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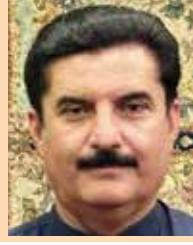
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Govt committed to eradication of polio: Shehzad

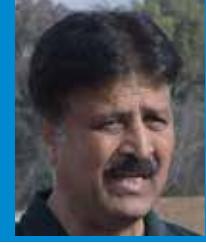
Detailed News On Page-08

KP CM not acting in a serious way

Detailed News On Page-08

**Pakistan team announced for pro league**

Detailed News On Page-06



PTI in trouble **Non-bailable arrest warrant for Afridi in cybercrime case**

Senior civil judge orders law enforcement authorities to ensure KP chief minister production before court

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad district and sessions court on Wednesday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister (CM) Sohail Afridi over his repeated failure to appear in a case involving alleged misleading statements against state institutions. Senior Civil Judge Abbas Shah issued the warrant after Afridi did not attend the hearing despite being summoned by the court. Taking notice of his continuous non-appearance, the court ordered his arrest and production before the court. The court adjourned further proceedings in the case until February 10. The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) had registered a case against the KP chief minister under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), accusing him of making statements that allegedly harmed the reputation of state institutions. In addition to the cybercrime case, CM Afridi is facing proceedings in an anti-terrorism court over his alleged role in the November 26 protest in Islamabad. KP chief minister is also facing a case before the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) over an alleged violation of the code of conduct during a recent by-election for a National Assembly seat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A day earlier, the Peshawar High Court (PHC) restrained the ECP from taking any action or issuing a final order against the CM Afridi in a case related to a notice served over alleged threats to government officials during the Haripur by-election. A two-member bench comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Faheem Wali

Continued on Page 06



PTI concerned at Imran Khan health reports

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Barrister Gohar Khan on Wednesday voiced "grave concern" following reports that party founder Imran Khan was taken to a hospital in Islamabad recently. "A report has emerged that the PTI founder was brought to the hospital and then returned to jail. This news has caused severe worry for both the party and the family," he said while addressing a press conference alongside PTI leaders in Islamabad. The PTI chief said that the party and family members have not been informed about the nature of Khan's illness, demanding a meeting with the founder be arranged immediately. "If not today, then at least tomorrow, a meeting should be allowed," he added. Earlier today, local media reported that Khan was admitted to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday under tight security for a medical procedure. Citing a hospital doctor, the report stated the former prime minister underwent a procedure for an eye ailment, and was returned to Adiala jail the next day. The PTI on Tuesday had cited "credible media reports" that Khan had been diagnosed with Central Retinal Vein Occlusion (CRVO) in his right eye, resulting in a blockage in the retinal vein.

ECC approves key economic measures

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Wednesday approved the disposal of 500,000 metric tons of PASSCO wheat stock through competitive bidding, with the objective of managing surplus stocks, reducing carrying and storage costs, and ensuring price stability in the domestic wheat market while safeguarding food security considerations. The ECC met under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb to consider a range of important economic, fiscal and sectoral matters aimed at ensuring macroeconomic stability, protecting consumers, strengthening social services and addressing operational requirements of key public sector entities.

The meeting was attended by Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, along with federal secretaries and senior officials from the concerned ministries, divisions and regulatory bodies, said a press release. During the meeting, the ECC approved the disposal of 500,000 metric tons of PASSCO

Continued on Page 06

Man killed in IED blast in Bajaur

DNA

BAJOUR: A man was killed in a blast caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) in War Mamund tehsil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district on Wednesday, according to police. Police and local residents said the explosion occurred near Zaga Deri Sewi bazaar, leaving a man seriously injured.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Niaz Muhammad told Dawn that the victim, identified as 47-year-old Najibullah, died while being transported to the Khar District Headquarters Hospital for treatment. He said the IED was planted by unidentified miscreants. The DSP added that a team of police personnel from the War Mamund police station, led by Station House Officer (SHO) Aslam Khan, had rushed to the spot and launched a search operation for the terrorists involved in the incident. He further said an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the blast and identify those responsible for it.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Australia, H.E Mr Timothy Kane called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters. — DNA

Crown Prince MBS says

Riyadh will not permit attack on Iran from Saudi territory

In phone call with Iranian president, MBS affirms Saudi Arabia's position on respecting Tehran's sovereignty

CENTRELINE REPORT

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian during a call on Tuesday that Riyadh would not allow attacks on Iran to be launched from its soil. MBS "affirmed during the call the kingdom's position on respecting the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that the Kingdom will not allow its airspace or its territory to be used for any military actions against" Iran, Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The Saudi crown prince also affirmed Riyadh's support for any efforts aimed at resolving disputes through dialogue. During the telephonic conversation, the Iranian president told the Saudi crown prince that US threats against Tehran would only result in instability. "The threats and psychological operations of the Americans are aimed at disrupting the security of the region and will achieve nothing other than instability

Continued on Page 06

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Iran has issued a Notice to Airmen (Notam) announcing live-fire military activity in airspace near the Strait of Hormuz, hours after US military assets arrived in the Middle East, reflecting heightened tensions in the region. The aviation warning, published on Tuesday, said Iranian forces will carry out live-fire exercises from 27 to 29 January within a five-nautical-mile radius around the strait. The notice said that the airspace in the designated area — from ground level up to 25,000 feet — will be restricted and considered hazardous for the duration of the activity.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Trump says time running out for Iran



NEWS DESK

PARIS: President Donald Trump on Wednesday warned Iran that time was running out for the Islamic republic to prevent American military intervention as Tehran rejected holding negotiations against a backdrop of threats. Trump has never ruled out a new attack on Iran in the wake of its deadly crackdown on protests this month, to follow the 12-day June war between the Islamic republic and Israel which the US backed and joined. A US naval strike group that Trump described as an "armada" led by aircraft carrier the USS Abraham Lincoln is now lurking in Middle East waters.

Net metering credit issue resolved

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Division Awas Ahmed Khan Leghari has taken notice of complaints regarding non-crediting of net metering users' units under Power Planning and Monitoring Company (PPMC) instructions. Following the minister's directives, PPMC promptly reviewed the instructions sent to all power distribution companies (DISCOs) regarding the credit of units of net metering consumers. The issue of crediting units is resolved after issuance of revised directives, read a statement issued by the Power Division. As per details, some net metering consumers have installed systems exceeding the approved capacity under their license. .

Pakistan orders strict screening of travellers to stop Nipah virus spread

Authorities across Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Malaysia taking urgent steps to stop virus from spreading

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has issued strict screening measures at all entry points after two cases of the deadly Nipah virus were confirmed in India's West Bengal. Nipah is classified as a priority pathogen by the World Health Organisation (WHO) because of its ability to spark fast moving outbreaks, its fatality rate of 40% to 70%, and the fact that there is no approved vaccine or cure. In its health advisory, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination has mandated that no individual will be allowed entry into the country without clearance from Border Health Services - Pakistan. The ministry stated that the decision comes "in view of the recent re-

Continued on Page 06

Ban on use of social media by children under age of 18

Earlier this month, senators Falak Naz, Fawzia Arshad, Aimal Wali Khan, Saadia Abbasi and Dilawar Khan called for keeping tabs on the use of social media platforms by children under the age of 18

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday sought replies from the federal government and other authorities on a petition seeking a ban on the use of social media by children under the age of 16. LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum heard the petition filed by Aliya Saleem and others through Advocate Shiza Qureshi on Tuesday. Justice Neelum observed that it was an important matter and a policy issue that should be addressed by the government. The counsel for the petitioner contended that social media was causing serious harm to the mental, moral and educational development of children. The petitioner's counsel stated that developed countries were also considering restrictions on social media use by underage children. The lawyer informed the court that Australia imposed a ban on children's

use of social media in December 2025, while France, Norway, Malaysia and New Zealand were in the process of legislating on the matter.

Qureshi asked the court to order a ban on social media use for children under 16 years of age. Justice Neelum directed a law officer to seek instructions from the government and submit a report by February 16. Earlier this month, senators Falak Naz, Fawzia Arshad, Aimal Wali Khan, Saadia Abbasi and Dilawar Khan called for keeping tabs on the use of social media platforms by children under the age of 18. Presiding over the sitting, Senator Sherry Rehman said some checks were needed and suggested forming a special committee to develop safeguards in consultation with relevant ministries. In September, the LHC issued notices to the federal government and other respondents on a petition seeking a ban on the use of Facebook and TikTok by children. .

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KP to increase energy generation capacity to 1000MW: Secretary

PESHAWAR: The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has completed 10 hydropower projects of 224 megawatt capacity and earning a Rs. 13 billion income per annum for the province while in the completion of 7 more projects the capacity of the economical energy will surge to 1000 MW and expected to generate Rs.55 billion per annum.

Moreover, working is also underway

on three flagship energy projects in Swat district, which will start generating 387 MW of electricity in the next two years.

This was stated by Secretary Energy & Power Nasir Ahmad while presiding over a meeting held on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary Energy Anwar Khan Sherani, Chief Executive Engineer Anwarul Haq, Senior Chief Planning Officer Syed Zahoor Shah and other senior officials.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) Engineer Anwarul Haq briefed the participants of the meeting regarding the energy

projects initiated by the organization. The Secretary Energy & Power said that construction work has been accelerated on laying a 40-kilometer transmission line on the Swat corridor, which will be completed next year. With the completion of the transmission line the economic energy produced by the hydropower projects will be sold to the industrial sector of the province. Engineer Anwarul Haq in his briefing told the meeting that three major 63 MW hydropower projects including 40.8MW Koti Dir, 11.8 MW Karora (Shangla) and 10.2 MW Jabarti Mansehra have been completed successfully last year, after which the energy generation capacity of clean electricity of PEDO has increased to 224 MW.

Similarly, work is underway on 7 projects including 300 MW Balakot Mansehra, 215 MW Madin Swat, 88 MW Gabral Kalam, 84 MW Matilat Swat, 69 MW Lawi Chitral, 13.5 MW Chapi Charhukh Kuram and 6.9 MW Mujahideen Power Project Torghar.

The Secretary Energy & Power termed the upcoming 40 km long

132/220 KV transmission line project from Mardan to Mardan project as extremely important. He stressed on completing it within the time frame of this year and issued instructions to the concerned project director to further expedite the work on the province's largest project, 300 MW Balakot.

Moreover, the Secretary Nasir Ahmad, while issuing instructions to the PEDO authorities, said that the ongoing energy projects should be included in the national grid after completion. If they are not included in the national grid, distribution licenses should be obtained immediately to develop a direct supply model for selling clean energy to the industrial sector at cheap rates.

He strictly warned the project directors that they should review the Gap Analysis of the projects and remove all obstacles including operational gaps, completion of TORs, time-bounding and complete the projects within the stipulated timeline, otherwise any delay would be intolerable.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan Dr. Oumer Oba hosted Malick Ceesay, Head of the UNAMA Liaison Office, at the Ethiopian embassy Islamabad. DNA

Polio campaign shows major gains in Kohat

PESHAWAR: District authorities in Kohat have reported significant improvements in the ongoing polio eradication campaign, reducing the number of polio cases reported by various union councils (UCs) from 26 to just 5, while missed child cases have also declined markedly. This progress was shown during a meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Kohat Muhammad Nawaz Wazir on Wednesday to assess preparations for the upcoming polio vaccination campaign, scheduled from February 2 to 7. Officials highlighted improved field supervision, expanded coverage and timely data reporting, which have helped the campaign to reach district health officials, overall performance has improved in 33 percent of Kohat's union councils, reflecting stronger coordination among field teams and enhanced monitoring mechanisms. Earlier, the upcoming polio drive was formally launched by the Deputy Commissioner along with DPO, who administered the vaccine to children under the Quetta Safe City Project. 97 percent of polio drops to children at the inauguration ceremony. Security arrangements were in place to ensure the safety of children and the vaccine was administered in a safe and hygienic manner.

Over 21,000 kites, strings seized in month-long crackdown

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have confiscated more than 21,000 kites and kite strings and arrested 54 kite sellers and flyers during an intensified crackdown against the illegal activity across the federal capital in the ongoing month.

A police spokesperson told

the press that the arrested accused, Cas- es have been registered against the suspects as relevant police stations, while further investigation is underway. SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza said that kite flying and unlawful practice that poses serious risks to the safety of life, particularly to children, cyclists and pedestrians. He urged parents to educate their children about the hazards of kite flying and the legal consequences involved. He added that the crackdown against kite sellers and flyers would continue with full force.—APP

Crime rate in Quetta drops by 70% in two months: CM

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shaeekh Qadir Khan presided over a high-level review of the Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI) on Tuesday, discussing the program as a cornerstone for the provincial government and environmental resilience. The meeting focused on transitioning from traditional farming to a technology-driven, corporate model designed to transform thousands of acres of barren land into productive areas. Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary said the Green Pakistan Initiative is a vital national and provincial program aimed at boosting agricultural production and ensuring environmental sustainability.

He emphasized that the initiative places strong emphasis on environmental protection by promoting effective utilization of water and natural resources, while laying the foundation for a sustainable, long-term green economy. Under the Green Pakistan Initiative, Green Agri Malls and service centers have been established to provide farmers with access to modern agricultural facilities, including quality seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural machinery. During the briefing, participants were informed that the core objective of the program is to enhance agricultural production by addressing shortages of key crops such as wheat, pulses.—APP

QUTTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has announced a sharp decline in crime in Quetta, saying that the city has seen a 70 percent reduction over the past two months due to effective government policies and the tireless efforts of law enforcement agencies.

In a statement shared on social media platforms, X. Sarfaraz Bugti described the reduction as clear evidence that the provincial government's strategy is moving in the right direction. The Chief Minister emphasized that modern technology is being actively utilized to safeguard citizens' lives and property. He further revealed that under the Quetta Safe City Project, 97 percent of surveillance cameras have been restored and made fully operational, strengthening.—APP

Galiyat entry points opened for tourists

ARROTTABAD: The entry points to the Galiyat region at Harun and Barian have been opened for tourists, officials said on Tuesday. According to an official advisory, tourists have been urged to adopt all necessary measures during travel due to prevailing weather conditions. Authorities warned that entry points would be closed during night hours because of dense fog. The district administration advised citizens to avoid traveling between Harun and Barian during early morning hours and after sunset. Motorists were further instructed to drive vehicles in first gear and use iron chains to prevent skidding on slippery roads. For emergency situations, the public has been directed to contact the District Control Room Abbottabad at 0992-931053, GDA Control Room Nathia Gali at 0992-335539, GDA Control Room Ayubia at 0992-339005, or Rescue Emergency Services by dialing 1122. The advisory was issued to ensure the safety of tourists and smooth traffic flow in the Galiyat area amid adverse weather conditions.—APP

CM KP okays Peshawar revitalization plan

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mohammad Sarif Akbari accorded in-principle approval to the Peshawar revitalization plan aimed at restoring the city's past glory and transforming it into a modern, beautiful and well-facilitated provincial capital. Chairing a meeting here at the Chief Minister's House, he directed the relevant authorities to thoroughly review all proposed projects and proceed with those found fully viable. He stressed the timely completion of feasibility studies, PC-1 documents and other technical and administrative requirements to avoid delays in the implementation of the plan. During the meeting, a detailed review of the projects included in the revitalization plan was conducted. The Chief Minister said that a clear and effective implementation strategy must be adopted to bring visible improvement to the overall condition of Peshawar. He expressed confidence that effective execution of the plan would bring a noticeable transformation in the city's outlook within the next one to two years. The meeting was briefed that the Peshawar revitalization plan comprises dozens of development projects worth billions of rupees under various departments, including the Peshawar Development Authority, Public Health Engineering, Local Council Board, Irrigation Department, Communication and Works Department, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highways Authority. Some of these projects are already part of the Annual Development Programme and are currently in progress.—APP

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The British Council will provide technical assistance for the initiative aimed at enabling students, speaking different languages, to effectively acquire basic reading and writing skills of their mother tongue along with speaking proficiency. The decisions, according to a statement, will be taken in a meeting of a British Council delegation with the Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah. The delegation led by Helen Sylvester, Regional Director of the British Council South Asia included James Hampson, Country Director of the British Council Pakistan and Manager EaSTE-II Program. Muhammad Umar while Secretary School Education Zahid Ali Abbas and other officers were present. During the

training module after the official launch of the program that will train one thousand mentors and 30000 teachers. The Education Minister termed professional development of newly recruited teachers as an important goal and said this training module will prove to be an important milestone in improving the teaching skills of the English language. The meeting also discussed Sindh's cluster policy. It was informed that 1794 clusters have been established in the province which will be run under a cluster leadership model, while all cluster heads will be provided with education leadership and management training. Discussing expansion of scope of Early Childhood Education and Foundational Learning, the British delegation said that aspects of Early Childhood Education and Foundational Learning will also be included in the teacher training module, which will help in improving the initial educational skills of the students. —APP

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training module after the official launch of the program that will train one thousand mentors and 30000 teachers. The Education Minister termed professional development of newly recruited teachers as an important goal and said this training module will prove to be an important milestone in improving the teaching skills of the English language. The meeting also discussed Sindh's cluster policy. It was informed that 1794 clusters have been established in the province which will be run under a cluster leadership model, while all cluster heads will be provided with education leadership and management training. Discussing expansion of scope of Early Childhood Education and Foundational Learning, the British delegation said that aspects of Early Childhood Education and Foundational Learning will also be included in the teacher training module, which will help in improving the initial educational

Briefs
Non-bailable
arrest
warrant
for Afridi...

From PAGE 01
heard the writ petition filed by Chief Minister Sohail Afridi. His counsel Bashir Khan Wazir appeared before the court and argued that the ECP had taken notice of a speech delivered by the chief minister during a public gathering, alleging that he had threatened government officials. The News reported on Wednesday that the counsel maintained that the speech was delivered outside the constituency where the National Assembly by-election was being held, and that the chief minister was on a promotional tour, aiming to develop tourism and developmental projects. Despite this, the ECP issued a notice and initiated proceedings against him. During the hearing, Justice Arshad Ali asked the petitioner's counsel whether the ECP's decision had been received. The lawyer responded that the decision had just been received and was available with a supplementary application. The court summoned the record of the ECP decision and briefly adjourned the hearing.

**Riyadh will
not permit
attack...**

From PAGE 01
for them," Pezeshkan told the Saudi crown prince, according to his office. Pezeshkan told MBS that the "unity and cohesion" of Islamic countries can guarantee "lasting security, stability and peace in the region". The Iranian president said that Tehran always welcomed any process, within the framework of international law, that prevents war, Iranian media reported. The telephonic conversation came as the US announced a major multi-day air and space exercise in the Middle East. The exercise will demonstrate the ability to deploy, disperse, and sustain combat airpower "across" the Middle East, the US Air Force component of Central Command, which is responsible for American forces in the region, said in a statement. No date or exact location for the exercise were released.

**Iran closes
its airspace**

From PAGE 01
The Strait of Hormuz is a strategic chokepoint for global trade, with millions of barrels of crude oil passing through it each day. Any disruption there often sends ripples through international energy markets and heightens geopolitical concern. The NOTAM comes amid an increase in American military exercises in the region as US Air Forces Central (AFCENT) has announced a multi-day readiness exercise across its area of responsibility, aimed at demonstrating rapid deployment and sustainment capabilities. Officials in Washington have said all options remain on the table in dealing with Tehran, including the possibility of military action. The United States and Israel seek to counter Iran's influence. Iranian authorities have responded with a warning that any attack would prompt a "swift and comprehensive" response. The air navigation warning will affect civil and military flights through the area during the period of the exercises. Aviation authorities typically issue NOTAMs in advance of live-fire drills to alert pilots and airlines to potential risks and temporary airspace closures.

**Man killed
in IED blast
in Bajaur**

From PAGE 01
No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast. Despite recent militant violence in 2025, with terrorist attacks, including 34 percent related fatalities increasing by 21 percent year on year, according to a report released by the Islamabad-based Pak Institute for Peace Studies.

20-member squad for FIH Pro League and World Cup Qualifiers

These matches form part of Pakistan's debut season in the elite FIH Pro League, following their promotion after finishing runners-up in the Nations Cup. The series will be a tough test against higher-ranked opponents, but it marks a significant step in Pakistan hockey's revival on the global stage



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has officially announced the national men's hockey team squad for the second phase of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2025-26 and the Nations Cup Qualifiers. The 20-player squad, along with six officials, will depart for Australia on February 2, 2026. The announcement was made at the Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium by PHF Secretary Rana Mujahid and Head Coach Tahir Zaman.

The same squad will represent Pakistan in both the Men's World Cup Qualifiers (scheduled for early 2026, including events in Egypt and other venues).

Mohammad Emmad Butt (also referred to as Imad Butt) will captain the Green Shirts. Squad Changes for Pro League Two changes have been made to the squad compared to the earlier phase (played in Ar-

gentina in December 2025); Goalkeeper Abdullah Ishaq has been replaced by Ali Raza. Manan Raza (or Abdul Manan) has been replaced by Umer Sattar (Umir Sattar).

Full Squad (Players) Muneeb ur Rehman

Arshad Liaquat

Mohammad Usman

Zeehsan Ashraf

Nadeem Lodhi

Mohammad Aslam

Adel

Key Statements PHF Secretary Rana Mujahid confirmed that players' outstanding dues have been

raised with the government, and all payments are

expected to be cleared by Friday.

Head Coach Tahir Zaman noted that facing strong

teams like Australia and Germany will be challeng-

ing, but the Pro League provides a valuable oppor-

tunity. Pakistan will play 16 matches in the league

overall, offering excellent preparation ahead of the

World Cup qualifiers.

He emphasized that this is a rare chance af-

ter a long time to compete against top-ranked nations, ensuring solid practice for the team. Captain Mohammad Emmad Butt said the players' morale is high, things are improving, and he hopes the Prime Minister will provide further support to the national sport. Match Schedule (Hobart, Australia - Second Phase) February 11, 2026: Pakistan vs Australia February 14, 2026: Pakistan vs Germany February 19, 2026: Pakistan vs Germany February 14, 2026: Pakistan vs Germany

These matches form part of Pakistan's debut

season in the elite FIH Pro League, following

their promotion after finishing runners-up in the

Nations Cup. The series will be a tough

test against higher-ranked opponents, but it

marks a significant step in Pakistan hockey's

revival on the global stage. Pakistan hockey

fans will be watching closely as the Green

Shirts aim to build momentum for the World

Cup qualification campaign.

Abu Bakar (The squad comprises 18 named players in the announcement, with two additional spots likely reserved or to be confirmed). **Officials/Head Coach:** Tahir Zaman, Mohammad Usman, Zeehsan Ashraf, Nadeem Lodhi, Mohammad Aslam, Adel.

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**Rupee gains 01
paisa against
US Dollar**

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee

on Wednesday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US

Dollar in interbank trading

and closed at Rs 279.81

compared to the previous

day's closing at Rs 279.82.

According to the Forex

Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and

selling rates of the dollar

in the open market were

recorded at Rs 280.65

and Rs 282.3, respectively.

The price of the Euro

increased by Rs 3.68 to

close at Rs 335.60 from

the previous day's close

of Rs 331.92, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen

went up by 03 paisa and

closed at Rs 1.83, whereas

the exchange rate of the

British Pound witnessed an

increase of Rs 3.53 and

closed at Rs 386.09

compared to the previous

day's Rs 382.56. The ex-

change rate of the Emir-

ites Dirham remained

unchanged and closed at

Rs 76.18, while the Saudi

Riyal declined by 02 paisa

to close at Rs 74.60. —APP

ECC approves...

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices

sought an all-time high

in the local market on

Wednesday as the price of

24-karat gold per tola

jumped by Rs21,100 to

settle at Rs51,662.

The price of 10 grams of

24-karat gold also

jumped by Rs18,090 to

Rs472,961, while the

price of 10 grams of

22-karat gold rose by

Rs16,583 to Rs43,563,

according to the All Pa-

kistan Gems and

Jewellers Association.

Silver prices also wit-

nessed an upward trend,

with the price of

24-karat silver per tola

increased by Rs271 to

Rs11,911, whereas the

price of 10 grams of sil-

ver went up by Rs232 to

Rs10,211.

In the international

market, gold prices

climbed by \$211 to

reach \$5,293 per ounce,

marking a fresh record,

while silver prices rose

by \$2.71 to \$14.36

per ounce, the associa-

tion reported. —APP

Gold prices

surge Rs

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