INTELLECTUAL TIMES

CHIEF EDITIOR: ZAHID RAFIQUE BHATTI

EDITOR: ANSAR IQBAL

INTERNATIONAL

INDIA'S ELECTION COMMISSION FACES
PRESSURE OVER VOTER-ROLL REVISION



NEW DELHI – India's Election Commission faces severe backlash over allegations that key decisions during its Special Intensive Revision of voter rolls were executed without approval from two of its three commissioners. While the commission rejected the claims, asserting all decisions were unanimous and legally valid, draft rolls reflect the exclusion of over 133 million names. The exercise triggered massive nationwide protests led by opposition parties and groups including the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over allegations of disenfranchising marginalized communities. Tensions escalated dramatically following a high-profile security crackdown in New Delhi ahead of a planned march at Jantar Mantar. Delhi Police carried out widespread detentions, including CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke—who was detained straight from an aircraft upon landing in Delhi—alongside key figures such as YouTuber Dhruv Rathee, CJP leaders, and opposition politicians. While Dipke, Rathee, and several associates were subsequently released by an Executive Magistrate court, India's Supreme Court is scheduled to review legal challenges against the voter revision exercise next week.

SAUDI CITIZENS, CAPTAIN
KILLED IN HOUTHI ATTACKS



RIYADH, October 8th - Three Saudi citizens, including Saudia Airlines pilot Captain Hamoud Ali Alkalthami, were killed in attacks targeting King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh and Abha International Airport on October 8. Several others were injured, while a parked Saudia aircraft was damaged. Yemen's Houthi movement claimed responsibility for the strikes, which disrupted air traffic and prompted airlines to suspend or cancel Riyadh services. On October 9, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attacks, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and security under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, which also includes Turkiye. The UAE, France, India, Qatar, Oman and Egypt also condemned the attacks and expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia. The Saudi-led coalition said it had struck Houthi military targets in Yemen. On October 9, Pakistan International Airlines temporarily suspended Riyadh flights, while Air India cancelled services and Lufthansa Group suspended flights through October 16. Saudi authorities said airport operations had returned to normal on Thursday evening, though disruptions continued.

SAUDIA ARABIA LAUNCHES
PROB IN FLY DUBAI INCIDENT



DUBAI: A flydubai flight bound for Tel Aviv made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia on September 30 after its co-pilot allegedly attacked the captain inside the cockpit, triggering a mid-air crisis now under investigation. Flight FZ1073, a Boeing 737 MAX 8, was cruising over Saudi Arabia at around 34,000 feet when tracking data showed it lose more than 16,000 feet in roughly 30 seconds. The aircraft transmitted emergency codes before diverting to Tabuk, where it landed safely. Passengers survived, although crew members were injured. The UAE prosecutor-general said co-pilot Hamam al-Hammami, an Omani national, allegedly attacked Captain Smit Machchhar with a crash axe and attempted to seize control of the aircraft. Despite being injured, Machchhar reportedly managed to unlock the cockpit door, allowing passengers to restrain the co-pilot. Off-duty pilots aboard then took control and landed the plane. Investigators are examining the motive, possible advance planning and whether anyone else was involved. Claims concerning the co-pilot's alleged extremist links have not been established in a final public investigation report. Saudi Arabia has launched a separate aviation safety investigation under international rules, while the UAE is conducting a criminal inquiry. The safety probe aims to examine the incident and identify lessons for aviation safety. On October 8, Israeli President Isaac Herzog announced that Machchhar would receive the Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism once he recovers. Six passengers who helped subdue the co-pilot received the award at a ceremony in Jerusalem, recognising their role in helping avert a potential disaster.

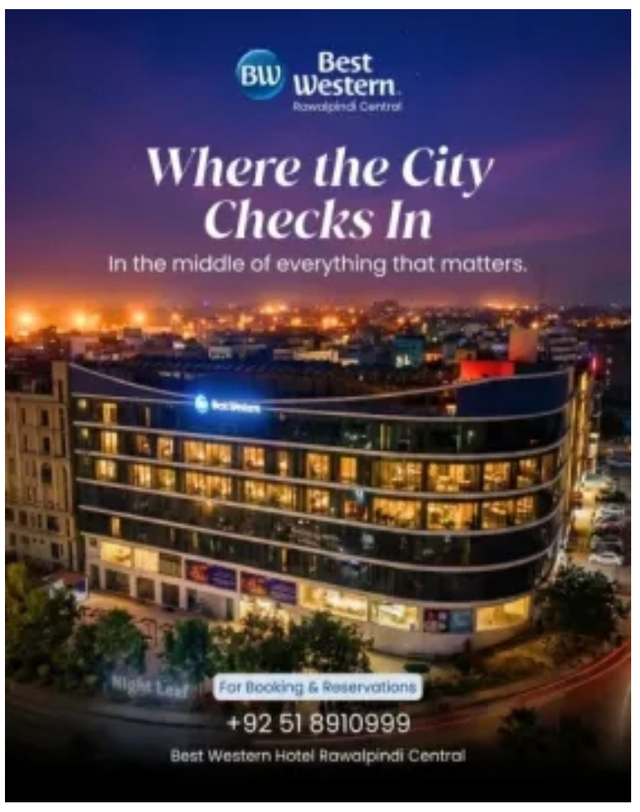
PAKISTAN REAFFIRMS SAUDI SECURITY
COMMITMENT AMID HOUTHI ATTACKS



Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye face mounting pressure to implement their joint Makkah Defence Agreement following escalating Houthi strikes on Saudi targets, including King Khalid and Abha international airports. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the attacks, reaffirming Pakistan's solid commitment to the kingdom's security. Military spokesperson Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry emphasized that the pact is designed for collective deterrence rather than conflict escalation. Also confirming on October 7th that Pakistani military was present in Saudia Arabia for "Decades" protecting key Holy sites in Makkah and Madina. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan clarified that Ankara is assessing defensive support, ruling out offensive operations. Precise operational deployment details remain under review.

RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES DENY REPORTS
OF PLAGUE, ANTI PLAGUE MEASURES

IRKUTSK – Russian authorities denied reports that special anti-plague measures were imposed in Irkutsk, stating the death of 28-year-old laboratory worker Darya Shipilova was caused by severe pneumonia of undetermined origin. Tests confirmed no plague-linked microorganisms were detected. Unofficial allegations suggested potential exposure to pneumonic plague after a laboratory incident, but officials have not confirmed the claim, emphasizing that the regional health situation remains stable. Roughly 200 contacts of Shipilova have been placed under medical observation or quarantine as a precaution, with no further cases reported among institute personnel. The World Health Organization assessed the public health risk as moderate-to-low in Irkutsk, low for Russia, and very low across Europe. U.S. officials confirmed they are monitoring the situation as investigations continue. However, on October 9th, Health authorities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan increased health checks and / or reviewed their preparedness following reports of the suspected infection in Siberia. Russian officials have not confirmed that the woman contracted plague or that a laboratory accident occurred.



SUPER EL-NINO WILL PEAK
INTENSIFY, PEAKING IN DECEMBER



GENEVA – The WMO reported Oct 8 that El Niño is intensifying toward a December peak, ranking among the strongest since 1950. Forecasters see a near 100% chance it persists through Feb 2027, with Pacific sea surface temperatures reaching 3.7˚C above normal, eclipsing the 2015-16 record. The event threatens global climate shifts, heightening drought risks across the Indian subcontinent and parts of the Americas.



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NATIONAL

GOVERNMENT, PTI AGREE TO SEEK FAZLUR REHMAN'S MEDIATION



ISLAMABAD, October 8th – In a potential breakthrough for Pakistan's political stalemate, both the ruling coalition and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have agreed in principle to engage Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to mediate their ongoing deadlock. The political impasse deepened after negotiations chaired by National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq collapsed over the release and medical access of incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan, triggering PTI's long march from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Seeking to avoid further escalation, a special government committee met with the JUI-F chief to submit a progress report, paving the way for direct telephonic contact between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Fazlur Rehman. Simultaneously, opposition figures have welcomed mediation efforts to establish a structured channel for renewed talks.

SUSPECTED ROBBER KILLED, CONSTABLE INJURED IN SHOOTOUT



ISLAMABAD, October 5th – A suspected robber was killed and Constable Atif Mehmood injured in an exchange of fire near Golra Mor on G.T. Road, while police have yet to publicly confirm the arrest of the second suspect who escaped. According to police, the incident occurred on Sunday night when a six-member patrolling team signalled two motorcyclists to stop at a checking point near Golra Mor. The suspects allegedly attempted to turn their motorcycle, fell onto the road and opened fire, injuring Constable Atif. Police Officials later visited Constable Atif at the Hospital to inquire about his health. The suspects fled towards Chungi No. 26. One continued firing while the other was wounded during the exchange and later died at a hospital. Police recovered a 30-bore pistol, 3 mobile phones and the motorcycle allegedly used by the suspects. Investigators said the pair were allegedly involved in two robberies committed shortly before the encounter, one on Fatehjang Road and another at Dhoke Paracha.

PIMS APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AFTER HOSPITAL FIRE


DR TANWIR KHALIQ

ISLAMABAD, October 6 - Prof Dr Tanwir Khaliq, vice chancellor of SZABMU, was assigned additional charge as executive director of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) for three months. Dr Mohammad Salman was repatriated to the National Institute of Health. Prof Dr Brig. (Retd.) Azmat Hayat was assigned additional charge as joint executive director (Medical). The changes come nearly six weeks after the Aug 26 Pims nursery fire killed 14 newborns. The surviving infant later died. An inquiry found "systemic and institutional failure" and identified electrical failure as the most likely cause. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered its recommendations implemented within three months.

BILAWAL BHUTTO, RANA SANAULLAH JOIN JUDICIAL COMISSION



ISLAMABAD, October 9th - Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and PML-N Senator Rana Sanaullah have been appointed members of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), filling vacancies left by the resignations of Farooq H. Naek and Aftab Sheikh. The nominations were made by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar under Article 175A of the Constitution, with approval from Chief Justice Yahya Afridi. The commission appoints judges to superior courts and evaluates high court judges. Its next meeting is scheduled for October 13 to consider extending the term of Sindh High Court's constitutional benches.

CYBERCRIME AGENCY ARRESTS SUSPECTS IN CALL-CENTRE RAIDS

KARACHI, October 9th - Authorities have arrested 33 suspects during a raid on a suspected scam call centre in Karachi, while a separate operation in Lahore led to the arrest of 17 women, as part of a wider crackdown on suspected cyber fraud. The operations target alleged call-centre scams and related fraudulent activities. Further details about the suspects, the nature of the alleged fraud and possible charges were not provided in the available information.

GOVERNER FAISAL KARIM REITERATES EMERGENCY COULD BE IMPOSED TO SAVE PROVINCE


FAISAL KARIM KUNDI

PESHAWAR, October 6th – Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi stated on October 7 that emergency or governor's rule would be enforced in the province if the president and prime minister deemed it necessary to curb terrorism and "save" KP. Kundi emphasized that the immediate priority was determining whether and when to impose the measure, noting its political sustainability could be evaluated later. His comments come amid federal warnings over the PTI-led long march and heightened security concerns. Kundi confirmed his October 4 meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi centered on security challenges and the PTI march, acknowledging prior discussions regarding potential emergency provisions. While the governor accused the provincial leadership of failing to combat terrorism effectively, the PTI-led KP government rejected governor's rule and reiterated its opposition to further military operations.

PTI MARCH SET TO REACH SWABI BY MID OCTOBER



PESHAWAR, October 9th – The political standoff between the federal government and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has deepened as the party's march toward Islamabad continues its movement across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Originally slated for late September, the march was rescheduled to October 4 following the breakdown of high-stakes talks between government representatives and opposition leaders in Islamabad. Multi-day talks chaired by National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq hit a deadlock early on October 4 after failing to resolve key opposition demands regarding the release and medical access of incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan. Following the negotiation deadlock, the protest officially launched on October 4 from Gandi Chowk in Lakki Marwat under the leadership of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi. Moving under the banner of the Tehreek Tahaffuz-e-Aayin-e-Pakistan (TTAP) alliance, the convoy traversed southern districts—including Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Bannu, Karak, and Kohat—before entering Peshawar. By October 10, Chief Minister Afridi and the convoy arrived at Amir Muawiya Chowk in Charsadda district, extending the journey across the province. PTI leadership has indicated that the marchers will gather in Swabi on October 14, where Chief Minister Afridi announced he will reveal the party's final operational plan before leading the rally across the provincial boundary at Khairabad toward Islamabad. The prolonged rally inside KP has heightened political tensions, prompting KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and federal authorities to warn that emergency or governor's rule could be considered to maintain public order and counterterrorism focus. However, PTI leadership has dismissed federal warnings as empty threats, reaffirming their resolve to reach the capital to demand constitutional compliance and the release of political detainees.



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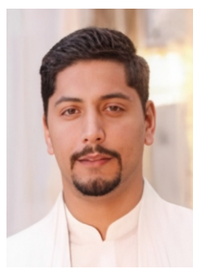
EDITORIAL



THE FINE LINE: WHEN TAX DISPUTES BECOME CRIMINAL CASES

BY: ADV. SOHAIL ANSAR

Pakistan's tax system distinguishes between a taxpayer making a procedural mistake and one deliberately attempting to evade tax. A late return or discrepancy does not automatically amount to criminal fraud. The consequences depend on the nature of the default, the taxpayer's conduct and the law applied. Under the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, failures such as late filing, poor record-keeping or non-compliance with notices can attract penalties. A more serious situation arises when authorities allege deliberate concealment, false statements, fraudulent claims or intentional tax evasion. Criminal proceedings may follow where conduct goes beyond an administrative lapse and involves knowingly providing false information or attempting to defeat the law. Simply making an incorrect entry or filing late does not by itself establish criminal intent. Taxpayers facing prosecution can challenge the underlying assessment and question whether evidence establishes deliberate wrongdoing. Defence strategies may include showing that an error was accidental, producing financial records, challenging the alleged tax liability, demonstrating reliance on professional advice, or arguing that legal requirements for prosecution have not been met. Specialised tax forums and courts help distinguish genuine defaults from allegations of deliberate fraud. Due process remains essential when a tax dispute could lead to criminal consequences. Pakistan needs strong enforcement alongside clear legal standards. Honest mistakes should be treated proportionately, while deliberate evasion should face appropriate action. The aim should be a system in which taxpayers understand their obligations, authorities rely on evidence, and criminal prosecution is reserved for conduct that genuinely crosses the legal threshold.



MODERNISING PHARMACIES: EVALUATING THE PHARMACIST'S CRITICAL ROLE

BY: ABDUL WASAY

Pakistan's tax system distinguishes between a taxpayer making a procedural mistake and one deliberately attempting to evade tax. A late return or discrepancy does not automatically amount to criminal fraud. The consequences depend on the nature of the default, the taxpayer's conduct and the law applied. Under the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, failures such as late filing, poor record-keeping or non-compliance with notices can attract penalties. A more serious situation arises when authorities allege deliberate concealment, false statements, fraudulent claims or intentional tax evasion. Criminal proceedings may follow where conduct goes beyond an administrative lapse and involves knowingly providing false information or attempting to defeat the law. Simply making an incorrect entry or filing late does not by itself establish criminal intent. Taxpayers facing prosecution can challenge the underlying assessment and question whether evidence establishes deliberate wrongdoing. Defence strategies may include showing that an error was accidental, producing financial records, challenging the alleged tax liability, demonstrating reliance on professional advice, or arguing that legal requirements for prosecution have not been met. Specialised tax forums and courts help distinguish genuine defaults from allegations of deliberate fraud. Due process remains essential when a tax dispute could lead to criminal consequences. Pakistan needs strong enforcement alongside clear legal standards. Honest mistakes should be treated proportionately, while deliberate evasion should face appropriate action. The aim should be a system in which taxpayers understand their obligations, authorities rely on evidence, and criminal prosecution is reserved for conduct that genuinely crosses the legal threshold.

انتخابِ کلام

شاعر - ارشد طارق

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شاید ایسے ہی دن بدلتے ہیں

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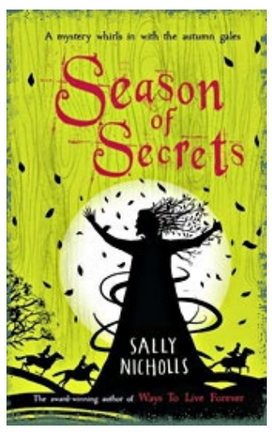
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SEASONS OF SECRETS

SALLY NICHOLLS'S CHILDRENS FICTION / FANTASY

REVIEW BY: ANSAR IQBAL



Some books stay with you because of their story, while others stay because of the feelings they leave behind. For me, Season of Secrets belongs to the second kind. Sally Nicholls tells a story about grief and growing up with a gentle touch that makes it feel personal rather than simply a story about loss. I especially liked the way Molly's world is presented. After losing her mother, she is sent with her sister Hannah to live with their grandparents, while their father deals with his own problems. Molly's loneliness and confusion feel very real, and I found myself understanding why she turns towards imagination and mystery for comfort. The mysterious Green Man gives the story a magical quality, but the fantasy never overshadows its emotions. Instead, the changing seasons and the old legend become a beautiful way of showing that grief, like nature, changes with time. There is sadness throughout the book, but there is also warmth, hope and the possibility of healing. What I appreciated most about Nicholls' writing is that she does not make loss easy or sentimental. Molly does not simply forget her pain; she gradually learns how to live with it. That made the story feel honest to me. Season of Secrets is a quiet, thoughtful book with mystery and imagination. I would recommend it to readers who enjoy stories that combine magic with genuine emotion. Above all, it is a moving reminder that even after difficult changes, life can slowly begin again.

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BUSINESS

LCCI WELCOMES GOVERNMENT PLAN TO EXPAND SME FINANCING


ALI HUSSAM ASGHAR

LAHORE, October 8th – President Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) Ali Hussam Asghar welcomed Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the federal government's target to increase SME financing to Rs2 trillion by June 2028. Terming the initiative a significant step toward empowering small and medium enterprises, Asghar stated that the plan will spur investment, generate employment, broaden financial inclusion, and strengthen Pakistan's economy. Asghar emphasized that SMEs constitute the backbone of the national economy with immense potential for export growth and commercial expansion. Enhanced access to timely, affordable credit will enable enterprises to modernize operations, adopt new technologies, and improve productivity. He praised the government's plan to target 775,000 potential borrowers by 2028, noting that outstanding SME credit grew from Rs1.114 trillion in June 2026 to over Rs1.137 trillion by September 2026, reaching 350,862 borrowers. Achieving the ambitious target requires strong coordination among the government, State Bank of Pakistan, commercial banks, microfinance institutions, SMEDA, and the private sector. Asghar urged financial institutions to simplify documentation, improve financial literacy, expand digital platforms, and design flexible credit products tailored for small businesses and startups struggling with conventional lending requirements. The LCCI President commended Information Minister Attaullah Tarar for effectively communicating economic policies to build business confidence. He also welcomed expanded financing for agriculture and housing, highlighting their positive multiplier effects on allied construction industries, productivity, and rural value chains. Reiterating the business community's commitment, Asghar affirmed that chambers of commerce stand ready to work with authorities to identify genuine credit needs and facilitate coordination between SMEs and financial institutions to establish a sustainable ecosystem.

IMF REACHES POTENTIAL BILLIONS-WORTH STAFF-LEVEL DEAL WITH PAKISTAN



ISLAMABAD, October 7th - Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on October 7, potentially unlocking $1.21 billion in additional financing, subject to approval by the Fund's Executive Board. The agreement covers the fourth review of the $7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF), worth about $1 billion, and the third review of the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), providing approximately $210 million for climate-related reforms. An IMF mission led by Iva Petrova held talks in Karachi and Islamabad from September 23 to October 7. Approval would bring cumulative disbursements under both programmes to around $5.7 billion. Pakistan could receive the funds within four to five weeks after approval. The IMF reported 3.6 per cent estimated growth for fiscal year 2025-26, while inflation eased to 10.3 per cent in September and foreign exchange reserves reached $21.5 billion by month-end. It cautioned that geopolitical tensions, volatile energy prices and global financial conditions remain risks. The Fund called for fiscal discipline, stronger tax collection, electricity-sector reforms, tight monetary policy, privatisation and improved governance. It also urged higher health and education spending and continued climate-resilience measures.

TRUMP ANNOUNCES RUSSIAN DIESEL SUPPLY PLAN, SANCTIONS EASING



WASHINGTON, October 9th US President Donald Trump announced on October 9 that Russia had agreed to supply more than 300,000 tonnes of diesel immediately, following discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump outlined further proposed shipments of 500,000 tonnes in November, one million tonnes afterward and another three million tonnes within a short period, depending on the condition of Russian refineries. The Kremlin confirmed Russia's willingness to supply petroleum products but did not independently verify the specific volumes or schedule. The US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control issued General License 135, temporarily authorising specified transactions involving Russian-origin diesel through April 7, 2027.

NINE PARTIES PREQUALIFIED FOR GEPCO PRIVATISATION



ISLAMABAD: The Privatisation Commission Board approved the prequalification of nine parties for the acquisition of 51% to 100% of Gujranwala Electric Power Company (Gepco), along with management control. The board received 11 expressions of interest (EoIs) before evaluating applicants against the approved prequalification criteria. The nine successful parties include three Turkish energy companies, along with Pakistani business groups and investment consortia. The financial adviser recommended the nine parties for prequalification and progression to the next stage of the transaction. The successful parties will now receive access to the Virtual Data Room (VDR) to conduct detailed due diligence as the privatisation process moves forward.

PM APPROVES PLAN TO BOOST LIVESTOCK, MEAT EXPORTS



ISLAMABAD, October 6 - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved a plan to import high-yield livestock, raise the animals at specialised farms and export them, with duty-free imports proposed for such farms. The prime minister also ordered the livestock sector to be reorganised along corporate lines and directed authorities to use private-sector expertise in implementing reforms. Authorities were asked to prepare a two-week roadmap for eliminating foot-and-mouth disease and ensure international certification and third-party validation of slaughterhouses. Officials said Pakistan has around 245 million livestock animals worth about Rs5.5 trillion, while the sector accounts for 63.6% of the agricultural economy. Pakistan's meat exports stood at around $530 million in 2025-26, with Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and China identified as potential markets for expansion.

GULF INVESTORS PUT MILLIONS INTO PAKISTAN'S INVESTMENT BONDS



ISLAMABAD, October 6th - Gulf countries invested $129.8 million in Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs) during the first 25 days of September, with the United Arab Emirates accounting for the largest share. The UAE invested $110m in PIBs and $5m in Treasury bills, while Bahrain invested $10m in PIBs and $14m in T-bills during September. From July 1 to Sept 25, foreign investment in PIBs reached $203.7m against outflows of $115m. T-bill investment stood at $161m against $171m in outflows. Financial experts attributed Gulf interest to Pakistan's relatively high bond yields and perceived safety, while stressing the need to strengthen foreign-exchange reserves to maintain investor confidence. The government is promoting longer-term PIBs to reduce frequent repayments and sees potential for greater Gulf investment amid regional economic and security uncertainty.

NEPRA NOTIFIES GRID CHARGES FOR COMPETITIVE POWER MARKET

ISLAMABAD, October 9th - NEPRA notified uniform Use-of-System Charges on October 9, paving the way for Pakistan's competitive wholesale electricity market. Eligible bulk consumers will be able to purchase power from suppliers of their choice through competitive auctions. Industrial B-3 and B-4 auction participants will pay Rs6.23 and Rs9.09 per unit respectively for grid use. Non-participants face higher charges of Rs19.17 and Rs25.45 per unit. These charges exclude the agreed electricity supply price. A fixed charge of Rs1 per kilowatt per month will also apply.

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SPORTS

NOVAK DJOKOVIC CLAIMS
HISTORIC TITLE IN BEIJING



BEIJING, October 6th – Novak Djokovic secured his seventh China Open title on October 6, 2026, extending his dominant legacy in Beijing following his return to the tournament for the first time since 2015. Facing fifth-seeded Alex de Minaur in the final, Djokovic claimed a tightly contested opening set 7-6 (7-3). De Minaur received medical treatment for a left thigh issue after the tiebreak and was forced to retire early in the second set, handing Djokovic victory with the score at 7-6 (7-3), 0-1. Djokovic's path to the championship match involved an unexpected turn during the semi-finals against third-seeded Daniil Medvedev. Medvedev was disqualified from the match after accidentally hitting a spectator in the front row with a ball hit in frustration, automatically advancing Djokovic to the final. The tournament victory marks Djokovic's overall seventh men's singles crown in Beijing, preserving his undefeated final record at the event.

JANNIK SINNER ENDS SEASON
EARLY DUE TO KNEE INJURY



JANNIK SINNER

ROME, October 6th – World No. 1 Jannik Sinner announced on October 6, 2026, that his current season has come to an end as he undergoes medical treatment for ongoing knee inflammation. The Italian star has been sidelined since his victory over Alexander Zverev in the Wimbledon final on July 12, subsequently missing both the US Open and the Asian swing. The decision also forces Sinner to withdraw from the European indoor tournaments and the ATP Finals in Turin, where he was the two-time defending champion. Sinner confirmed the choice was made alongside medical professionals to safeguard his long-term career, allowing sufficient time for full recovery before 2027 pre-season preparations. His early shutdown leaves significant ranking implications at the top of men's tennis, as it opens an opportunity for world No. 2 Alexander Zverev to challenge for the year-end top spot while Sinner remains unable to defend his points across the remaining tour calendar.

WEST INDIES COMPLETE
HUGE CHASE AGAINST INDIA

RANCHI, October 9th – West Indies completed a historic six-wicket win over India on Oct 9, chasing 249-5 in Ranchi. Captain Shai Hope's unbeaten century and Sherfane Rutherford's key support sealed one of T20I history's largest chases between Test nations. The series continues Oct 11 in Indore.

PCB ANNOUNCES DATES
FOR NEXT EDITION OF PSL



LAHORE, October – The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on October 8, 2026, that the 12th edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) will take place from March 18 to May 2, 2027. The tournament window was finalized following detailed consultations with representatives and owners of all eight franchises during the PSL Governing Council meeting held in London on September 1. PSL 12 will maintain the expanded eight-team format introduced in 2026, with the Hyderabad Kingsmen and Rawalpindiz competing alongside the six legacy franchises. The upcoming squad-building cycle will feature direct player signings, retentions, a trade window, and a player auction, with venues and fixtures to be announced later. Peshawar Zalmi enter PSL 12 as defending champions after defeating Hyderabad Kingsmen by five wickets in the PSL 11 final on May 3.

ELITE LAW FIRM

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ADVOCATE SOHAIL ANSAR
03094864992

DJOKOVIC CRASHES OUT
OF SHANGHAI MASTERS

SHANGHAI, October 9th - Novak Djokovic suffered a early exit from the Shanghai Masters on October 9, losing 6-4, 6-3 to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz in the second round. The 39-year-old Serbian arrived in Shanghai fresh from winning a record seventh China Open title in Beijing earlier this week. However, he struggled to adjust to the faster surface and admitted he was tired and not playing at his best. The defeat marked another setback in Djokovic's season following his first-round exit at the US Open. The 24-time Grand Slam champion will now turn his attention to the upcoming indoor tournaments, with the Paris Masters among his next targets.

NATIONAL ROAD CYCLING
CHAMPIONSHIP BEGINS IN KARACHI



KARACHI: The 10th National Road Cycling Championship 2026 is scheduled to take place at Bahria Town Karachi from October 9 to 11, bringing together provincial, departmental and regional teams.The opening day's competitions were set to begin at 9am on Friday, while the closing ceremony and prize distribution are scheduled for 4pm on October 11.Categories include Men's Elite, Women's Elite, junior, para-cycling and masters. The Pakistan Cycling Federation has also introduced an Open Masters category, allowing veteran and community cyclists to compete at national level.Participating teams include Pakistan Army, Sui Southern Gas Company, Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Islamabad and other cycling teams.Performances are expected to help the federation select riders for the upcoming Asian Road Cycling Championship. Federation president Syed Azhar Ali Shah has emphasised the role of national competitions in developing young talent and providing cyclists with opportunities to demonstrate their abilities.

WILSON SWEEPS MVP RECORDS
WITH HISTORIC WNBA HONOUR



ACES STAR A'JA WILSON

NEW YORK – Las Vegas Aces star A'ja Wilson made WNBA history on Oct 8, becoming the league's first five-time MVP and first to win three straight titles (2024–2026), following wins in 2020 and 2022. Wilson earned 65 of 74 first-place votes, averaging 26.2 points and 9.4 rebounds while leading the league in scoring. Rookie Olivia Miles finished second in voting. The 31-13 Aces now face semifinal elimination down 2-0 to the Golden State Valkyries ahead of Game 3 on Oct 9.

FARHAN POWERS PAKISTAN
TO VICTORY OVER SRI LANKA



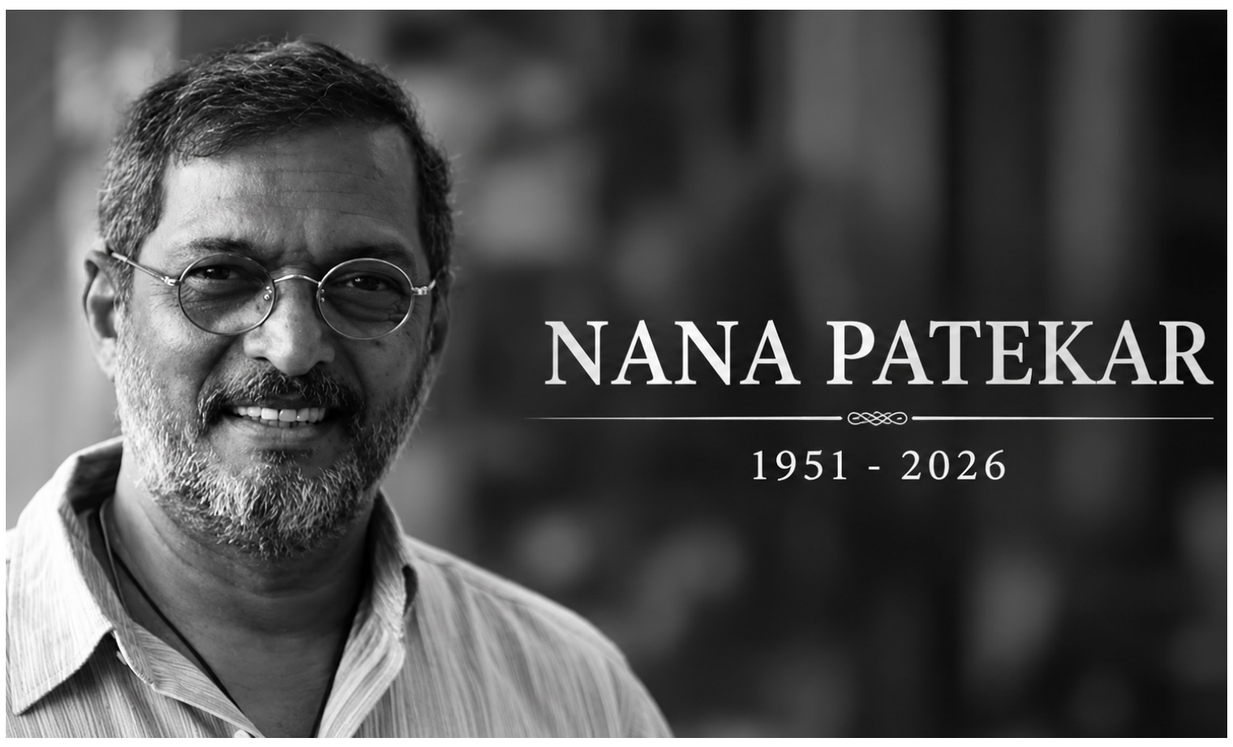
RAWALPINDI, October 9th Sahibzada Farhan marked his first match as Pakistan's full-time T20I captain with a match-winning 89 as Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by four wickets in the opening match of the three-game series on October 9. Sri Lanka posted 182-8 in 20 overs, led by Lahiru Udara's 91 off 55 balls. Naseem Shah took three wickets for Pakistan, while debutant Mohammad Imran claimed two. Pakistan chased down the 183-run target in 18.5 overs, finishing at 187-6 with seven balls to spare. Farhan struck 10 fours and four sixes in his 53-ball innings, while Maaz Sadaqat smashed 50 off 29 deliveries. The pair added 92 runs for the second wicket, putting the hosts firmly on course before Sri Lanka fought back with quick wickets. Farhan was named player of the match as Pakistan took a 1-0 lead in the series. The second T20I is scheduled for October 11 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, with the third to follow on October 13 at the same venue.

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SHOWBIZ

NANA PATEKAR: REMEMBERED FOR POWERFUL, VERSATILE PERFORMANCES



MUMBAI, October 8th – Veteran Indian actor Nana Patekar, whose unmistakable voice, intense screen presence, and explosive dramatic command made him one of the most recognizable and revered performers in Hindi and Marathi cinema, died on Thursday at the age of 75 following a cardiac arrest at his residence in Goa. Patekar was discovered unconscious at his home and immediately rushed to Manipal Hospital in Dona Paula, where a medical team attempted resuscitation for approximately 45 minutes before formally pronouncing him dead at around 5:20 am. His sudden passing brings an end to an extraordinary artistic career spanning nearly five decades and encompassing around 90 feature films across multiple Indian languages. Born Vishwanath Patekar in Maharashtra in 1951, he developed an early passion for the performing arts, beginning his acting journey in Marathi theatre before making his transition to mainstream cinema. He made his silver screen debut in Muzaffar Ali's critically acclaimed 1978 drama Gaman. Over the ensuing decades, Patekar displayed exceptional versatility, playing ruthless gangsters, dedicated police officers, stern fathers, scheming politicians, sinister villains, complex flawed heroes, and iconic comic characters with equal brilliance. His major cinematic breakthrough arrived with Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 1989 crime drama Parinda, in which he played the manic and ruthless underworld lord Anna. The performance earned him the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor and established him as one of Hindi cinema's most formidable character performers. He built upon this momentum with a series of powerful roles that demonstrated his expansive range. In Angaar (1992), he played Majid Khan and secured the Filmfare Award for Best Villain, while in Tirangaa (1993), he starred as the uncompromising police officer Shivajirao Wagle opposite veteran actor Raaj Kumar. In 1994, Mehul Kumar's Krantiveer provided Patekar with what many consider his defining career performance as Pratap Narayan Tilak, a disillusioned man who finds purpose in confronting institutional corruption and societal injustice. His fiery, passionate monologues resonated deeply with audiences nationwide, earning him the National Film Award for Best Actor, alongside Filmfare – and Screen Awards. In 1996, Patekar secured his third National Film Award—again for Best Supporting Actor—for his role in Agni Sakshi. That same year, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Khamoshi: The Musical displayed a far quieter, deeply moving side of his acting spectrum as he played a deaf father struggling to communicate with his musically gifted daughter. Patekar was never confined solely to intense dramatic or dark roles. Across his career, he comfortably navigated diverse genres, playing investigators, political figures, everyday men, and eventually becoming equally celebrated for his comic timing. In the 2007 blockbuster Welcome, he transformed the character of underworld don Uday Shetty into an iconic comedic figure through deadpan delivery, expressive body language, and impeccable timing, a role he reprised in the 2015 sequel Welcome Back. His extensive filmography featured seminal works such as Mira Nair's Salaam Bombay!, Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman, Shakti: The Power, Apaharan, Bhoot, Ab Tak Chhappan, and Prakash Jha's political thriller Raajneeti, in which he played the astute political strategist Brij Gopal. Throughout his rise in Hindi cinema, Marathi films remained integral to his identity. In the 2016 Marathi masterpiece Natsamrat, he delivered a tour-de-force performance as Ganpat Belwalkar, an aging theatre actor grappling with retirement, familial betrayal, and the tragic collapse of his personal world. Behind the camera, Patekar made significant artistic contributions, directing, writing, and starring in the 1991 military drama Prahaar: The Final Attack. Over his career, he won three National Film Awards and was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2013. Off-screen, he was revered for his philanthropy through the NAAM Foundation, supporting drought-affected farmers across Maharashtra. Tributes poured in from leaders and peers: Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised his creative versatility, President Droupadi Murmu highlighted his emotive power, and actor Akshay Kumar remembered him as a rare artist. Patekar leaves behind a monumental legacy defined by iconic roles: Anna in Parinda, Pratap in Krantiveer, the vulnerable father in Khamoshi, Ganpat in Natsamrat, and Uday Shetty in Welcome.

BAS TERA SATH HO OFFICIALLY AIRS FINAL EPISODE



KARACHI, October 5 – The popular television drama series Bas Tera Saath Ho officially aired its final episode on ARY Digital on October 5, 2026, bringing its 45-episode broadcast run to a successful conclusion. Helmed by director Qasim Ali Mureed, the primetime series featured acclaimed actors Farhan Saeed and Sana Javed in the lead roles, drawing consistent viewership throughout its multi-month television run. The production team and star-studded cast had wrapped up all principal photography earlier in the year on July 21, 2026, ensuring the full narrative was finalized well ahead of the show's television finale. Following the broadcast of the final chapter, lead actor Farhan Saeed formally bid farewell to his character, Anas. Taking to social media, Saeed expressed his sincere gratitude to the audience for their overwhelming support, while thanking director Qasim Ali Mureed alongside his fellow cast and production crew members. Saeed's nuanced portrayal of Anas resonated strongly with audiences, focusing on the journey of a vulnerable orphan who undergoes prolonged abuse and hardship before eventually cultivating self-respect, personal resilience, and newfound confidence.

MACKLEMORE'S "FREE PALESTINE" TOUR TICKETS SOLD OUT IN EUROPE IMMEDIATELY



Macklemore's "Free Palestine" tour sold out all three European shows, he announced on October 1st. The concerts are scheduled for Dublin, Ireland on October 26, Paris, France on October 29 and London, Britan on October 30. Additional US dates are promised, while the supporting lineup remains unannounced. All proceeds are intended for Palestinian humanitarian and advocacy groups, including Anera, Gaza Soup Kitchen, Medical Aid for Palestinians, Palestine Children's Relief Fund, HEAL Palestine and UNRWA USA. The tour follows Macklemore's removal from Ed Sheeran's Loop Tour. At a September 4 show at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium, Macklemore called for "Free Palestine" and expressed support for people in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. The promoter later said venue owners would not allow the remaining shows to proceed with him on the lineup. Sheeran said the removal was the promoter's decision, not his. The other supporting acts subsequently withdrew from the tour.

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