Cheif Editor
Syed Waseem Abbas

Member, All Pakistan Regional Newspapers Society
The powerful voice of the land of stonemasons
A pioneer of fearless journalism

Editor
Syed Umair Ali

Vol: 07 Issue: 49
Pages: 4 Price: 20
Saturday,
November 14, 2026

Nawai Taxila

URDU/ENGLISH
Islamabad

www.nawaitaxila.com

CEO: Dr. Syed Sabir Ali

Managing Editor
Amjad Yousafzai

PM sets 2050 target for Pakistan's economic rise, highlights mineral wealth



STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed confidence that Pakistan will become one of the world's major economies before 2050, setting an ambitious target for the country's economic transformation through investment, industrial development and the utilisation of its vast mineral resources.

Addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 on Friday, the prime minister said Pakistan's economy was moving towards a new phase of growth with renewed confidence. He also welcomed international investors and delegates attending the forum, highlighting the country's potential to attract long-term investment in the mining sector.

PM Shehbaz referred to a projection by Goldman Sachs that Pakistan could become the world's sixth-largest economy by 2075, but said he believed the country could achieve a significant economic position much earlier.

"InshaAllah, Pakistan will become one of the world's major economies even before 2050," he said.

The prime minister stressed that Pakistan needed to move away from exporting valuable minerals in their raw form and instead develop domestic industries capable of processing, refining and manufacturing mineral-based products.

He said the government's objective was to use the country's natural resources to strengthen local industries, expand exports and create greater economic value within Pakistan. Highlighting the importance of the mining sector, Shehbaz described the Reko Diq project as one of the world's largest undeveloped copper and gold deposits.

The project, which remained stalled for around two decades, is now progressing towards practical completion and the operational phase, he said.

The prime minister said Pakistan was not interested in simply extracting minerals and exporting them overseas. Instead, the country wanted to establish an integrated value chain covering extraction, processing and manufacturing. He also highlighted the establishment of the National Minerals Data Centre and the digitisation of geological records, saying these initiatives would provide investors with reliable information and improve transparency in the sector.

Shehbaz said the federal and provincial governments would work together to accelerate mineral development, while the government was simplifying procedures for investment approvals, licences and agreements.

Security forces kill 74 Indian proxy terrorists in Balochistan, KP operations

STAFF REPORT, RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 74 terrorists during multiple intelligence based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, according to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). In a determined effort to eliminate terrorist threats and dismantle the terrorist networks, security forces are conducting a series of intelligence based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding that these operations have been further expanded to the areas of Mir Ali and Orakzai. Over the last 48 hours, during the conduct of these series of IBOs, own troops effectively engaged multiple terrorist's locations. Following intense and fierce exchanges of fire, 35 terrorists belonging to Indian-sponsored "Fitna-al-Khwarij" have been neutralised in Mir Ali and eight were eliminated in Orakzai, thereby inflicting a significant blow to the khwarij networks operating in these areas. In Kurram area of Balochistan's district, security forces are conducting comprehensive intelligence based area sanitisation operation from 3 November. During the conduct of these intelligence based operations, multiple terrorist hideouts were effectively engaged and after multiple engagements, thirty one Indian sponsored khwarij were killed. ISPR said huge cache of weapons, ammunition and explosives including homemade explosives and improvised explosives devices were also recovered during sanitization, thwarting Khwarij nefarious designs to use these materials in terrorists activities.



Dar reviews austerity measures, calls for PNSC restructuring with global consultants

STAFF REPORT, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday reviewed the implementation of austerity measures across government departments and separately discussed the proposed restructuring of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), according to statements issued by the Foreign Office (FO).



Dar chaired a meeting of the Committee for Monitoring and Implementation of Conservation and Additional Austerity Measures at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where participants reviewed progress on earlier decisions, focusing on expenditure management and resource conservation across ministries and divisions. The foreign minister emphasised that "sustained follow-through and close coordination were essential to achieving the objectives of the government's austerity drive". He called for continued efforts to "reduce avoidable expenditure and improve administrative efficiency", while underscoring the shared responsibility of all relevant institutions in translating the measures into lasting savings.

President pays tribute to forces for successful operation against terrorists in Quetta

APP- ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari on Friday paid rich tribute to the security forces for their successful operation against terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan in the Karam area of Quetta district. The president, in a statement issued here, praised the professional expertise of the security forces for recovering a large quantity of weapons and explosive materials during the operation.

"The brave personnel of our security forces are demonstrating exemplary courage by foiling the nefarious designs of terrorists operating under foreign patronage and with the support of local facilitators," President Zardari said.

He expressed confidence that sustained operations would soon achieve success in completely eliminating terrorism from the motherland.

IHC suspends Islamabad local government election schedule and ECP notification

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended the local government election schedule for the federal capital and the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) October 21 notification, issuing a stay order and seeking reports and paragraph-wise comments from the commission and other respondents. Justice Umer Majeed Malik issued a written order after hearing a petition filed by Amjad Ali. Barrister Adil Aziz Qazi appeared on behalf of the petitioner.

No provincial matters discussed at Zardari-Naqvi meeting in Nawabshah: President House

STAFF REPORT, The President's House on Friday issued a clarification regarding a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, rejecting media reports suggesting that provincial matters had come under discussion.



The clarification came a day after Naqvi made a surprise visit to Nawabshah to meet the president. Sources had said the meeting focused on proposals for the creation of new provinces and the possibility of holding a referendum on the issue.

Sources also claimed that Naqvi had travelled to Nawabshah on an urgent basis, carrying an important message from a senior national figure, and sought to take the president into confidence over the matters discussed. Following the reports, the President's House spokesperson dismissed claims that provincial matters had been discussed during the meeting. "There is no truth in media reports claiming that matters relating to the provinces were discussed during the interior minister's meeting with the president," the spokesperson said.

IHC directs Imran Khan's lawyers to avoid political discussions after jail meeting

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed lawyers representing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in the 190 million-pound case to refrain from discussing political matters during and after meetings with him in jail, keeping their conversations limited to legal issues. A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif issued a two-page order while hearing appeals filed by Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the 190 million-pound case. The court expressed the expectation that lawyers Salman Safdar and Latif Khosa, whom it described as highly professional, would avoid political discussions during their meetings with the former prime minister and afterwards. According to the order, the Advocate General will arrange a meeting between Imran Khan and his lawyers, which must last at least one hour.

During the hearing, Latif Khosa argued that he could not present his arguments without meeting his client. Salman Safdar, meanwhile, said he had already received instructions for arguing the appeal, but the duration of the previous meeting had been insufficient.

Accepting the lawyers' request, the court granted them one week to prepare their arguments.

Parliament to decide on creation of new provinces even if referendum held: Rana

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah has said that parliament would have the final say on the creation of new provinces, even if a referendum was held on the issue.



Speaking to a private television channel, Sanaullah said the question of who would hold such a referendum also remained unresolved, adding that the process would have to be conducted by parliament.

He said the issue had not yet been taken up by parliament. Once it was brought before the house, a policy statement would be issued, followed by a debate on the matter. Commenting on meetings with Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, Sanaullah said both of the former prime minister's lawyers had met him, but their conduct in the coming days would determine whether further meetings could take place.

He said the lawyers had spoken about political matters after their meeting, a development that could complicate arrangements for future meetings. Sanaullah said the PTI had announced a long march and that efforts had been made to persuade the party, with assurances given on various matters. He added that restrictions on meetings with Imran khan had been imposed because the party was using them for political purposes.

Pakistan must turn mineral wealth into economic prosperity, says Field Marshal Asim Munir

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has called for transforming Pakistan's mineral wealth into a source of national development and economic prosperity, stressing the need for a coordinated strategy to unlock the sector's full potential.



Addressing the ongoing Minerals Forum in Islamabad on Friday, the field marshal said Pakistan must move beyond exporting raw minerals and focus on developing the entire value chain, including refining, processing and manufacturing, to maximise the economic benefits of its natural resources.

He emphasised that mineral development must also bring tangible improvements to the lives of people living in resource-rich regions, ensuring that local communities directly benefit from the country's natural wealth.

Benefits for local population

Field Marshal Asim Munir said making effective use of Pakistan's mineral resources was a shared national objective, adding that development gains must reach communities in areas where these resources are found.

He stressed that the success of the mineral sector should not be measured solely by extraction or export figures, but also by the positive changes it brings to local populations.

According to him, people living in mineral-rich areas must be included in the development process and should be able to see clear improvements in their living standards. The field marshal said Pakistan possessed considerable mineral wealth, but unlocking its potential required an integrated approach that connected resource development with broader economic objectives.

Supreme Court reports 47pc decline in pending cases

APP- ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has reported a significant reduction in its pending caseload, with cases declining from 60,304 in November 2024 to 31,927 in September 2026, as part of an 86-point reform action plan aimed at making the justice system more accessible, efficient and transparent. According to the reform progress report, 64 of the 86 actions have been completed, 11 are on track, while 11 require further attention. During the reporting period, 22,213 cases were transferred to the Federal Constitutional Court following the constitutional amendment. Separately, the Supreme Court disposed of 6,998 more cases than were instituted between November 2024 and September 2026. The annual disposal of cases also increased from 16,620 in 2023-24 to 25,989 in 2024-25, registering an improvement of approximately 56 per cent. The reform programme has prioritised long-pending cases involving personal liberty, family rights, taxation and service disputes. Death appeals have progressed from cases instituted in 2015 to those filed in 2026, while bail-after-arrest matters have advanced from 2009 to 2026 and family litigation from 2010 to 2026. Dedicated benches, early-hearing arrangements and structured case fixation are being used to address delays and expedite the disposal of cases.

Imran's sisters released after 'commitment' not to target army, its leadership

MONITORING DESK, ISLAMABAD: The release of two sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Thursday has emerged as the first tangible outcome of the recently initiated backchannel contacts between the PTI and the authorities. Informed sources say that the development followed an understanding under which the sisters would refrain from statements that could aggravate tensions with the establishment. According to sources familiar with the discussions, the sisters have committed to remaining non-controversial and would not fuel the existing confrontation through public statements or political interventions. The understanding, sources explained, particularly relates to avoiding criticism of the establishment. The sisters have reportedly assured the relevant interlocutors that they would not target the military's top command or make statements against the establishment. Asked whether the sisters would abide by their commitment to remain non-political and avoid creating further problems, a source responded in the affirmative.





TwinCities

Rawalpindi Thrash Larkana by an Innings and 239 Runs in Dominant Display

By Sports Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Rawalpindi Region produced a magnificent all-round performance to register a commanding victory over Larkana Region by an innings and 239 runs at the KCCA Stadium in Karachi.

Rawalpindi's bowlers set the tone for the emphatic triumph, dismissing Larkana for a mere 57 runs in their first innings in 26 overs. Mushtaq Ahmed was the top scorer with 24 runs, while Muhammad Nawaz delivered an outstanding spell, claiming five wickets for 13 runs. Muhammad Nabeel also impressed with four wickets for 11 runs.

In reply, Rawalpindi Region piled up an imposing total of 437 runs in 104 overs. Abdul Faseeh narrowly missed a century, scoring an impressive 95 runs, while Muhammad Mustafa led Larkana's bowling attack with five wickets for 100 runs.

Facing a massive deficit, Larkana struggled again in their second innings and were bowled out for 141 runs in 39.5 overs. Muhammad Ibrahim top-scored with 34 runs, but Rawalpindi's bowling attack remained relentless. Muhammad Nabeel once again proved instrumental, taking four wickets for 30 runs.

Muhammad Nawaz and Muhammad Nabeel emerged as the outstanding performers of the match, playing decisive roles in Rawalpindi's comprehensive victory with their exceptional bowling performances.

The convincing win highlighted Rawalpindi Region's batting strength, bowling discipline and collective team effort under the guidance of Head Coach Afaq Raheem.

Following the memorable triumph, Head Coach Afaq Raheem was also photographed with his victorious team, capturing a proud moment for Rawalpindi cricket.

Supreme Court Bar president leads lawyers to shrine in Gari Sharif

BY SYED UMAIR ALI



GARI SHARIF: President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan, Syed Amjad Shah, Advocate Supreme Court, visited the shrine of Hazrat Khawaja Fazal Shah Sahib in Gari Sharif along with members of the legal fraternity, where he paid his respects and expressed deep reverence and spiritual devotion. Elected representatives of the lawyers' community and several other distinguished advocates also accompanied him on the occasion.

The visit was attended by State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik and former vice president of Wah Cantonment Board Malik Arshad Mahmood. President Taxila Bar Association Malik Sajjad Hussain, Advocate High Court, General Secretary Taxila Bar Association Malik Ali Nawaz Gujar, Advocate, and senior Taxila Bar lawyer S. Irfan Malik were also among the prominent participants.

The presence of senior legal representatives and other distinguished personalities created an atmosphere of respect, devotion, and spiritual harmony at the shrine. The participants paid their respects at the shrine and expressed their reverence for Hazrat Khawaja Fazal Shah Sahib, reflecting the importance of spiritual traditions and religious heritage in the region.

Sajjadah Nashin of Darbar-e-Aalia Hazrat Khawaja Fazal Shah Sahib, Pir Syed Akram Shah, warmly received the distinguished guests and offered special prayers for their well-being, success, and prosperity. He prayed for blessings and divine mercy for all those present.

The participants also expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to visit the revered shrine, describing the occasion as a source of spiritual satisfaction and blessing. The gathering brought together representatives of the legal fraternity and other prominent personalities in an atmosphere marked by mutual respect, affection and religious devotion.

The visit also provided an opportunity for members of the legal community to come together at the spiritual centre and pay homage to the revered religious personality. The participants prayed for the acceptance of their visit, peace and stability in the country, and Allah Almighty's continued blessings and mercy upon the nation and all those present.

The gathering concluded with prayers for the prosperity of the country, the well-being of the people and the success of the visiting dignitaries.

Young Pacer Rizwanullah Donates Man of the Match Prize Money to PCB Cancer Fund

By Sports Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's emerging fast-bowling sensation Rizwanullah has won widespread admiration not only for his outstanding performance on the cricket field but also for his remarkable act of generosity.

The 17-year-old fast bowler delivered a sensational performance in the Under-19 Asia Cup semi-final against Bangladesh, claiming five wickets to play a decisive role in guiding Pakistan into the tournament's final.

However, it was his gesture after receiving the Man of the Match award that made him stand out even more. Rizwanullah announced that he would donate the entire prize money associated with the award to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Cancer Fund to support underprivileged cancer patients.

Explaining his decision, the young pacer revealed that he had made a promise to Allah that if he received the Man of the Match award during the Asia Cup, he would donate its prize money towards the treatment of poor and deserving patients.

"I dedicate this amount to cancer patients. Today, Allah Almighty blessed our team with qualification for the final, and my five wickets contributed to Pakistan's victory. There could be no greater reward for me than this," he said.

Rizwanullah's exceptional bowling and selfless gesture have earned him appreciation, demonstrating that true greatness lies not only in sporting achievements but also in compassion, generosity and a willingness to help others.

His inspiring gesture has made the young cricketer a source of pride for Pakistan and a shining example for the next generation of sportsmen.

Japan pledges $4.3m to strengthen Pakistan's 2027 polio campaigns

BY DR SYED SABIR ALI



ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has announced a grant of US$4.3 million to support Pakistan's Polio Eradication Programme, enabling the procurement of more than 28 million doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV) for the country's 2027 vaccination campaigns.

The financial assistance is aimed at strengthening Pakistan's efforts to eradicate polio by ensuring the availability of vaccines for nationwide immunisation campaigns and helping protect children against the crippling disease. The grant will also support efforts to interrupt poliovirus transmission and ensure that children across the country are not left unprotected.

The announcement was made during a signing ceremony held on November 13, 2026, at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) in Islamabad. During the ceremony, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) exchanged Notes, while the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNICEF signed a Grant Agreement to support Pakistan's Polio Eradication Programme.

The agreement represents another important step in the longstanding cooperation between Japan and Pakistan in the fight against polio. The funding will facilitate the purchase of more than 28 million doses of oral polio vaccine required for the 2027 immunisation campaigns, helping sustain vaccination activities and strengthen protection for children.

Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Ms Ayesha Raza Farooq thanked the Government and people of Japan for their continued partnership and support for Pakistan's efforts to eliminate the disease.

She said Pakistan was intensifying its efforts to interrupt poliovirus transmission and protect every child against polio. She underscored the importance of sustained vaccination activities, effective outreach and ensuring that all children receive the necessary vaccine doses to remain protected.

She also acknowledged Japan's consistent support, describing international cooperation as an important component of Pakistan's national efforts to eradicate polio and safeguard future generations.

Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan H.E. Akamatsu Shuichi reaffirmed Japan's commitment to supporting Pakistan in achieving its goal of interrupting poliovirus transmission. He highlighted the longstanding partnership between the two countries in the field of polio eradication, which began in 1996, and reiterated Japan's resolve to continue supporting Pakistan's efforts.

The Japanese ambassador noted the importance of sustained cooperation in protecting children from the disease and advancing the shared objective of a polio-free Pakistan. Japan's latest financial contribution builds on nearly three decades of partnership with Pakistan in support of its polio eradication programme. Chief Representative of the JICA Pakistan Office, Mr Yusuke Shinozaki, acknowledged the dedication and commitment of frontline health workers who continue to deliver vaccines to children, often while working in challenging conditions.

He recognised their crucial role in the implementation of vaccination campaigns, noting that their efforts help ensure that children receive protection against polio. The work of these frontline workers remains central to reaching communities and maintaining the effectiveness of immunisation activities.

UNICEF Representative in Pakistan Ms Pernille Ironside thanked the Government of Japan for its longstanding support and highlighted the significance of the newly announced grant for sustaining high-quality vaccination campaigns.

She said the funding would help maintain the quality and continuity of immunisation activities and improve efforts to reach children who might otherwise miss out on vaccination. Ensuring that every child is covered remains essential to preventing the spread of poliovirus and achieving the national eradication goal. The grant of US$4.3 million will contribute towards the procurement of more than 28 million doses of oral polio vaccine for the 2027 campaigns, strengthening the availability of essential vaccines and supporting Pakistan's ongoing efforts to protect children.

The agreement also reflects the continued commitment of Japan, JICA and UNICEF to working alongside Pakistan in its fight against polio. Through sustained international cooperation, with vaccination support and the dedication of frontline health workers, the programme aims to reach every child and bring the country closer to interrupting poliovirus transmission.

AC Taxila reviews public facilities during Thatta Khalil's visit

BY SYED UMAIR ALI



TAXILA: Assistant Commissioner Taxila Dr Muhammad Ans Saeed visited Maryam Nawaz Health Clinic, Government Boys High School and the water filtration plant in Thatta Khalil to review the standard of public facilities, administrative arrangements and performance of the relevant staff.

The visits were conducted in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, with a focus on monitoring essential healthcare, education and clean drinking water facilities available to the local population.

During his visit to Maryam Nawaz Health Clinic, the assistant commissioner inspected different sections and reviewed the medical facilities and treatment arrangements being provided to patients. He checked the attendance of doctors and other medical staff and assessed their presence and performance in carrying out their assigned responsibilities. Dr Muhammad Ans Saeed also inspected the clinic's laboratory and reviewed the facilities available there. He examined the availability of medicines, cleanliness arrangements and other essential services, while taking an overall assessment of the clinic's administrative and healthcare operations.

He directed the relevant staff to ensure the provision of quality medical facilities to all patients visiting the clinic and instructed them not to show negligence in the delivery of healthcare services. He emphasised that doctors and other medical personnel must remain present during duty hours, medicines should be available, laboratory services should remain functional, and proper cleanliness must be maintained throughout the facility.

The assistant commissioner stressed that the benefits of the Punjab government's public-friendly healthcare programme, launched under the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, should reach ordinary citizens. He said government health facilities were responsible for providing timely and quality treatment to people in their localities and that the staff must perform their duties with commitment and a strong sense of responsibility.

Later, Dr Muhammad Ans Saeed visited Government Boys High School Thatta Khalil, where he reviewed educational and administrative arrangements. He checked the attendance of teachers and other staff members and inspected classrooms, the school building, cleanliness, and basic facilities available to students.

During the visit, he also interacted with students and discussed their educational activities, curriculum, and teaching process. He asked them about their academic routine and the facilities available at the school to assess the overall learning environment. The assistant commissioner directed the school administration to further improve the educational environment, maintain cleanliness and discipline, and ensure the provision of quality educational facilities to students. He also emphasised regular attendance of teachers and other staff members and the effective performance of their teaching and administrative responsibilities.

Dr Muhammad Ans Saeed also inspected the water filtration plant in Thatta Khalil to assess arrangements for the supply of clean drinking water to residents. During the visit, he reviewed the cleanliness of the facility, performance of filters, availability and quality of water, as well as the condition of the plant's machinery and other installations.

He directed the concerned staff to ensure regular cleaning and proper maintenance of the filtration plant, stressing that no negligence should be shown in providing safe and clean drinking water to the public.

The three visits formed part of the local administration's monitoring of essential public services, with particular attention to healthcare, education and access to clean drinking water. The assistant commissioner emphasised the need for effective administrative oversight and improved service delivery to meet the needs of residents of the area.

Taxila Police safely reunite missing girl with parents

BY CRIME REPORTER



TAXILA: A young girl found at Taxila Chowk has been safely reunited with her parents following timely action by Taxila Police under the supervision of Station House Officer (SHO) Syed Jawad Kazmi.

After completing the necessary legal formalities, the police handed over the child to her parents, bringing relief to the family and ensuring her safe return.

The role of Taxila Safe City surveillance cameras was also noteworthy in the process. The available camera monitoring system assisted the relevant authorities in the matter, highlighting the importance of modern surveillance technology in supporting police efforts to protect citizens, particularly children.

SHO Syed Jawad Kazmi supervised the police response, while the police team took timely steps to ensure the child's safe recovery and reunification with her family.

The prompt action by the SHO and his team was appreciated, as the safe return of the child provided reassurance to her parents and the local community. The incident underscores the importance of effective coordination between police personnel and surveillance systems in responding to public safety matters. It also highlights the need for continued vigilance and prompt action to ensure the protection and security of children.

URCC Defeat West Indies Cricket Club by Four Wickets in Thrilling Contest at Khanpur



By Sports Reporter

TAXILA: URCC delivered an impressive all-round performance to secure a four-wicket victory over West Indies Cricket Club Rawalpindi in an exciting 30-over cricket match played at Mabali Island Ground, Khanpur.

After winning the toss, West Indies Cricket Club Rawalpindi elected to bat first on a batting-friendly pitch that also offered assistance to fast bowlers. URCC's pace attack responded brilliantly, supported by an effective performance from the spinners, restricting the opposition to 186 runs.

Captain Usman Shah led the bowling attack with an outstanding three-wicket haul, while Huzefa Ahmad Khan and Naeem Bhatti claimed two wickets each. Saad Abbasi and Umer Khan also contributed with one wicket apiece.

In reply, URCC faced an early setback but recovered through responsible contributions from the middle order. Junaid scored 29 runs, Umer Khan added 20, Tahir Naqqash contributed 26, and Hammad Khan made 21.

However, the highlight of the chase was a match-winning unbeaten knock by captain Usman Shah, who smashed 54 not out off just 31 deliveries to steer his side towards victory.

URCC successfully chased down the target, reaching 188 for six in 28 overs and securing a convincing four-wicket win.

Captain Usman Shah was deservedly declared Player of the Match for his outstanding all-round performance, claiming three wickets with the ball before producing a match-winning unbeaten half-century with the bat. The contest provided another memorable day of competitive cricket for URCC against an experienced and senior opposition at the scenic Mabali Island Ground, Khanpur.

Sports

Saud Shakeel misses century as Pakistan-Sri Lanka Test ends in a draw



SPORTS DESK, Experienced campaigner Saud Shakeel once again missed out on a century, falling for 97 as the first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka ended in a draw at the Pindi Stadium in Rawalpindi on Friday.

Saud, who had scored 93 in the first innings, once again failed to complete what could have been his fifth Test century as Pakistan declared their second innings at 284-8.

After Saud's dismissal just 25 minutes into the last session, the players began shaking hands, signalling the end of the Test in a draw.

Pakistan had declared their first innings at 434-9, while Sri Lanka responded with 446.

Saud was the cornerstone of Pakistan's batting, hitting seven fours in his determined knock, during which he faced 210 deliveries.

He was also involved in a 92-run sixth-wicket partnership with Ghazi Ghori, who fell to Milan Rathnayake for 35. Ghori struck three fours in his 69-ball innings.

After conceding a 12-run first-innings lead, Pakistan resumed their second innings at 57-1, with overnight batsmen Azan Awais (22) and Mohammad Taha (24) at the crease. However, both departed without adding to their overnight scores.

Lahiru Kumara dismissed Awais, while Asitha Fernando removed Taha in quick succession, putting Pakistan under considerable pressure.

Babar Azam then joined Saud Shakeel to rebuild the innings, adding 50 runs for the fifth wicket.

However, Rathnayaka once again denied Babar a big score, dismissing him after he had made a promising start.

Babar struck six fours in his 34 off 48 balls, with Pakistan reduced to 107-4 at that stage.

Rathnayaka continued to trouble the hosts, removing Agha Salman, who was caught by Sooriyabandara for 13. Salman struck two fours in his 19-ball innings.

Arafat Minhas contributed 16 off 29 balls, including three fours.

Earlier on Thursday, debutant pacer Saqib Khan claimed 7-130 to help Pakistan bowl Sri Lanka out for 446 in response to the hosts' first-innings total of 434-9 declared. Dhananjaya de Silva top-scored with 167, while captain Kusal Mendis contributed 119.

Saqib Khan was adjudged as man of the match for his dream debut with the ball. The second Test between the two sides will begin on November 17 at the same venue. The match was originally scheduled to be played at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore but was relocated due to smog.

Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson expressed satisfaction with the team's performance.

"I am very satisfied with the performance of the team. I think when you lose the toss you know both sides were desperate to win. Being able to bat under overcast conditions, and still be ahead of the game at times, was a really good effort," Hesson said.

Aadam Syed leads CNS Open Golf Championship

SPORTS DESK, Aadam Syed on Friday held a slim one-stroke lead after two rounds at the 30th Chief of the Naval Staff Open Golf Championship 2026 being held here at the Karachi Golf Club.



Aadam posted consistent back-to-back rounds of 69 to reach a gross total of 138. He sits just ahead of Matloob Ahmad, who carded rounds of 70 and 69 for a 36-hole total of 139. Arshad Rasheed and Hamza Taimur Amin are tied for third place at 142. Rasheed followed an opening 70 with a 72, while Amin slipped from a first-round 69 to a 73. Muhammad Naeem rounds out the top five at 143 after rebounding from an initial 75 with a tournament-low round of 68. A three-way tie for sixth place at 145 features Muddasir Iqbal, Muhammad Munir, and Waheed Baloch. Meanwhile, the 36-hole cut fell at 157, eliminating players with a gross total of 158 or higher from the remaining two rounds.

Pakistan launches Schools Hockey League

SPORTS DESK, Pakistan has launched a nationwide Schools Hockey League in a bid to discover young talent and rebuild the country's standing in international hockey. The league was inaugurated at the Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium in Islamabad with an exhibition match between Islamabad Model College for Girls, Tarlai, and Islamabad Model College for Girls, G-6/1-4. Tarlai claimed a 2-0 victory in the opening fixture, watched by a large crowd of students. Mohyuddin Wani, president of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) and secretary of the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination, officially launched the initiative alongside Dr Ehtesham Anwar, chief coordinator to the PHF president. Pakistan's Dutch head coach, Herman Kruis, was also present. Wani said the league was being launched simultaneously in Islamabad, all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan, offering equal opportunities to boys and girls.

Pakistan eye title defence against India in Under-19 Asia Cup



SPORTS DESK, Pakistan and India will renew their fierce cricket rivalry when they meet in the final of the Under-19 Asia Cup in Oman on Saturday (today) with the defending champions seeking to retain their crown.

The final at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Al Amerat brings together the tournament's two most closely watched sides, both of whom have negotiated challenging knockout assignments to reach the title decider.

Pakistan, led by Farhan Yousaf, have been the more consistent team throughout the competition, winning all four of their matches. They opened their campaign with a nine-wicket victory over the United Arab Emirates before edging India by three wickets in a closely contested group encounter thanks to Hamza Zahoor's stunning 100 not out.

A commanding 101-run win over Nepal secured Pakistan's place at the top of Group A, while their nine-wicket demolition of Bangladesh in Thursday's semi-final underlined their credentials. Fast bowler Rizwanullah claimed five wickets for 30 runs before Hayam Khan and Usman Khan guided Pakistan to victory with an unbeaten opening partnership of 123 runs.

India, meanwhile, finished second in Group A after winning two of their three matches. They began with a ten-wicket victory over Nepal, suffered a three-wicket defeat against Pakistan and recovered with a 70-run win over the UAE.

The Indian side regained momentum in the semi-finals, defeating Afghanistan by eight wickets. Lakshya Raichandani led the chase with an impressive 93 off 90 deliveries, while Arya Viraj Sehrawat and VK Vinith provided valuable support.

Saturday's encounter also carries the weight of last year's final, when Pakistan defeated India by 191 runs to claim the title. That result will add another layer of motivation for India, although Pakistan's group-stage victory suggests they will enter the contest with considerable confidence.

Aaryavir Sehwag of India leads the batting chart with 303 runs, which contains one century and one fifty.

Usman Khan of Pakistan follows with 238 runs which carries one century and one fifty.

Afghanistan's Noor Ali leads bowling chart with 14 wickets. He is followed by Tafiulm Alam Tamim of Bangladesh with 13 while Pakistan's Rizwanullah and ID Sood of India stand share 11 wickets each. India have won the event for record seven times while once in 2012 in Malaysia India and Pakistan had shared the trophy after the final had ended in a tie. Bangladesh have two titles to their credit while Afghanistan have won the event once.



Pakistani batter Saud Shakeel plays a shot during the day Last day of the first test cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Manchester United name Pochettino as new manager



SPORTS DESK, LONDON: Manchester United named Mauricio Pochettino as their new manager on Friday following the dismissal of Michael Carrick.

The club issued a statement saying the USA coach, who has extensive experience in the Premier League, would take charge from November 18 following two matches against Haiti.

"The club has reached an agreement with the US soccer federation for Mauricio and his staff to be released after the conclusion of their responsibilities with the US men's national team," United said.

"The Argentinian is renowned for his high-intensity, attacking style of football, his dedication to building strong, cohesive teams and his outstanding record of developing individual players.

"Pochettino has consistently performed at the highest level of football across multiple leagues."

Pochettino, who led the United States to the last-16 of the World Cup on home soil earlier this year, has previously managed in the English top flight with Southampton, Tottenham and Chelsea.

He has a huge job on his hands at United, who have made their worst-ever start to a Premier League campaign. The 20-time English champions are in the relegation zone after winning just one of their 10 league matches so far. "The opportunity to represent the USA crest was one of the greatest honours of my career," Pochettino said in a statement released by US Soccer.



Pan Qimiao (L) of China competes against Jeon Yuju of South Korea during the Women's Sabre Individual Gold Medal Bout of fencing at Dakar Expo Center in Diamniadio, Senegal,

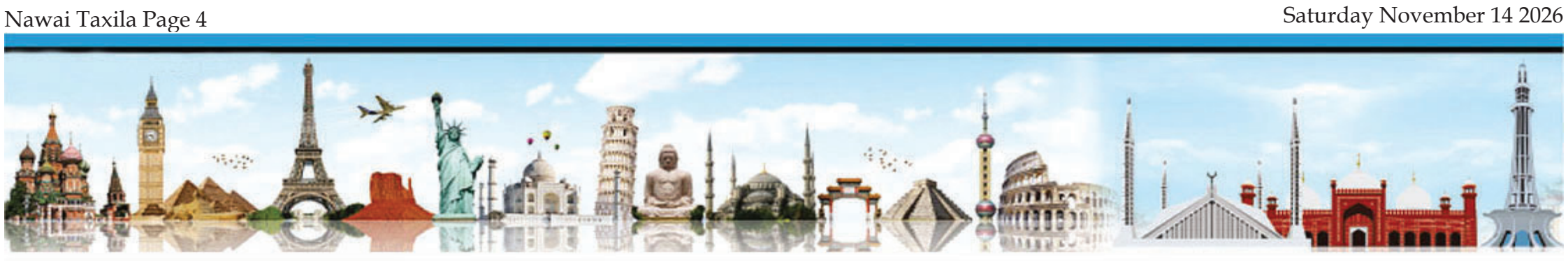
Pakistan chase SAFF Cup history

SPORTS DESK, KARACHI: Pakistan will look to make history by reaching the SAFF Championship final when they face hosts Bangladesh in a high-stake semi-final at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Saturday (today.

The visitors will have added strength for the knockout encounter with five overseas-based players including Abdullah Iqbal, Easah Suliman, Ali Akbar Khan, Adil Nabi and Abdul Samad Shahzad joining the squad ahead of the November 14 clash.

The players missed Pakistan's group-stage fixtures because they fell outside the FIFA international window. Their arrival, however, gives coach Nolberto Solano additional options against a Bangladesh side that has yet to concede a goal in the tournament. Pakistan advanced to the semi-finals as Group B runners-up with three points and a goal difference of plus two. They scored five goals and conceded three across their two matches, finishing behind India, who collected six points from two victories. Pakistan began their campaign with a 3-2 defeat against India despite showing attacking promise. Suhail Ahmad Bhat scored twice, while Kipgen added a third in the 32nd minute. Solano's side responded emphatically in their next outing, beating the Maldives 3-0. Teenage striker Najeeb Ullah Khan, 19, scored twice in the first half as Pakistan secured the points needed to strengthen their qualification hopes. Their place in the semi-finals was confirmed after India edged the Maldives 1-0, with Suhail converting a 38th-minute penalty.





BACK PAGE

Punjab presents Rs 200,000 wedding gifts to 150 couples under Dhee Rani scheme



NAWAITAXILA REPORT

LAHORE: A mass wedding ceremony for 150 deserving couples was held in Lahore under the Punjab government's Dhee Rani Programme, an initiative launched by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to support financially disadvantaged families and help them arrange dignified weddings for their daughters.

Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Uzma Bukhari attended the ceremony as the chief guest. National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Adviser to the Chief Minister Ali Dar, Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Sohail Shaukat Butt, members of the provincial assembly and other prominent personalities were also present.

The ceremony marked the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of 150 deserving couples, including 21 couples belonging to minority communities. The participation of minority families highlighted the programme's outreach to different sections of society and its focus on extending assistance to deserving couples without discrimination.

On behalf of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, each bride and groom was presented with a wedding gift of Rs200,000 in the form of an ATM card. The financial assistance is intended to help newlyweds meet their initial needs and ease the financial burden on families arranging their children's marriages.

The Dhee Rani Programme has facilitated the marriages of 8,000 deserving couples over the past two years. The Punjab government has set a further target of arranging 5,000 collective marriages during the current financial year, reflecting the continuation and expansion of the initiative.

The programme is designed to provide practical support to families facing financial difficulties and ensure that economic constraints do not prevent their daughters from beginning married life with dignity. Through collective wedding ceremonies and financial assistance, the initiative seeks to reduce marriage-related expenses and extend support to deserving households.

Secretary Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Punjab Saira Umar, Director General Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Punjab Dr Shahenshah Faisal Azeem, along with other departmental officers and employees, also attended the event.

The ceremony brought together families from different communities and provided an opportunity to celebrate the newlyweds as they embarked on their married lives. The provincial government's continued focus on the Dhee Rani Programme aims to extend assistance to more deserving families through the planned collective weddings during the current financial year.

Morocco seeks stronger mining cooperation with Pakistan

APP- ISLAMABAD: Morocco on Friday expressed its willingness to strengthen mining cooperation with Pakistan, highlighting opportunities for partnerships, investment and the exchange of expertise in the mineral sector. Secretary General of Morocco's Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development Mohamed Ouhmed, addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26), said the forum provided an opportunity for both countries to exchange experiences and explore new avenues for cooperation and partnerships. He said Morocco had a long mining history and significant mineral potential, with a wide range of mineral resources. Highlighting Morocco's experience in the mining sector, he said the country was one of the world's leading phosphate producers and had developed a strong industry that met international standards. The industry covered the entire value chain and had developed strong local expertise, he said.

Pakistan-UK Trade Holds Vast Potential in Fintech and Textiles: HC Tipu

MONITORING DESK, BRADFORD: Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Tipu Usman, has highlighted significant opportunities to expand bilateral trade and investment, particularly in financial technology (Fintech), textiles, manufacturing and food sectors.

Delivering the keynote address at the West Yorkshire–Pakistan Trade, Investment and Innovation Summit 2026 at the University of Bradford, the High Commissioner called for stronger commercial partnerships and greater collaboration between businesses and institutions in Pakistan and the UK. Organised by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and British Friends of Pakistan, in partnership with the University of Bradford and the Textile Centre of Excellence, the summit brought together business leaders, investors, government representatives, academics and industry experts.

Tipu Usman highlighted Pakistan's economic reforms and improving macroeconomic stability, while recognising the important role of the Pakistani diaspora in strengthening bilateral relations. He also paid tribute to British communities that welcomed Pakistani immigrants from the 1960s onwards.

Emphasising textiles as a priority sector, he encouraged collaboration with the Textile Centre of Excellence in innovative yarns, fibres, sustainable production and joint manufacturing ventures. West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin highlighted the longstanding people-to-people connections between the two communities.

Japan Pledges $4.3 Million to Secure 28 Million Polio Vaccine Doses for Pakistan

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: Japan has announced a new grant of US$4.3 million to support Pakistan's polio eradication campaign, enabling the procurement of more than 28 million oral polio vaccine doses for nationwide immunisation drives in 2027.

The financial assistance will strengthen Pakistan's Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) at a critical stage in the country's efforts to interrupt poliovirus transmission and achieve a polio-free future.

Pakistan remains one of only two countries in the world where wild poliovirus transmission continues. Although the country has made progress, reporting 74 cases in 2024 and 31 in 2025, eight cases have already been detected in 2026. Six of this year's cases have emerged from southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where insecurity and limited access continue to hamper vaccination efforts.

Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq welcomed Japan's contribution, saying every vaccine dose would bring Pakistan closer to eliminating the preventable disease. She expressed gratitude to the Japanese government and people for their continued partnership. Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Akamatsu Shuichi, reaffirmed Tokyo's commitment to supporting the country's health priorities, emphasising that Japan had been working with Pakistan and UNICEF on polio eradication since 1996.

AI Geo Navigators launches NIGRAAN at COP31 Türkiye



APP- ISLAMABAD: AI Geo Navigators, a Pakistan-based climate-tech and geospatial intelligence company, officially launched NIGRAAN (National Integrated Geo Risk Alert & Atmospheric Network) at the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye. The launch took place at the Pakistan Pavilion under the theme "From Climate Data to Early Action: Launching NIGRAAN – Pakistan's GeoAI Platform for Climate Risk and Early Warning." The event brought together climate professionals, international experts, researchers, and representatives from different organizations to discuss how geospatial intelligence and artificial intelligence can support climate risk assessment, early warning systems, and informed decision-making.

The session was moderated by Laiba Tanvir, GIS Analyst at AI Geo Navigators, and featured Asim Javid, CEO of AI Geo Navigators; Magdalena Mirwald, Policy Advisor for Adaptation and Loss & Damage at Germanwatch; Lincoln TeO, CEO, iWise Group (IWG); Dr. Shakeel Hayat, Regional Climate Change and WASH Advisor, South Asia at WaterAid; and Zainab Naeem, Associate Research Fellow at SDPI Pakistan.

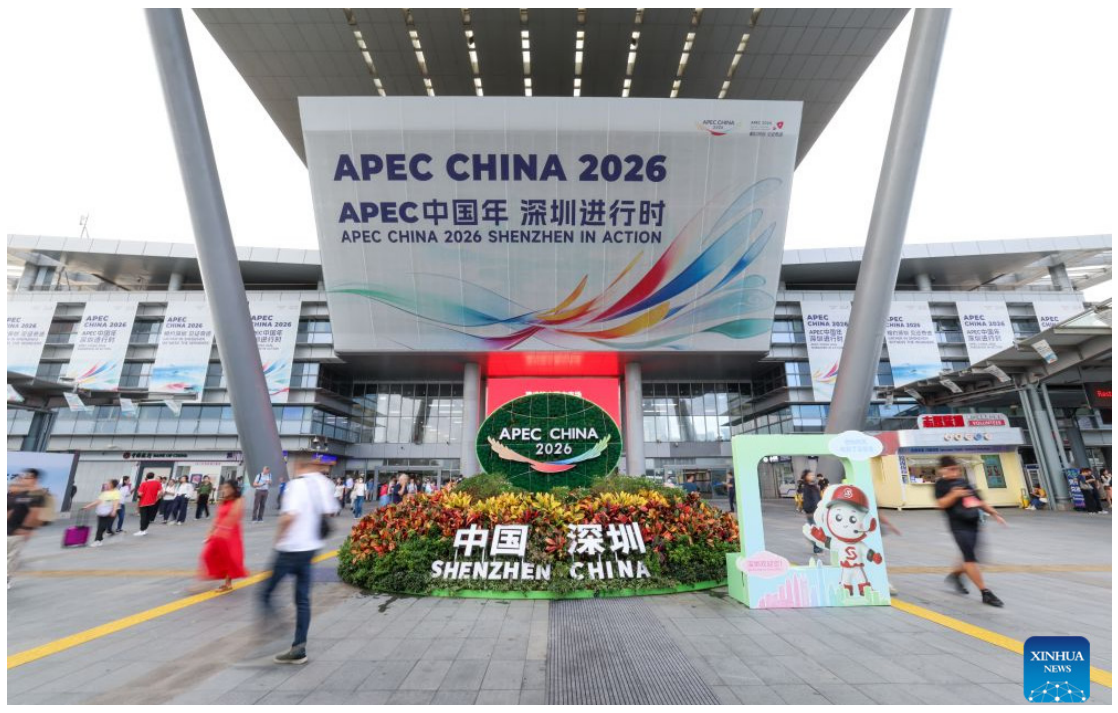
The event also featured an address by Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, Minister of State for Climate Change and Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, who highlighted the role of geospatial data, artificial intelligence, and local knowledge in strengthening climate resilience and early warning systems, said a message received here on Friday. She also emphasized the importance of bringing together technology, reliable climate information, and local knowledge to support better preparedness and climate action. The event further provided an opportunity for engagement among international representatives, researchers, and climate-sector professionals.

Representatives from international organizations, research institutions, and climate networks also joined the gathering, contributing diverse perspectives on climate action, technology, and collaboration. It is pertinent to mention here that NIGRAAN is Pakistan's operational climate intelligence platform, developed by AI Geo Navigators to integrate real-time weather observations and hazard monitoring, multi-model forecasts, multi-sourced Earth observation datasets, AI-based hazard assessments, and MACH ground stations into a single decision-support system.

Belgian Embassy Hosts King's Day Reception, Celebrates Friendship and Cultural Ties with Pakistan

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Belgium in Pakistan hosted a reception to celebrate Belgian King's Day, bringing together distinguished guests, partners and friends for an evening of diplomatic engagement, cultural exchange and Belgian culinary traditions.

The gathering provided an opportunity for the Embassy's team to celebrate the national occasion with members of the diplomatic community and Pakistani friends, while strengthening bonds of friendship and cooperation between Belgium and Pakistan. Guests enjoyed warm conversations and a selection of Belgium's renowned culinary specialties, adding a cultural touch to the celebrations and offering an opportunity to experience the country's rich gastronomic heritage. King's Day, observed annually on November 15, is an important Belgian national tradition celebrating the monarchy and symbolising national unity and continuity. The occasion reflects Belgium's constitutional heritage and its longstanding national traditions.



an APEC-themed poster at Shenzhen Bay Port in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province.

Turkish Ambassador calls on Bilal, reviews trade, investment cooperation



APP- ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, Irfan Neziroglu, called on Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Bilal Azhar Kayani, at the Ministry of Finance on Friday. The meeting reviewed agenda related to cooperation in trade, investment and energy. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to the agreed USD 5 billion bilateral trade target and to attracting greater Turkish investments, especially in the Special Economic Zones, said a release issued here on Friday.

He appreciated Türkiye's strong interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan and expressed the need to leverage the strong political goodwill on both sides to mutually enhance trade volumes. Minister of State appreciated the active participation of Turkish companies in the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026, as well the interest of Turkish enterprises in privatization of DISCOs. He underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation across multiple sectors including maritime and ship breaking where significant opportunities exist for mutually beneficial partnerships for the two brotherly countries. Both sides agreed to renew the efforts on the expansion of Pakistan-Turkiye Trade in Goods agreement and discussed ideas to translate the political goodwill into actionable targets and deliver meaningful results.

They also agreed to hold further meetings to explore new avenues for strengthening the longstanding strategic partnership between Pakistan and Türkiye.



A Palestinian inspects burned vehicles after Israeli settlers set fire to dozens of vehicles in the village of al-Lubban ash-Sharqiya, south of Nablus in the West Bank,

Attock police register case over alleged blackmailing of minor boy through videos

EHSAN AWAN

ATTOCK: A disturbing case involving the alleged filming, harassment and blackmailing of underage boys has surfaced in Attock, prompting Police to register a criminal case against a nominated suspect following a complaint by an affected family. According to the FIR registered at Attock City Police Station, complainant Mudassir Rehman stated that his 16-year-old son was allegedly being blackmailed through videos, with the accused reportedly using such recordings to intimidate underage children and extort money from them. The complainant nominated Afaq, a resident of Farooq Azam Colony, alleging that he was involved in making videos of minor boys and subsequently using the recordings to blackmail and harass them while demanding money. He further stated that his teenage son had suffered severe mental distress and psychological harassment as a result of the alleged conduct. Acting on the family's complaint, Attock City Police registered an FIR under Sections 292 and 376-III of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and launched a haunt to net him.