model Loli Bakhia. Tougaard started modeling after winning Elite Model Look Denmark at the age of 15. She opened her career as a Prada exclusive in 2019, and has since walked for houses including Dior, Versace and Saint Laurent. NEWS DESK



According to the outlet, Jenner's role is described as the North Star of the series, which pieces together the events that led to the murder. NEWS DESK

Durefishan's tearful moment goes viral

Pakistani actress Durefishan Saleem is receiving widespread appreciation for her emotional performance in the latest episode of the drama *Dar e Nijat*, particularly for a scene in which her character experiences a severe panic attack. *Dar e Nijat* has emerged as one of the most talked-about dramas of the year. Written by Umara Ahmed and directed by Saqib Khan, the drama has attracted viewers with its themes surrounding relationships, spirituality and emotional struggles. The latest episode has brought renewed attention to Durefishan Saleem, who plays Zaryab. The actress had previously faced criticism on social media over her accent in the drama, but her recent performance has received a much more positive response from viewers. In episode 19, Zaryab visits Abu Bakar late at night to question him about his connection with Zamil. During their conversation, Abu Bakar plays several voice notes for her. What she hears leaves her deeply distressed and triggers an intense emotional reaction. Zaryab suddenly begins struggling with a panic attack. She breaks down, falls to the ground and cries uncontrollably while screaming. The scene captures the character's fear and emotional pressure as she struggles to regain control. Durefishan's portrayal has particularly connected with viewers who have experienced panic attacks themselves. Many social media users praised the actress for presenting the character's distress in a way they considered believable and emotionally powerful. Several viewers said the scene accurately reflected the physical and emotional intensity associated with a panic attack. Others praised Durefishan for conveying fear, helplessness and emotional breakdown without making the scene appear exaggerated. The performance has also shifted much of the online conversation around Durefishan's role. While the actress previously faced criticism for certain aspects of her portrayal, viewers are now highlighting her acting ability and the emotional depth she brought to the latest episode. The scene has quickly become one of the most discussed moments from episode 19, with fans sharing their reactions and praising Durefishan's performance. For many viewers, her portrayal made Zaryab's emotional struggle feel more personal and relatable. As *Dar e Nijat* continues to unfold, Zaryab's journey remains central to the story. The strong response to the latest episode suggests that the drama is continuing to generate significant discussion among its audience. NEWS DESK



Amber Heard celebrates first half marathon finish in Spain

Amber Heard has shared the jubilant moment she completed her first half marathon in a new update from her secluded life in Spain. The actress, 40, was once one of Hollywood's most sought-after stars, but swapped the hustle and bustle of Los Angeles for the quieter streets of Madrid in recent years. Talking to her Instagram on Monday, Amber looked happier than ever as she shared snaps from completing her first 21.1K race. Lifting her arms behind her head in a moment of celebration, the actress showed off her toned figure in a lilac gym set. She captioned the

post: 'First half marathon, eskerrik asko Donostia! 21 kilometers in 1:39 min!!' Earlier this month,

Posting a snap of herself perusing the wine list, Amber enjoyed dinner at the El Celler de Can Roca in Girona, where their festival menu can cost €315 (£259) per person. The Aquaman star captioned the beaming post: 'Now this is my kind of wine list.' After leaving the glitz of showbiz, Amber now focuses on solo parenting, having welcomed daughter Onagh, five, and twins Ocean and Agnes, 17 months, 'by myself and on my own terms.' She is also believed to be single, with her last public relationship coming to an end in 2021 when she split from girlfriend Bianca Butti after a year. NEWS DESK



Amber shared a rare glimpse at her life in Spain in an Instagram post, where she treated herself to dinner at a three-Michelin-star restaurant.

Rabia breaks silence on rift with Babrik

Tamasha Season 5 contestant Rabia Jawaid Sheikh has opened up about her changing relationship with fellow contestant Babrik Sheh and explained why the two eventually became distant during their time on the reality show. Rabia, an actress and social media influencer, became one of the more noticeable contestants of the season. She was praised for playing the game carefully and maintaining her position inside the house. Although she made it close to the finale, she was eliminated shortly before the final week. During her time on the show, Rabia and Babrik developed a close friendship. Their bond also attracted attention from viewers, with some fans beginning to speculate about their relationship. The two initially worked together and appeared to have a strong understanding while participating in different tasks and challenges. However, their equation gradually changed as the competition became more intense. Rabia has now explained that she felt the friendship was becoming one-sided. According to her, she often supported Babrik during the game but did not feel that the same level of support was being returned. Rabia said the lack of appreciation also affected their friendship. She believed that her efforts were not properly acknowledged, which eventually created distance between them. As the season progressed, the two were seen spending less time together and relying

on different people inside the house. Following the change in their equation, Rabia became closer to other contestants, including Dr Zee Khan, Hassan and Laiba. Her growing association with them became more visible during the later stages of the competition. Rabia's comments have now given viewers more insight into what happened behind the scenes. While she and Babrik initially appeared to be a strong team, differences in expectations and support eventually weakened their bond. NEWS DESK

Zhalay Sarhadi: Confront sexual violence, don't hide it

Pakistani actor Zhalay Sarhadi has raised her voice against sexual violence, victim blaming and the social attitudes that allow perpetrators to escape accountability. In a recent Instagram story, the actor addressed the widespread problem of sexual abuse and questioned the patriarchal mindset behind it. She argued that sexual violence is often linked to the misuse of power rather than the behaviour or identity of the victim. Sarhadi stressed that anyone can become a victim, regardless of gender or age. She criticised the tendency to question survivors while overlooking the actions of those responsible for the abuse. The actor also highlighted the damaging impact of victim blaming. She said survivors are often forced to defend themselves while perpetrators receive less scrutiny. She questioned how long society would continue to repeat the same cycle of abuse, blame and silence. Sarhadi called for tougher action against those convicted of sexual crimes. She said stronger punishments are needed to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable and to discourage future offences. At the same time, she argued that legal action alone cannot solve the problem. According to Sarhadi, greater attention must be given to how children, particularly boys, are raised. She pointed out that girls are often taught how to avoid harassment and protect themselves, while boys may not receive the same level of education about consent, boundaries and respectful behaviour. NEWS DESK



MONEY

PSX roars back, KSE-100 surges 2,592 points



The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) staged a robust recovery on Tuesday, gaining 2,592.79 points, a positive change of 1.56 percent, to close at 168,460.11 points against 165,867.32 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 432.015 million shares, compared to 441.898 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value increased significantly to Rs 20.139 billion from Rs 15,709 billion.

Market capitalisation increased to Rs 18.712 trillion from Rs 18.464 trillion recorded a day earlier.

Out of 496 companies that traded in

the ready market, 314 posted gains, 147 suffered losses, while 35 remained unchanged, reflecting a strong bullish momentum in the market.

Cnergyico PK led the volume chart with 55.062 million shares, followed by Pak Refinery with 28.175 million shares and WorldCall Telecom with 25.445 million shares.

Among the top gainers, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited surged by Rs 223.98 to close at Rs 25,239.98, while PIA Holding Company Limited advanced by Rs 177.50 to settle at Rs 15,177.50.

On the losing side, S.S. Oil Mills Limited declined by Rs 47.68 to close at Rs 430.58, while Hoechst Pakistan Limited fell by Rs 46.81 to Rs 3,923.29.

In the futures (DPC) market, turnover stood at 125.121 million shares with a traded value of Rs 7.168 billion, compared with 91.217 million shares worth Rs 4.552 billion in the previous session.

Of the 296 companies traded in the DFC market, 252 advanced, 44 declined and zero remained unchanged. **APP**

Pakistan, IFC in talks to launch startup fund

Pakistan and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) here on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation on private-sector financing, investment and infrastructure development.

The reaffirmation was made during the meeting between Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Director, IFC Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan & Turkmenistan, Simon Andrews. The IFC director was accompanied by Principal Country Officer, IFC Pakistan, Ms. Naz Khan.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the two sides also focused on expanding access to finance, supporting entrepreneurship and mobilising greater domestic and international capital to promote Pakistan's sustainable, investment-led growth.

On the occasion, the finance minister appreciated IFC's continued partnership in expanding private-sector financing and investment-led growth, highlighting entrepreneurship, SME and agricultural finance, affordable housing and public-private partnerships as key areas for mobilising private capital.

He noted improving macroeconomic

stability and investor confidence, stressing the need to translate these gains into greater investment, capital formation and private-sector-led growth.

Meanwhile, IFC representatives briefed the minister on progress towards an entrepreneurs' fund to strengthen Pakistan's start-up ecosystem, as well as affordable housing initiatives aimed at easing supply-side constraints through potential developer-financing models.

Discussions on agricultural finance focused on IFC's AgriConnect initiative, including improved storage infrastructure and the use of electronic warehouse receipts as collateral.

The two sides also discussed PPP projects in the water and power sectors, as well as expanding local-currency and longer-term financing for private-sector projects.

National SDGs Investment Fair

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, highlighting macro-economic achievements on Tuesday, said that we have come a long way and now we are moving towards sustainable growth.

He was addressing virtually the opening session of the 2-day National SDGs Investment Fair, a 2-day event organized by UNDP Pakistan featuring a pipeline of around 35 investment-ready, SDG-aligned Public-Private Partnership projects spanning transport, energy and climate, agriculture and water, urban development, tourism, and industry and technology.

The finance minister termed macro-economic stability as the basic hygiene factor, strengthening the confidence among the local

investors and positive trends in local investment help attracting foreign investment.

Aurangzeb highlighted the significant economic achievements during previous years, saying that we have come a long way and twin deficits shrunk to about 2.6% at the end of June from 12.5% of GDP while the fiscal deficit is a 22-year low and for three years in a row we have had primary surpluses on the external side.

He also highlighted the surge of SBP FX reserves to its highest ever level of \$21.4 billion and said that we now have almost three months of import cover, that was about two weeks when we started this journey.

Noting improvement in the GDP growth that is projected at 4% for the current fiscal year, he stressed that we want to go towards growth, but it has to be responsible growth on a sustainable basis.

The minister said that in the privatization process of PIA, a cumulative bid of \$1.2 million by the consortium of local investors reflected local investment potential of Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan Stock Exchange is performing well with 11 IPOs in the previous fiscal year and five IPOs in the first quarter of FY27 while a number of arrivals is expected. **APP**

Pakistan's AI innovations shine at UAE Expo



Pakistan is showcasing its growing capabilities in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies at AI Everything Global 2026, one of the region's leading public-private gatherings on artificial intelligence, bringing together more than 500 exhibitors and 150 investors from 70 countries.

Pakistan has established a strong presence at the event, featuring 5 leading Pakistani technology companies presenting innovative AI-driven solutions and services, including AI Data Intelligence, AI Surveillance, AI Sales Solutions, and Sovereign AI. The Pavilion is established under the

auspices of the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), a press release issued on Tuesday said.

The Pakistan Pavilion was inaugurated by Ambassador Shafiq Ali Khan, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE. The Ambassador interacted with participating Pakistani companies and highlighted the importance of enabling Pakistan's technology sector to play a proactive role in the rapidly evolving global AI landscape.

Ambassador Shafiq Ali Khan underscored the need to invest in AI talent development, particularly by equipping the younger generation with advanced AI, coding and digital skills.

Pakistan's participation in AI Everything Global 2026 reflects the country's growing technology footprint internationally and provides Pakistani companies with an important platform to forge strategic partnerships, engage with global industry leaders and investors, and explore new business and investment opportunities in the AI ecosystem. **APP**

Gold holds at Rs 437,536/Tola

Gold prices in Pakistan as well as the international market remained unchanged on Tuesday. In the local market, gold price per tola remained at Rs437,536 with zero change during the day.

Similarly, 10-gram gold was sold at Rs375,116 per tola with no change to its price of previous day, according to rates shared by the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafa Association (APGSA).

On Monday, gold price per tola rose to Rs437,536 after a gain of Rs1,200 during the day.

The international rate of gold stood at \$4,150 per ounce.



Meanwhile, the price of silver also remained the same at Rs6,588 per tola. **NEWS DESK**

Rupee up against Greenback

The Pakistani rupee extended its marginal gains against the US dollar in the interbank market on Tuesday.

The local unit closed the day at 277.05, a gain of Rs0.01 against the greenback.

On Monday, the Pakistani rupee settled at 277.06 against the dollar.

Internationally, the US dollar extended its blistering rally as it rode US Treasury yields higher. In the broader market, the US dollar marched higher, drawing support from still-elevated US Treasury yields, which scaled multi-decade highs overnight.

Against the yen, the US dollar rose a touch to 157.92, while sterling slipped 0.02% to \$1.3222.



The dollar index firmed at 102.16, having scaled an 18-month high in the previous session. **NEWS DESK**

CCP okays Fatima-Agritech deal

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) on Tuesday completed its Phase-I competition review and authorized a transaction involving the acquisition of shares in Agritech Limited by Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited.

The transaction involved the acquisition of Agritech shares through the Pakistan Stock Exchange in two stages—an initial acquisition in 2023 followed by an

additional acquisition in 2024. For the purpose of its review, CCP assessed the aggregate shareholding acquired through both transactions, said CCP press release issued here.

Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited is a publicly listed company engaged in the manufacture, production, purchase, sale, import and export of fertilizers and chemicals. Agritech Limited, also a publicly listed company, is engaged in the production and sale of urea and granulated Single Super Phosphate (SSP) fertilizer.

Given the importance of fertilizer as a key agricultural input, CCP examined the potential effects of the transaction on market structure, concentration

and competition in Pakistan's fertilizer sector.

The Commission identified urea and SSP as the relevant product markets, with Pakistan as the relevant geographic market. It assessed the market positions of the parties and their competitors, as well as the likely effect of the transaction on competition.

The assessment identified a horizontal overlap between Fatima Fertilizer and Agritech in the urea market, resulting in an increase in their combined market share. In the SSP market, Fatima Fertilizer had no market share; consequently, Agritech's position in that market remained unchanged.

During the review, Fatima Fertilizer informed the Commission that it had divested its entire

shareholding in Agritech and no longer intended to pursue control of the company. Consequently, Fatima Fertilizer held no shareholding in Agritech at the time of the Commission's determination.

In light of the competition assessment and this subsequent development, CCP concluded that the transaction did not pose a risk of substantially lessening competition in the relevant markets. The transaction did not create entry barriers, significantly enhance the market power of the parties, or create or strengthen a dominant position within the meaning of the Competition Act, 2010.

Accordingly, the Commission authorized the transaction under Section 31(1)(d) of the Competition Act, 2010. **APP**

Pakistan's UK exports climb to \$413.8mn

Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United Kingdom (UK) witnessed an increase of 7.41 per cent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2026-27) as compared to the exports of the corresponding months of last year, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to UK were recorded at \$413.801 million during July-August (2026-27) against exports of \$385.224 million during July-August (2025-26), SBP data



revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, exports to UK increased by 6.29 per cent from \$182.075 million in August 2025, against the exports of \$193.545 million in August 2026.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, exports to UK

decreased by 12.12 per cent during August 2026 as compared to the exports of \$220.257 million in July 2026, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 3.97 per cent in the first two months, from US \$5.237 billion

to US \$5.445 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from UK into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$213.534 million against US \$127.847 million last year, showing an increase of 67.02 per cent in July-August (2026-27).

On a year-on-year basis, imports from UK increased by 112.86 per cent to US \$133.486 million in August 2026, against the imports of US \$62.709 million in August 2025.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from UK into the country also increased by 66.75 per cent during August 2026, as compared to the imports of US \$80.048 million during July 2026, according to the data.

The overall imports into the country increased by 11.34 per cent, from \$10.449 billion to US \$11.634 billion, according to the data. **APP**

SECP urges companies to hold AGMs by October 28

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has advised companies whose financial year ended on June 30, 2026, to hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) by October 28, 2026 and complete their Annual Return (AR) and Ultimate Beneficial Ownership (UBO) filings.

These companies are required to hold their AGMs within 120 days of the close of their financial year, the regulator said on Tuesday.

Following the AGM, companies must file Form A where particulars have changed, while Form 24 is required to be filed where particulars remain unchanged from the last AR, it said.

The regulator shared that single-member companies and private companies with paid-up capital of not more than Rs3 million are exempt from filing an Annual Return where there is no change in the particulars contained in their last return.

"Companies must also complete their annual UBO requirements, including issuing the required notices, obtaining declarations and updates, maintaining the UBO Register and filing Form-19 with the registrar alongside their AR. Where an AR is not required, Form-19 must be filed within 30 days of the end of the calendar year," it added.

SECP also encouraged companies to review their records and prepare the required filings in advance to ensure timely compliance and keep corporate information up to date. **NEWS DESK**

Islamabad and Tashkent talk trade expansion

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Ali Sher Taktayev on Tuesday called on Advisor to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan and discussed bilateral relations, economic cooperation, trade, investment, exports and people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, Haroon Akhtar said that Pakistan was keen to take its economic relations with Uzbekistan to new heights and further strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, exports and tourism, said a news release. He emphasized that both countries enjoyed brotherly and friendly relations, which provided a strong foundation for expending mutually beneficial economic and commercial ties.

The Advisor said that, in line with prime minister vision, Pakistan was placing particular emphasis on strengthening economic and trade relations with friendly and brotherly countries and creating new avenues for business and investment cooperation.

The meeting also discussed the expected visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Pakistan in the near future, including preparations for the visit and opportunities to further advance bilateral cooperation. The Uzbek side also invited a Pakistani delegation to visit Uzbekistan and hold meetings with Governors of different Uzbek provinces to explore opportunities for enhanced trade, investment and business-to-business cooperation. **APP**

WORLD

‘NAZA’ US premiere reignites Gaza War debate

The opening in US theaters of the ‘NAZA’ documentary, in which Israeli military insiders describe what they say was the reckless killing of civilians in Gaza, is likely to rekindle the searing debate over America’s military support for Israel ahead of congressional elections.

Israel’s wartime conduct has sparked global outrage, as have the billions of dollars in American military support provided by the Biden and Trump administrations. The war has bitterly divided Democrats and some Republicans.

The film received a record 25-minute standing ovation when it debuted at the Venice Film Festival. The backlash in Israel, which holds its own elections at the end of this month, has been just as thunderous.

‘NAZA,’ named for the Hebrew acronym for collateral damage, contends that Israel used sophisticated systems – some operated by artificial intelligence – to hunt and kill suspected militants, carrying out strikes the military knew would kill large numbers of civilians.

The Israeli military has “categorically” denied the filmmakers’ findings and threatened to track down the soldiers who spoke to them. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the film was antisemitic, and a Cabinet minister threatened to strip the filmmakers of their citizenship. Yuval Abraham, one of the co-directors, fears he won’t be able to return home.

As the New York Film Festival premiere last month, a few dozen protesters gathered outside showing images of Hamas Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war. Abraham acknowledged the “massacre” and said it was “completely unjustified.”



“But it also cannot justify what you’ve seen in the film ... [the] slaughter of so many civilians in Gaza, the massacres at food sites,” he said.

Soldiers describe alleged atrocities

Abraham and co-director Rachel Sacra knew the documentary would spark controversy. Their previous film, “No Other Land,” made with two Palestinian filmmakers about the struggles faced by Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, got a similar split-screen reception – winning an Oscar but infuriating many in Israel.

For all the bombastic claims surrounding it, “NAZA” is stark in its minimalism. There are no talking heads, no film footage of airstrikes – just interviews at night on Tel Aviv rooftops with individuals whose faces and voices are obscured. Some use pen and paper to draw what they are describing.

One recalls targeting people on their way to a food distribution site, while another likens the remote killings to playing a video game. The filmmakers say the subjects spoke anonymously for fear of retaliation and that their

claims were carefully vetted.

“We wanted it to be a simple film,” said Sacra. “There is something very scary about someone drawing systems that are causing mass killing.”

The military has issued a lengthy rebuttal

The Israeli military has condemned the film. It says orders “explicitly, comprehensively and clearly distinguish” between militants and civilians and that it strives to minimize civilian harm “to the greatest extent feasible.”

It acknowledged using AI but said the selection of targets is done by intelligence officers and the decision to strike is made by operational commanders. It said many of the interviewees did not seem to be aware of the larger targeting process.

The reporting overall is based on interviews with over 100 confidential sources, done in collaboration with The Guardian’s investigation desk between 2023 and 2025.

“After you watch the film, it becomes much harder to doubt that these are real people,” Abraham said at the New York premiere. “It’s all truthful, it’s all vetted and we feel very, very confident about it.”

Experts and major rights groups have accused Israel of genocide over the killing of civilians, the destruction of most of Gaza and aid restrictions that fueled widespread hunger. Israel adamantly denies the allegations, saying it tried to spare civilians as it responded to Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack and fought to uproot the militants from dense residential areas.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 other people in the Oct. 7 attack, all of whom have since been recovered, alive or dead.

Israel’s offensive killed over 74,000 Palestinians, including more than 1,400 since a fragile ceasefire took hold a year ago, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry.

The film’s rollout will be limited

“NAZA” is arriving in theaters without a traditional distributor in the US. It’s now playing at New York’s IFC Center, and abroad with the help of independent film studio mk2.

On Oct. 9 it opens in more cities, including Austin, Chicago, Los Angeles and Seattle. In late November, it will be available to stream free on The Guardian’s website. “No Other Land” was also self-distributed in the US and became a modest success following its Oscar win, with over \$2.5 million in domestic ticket sales. **AP**

Military plane crash kills 32 in Nigeria



A Nigerian Air Force plane crashed on Monday in the country’s southwest, killing all 32 people on board, President Bola Tinubu said, declaring three days of national mourning. It is one of the worst air disasters in recent years in Africa’s most populous country.

The passenger aircraft was on a “routine mission” from Benin City in southern Nigeria to the economic hub of Lagos when it went down at Igbookada in southwestern Ondo State shortly after 9:00am (local time), the president and the air force said. “The president extends his deepest condolences to the family of the 25 passengers and seven crew members involved,” Tinubu’s office said in a statement.

“This is a painful moment for our armed forces and for the entire nation,” he said. Tinubu’s spokesperson Bayo Olanuga said in a later statement that the president “has declared a three-day national mourning for Air Force personnel who died in the crash.” He also directed that flags be flown at half-staff across the country to pay respect to the officers.

The Air Force will release the identities of the victims after notifying their families, the presidency said. The plane crashed near a naval base, according to the presidency and the Aviation Minister Festus Keyamo. Both described it as an ATR-42 – a twin-engine turboprop that the manufacturers say can carry between 30 and 50 passengers. A video circulating on social media showed a small crowd gathered near a river while rescuers searched the area by boat. **AP**

Iran drone plot fears led US to remove bombers from UK base, US officials say



A suspected plot involving Iran to launch a complex drone attack on a key British airbase led the United States to remove its B-1 bomber aircraft from the base, two US officials told Reuters on Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iran has denied any involvement in any alleged plot at RAF Fairford, the preferred European base for US bombers. British police said on Tuesday they had arrested a 22-year-old British man in London on suspicion of preparation of terrorist acts as part of their investigation into the suspected plot.

US removes bombers from UK base at centre of suspected Iranian plot.

A spokesperson for the US military’s European Command declined to comment, saying: “It is inappropriate to discuss matters of intelligence, and we will not discuss specific force protection measures.”

“As demonstrated across multiple operations, America’s bombers, including B-1s, B-2s, and B-52s – can deliver precision global strike capabilities – including through operations that launch and recover from the continental United States – anywhere, anytime,” the spokesperson said. **REUTERS**

‘Ghost particle’ hunter Francis Halzen wins 2026 Nobel Physics Prize

Belgian physicist Francis Halzen won Tuesday the Nobel physics prize for groundbreaking work using South Pole ice to capture neutrinos originating in the distant cosmos, providing insight into the far reaches of space.

“This year’s prize is about ghostly messengers from space,” Ellen Moons, secretary general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, told a news conference.

Halzen was honoured “for decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin”, the jury said.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said Halzen’s work had been fundamental for the observatory – “a cubic kilometre of ice that is equipped with light sensors” – and has “paved the way for a new kind of astronomy”.

Using the observatory, researchers can capture neutrinos – rare subatomic particles – “from extremely energy-rich processes in the distant universe”.

Halzen, 82, was born in Tienen, Belgium and is a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the United States, where he is a citizen. “It was a great surprise, and I obviously didn’t expect it,” he told the news conference by telephone shortly after the prize was

announced. “But it’s a great pleasure to hear about this prize,” Halzen said.

The academy explained that high energy neutrinos are created in the same environments as other particles. “However, unlike other particles, neutrinos reach us without changing direction or losing energy. This means they can provide information that is not available in any other way,” it said in a statement.

Halzen first presented his idea for the observatory in 1988 and his idea quickly gained the support of other

the season, after the medicine prize was awarded on Monday to US psychiatrist and neurologist Karl Deisseroth and German scientists Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel.

The researchers were honoured for their pioneering work in the field of optogenetics, which involves controlling nerve signals with light.

Last year, the Nobel Prize in Physics went to Briton John Clarke, Frenchman Michel Devoret and American John Martinis for putting quantum mechanics into action and enabling the development of all kinds of digital technology from cell phones to a new generation of computers.

The physics prize will be followed by the chemistry one on Wednesday.

The literature laureate will be revealed on Thursday, with some pundits suggesting that the Swedish Academy could follow up last year’s award to Hungary’s Laszlo Krasznahorkai with a woman writer.

The most keenly anticipated award – the peace prize – is due on Friday.

US President Donald Trump lobbied intensively last year to get the prize – and Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado ended up giving him her Nobel medal – and the committee is aware he will be watching closely again. The economics prize wraps up the Nobel season on October 12. The Nobel consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a 12-million-kroner (\$1.2-million) prize sum, which is shared if there is more than one winner in a discipline. **AP**



researchers. Preliminary testing was conducted just a few years later but the observatory was not completed until 2011.

“Cosmic neutrinos with extremely high energies are very rare, so an enormous volume of ice is needed to observe an adequate number of collisions,” the jury explained.

“For me, the main pleasure of it, besides winning the Nobel Prize, is that I hope this reflects on the really courageous people who joined me in the beginning of this project,” Halzen said.

The sword is the second Nobel of

Voter List Row: Indian opp targets election chief



Opposition parties held protests in India’s capital New Delhi on Tuesday, demanding the resignation of the country’s election chief over a contentious revision of voter lists as hundreds of police personnel were deployed across the heart of the city.

Tuesday’s demonstration is the latest in a series of nearly daily protests beginning last week by student groups, opposition parties and India’s “Cockroach” youth movement.

The protesters have demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, accusing the polling body he oversees of manipulating voter registrations to benefit Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

The commission and government deny any wrongdoing. Security personnel, some carrying batons, stood behind barricades outside the commission’s office near Parliament on Tuesday. Authorities issued travel advisories for areas around the planned protest and closed some roads.

India began its Special Intensive Revision of voter lists in Bihar last year ahead of state elections. The exercise has since expanded to most states and federally administered territories.

Critics say the process requires documents that are confusing and difficult to obtain, risking the exclusion of millions of eligible voters. Election Commission data shows voter rolls could shrink by as much as 30% in some regions.

The commission says the revision is aimed to remove duplicate and ineligible entries while ensuring eligible voters remain registered. Opposition parties and activists say it could disenfranchise legitimate voters.

The campaign against the Election Commission has been led in part by the “Cockroach” movement, which began as an online campaign and calls itself the Cockroach Janata Party. Previous street protests organized by the movement led to the education minister’s resignation in July. **AP**

Trump approves firing squad for convicted US military base shooter

President Donald Trump has approved the execution by firing squad of Nidal Hasan, a US Army psychiatrist who shot dead 13 people at a military base in 2009, the Pentagon said on Monday.

Hasan’s execution for the attack at Fort Hood in Texas – which also wounded more than two dozen people – will be the first carried out by the US military since 1961.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth “has recommended – and President Donald J. Trump has approved – death by US Army firing squad for convicted

terrorist Nidal Malik Hasan,” Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a post on X.

“The Secretary of the Army will set the time and place of the

inspired mass shooting at Fort Hood.

He chose to conduct his own defense during the trial but called no witnesses and gave no



execution. Judgement day for Hasan has finally come,” Parnell wrote. Hasan was sentenced to death by a military jury in 2013 for carrying out the Al-Qaeda

testimony, and made no attempt to deny the charges. Court-appointed defence attorneys expressed concern that he was seeking execution.

Hasan, US-born Muslim of Palestinian descent, opened fire on November 5, 2009, at a medical facility in the sprawling Fort Hood base, which served as a staging point for soldiers to deploy to combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Twelve of the dead and 30 of the wounded were soldiers. Hasan was shot and partially paralyzed by a civilian police officer who responded to the attack.

The court that convicted Hasan was told that he was opposed to the US military’s occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, and that he had spoken online with an alleged Al-Qaeda figure, radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, an American citizen subsequently killed in a US drone strike in Yemen.

While mass shootings in the United States are common, they are rare at military facilities. **AP**

SPORTS

DTM

Bangladesh U19 edge Pakistan by 13 runs in women's tri-nation thriller



Bangladesh Women's Under-19 held their nerve with disciplined bowling to edge Pakistan Women's Under-19 by 13 runs in a keenly contested match of the Women's Tri-Nation Cricket Series 2026 at Iqbal Stadium here on Tuesday.

After winning the toss, Bangladesh elected to bat first and posted 139 for five in their allotted 20 overs. Sadia Akter anchored the innings with an unbeaten 83 while Sadia Islam contributed 24, Farjana Easmin Medha 28 and Achenis Jannat Emanta 17. Bangladesh also benefited from 14 extras.

Pakistan's bowlers kept the opposition from running away with the game, with Razina Akram leading the attack by claiming two wickets for 21 runs in her four-over spell. Maham Nazakat also took two wickets.

Chasing 140 for victory, Pakistan made a determined effort but could manage 126 for seven in their 20 overs, falling 14 runs short of the target.

Komal Khan top-scored for Pakistan with a brisk 36 off 29 balls while Ravail Farhan and Zofishan Ayyaz both scored 32 runs. Despite their contributions, Pakistan could not maintain the required scoring rate as Bangladesh's bowlers applied sustained pressure in the closing overs.

Farjana Easmin emerged as the standout performer for Bangladesh, claiming three crucial wickets for just 25 runs in four overs. Her match-winning bowling earned her the 'Player of the Match' award. Nishita Akter Nishi also played a key role with the ball, taking two wickets for 28 runs. **APP**

W15 Women's Tennis Futures C'ship begins



The first leg of the W15 Islamabad-World Tennis Women's Futures Championships 2026 commenced on Tuesday at the PTF Tennis Complex, Islamabad, with players from 17 countries competing in the prestigious international event.

In the women's singles first round, Florentine Dekkers (Netherlands) defeated Kai Yau Cheung (Hong Kong) 6-1, 6-4, while Gloria Levinsky (Czech Republic) beat Serife Pelin Sari (Turkey) 6-0, 7-5.

Russia's Varvara Rubtsova registered a 6-1, 6-0 victory over South Africa's Nissa Finnigan, while Uzbekistan's Sabrina Olimjanova defeated Warona Mdulwa of South Africa 6-2, 6-3.

Emma Van Poppel (Netherlands) advanced without playing after Ru Xi Wu of China withdrew. Russia's Ksenia Laskutova defeated Pakistan's Ushna Suhail 6-2, 6-0.

In another singles encounter, J. Khramtsova (Russia) overcame Mexico's S. Leon 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.

In the women's doubles first round, Jeong Moon (Korea) and Kamonwan Yodpetch (Thailand) defeated Pakistan's Meheq Khokhar and Russia's Anna Simkina 6-1, 6-0.

The Netherlands' E. Van Poppel and Denmark's E. Jamshidi beat Czech Republic's G. Levinsky and China's R. X. Wu 6-2, 6-7(1), 10-3.

The championship will continue on Wednesday, with matches scheduled to commence at 10:00 am at the PTF Tennis Complex. **APP**

PCB handed over Niaz Stadium

The Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday signed an agreement to hand over the historic Niaz Stadium Hyderabad to the PCB for promotion of cricket and holding national and international matches.

A ceremony to sign the agreement was held at Niaz Stadium, where Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Ali Shoro signed the document on behalf of the HMC, while PCB Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sumair Ahmed Syed signed it on behalf of the PCB.

Addressing the ceremony, Mayor Kashif Shoro said holding national and international matches at the historic Niaz Stadium had long been a demand of the people and cricket fans of Hyderabad. He said the stadium had been renovated with funds of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation to make it suitable for sports activities, adding that it had now been formally handed over to the PCB. **APP**

Djokovic wins China Open as de Minaur retires injured

Novak Djokovic won the China Open on Tuesday after his opponent Alex de Minaur retired from the final, extending an astonishing unbeaten streak in Beijing and winning the 102nd title of his career.

The 39-year-old Serbian won the first set in the tie-break 7-6 (7/3) and was down a game in the second set when the Australian ended the match early.

"I always want to visualise myself with the trophy, particularly here in Beijing," Djokovic said during the trophy ceremony.

"But I was also quite aware that reality is a little bit different these days," he said, adding that it had been a challenging year with "physical and health issues."

"I was just trying to find the good feeling on the court," he said.

The first set was a physical battle that lasted more than one hour, and both men needed medical timeouts before the second.

De Minaur, the world number nine, won the first game of the second set before retiring.

It was not immediately clear why de Minaur left the match, but he walked back onto the court after his medical timeout with a white wrap around his left thigh.

"I don't feel great," de Minaur told the crowd afterwards.

"I want to say sorry to the amazing fans that came to watch... I didn't want to finish like this," the 27-year-old added.

De Minaur advanced to the final after his opponent Hubert Hurkacz retired injured from their semi-final on Monday, while



Djokovic moved through when Daniil Medvedev was disqualified for hitting a fan with a ball.

With the win, Djokovic extended a perfect record to 34 wins in as many matches for his seventh title in the Chinese capital – his first since 2015.

He put on a valiant show to lift the trophy, ousting top seed Alexander Zverev in the quarter-final and coming back to defeat home hopeful Bu Yunchaokete in a demanding three sets.

Djokovic, a 24-time Grand Slam champion, will finish the season with a title for the 21st consecutive year.

In the women's draw, Karolina Muchova beat former world number one Naomi Osaka on her ninth match point to reach the quarter-finals, triumphant in a tense tie-break.

Muchova, the seventh seed, overcame 50 unforced errors across the two-hour-and-52-minute match to beat Osaka 7-5, 1-6, 7-6 (9/7).

Osaka, who represents Japan, saved eight match points but could not get past Muchova's match-winning volley.

"I was shaking. I'm happy I made the last volley... Naomi could be standing here. It's me, and I'm really grateful for it," the 30-year-old Czech player told the crowd.

She next faces compatriot Nikola Pietrangeli.

Earlier, Russia's Mirra Andreeva beat Ukraine's Daria Snigur 6-2, 6-2 to book her quarter-final spot against fellow Russian Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Alexandrova, ranked 28th, upset Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova 6-2, 6-2, ending the Czech player's bid to return to the Beijing final that she reached last year. **APP**



RAWALPINDI: Sri Lankan players during a practice session ahead of the three-match T20I series against Pakistan at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The series will be played from October 9 to 13. **OWNS**

Jannik Sinner to miss the rest of the year due to knee inflammation



Top-ranked Jannik Sinner announced he will be out for the rest of the year as he continues to deal with an injured knee.

Sinner has not played since July when he beat Alexander Zverev in the Wimbledon final. He withdrew from the US Open because of a right knee injury.

"Me, together with the doctors, have decided that I need a course of treatment for my knee, which means that the 2026 season is officially over," Sinner said on Tuesday in a video message on Instagram. "I also need to think about my long-term career so I will do everything possible to get back 100%."

Sinner risks losing the No. 1 ranking while he's out.

Sinner had already announced he would miss the upcoming Shanghai Masters. Now he'll also miss the Paris Masters and the ATP Finals in November.

Plus, he won't be able to play for host and three-time defending champion Italy in the Davis Cup Final B.

But if Sinner does return at the start of next year he could play the Australian Open – the next Grand Slam – which starts Jan. 17.

"On the advice of his medical team, Jannik Sinner will follow a course of treatment for inflammation in his knee," a statement from Sinner's management team said. "The decision has been made to have the treatment now to give Jannik the necessary time to recover before beginning preparations for 2027."

The 25-year-old Sinner has won five Grand Slam titles. He also had a 30-match winning streak this year before his meltdown in a second-round defeat at the French Open amid a Paris heat wave. Carlos Alcaraz, Sinner's main rival, missed 4 1/2 months this year due to a right wrist injury.

Meanwhile, Alexander Zverev won two of the four Grand Slam titles and is nearing the No. 1 ranking. **AP**

1 million apply for WC 2027 tickets

Pak-India clash gets 110,000+ ticket bids, highest demand



Applications for more than 1.1 million tickets were submitted during the opening weekend of ballot registrations for the Men's Cricket World Cup 2027, organisers said on Tuesday.

More than 320,000 fans have registered for the 'ticket ballot', which remains open until November 21, for the tournament co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The Pakistan - India match has generated the strongest demand, attracting more than 110,000 ticket applications. South Africa's game against India has received more than 92,000 applications, while more than 86,000 have been submitted for the India v Australia fixture.

"One million ticket applications in just over 48 hours of opening the ticket ballot is a demonstration of the attention, stature and affiliation for ICC Cricket World Cup 2027," said ICC CEO Sanjay Gupta.

The 14-team tournament will be held across the three southern African nations from October 2 to November 21. **REUTERS**

Racism Row: Gauff hits out



American tennis star Coco Gauff said Tuesday she faced an "insane" amount of online racist abuse after defeating Chinese teenager Sun Xinran in a match that included a video review.

During Monday's China Open match against 16-year-old Sun Xinran in Beijing, the former US Open champion requested a video review over flickering LED lights, prompting some boos from the crowd.

"Hey everyone, you can dislike me or disagree about what happened without being racist," Gauff wrote on X.

"The amount of racist comments and messages I've received in the last few hours is insane," her post read.

The umpire agreed for the point to be replayed, and 22-year-old Gauff went on to win the match 7-5, 6-1.

Responding on X to a post containing a racial slur that was flagged as potential "hateful content", the Black American player clarified in a separate post that she challenged the point before Sun's return when she noticed the lights flicker a second time.

"I think it's weird I'm getting hate for following the rules," she said, explaining that players are instructed they can challenge points after play has concluded. **APP**

Bottas bikes to Singapore GP



Formula 1 driver Valtteri Bottas decided to cycle from Sepang to Singapore in the week between Grand Prix events.

The 37-year-old Cadillac driver set out for the next F1 stop in Singapore after failing to finish the Bahrain Grand Prix, being staged in Malaysia, last Sunday.

While other drivers and teams were preparing to fly from there to Singapore for this weekend's race, Bottas embarked on a ride of more than 320 kilometers (200 miles).

He posted on X to confirm the trip: "Yes I'm riding to Singapore... on the gravel roads less travelled." Bottas hasn't picked up a championship point in his Cadillac this season, with his best recorded finish being 13th at the Chinese GP in March. He didn't finish last weekend – explaining he went off the track because of a gamble to use slick tires in the damp conditions – his eighth DNF for the season.

Bottas has been driving in F1 since 2013 and has 10 victories and 67 podium finishes across his career. **AP**