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France's president Macron unveils new cabinet lineup

Detailed News On Page-06

Murad launches week-long polio drive

Detailed News On Page-02



FPCCI urges FBR to extend returns date

Detailed News On Page-07



Gets 90 votes

Imran's nominee Sohail elected as new KP CM

All political parties took part in the election process; opposition later boycotted on the pretext that Governor had not accepted CM resignation

DNA

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sohail Afridi has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) after securing 90 votes in the provincial assembly. Afridi's nomination came directly from PTI founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, reaffirming Khan's strong influence over the party's political direction despite ongoing legal and political challenges. The election session, held amid tight security, saw PTI lawmakers and allies rally behind Afridi, giving him a comfortable majority in the 145-member house. Opposition parties, including the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), staged a token protest before the voting began, alleging procedural irregularities. After his election, Chief Minister-designate Sohail Afridi thanked Imran Khan and the party's parliamentary members for their trust, pledging to focus on good governance, merit-based reforms, and development across the province. KP Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, in his ruling, termed the objections raised by Governor Kundi as "unconstitutional". The speaker said that Gandapur tendered his resignation under Clause 8 of Article 130 of the Constitution 1973. "Gandapur sent two resignations to the governor on October 8 and then on October 11. Both resignations were signed by Gandapur, and there is no difference between the signature in the first and second resignation," the speaker ruled. Speaker Swati said that all the requirements for the resignation of Gandapur were in "accordance with the Constitution and law," citing a court's decision in the Hafiz Hamdullah case. "It is my responsibility to protect the Constitution and the law."

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KP people love armed forces, but country must be run constitutionally: Speaker

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Babar Saleem Swati has said that the people of KP continue to hold deep respect and affection for the Pakistan Armed Forces, emphasizing that this bond of love should always remain strong. In a statement directed to the Director General of ISPR, Swati said that the province has produced countless sons of the soil who are proudly serving in the armed forces and have laid down their lives for the defence of the motherland. He said the people of KP have always stood by the military in times of crisis and conflict, and this relationship is rooted in patriotism and mutual respect. However, Swati stressed that Pakistan including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa must be governed strictly in accordance with the Constitution. "The supremacy of the Constitution and the will of the people are the foundations of democracy," he said, adding that any unconstitutional move would not be acceptable to the people of the province.

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ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari with Dr. Numan Kurtulmus, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, and Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, Chairperson of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, during their call at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

'KP CM-elect's speech not in line with Constitution'

MEHTAB PIRZADA

LAHORE: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah on Monday assailed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister-elect Sohail Afridi for his fiery maiden speech in the provincial assembly. Speaking on Geo News' programme "Capital Talk", Sanaullah said that Afridi's speech was not in accordance with the Constitution and the law. The former security czar asked if the speech delivered by the chief minister-elect was appropriate for the forum. "Sohail Afridi is saying that he will not work with the federal government," Sanaullah said, quoting the CM-elect. Although provinces enjoy autonomy after the 18th Constitutional Amendment, they cannot defy the federal government, said the PM's aide. The 18th Amendment to

Continued on Page 06

Regional connectivity

Pakistan, Türkiye, Azerbaijan share a common vision

Expressing gratitude to the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and the Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan for their participation, Gilani hoped the meeting would produce meaningful outcomes

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Türkiye, and Azerbaijan on Monday reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen parliamentary ties, bolster defense collaboration, and work in unison for lasting peace, stability, and prosperity across the region. The resolve was expressed during the Third Trilateral Speakers' Conference, held at Parliament House here, and chaired by Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and parliamentarians from the three countries were also present. In his inaugural address, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq warmly welcomed Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Numan Kurtulmus and Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan Sahiba Gafarova, saying that their

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Speakers call on President Zardari

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, Dr. Numan Kurtulmus, and Chairperson of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr today. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of the National Assembly, was also present during the meeting. Welcoming the visiting dignitaries, President Zardari said Pakistan deeply values its close and brotherly ties with both Türkiye and Azerbaijan. He said these enduring partnerships are

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Briefs

Oath-taking of KP CM should not be delayed

DNA

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Salman Akram Raja on Monday warned that the oath-taking of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister-elect Sohail Afridi should not be delayed beyond October 14 (tomorrow). The PTI secretary general made the remarks when he, along with other PTI leaders, arrived at the Peshawar High Court to submit a petition seeking the oath-taking of the newly elected KP CM. PTI's Afridi, earlier in the day, was elected as the new chief executive of the province despite the opposition's boycott of the process. He will replace Ali Amin Gandapur as the KP chief minister.

Internet services to face degradation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunications Limited (PTCL) on Monday announced that users would experience degraded internet services tomorrow (Tuesday) as a submarine cable is being repaired. In a post on X, PTCL said that maintenance work on the submarine cable will be carried out to repair a faulty repeater. "The activity will start on October 14 ... around 11am PST, which can last for up to 18 hours," the telecom giant said. "During this period, customers will face Internet service degradation. We regret the inconvenience, please." Meanwhile, internet monitoring service Downdetector showed users reporting issues accessing social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram in Pakistan.

Calls for review of Afghan policy

KP Chief Minister Afridi rules out military operation

Afridi urged the federal government and the military establishment to revisit Pakistan's Afghan policy, insisting that dialogue and diplomacy, not force, are the only sustainable solutions

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Chief Minister-elect of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Sohail Afridi has firmly ruled out any new military operation in the province, declaring that such actions in the past have backfired and brought immense suffering to the people. He emphasized that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, under the vision of Imran Khan, would not allow any military operation without taking local communities into confidence. Addressing on the assembly floor after election, Afridi said thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from earlier operations are still struggling to return to normal life. "We cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. The policy of eliminating terrorism can only succeed when the local people, tribal elders, and community leaders are made partners in the process," he said. "Decisions made in drawing rooms have never worked in KP or the tribal areas." Afridi urged the federal government and the military establishment to revisit Pakistan's

Afghan policy, insisting that dialogue and diplomacy, not force, are the only sustainable solutions. He expressed deep concern over the recent eviction drive against Afghan refugees, calling it "inhumane and disgraceful." "Afghans have lived with us for decades; they deserve respect and dignity, not forced expulsions," he said, adding that the Afghan refugee issue is closely linked with PTI's humanitarian policy. "We request the federal government to treat Afghans with compassion and consult KP's local representatives before finalizing any policy on Afghanistan." Reaffirming his loyalty to Imran Khan, Afridi said he would continue to carry forward the PTI founder's mission for justice and democracy. He warned against any move to shift Imran Khan's imprisonment from Adiala Jail to a military facility, saying, "If such an attempt is made, we will jam the entire country. The KP Chief Minister-elect also expressed strong opposition to drone attacks and other military measures that result in civilian casualties, saying these actions only fuel resentment and instability.

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Trump, mediators sign Gaza ceasefire deal

US, Türkiye, Egypt and Qatar signed the document; Pakistan PM also attended the event

DNA

CAIRO: Leaders from across the world signed the Gaza peace agreement during an event co-hosted by US President Donald Trump and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh. US President Donald Trump on Monday stated that the ceasefire he helped broker in the Gaza war had ushered in the "historic dawn of a new Middle East". Earlier, while speaking in the Israeli parliament Trump said, "After so many years of unceasing war and endless danger, today the skies are calm, the guns are silent, the sirens are still, and the sun rises on a holy land that is finally at peace, a land and a region that will live, God willing, in peace for all eternity," he said during his address to the Israeli parliament. "This is not only the end of a war... This is the historic dawn of a new Middle East." Hailing the agreement for peace in Gaza, he said that the "long and

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PM engages Trump, world leaders

NEWS DESK

CAIRO: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday held a series of important meetings with world leaders on the sidelines of the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit, focusing on ending the war in Gaza. He held a meeting with President Trump as the latter and Egypt President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi will co-chair the high-level summit today. PM Shehbaz also met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on the sidelines of the summit. Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa also joined the conversation, reflecting the spirit of regional unity and

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China expresses deep concern over Pak-Afghanistan clashes

China sincerely hopes that both sides will focus on the broader picture, remain calm and restrained, adhere to resolving mutual concerns through dialogue and consultation: Lin Jian

DNA

BEIJING: China's Foreign Ministry has expressed deep concern over the recent clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan, calling on both neighboring countries to exercise restraint and ensure the safety of Chinese citizens and investments in the region. A spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Beijing is closely monitoring the situation and remains in contact with both Islamabad and Kabul. "China is deeply concerned about the recent border tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan," the statement read. "We urge both sides to resolve their

differences through dialogue and co-operation, avoid escalation, and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability." 'China sincerely hopes that both sides will focus on the broader picture, remain calm and restrained, adhere to resolving mutual concerns through dialogue and consultation, avoid escalating conflicts, and jointly maintain peace and stability in both countries and the region', Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Monday, commenting on the recent Pakistan-Afghanistan border clashes which caused dozens of deaths. The ministry emphasized that a large number of Chinese citizens are working and traveling in both countries and

that China has made significant investments in various sectors, including infrastructure, energy, and trade. "It is the shared responsibility of both Pakistan and Afghanistan to protect Chinese nationals, institutions, and projects," the statement added. China has long maintained close economic and strategic ties with both countries and has been promoting regional connectivity through initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other Belt and Road projects. The latest appeal reflects Beijing's growing concern about security risks that could impact its interests and regional cooperation efforts.

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Sindh CM launches week-long anti-Polio campaign

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment, in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation, and Rotary International, to make Pakistan polio-free

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday launched the province-wide anti-polio campaign by administering drops to two newborns at KMC Gizri Maternity Home.

The week-long campaign, running from October 13 to 19, aims to vaccinate over 10.6 million children under five across Sindh.

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi, Secretary Health Rehan Baloch, senior health and education officials, EOC Coordinator Irshad Sodhar, and representatives from UNICEF, WHO, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Rotary others were also present on the occasion. The Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah emphasised the importance of full monitoring in all districts and announced that vaccination teams

would visit households to administer anti-polio drops and provide Vitamin A supplements. He noted that 80,000 health workers and 21,000 security personnel are participating in the campaign.

Expressing concern over the reporting of nine new polio cases in Sindh this year, as well as the continued presence of the virus in environmental samples Shah said, "Polio elimination is our moral responsibility. Every child deserves a healthy and safe future."

He urged parents to ensure their children receive the drops and to contact the nearest health centre if any child is missed. Shah also called on religious scholars, teachers, civil society, politicians, and the media to support the campaign. He assured parents of the vaccine's safety, recalling that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto had administered it to her own daughter, Asifa Bhutto Zardari. The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment, in collaboration with

WHO, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation, and Rotary International, to make Pakistan polio-free. He stated that any refusal to vaccinate would be reported to a monitoring cell at the Chief Minister's House, and efforts would be made to convince parents.

Talking to the media, Shah emphasised that polio is still endemic only in Pakistan and Afghanistan, stressing their aim for 100 per cent coverage across all 1,400 UCs in Sindh. He added that Pakistani teams also vaccinate Afghan children before they return across the border. To intensify awareness, letters will be sent to all media outlets to promote the campaign. In a lighter tone, Shah said, "I have administered polio drops so many times that I have become an expert," adding, "This is not a difficult task—it is our duty to protect our children." He concluded by reaffirming the Pakistan Peoples Party government's pledge: "We will create a polio-free Pakistan."



ISLAMABAD: Residents continue to face severe inconvenience due to road blockades across the city following the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) protest. Although the protest has been officially called off, major thoroughfares in Islamabad remain obstructed, causing traffic disruptions and hardships for commuters. — DNA

Paddy growers must avoid burning crop residues

LAHORE: The Punjab Agriculture department has urged paddy growers to refrain from burning crop residues after its harvesting in order to prevent smog formation. A spokesman for the department said here on Monday that farmers had been advised to follow the guidelines issued by the department for proper disposal of crop residues. He said that burning rice stubble damages the organic matter present in the top soil and reduces soil fertility. He further said that, under the Punjab Chief Minister's Smog Control Programme, the Punjab government had provided 5,000 Super Seeders to farmers at 60 percent subsidy, costing Rs 5 billion, to enable them to manage crop residues efficiently using modern machinery. Paddy growers could utilize Super Seeders to incorporate crop residues into the soil instead of burning them.

After harvesting, farmers could enhance soil fertility by mixing the remaining stubble into the soil rather than setting it on fire, he added.

Paddy residues could be incorporated into the soil using a Rotavator (in case of manual harvesting) or Disc Harrow (in case of mechanical harvesting), he said and added alternatively, farmers may plough the field deeply, apply half a bag of urea per acre and irrigate the land. He said that this practice improves soil fertility and productivity.—APP

ANF arrests 4 smugglers with over 154 kg of drugs worth Rs 11.8m

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting 4 operations across the country, recovered as many as 154.97 kilograms of drugs worth more than Rs 11.8 million and arrested 4 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Monday.

He informed that 70 grams of hashish were recovered from a passenger's luggage at Islamabad International Airport, travelling to Birmingham via Dubai.

During another operation in Gaddap Town Karachi, 150 kg of hashish was recovered from a truck, loaded with cotton sacks, and the accused was arrested on the spot.—APP

Balochistan reactivates over 3,100 schools

QUETTA: Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, the Balochistan government has achieved a landmark milestone in education reform by reactivating 3,144 out of 3,862 non-functional schools, opening doors to learning for more than 81,000 children across the province. According to the Education Department, this marks an unprecedented achievement, with 81 of previously closed schools restored—a feat never accomplished in the province's history.

Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani emphasized that the future of Balochistan is deeply tied to education, adding "It is our full effort to ensure that no child in the province remains deprived of educa-

tion." Her dynamic leadership has ushered in transformational reforms within the Education Department, breathing new life into the system and expanding access to quality education.

Official data highlights the critical role of large-scale teacher recruitment and redistribution, that 1,866 teachers have been appointed in the first phase under SBK and around 837 teachers appointed on contract basis in the second phase, additionally in third phase 86 teachers have been recruited.

As many as 290 schools made functional through reallocation of existing personnel.

The data revealed that 230 schools reopened, 10,076 new enrollments in Pishin, 7,394 new students enrolled in Khuzdar and

around 6,529 students enrolled in Awaran.

Zhob and Naseerabad also saw significant improvements, overcoming long-standing educational neglect. Officials describe this achievement as the foundation stone for long-term educational reform, aligned with Minister Raheela Durrani's vision to bring education to every doorstep and empower every child to fulfill their dreams.

The next phase will focus on sustainability of reactivated schools, provision of basic facilities, and permanent availability of qualified teachers. This initiative is being hailed as the largest educational restoration campaign in Balochistan's history, marking a bold step toward a conscious, knowledgeable, and empowered province.—APP

Himmat Cards given to persons with disabilities

LAHORE: President PML-N Lahore, Malik Saif-ul-Malook Khokhar MNA distributed "Himmat Cards" to persons with disabilities belonging to NA-126 at a ceremony held at Khokhar Palace, here on Monday. The event was organized by the Social Welfare Department Punjab to support the provincial government's initiative for empowering persons with disabilities.

On the occasion, Malik Saif-ul-Malook Khokhar said the welfare initiatives launched by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif were exemplary, making Punjab a

leader among provinces in social and development programs. He announced that "Himmat Card" program would soon be extended across the province to enable persons with disabilities to live dignified and independent lives.

MNA Malik Saif-ul-Malook said the vision of PML-N Quaid Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was being implemented in its true spirit, focusing on public service and the uplift of underprivileged communities. "Those who criticize Maryam Nawaz should compete through performance, not words. Progress is achieved

through service, not criticism," he remarked. Paying tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces, Malik Saif-ul-Malook Khokhar said the nation salutes the Chief of Army Staff and the brave soldiers defending Pakistan.

He added that under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's leadership, numerous welfare and development projects were being completed rapidly across Punjab.

Coordinator Muti-ur-Rehman Khokhar, Hafiz Ghulam Hussain, Assistant Secretary Social Welfare M. Ali Janjua, and other officials were also present.—APP

Rawalpindi Police conducts flag march to ensure peace

RAWALPINDI: Under the supervision of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani, Rawalpindi police conducted a comprehensive flag march across the city to demonstrate their commitment to maintaining law and order.

The march started at Police Headquarters and proceeded through key locations including Kachehri Chowk, Marrir Chowk, Shamsabad, Mall Road, Qasim Market, Pir Wadhai Mor, Taxila, and other areas.

The flag march participated from high-ranking officials, including SSP Investigation, Chief Traffic Officer, Divisional SPs, SDPOs, SHOs, and other officers.

CPO Hamdani said that the flag march aims to reaffirm the Rawalpindi police's resolve in upholding peace and security. He emphasized that Section 144 is strictly enforced in the city, and no permissions will be granted for any illegal gatherings.—APP

Masjid Mahabat Khan expansion delays

PESHAWAR: The expansion and renovation project of Peshawar's historic Mahabat Khan Masjid has once again hit a snag, with the second phase of work coming to a halt due to be vacated Authorities have reportedly issued an urgent deadline to the provincial government, calling for immediate action. According to official sources, on Monday, two international financial institutions funding the project have expressed concerns over the ongoing delays and obstacles in its implementation, warning of potential suspension of funds if progress is not resumed soon. While most of the interior restoration work inside the mosque has already been completed, the external expansion cannot proceed until the occupied shops are cleared.—APP

Seminar on disaster risk reduction held

LAHORE: Life for Guardian (LGF) and the Pakistan Partnership Initiative (PPI) jointly organized a seminar here at Don Bosco Technical Institute, in connection with the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, emphasizing disaster preparedness and community resilience.

Speaking at the event, Mehnaz Javed of Life for Guardian said the theme "Funds Resilience, Not Disaster" highlights the importance of investing in prevention and preparedness rather than merely responding to emergencies. Former Punjab Minister Ejaz Alam Augustine, who participated as chief guest, said that both educational institutions and communities must be trained to protect lives.

"We ourselves are responsible for much of the destruction around us, there are more tree cutters than planters," he remarked. Praising the Pakistan Army, PDMA, and Rescue 1122 for their services during

floods, he urged long-term ten-year planning to effectively deal with future crises. Additional Director General Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Nawaz Manek underscored the need to reconnect with nature, noting that artificial lifestyles had intensified environmental challenges. He called for mandatory industrial treatment plants, extensive tree plantation, and better public transport to curb pollution. General Secretary Pakistan Climate Action Network (PCAN), Dureshwar said that climate change and disaster risk reduction were interlinked and require community participation. Catherine Sapna (CTS) emphasized empowering women and children during crises, while senior journalist Kamran Chaudhry said responsible journalism plays a vital role in spreading awareness.

Rescue 1122 representative Haider Ali shared that

over 20 million citizens had been trained under the Life Saver Program, adding that Rescue 1122 responds to more than 1,000 emergencies daily, with swift ambulance and motorbike services ensuring timely assistance. Other speakers, including Fanizay Jan (Provincial DRR Coordinator), Sajid Christopher (HFO), and Yousaf Benjamin (Dignity First), stressed that collaboration between government and civil society, reforestation, population management, and use of satellite technology were key to reducing disaster risks. The seminar concluded with Ejaz Alam Augustine presenting commemorative shields to participants. Attendees reaffirmed their collective resolve to build a safe, resilient, and sustainable Pakistan for future generations. The event was attended by representatives of social organizations, educational institutions, community leaders, and a large number of youth.—APP

Business community stands with armed forces against external aggression

LAHORE: Former President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Iftikhar Ali Malik, affirmed on Monday that the entire business community stands in complete solidarity with Pakistan's valiant armed forces in the face of any external aggression. He expressed unwavering support for their firm resolve to protect the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In a statement issued here, Malik lauded the armed forces for their unmatched sacrifices in safeguarding national security and ensuring regional stability. He emphasized that the nation owes its peace and resilience to the courage and dedication of its military. Urging the Afghan leadership to act responsibly, Malik called for effective measures to curb cross-border infiltration and ensure Afghan soil is not used for activities that undermine Pakistan's security. He noted that such steps are essential for fostering regional peace, trust, and cooperation between neighboring Muslim countries committed to harmony and mutual progress. He reiterated that lasting peace in South Asia is crucial for sustainable development, underlining that political stability, economic collaboration, and security cooperation among neighboring states are the only viable path forward. "Without peace, economic progress and investor confidence remain out of reach," he stated. Highlighting Pakistan's role in the fight against terrorism, Malik pointed out that the country has suffered immense human, economic, and infrastructural losses—amounting to trillions of rupees. In addition, Pakistan has hosted over 4.5 million Afghan refugees for decades, bearing a significant humanitarian and economic burden. He urged the Afghan authorities to demonstrate maturity and responsibility by ensuring that their territory is not exploited by elements hostile to Pakistan. "In the larger interest of regional stability, this is the need of the hour," he concluded.—DNA

Funeral prayers of 12 martyr soldiers offered



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Namaz-e-Janaza for the twelve Shuhada who embraced Shahadat while defending the motherland against the

unprovoked and cowardly aggression committed by Afghan Regime on night 11/12 October 2025, was offered in Chaklala Garrison Rawalpindi. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army

Staff, Federal Ministers, Governor KPK, civil and military officers and public attended the funeral. Speaking at the occasion Defence Minister remarked that "People of Pakistan are indebted

to the ultimate sacrifice of these heroes who laid down their lives while defending territorial integrity of Pakistan against the cowardly and treacherous aggression of Taliban Regime and Indian

sponsored terrorist proxies operating from inside Afghan soil". He added that "Armed Forces of Pakistan remain resolute to thwart any aggression and conspiracy against Pakistan with full support of the nation."

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

Oct 01/China National Day

Oct 01/Cyprus National Day

Oct 01/Republic of Korea Armed Forces Day

Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day

Oct 02/Guinea National Day

Oct 03/Germany Unification Day

Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day

Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day

Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day

Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day

Oct 12/Spain National Day

Oct 23/Hungary National Day

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Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

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Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

President lauds services of outgoing Australian High Commissioner

President Zardari said that while bilateral trade is growing, it still falls short of its true potential. He emphasised the need to intensify efforts to expand bilateral trade and investment opportunities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Australian High Commissioner Mr. Neil Hawkins paid a farewell call on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President commended him for his efforts in strengthening Pakistan-Australia relations during his tenure. He said the High Commissioner's contributions had helped advance cooperation in political, economic, and defence areas, while also deepening people-to-people connections between the two countries. President Zardari noted that Pakistan and Australia have long enjoyed friendly and cooperative relations, supported by shared interests and mutual respect. He said the two countries must continue to build on their partnership. On economic ties, President Zardari said that while bilateral trade is growing, it still falls short of its true potential. He emphasised the need to intensify efforts to expand bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

The High Commissioner in-



formed the President about his recent visit to Sindh and briefed him on the ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and Australia in the fields of agriculture and cli-

mate change. He said that he and his family are carrying fond memories of Pakistan, especially the warmth and hospitality of its people. Mr. Hawkins also remarked

that Pakistan's impressive ethnic, linguistic, religious, and culinary diversity makes the country dynamic and vibrant. Wishing Mr. Hawkins success in

his future endeavours, President Zardari said he hoped the High Commissioner would take with him warm memories of Pakistan and its people.

PNCA postpones opening of “Aatish”-ceramic exhibition by Nabahat Lotia

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) has announced that the opening of “Aatish”, an exhibition of ceramic works by distinguished artist Nabahat Lotia, has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. The exhibition, which was originally scheduled to open on October 14 (Tuesday) at the Gallery No. 3, National Art Gallery, PNCA was to be inaugurated by renowned visual artist Mr. Jamal Shah. The new date for the opening will be announced soon. Curated by Mariam Ahmed, “Aatish” highlights the transformative power of clay and fire-central themes in Nabahat Lotia's decades-long artistic

journey. The exhibition will feature an exceptional collection of ceramic works that reflect her deep connection with nature and mastery of form and texture. Nabahat Lotia draws profound inspiration from nature, which she describes as the guiding force behind her creative journey. With over 30 years of experience and 18 solo shows, she has collaborated with traditional potters across Pakistan, working to preserve and evolve local pottery practices. Her recent book, “Pottery Traditions of Pakistan,” documents this rich journey and reflects her lifelong commitment to cultural heritage. Lotia has participated in numerous residencies

and workshops, taught pottery techniques, and exhibited her work internationally including in Pakistan, Bali, Toronto, New York, Turkey, and Sri Lanka. “Nature is my inspiration, and my work has always been in harmony with it”, Nabahat Lotia. Said. The final results of “Aatish” are a testament to the extraordinary transformations catalyzed by fire, capturing both the fragility and strength of the creative process. PNCA has expressed its regret for the postponement and any inconvenience caused to visitors and art enthusiasts, urging them to stay connected with PNCA or contact nag.vadevents@gmail.com for further updates. _APP

NCC organises consultative workshop on curriculum reforms

ISLAMABAD :The National Curriculum Council (NCC) organised a two-day consultative workshop with the collaboration of partner organisations on curriculum reforms to review and update it according to the evolving situation. The inauguration ceremony of the workshop was held on Monday. Na-deem Mehub, the secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MoFE&PT), graced the ceremony as chief guest, said a press release. Whereas the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC), the National Curriculum Council (NCC), the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MoFE&PT), and partner organisations including the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE), the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), the National Rahmatul-Lil-Aalameen Wa Khatamun Nabiyyin Authority (NRKNA), and the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) inaugurated the

consultative workshop held at the NCC, Islamabad, it added. The two-day workshop gathered representatives from institutions including the Punjab Enforcement & Regulatory Authority (PERA), the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), the Naval Educational Directorate, the Fauji Foundation, and OPF to review and revise the National Curriculum Framework (2017), aligning it with emerging educational requirements and global standards, it noted. “The workshop will focus on six key areas: curriculum framework, scheme of studies, learning standards, languages in education, teacher development, and assessment reforms.” The IBCC continues to play a pivotal role in advancing curriculum and examination reforms that foster quality and equity in Pakistan's education system,” it emphasized. The chief guest, federal secretary of MoFE&PT, Na-deem Mehub, appreciated NCC's initiative, congratulating the team for fostering dialogue and collaboration.

He recognised the significance of engaging provincial and federal stakeholders to ensure curriculum reforms are inclusive, data-driven, and future-orientated, stating, “I congratulate the entire team of NCC and its partner organisations for initiating this meaningful dialogue. Curriculum reform is a continuous process that must respond to the evolving learning needs of our students.” Executive Director of IBCC, Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, emphasized the alignment of curriculum, pedagogy and assessment, stating that “curriculum is a living document, and our goal is to ensure that examinations promote real learning, not rote memorisation”. Earlier, Director NCC, Dr Tabassum Naz, inaugurated the ceremony and welcomed participants, expressing gratitude to all collaborating organisations. She noted that curriculum reforms were “a shared national responsibility that thrives on cooperation and inclusivity”. _APP

CDA, Pak-EPA join hands to combat Smog in Islamabad

All brick kilns will have to adopt modern, environmentally friendly zig-zag technology by October 20

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and Director General of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), Nazia Zeb Ali, jointly chaired a meeting at the CDA Headquarters on Monday regarding smog prevention and environmental protection in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by Member Planning and Design Dr. Khalid Hafiz, Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza, Member Environment Esfandiyar Baloch, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, DG Resources, Pak-EPA and other concerned officers from CDA. The meeting decided on several measures for smog prevention, the elimination of air pollution and environmental protection in Islamabad. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that in this regard, relevant institutions, in collaboration with the Pakistan

Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), will ensure the implementation of a comprehensive and joint strategy for prevention of smog and clean environment in Islamabad. He said that, in line with the direction of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, protection of environment, including the reduction of smog and air pollution in Islamabad is our top priority. While being briefed by the DC Islamabad, the meeting was informed that various measures are being taken concerning the transport sector, brick kilns and industries in the city to reduce smog. Vehicle carbon emission tests are being conducted to control air pollution in the transport sector. The briefing informed the meeting that data from vehicle carbon tests related to the transport sector is being shared directly on a dashboard. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) informed that five certified laboratories are operational in the capital for testing vehicle carbon emissions. Chairman CDA further directed that more checkpoints

be established in Islamabad for testing carbon emissions for emission. The meeting also discussed controlling air pollution from brick kilns and industries. It was mandated that all brick kilns and industries in the capital city, Islamabad, must transfer into modern and environmentally friendly technology. The meeting specifically set a deadline of 20th October, 2025 for brick kilns to adopt modern zig-zag technology. In this context, it was decided that strict legal action would be taken against brick kilns that fail to transition to zig-zag technology after the deadline of October 20, 2025. Regarding these measures, Chairman CDA directed that brick kilns which do not adopt modern zig zag technology, continuously violate EPA's regulations and cause air pollution should be dismantled in accordance with the law. He also directed that the ICT administration should adopt a joint strategy with the Rawalpindi administration against brick kilns located in boundary areas.

China refutes claims of Pak using Chinese Tech to gift rare earth to US

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan stressed that its interactions with the United States would not harm Chinese interests or China-Pakistan cooperation. The rare earth minerals were raw samples of local gemstones, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Monday, according to Cina Economic Net (CEN). Lin made the remarks in response to a media query regarding reports that Pakistan is using Chinese equipment and technology to export rare earth to the United States, leading to China's introduction of new regulations that strictly control the export of rare earth-related technologies. Some self-published videos and articles claimed that “Pakistan gifted rare earth samples to the U.S. and agreed to cooperate on rare earth. China is countering Pakistan's rare earth exports to the U.S.” “China and Pakistan have maintained communication regarding Pakistan-U.S. mineral cooperation,” Lin told a daily news briefing, noting that “the reports you cited are either ill-informed, speculative, or even aimed at sowing discord - they are completely unfounded.” China and Pakistan, as all-weather strategic cooperative partners, have a high-level of strategic mutual trust and close cooperation on major issues concerning their common interests, said the spokesperson. He stressed that China's latest export controls on rare earth and related items bear no relation to Pakistan, adding that this is China's legitimate move to improve its export control system, serving to better defend world peace and regional stability, and to fulfil non-proliferation and other international obligations. _APP

India wants unrest in Pak through facilitators after defeat

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that India, after facing defeat in Ma'arkae-Haq, was making desperate attempts to destabilize Pakistan and stir internal unrest through “facilitators.” In a post on X (formerly Twitter), he said the dangerous role of Fitna-e-Khawarij in this conspiracy was also evident and alarming. He noted that while the people of Palestine were celebrating a ceasefire and peace deal in Gaza, a religious group in Pakistan – inactive for the past two years – suddenly began inciting its followers with emotional slogans and calls for chaos, including the so-called Islamabad March. “Whose facilitation is this, after all?” he questioned. Ahsan said Pakistan today needed peace, stability, and economic revival. “At this moment, any elements that disrupt the peace and stability of Pakistan are, in fact, facilitating the enemies of the country. Such elements are neither tolerable in any country nor acceptable in the national interest,” he remarked. _APP

Call for practical solutions to address socio-eco challenges

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood, on Monday emphasized that researchers to focus on practical solutions to the country's current economic and social problems, so that policy-makers, business and the wider community could be effectively guided and benefited. He made these remarks while addressing the first session of the two-day 75th meeting of the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR). The meeting agenda was presented by the Director of BASR, Professor Dr Irshad Ahmed Arshad, while the university's Deans, distinguished faculty and experts from relevant departments also participated, said a press release. On the first day of the meeting, 18 PhD scholars from the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies presented their research synopses, which were highly appreciated by the participants for their academic quality and research capabilities, it added. “Whereas, on the second day, 12 research scholars from the Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Humanities, and the Faculty of Sciences will defend their research proposals,” it noted. Dr Nasir Mahmood instructed the Directorate of Advanced Studies and Research & the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization to organize a high-level workshop on “Research Methodology. _APP

Gwadar Female students step forward

GWADAR: In a significant shift from traditional education that often falls short of modern industry demands, a growing number of young females in Gwadar are enrolling in advanced digital skills courses, including e-commerce, digital marketing, data analytics, and graphic design, at the Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT&VI), a flagship project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The aim is to prepare for better job opportunities in the modern digital economy, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. The University of Gwadar announced on Saturday that 209 candidates have been selected for 12 short courses in technology and business. Out of these, 82 are female students. Digital marketing attracted the highest number of women. Ten female students have been selected compared to six male students. Freelancing also saw a strong female presence, with six of the eight selected candidates being women. In data analytics and business intelligence, women nearly matched men, with ten female students out of 21. The three-month programs are being offered with support from the Shenzhen Institute of Information Technology (SICT) in China. The training covers artificial intelligence, e-commerce, Python programming, mobile application development, graphic design and office automation. Chinese instructors are working alongside Pakistani faculty to build local capacity and strengthen cooperation in education. In total, 127 male and 82 female students qualified. Men continue to dominate in some technical areas such as AI agent development, Python programming and mobile app development. Female students, however, are making their presence felt in digital marketing, freelancing and data analytics. Graphic design and office automation saw nearly equal numbers of male and female students. The institute aims to equip local youth with modern skills so they can benefit from future economic and trade activities linked to regional connectivity. Many students, especially young women, see this as their chance to move into better paid and more competitive fields. _DNA

Briefs

Railways generates Rs 13.547 b by leasing land

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has generated Rs 13.547 billion in revenue by leasing its valuable commercial and agricultural land over the past five financial years, aiming to transform the department into a profitable entity.

"The department has been leased out around 14,042 acres of railway land for various purposes through competitive bidding," an official from the Ministry of Railways told APP.

The official said that Pakistan Railways leases its land through open auctions under the Railway Property and Land Rules, 2023, which were approved by the Federal Cabinet.

He said the efforts to generate non-fare revenue are being led by the Real Estate Development and Marketing Company (REDAMCO), a subsidiary of the Ministry of Railways.

To a question, the official said the department has also decided to accelerate its ongoing anti-encroachment operations against land grabbers nationwide to reclaim railway land from individuals, groups, and even business organizations.

Under the directives of Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, anti-encroachment operations have been launched across the railway network. A joint procedural order was issued to all divisional superintendents for the retrieval of encroached land.

"These operations are being conducted with the assistance of the Railway Police and the district administrations of the respective provincial governments," he added.

In a recent operation in the Lahore Division, the department successfully conducted a major anti-encroachment drive in the Mehmood Booti area, reclaiming 15 acres of prime land worth Rs 50 billion.—APP

Milestone in advancing PM Sharif's public service vision

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A historic agreement was signed between the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) and the United Insurance Company of Pakistan (UIC) to ensure financial security and welfare for overseas Pakistanis and their families. The agreement reflects Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's vision of good governance, public service, and transparency by providing institutional protection and support to Pakistanis living abroad. The signing ceremony in Islamabad was attended by OPF Managing Director Muhammad Afzal Bhatti, UIC Group Chairman and UIC Chief Executive Mian Muhammad Akram Shahid, along with senior officials from both organizations. Speaking on the occasion, Afzal Bhatti said the initiative aims to provide financial protection to overseas Pakistanis and their families in cases of accidents, deaths, or emergencies. He noted that this project continues OPF's ongoing welfare programs under the government's policy of prioritizing public service and transparency. Mian Muhammad Akram Shahid said the company has developed a comprehensive, low-cost, and transparent insurance plan tailored to the needs of overseas Pakistanis.—APP

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SHAMA YASEEN JUDGE FAMILY COURT RAWALPINDI

Suit for recovery Mst. Samira Iqbal etc. Versus Kamran Hafeez Chohan Notice to Kamran Hafeez R/o Flat No. 50-B, Palm City Road, Scheme III, 1st Floor, Nister Block, Safari view residencia Rawalpindi

The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court personally, through counsel or attorney on 01-11-2025 at 9 am avoid ex-parte proceeding.

Chinese Agri high-tech set to transform Punjab's farmlands

"This is not just a subsidy program it's a technology leap," Dr. Saif-ur-Rehman of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, told Gwadar Pro. "Chinese machines can cut harvest windows by weeks, reduce post-harvest losses drastically, and enable farmers to mechanize every stage from planting to irrigation to storage

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese high-tech agricultural machinery is at the heart of Punjab's bold new Rs. 30 billion mechanization program, launched last week to revolutionize farming across Pakistan's largest food-producing province. From advanced combine harvesters and rice transplanters to center-pivot irrigation systems and high-power tractors, dozens of Chinese manufacturers will supply cutting-edge equipment aimed at boosting productivity, reducing post-harvest losses, and lowering labor dependency in Punjab's fields, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday. "We're ushering in a revolutionary transformation in Punjab's agriculture!" stated Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif at the launch ceremony. "Today, Alhamdulillah, we launched the Hi-Tech Mechanization Bank Financing Program, a groundbreaking initiative worth Rs. 30 billion to empower our farmers with the latest agricultural technology. This is a major leap forward in modernizing our farming practices, improving productivity, and

delivering real prosperity to our Kisaan. The future of farming in Punjab, the food basket of Pakistan, has arrived." Under the program, interest-free bank financing of up to PKR 30 million will be made available with a six-month grace period and repayment spread over five years.

The Bank of Punjab will finance up to 80 percent of machinery costs, while applicants contribute 20 percent equity upfront. Farmers, service providers and agri-entrepreneurs can apply through an online portal, provided they meet the government's eligibility requirements. Chinese manufacturers dominate the official lists, with 27 companies supplying machinery across almost every category. Information about the companies and their products has been collected by Gwadar Pro from official program documents. Wheat combine harvesters are being introduced by Huzhou Liangyi Agro Machinery, Shandong Gold Dafeng (Shandong Dafeng), Jiangsu World Agricultural Machinery (FM World), Chongqing Smart Thinker, JOTEC International (Qingdao), Changfa Agricultural Equipment, Weichai Loyal and Zoomlion (authorization pending). For rice, combine harvesters from

Huzhou Liangyi, Shandong Dafeng, Jiangsu World, Wuhan Wubota, Xingtai Farming First, Changfa, Weichai Loyal and Zoomlion are listed, promising faster and more efficient harvests. Rice transplanters with integrated nursery-raising machines, which is a critical innovation for labor savings and crop uniformity, are being supplied by Huzhou Liangyi and Changzhou Yuanbo with multiple variants, as well as Jiangsu World, Wuhan Wubota, Jiangsu Yong Tao, Jiangsu Dongyang (TYM), SYD (Sheng Chuan) and Zoomlion. Baling machinery, essential to end residue burning and produce valuable fodder, will be supplied by Shandong Jianghua Machinery, Shandong Dafeng, Chongqing Smart Thinker, Jiangsu World, Shandong Huaxu (FUVOX), Synbon, Weichai Loyal, Zoomlion and SYD. Silage harvesters, which is vital for livestock feed, are offered by Shandong Dafeng, Shijiazhuang Medi, Xingtai, Shandong Huaxu, JOTEC and others. For maize, Shandong Jianghua leads with multiple cob harvester variants, alongside Shandong Dafeng, Shandong Huaxu, JOTEC and Tianren. Maize cob dryers and grain dryers are being supplied by Xingtai, Shandong Huaxu and SYD, these

are technologies that stabilize grain quality and market value. China's irrigation expertise is also set to reshape water management. Vodar, Shandong Yihi and Shenzhen Dianyingpu are bringing in multiple models of center-pivot irrigation systems, designed to sharply improve water-use efficiency on Punjab's vast canal-fed plains. In orchards, Xingtai and Shandong Huaxu will supply air-blast sprayers and powered pruners to modernize fruit cultivation. High-power tractors, the backbone of mechanized farming, will be supplied by Luoyang Ruide (up to 210 HP), Weichai Loyal, YTO, Zoomlion, Shandong Dafeng, Wuhan Wubota, Taian Guotal and Chongqing Smart Thinker. These machines are expected to accelerate land preparation, transport and field operations across Punjab's diverse agro-ecological zones. "This is not just a subsidy program it's a technology leap," Dr. Saif-ur-Rehman of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, told Gwadar Pro. "Chinese machines can cut harvest windows by weeks, reduce post-harvest losses drastically, and enable farmers to mechanize every stage from planting to irrigation to storage."



ISLAMABAD: President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh holding talks with govt officials in Islamabad on Monday. DNA

Citizens pay tribute to martyred soldiers

They viewed that Pakistan's integrity and security remain paramount, and the sacrifices of the brave sons who offered their lives for the motherland will forever be present in their hearts

RAWALPINDI: The people of Rawalpindi have expressed rich tribute and admiration for 23 brave soldiers of the armed forces who laid down their lives in defence of the nation during unprovoked firing by Afghan Taliban militants and Indian-sponsored terrorists along the border. In a heartfelt show of solidarity, the general public hailed the supreme sacrifices of our brave soldiers as a beacon of courage and patriotism. Talking with APP, the citizens from various walks of life said that the valour soldiers who embraced martyrdom while safeguarding the homeland have set an enduring example of bravery and selflessness. Citizens across Rawalpindi expressed their deepest respect for the shuhada and offered prayers for the swift recovery of the injured personnel. Raja Babar, a freight trader from Rawalpindi, said that the brave sons of the soil remind us that true strength lies in defending our homeland without hesitation. "Their legacy will inspire the generations to come", he added. Amjad Zeb, an educationist, said that the sacrifices of these heroes teach our youth the value of unity and resilience. "We must honour them by building a stronger and more secure Pakistan", Amjad said. Malik Zulfiqar, a socio-politician, emphasized that in the face of such adversity, our nation's spirit remains unbroken as these martyrs are the pillars of our sovereignty. Profound condolences and sympathies have been extended to the bereaved families, assuring them of the nation's unwavering support during this time of grief. Misbah Tahir, a school teacher and said that during a decisive response to Indian sponsored terrorists and the beginning retaliation against the Khawarij groups, Pakistan's armed forces struck back with precision, eliminating above 200 Afghan Taliban fighters. Uzma Tahir, a house lady, observed that the courageous troops of the Pakistan Army not only neutralized the immediate threat but also thwarted the notorious designs of the adversaries. People also expressed their emotions and said that they would remain shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces till the complete elimination of the Indian splinter groups operating from Afghan soil. They viewed that Pakistan's integrity and security remain paramount, and the sacrifices of the brave sons who offered their lives for the motherland will forever be present in their hearts.—APP

Pak enhances carbon market governance under SPAR6C framework

The collaboration under the SPAR6C program aims to support Pakistan in mobilizing climate finance, fostering innovation, and achieving its nationally determined contributions (NDCs) through sustainable market-based mechanisms.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Dr. Musadik Malik, held a meeting today with Ms. Helene Paust, Deputy Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad, and representatives from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the UNEP-CCC under the SPAR6C Programme funded by German Federal Government. The meeting focused on advancing shared goals to strengthen Pakistan's carbon market rules, pricing mechanisms, and governance frameworks under the Supporting Preparedness for Article 6 Cooperation (SPAR6C) program. The discussion highlighted Pakistan's transition from readiness to implementation in developing a transparent, credible, and high-integrity carbon market aligned with global standards. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Musadik Malik stated, "Carbon markets are not just about trading credits, they're about valuing climate action fairly and ensuring that every ton reduced translates into real benefits for our people and our economy." The collaboration under the SPAR6C program aims to support Pakistan in mobilizing climate finance, fostering innovation, and achieving its nationally determined contributions (NDCs) through sustainable market-based mechanisms.



Gwadar coastal development research centre launched

ISLAMABAD: In order to promote Gwadar Port and resource-packed coastal line, University of Gwadar has set up Gwadar Coastal Development Research Centre. Launching ceremony has been held at Mir Ahmed Bakhsh Lehri Auditorium of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute. The Coastal Development Research Centre aims to conduct in-depth and diverse research studies on the coastal line of Pakistan. It will allow Gwadar researchers to explore coastal ecosystems, aqua culture, biodiversity of Marine and coastal environment, Gwadar Pro reported. In the background of the Coastal Development Research Centre, University of Gwadar (UG), Pakistan, and the School of International Relations at Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU), China, recently also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at advancing joint research and academic exchange in the field of Area Studies, with a particular focus on coastal belt development. The MoU was formalized during a high-level seminar titled "CPEC Cooperation and China-Pakistan Relations" held at Sun Yat-sen University's Zhuhai Campus. The agreement reflects a shared commitment to mutual academic advancement and outlines cooperation in research, faculty and student development, joint symposia, and cultural exchange. A key objective is to support the long-term growth and sustainability of coastal regions in both countries through collaborative research and policy engagement. This collaboration marks a significant milestone for the University of Gwadar, positioning it as a key player in international academic networks and coastal development studies. The partnership is set to facilitate student and faculty exchanges, launch joint research initiatives, and promote policy dialogue that aligns with the broader goals of regional integration and sustainable development under CPE Coastline is an important geographical feature in southern part of Pakistan. The location of coastal belt in the regional perspective has enhanced the geostrategic and geopolitical role of Pakistan.—DNA

Rubina urges national strategy against breast cancer

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid has urged for a comprehensive national strategy to tackle the alarming rise of breast cancer among Pakistani women, marking the occasion of World Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Senator Khalid highlighted that breast cancer has become the most frequently reported disease affecting women in Pakistan. "One in every nine Pakistani women faces the risk of developing breast cancer during her lifetime," she said, adding that more than 100 women lose their lives every day due to breast cancer complications. She lamented that the loss of precious lives is largely due to the lack of timely diagnosis and awareness. "In Pakistan, the disease often appears at a younger age, yet social pressures and unnecessary shame prevent women from seeking medical help," she noted. Emphasizing the psychological toll, Senator Khalid pointed out that the absence of post-surgery psychological support is a major concern for many women. "Awareness alone is not enough; we need effective and practical strategies," she stressed.—APP

Shaza represents Pakistan at GITEX 2025 in Dubai

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Monday arrived in Dubai to represent Pakistan at GITEX 2025 — one of the world's leading technology exhibitions. The minister will deliver a keynote address titled "Pakistan's AI & Connectivity Drive: A Model for Emerging Economies," highlighting the country's vision for digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and connectivity. Shaza is actively engaging in promoting global partnerships and advancing digital innovation through Pakistan's participation in the event. During her visit, the IT minister will hold meetings with the UAE Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy, the Advisor to Romania's Ministry of Economy, and senior officials from the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology. She will also meet the Secretary of Slovenia's Ministry of Digital Transformation to explore potential cooperation in the technology sector.—APP

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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

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Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

Trump's speech at Knesset: Praising Israel's "victory" while ignoring the human cost in Gaza

IN a speech that has drawn widespread criticism, U.S. President Donald Trump addressed the Israeli parliament the Knesset where he lavishly praised Israel's leadership and military for what he described as their "historic victory" in the recent Gaza war. Trump hailed Israel's "strength, courage, and determination," calling the conflict "a triumph of freedom against terror." Yet, his remarks failed to acknowledge the staggering humanitarian toll and the devastation inflicted on Gaza's civilian population, making the address both tone-deaf and deeply disappointing. Throughout his speech, Trump commended the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) for what he termed a "decisive and moral campaign" against Hamas, asserting that Israel had proven its "unshakable right to defend itself." However, the glaring question that lingered unasked and unanswered was with whom did Israel really fight? The war that Trump glorified was not a battle between equals, nor one of balanced strength. It was a conflict between one of the world's most sophisticated militaries and an impoverished, besieged population where civilians bore the overwhelming brunt of the violence. Even if Israel's stated objective was to target Hamas, the disproportionate scale of force used against Gaza—a densely populated strip already crippled by years of blockade—turned the campaign into a humanitarian catastrophe. Tens of thousands of Palestinians, many of them women and children, were killed or injured. Entire neighborhoods were flattened, hospitals destroyed, and essential services obliterated. To call this a "victory," as Trump did, is to disregard the moral weight of collective suffering and human tragedy. What made the speech particularly troubling was Trump's uncritical glorification of Israeli power, coupled with his silence on the suffering of Gaza's people. There was no mention of the humanitarian crisis, no recognition of international appeals for restraint, and no reflection on the ethical boundaries of warfare. His words painted a one-dimensional narrative—one that celebrated dominance rather than justice, and might rather than morality. Trump's rhetoric served as a political gesture aimed at solidifying his alliance with Israel's right-wing leadership and his evangelical base in the United States. However, in doing so, he overlooked the central truth of this war: that military superiority does not equate to moral legitimacy. Praising the destruction of a helpless population under siege is not a testament to victory; it is an indictment of conscience. The tragedy of Gaza is not merely a political issue but a humanitarian one. Trump's failure to acknowledge that reality reflects a dangerous normalization of disproportionate warfare and collective punishment. In the end, Israel may claim a battlefield triumph, but it comes at the cost of immense civilian suffering and regional instability.



KP CM-elect urges inclusive, pragmatic approach

PESHAWAR: In his maiden address to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly following his election, Chief Minister-elect Sohail Afridi delivered an impassioned speech promising to resist any fresh large-scale military operations in the province, citing the heavy collateral damage and long-term social costs they have produced. Afridi vowed to carry forward the vision of Imran Khan—stressing people-first governance, respect for civil rights and the need to avoid tactics that further alienate local communities. The new chief minister's remarks combined emotion and party line convictions with policy prescriptions. He repeatedly underscored that past operations have left many internally displaced persons, damaged livelihoods and failed to produce lasting peace. "Military action without local consent has backfired in KP," Afridi told lawmakers, urging that any security measures must include tribal elders, local stakeholders and community leaders if they are to succeed.

At the same time, Afridi's speech acknowledged a delicate political reality: in KP, the security establishment remains a central stakeholder that has borne considerable sacrifices in the fight against militancy. Observers say this makes relationship management with the military unavoidable. While Afridi's rhetoric signals the province's insistence on limiting heavy-handed operations, his calls for inclusion not confrontation point toward a pragmatic path that recognizes the establishment's role while pushing for greater consultation and accountability.

On Afghanistan and refugee policy, the chief minister called for a formal review and greater coordination with the federal government. He argued for humane treatment of Afghan nationals and warned against forced, disorderly evictions that would inflame tensions. Yet his plea for compassion came alongside a sober acknowledgement of security concerns voiced by many in KP: protracted overstay by some refugees has complicated law-and-order management, strained resources, and, in certain cases, created vulnerabilities that militant groups could exploit.

Afridi's combined message oppose indiscriminate operations, include locals, review Afghan policy reflects a balancing act between principled opposition to collateral damage and hard security realities on the ground. Experts say the CM must now translate rhetoric into measured policy: pursue registration and regularization drives, improve refugee-camp management, cooperate with federal institutions on repatriation and integration programs, and expand community-led policing and development initiatives that undercut extremist recruitment. Critics warn Afridi that while emotional and populist appeals will solidify party support, long-term governance will demand rationalism, consensus building and steady dialogue with the military and federal authorities. Success will hinge on converting his commitments into inclusive decision-making mechanisms, transparent oversight of any security action, and socio-economic programs to address grievances that fuel unrest. As Afridi begins his tenure, the province watches closely: the promise to limit military interventions while protecting peace, dignity and security is popular but its delivery will require both political courage and pragmatic cooperation across institutions.

US to Enforce Gaza Peace Plan

Qamar Bashir



Equally significant is the upcoming international conference in Egypt, to be co-hosted by Trump and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. World leaders will converge not merely to celebrate the peace plan but to design a mechanism of enforcement and punishment. For the first time, Israel is being told in clear terms that violations will not be without consequence. Trump's insistence, echoed by Vice President Vance, that America's Central Command presence and military infrastructure in the Middle East will ensure compliance provides the plan with the credibility all others lacked. It is this enforcement guarantee...

THE moment finally arrived for which the world had waited for decades. After years of bloodshed, hunger, humiliation, and despair, a breakthrough came in the form of President Donald Trump's 21-point peace plan, a framework that has begun to reshape the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in ways unimaginable just weeks earlier. The first signs of change came quickly. Over 2,000 Palestinian prisoners were released by Israel, while Hamas promised to return Israeli hostages. Humanitarian aid—long blocked at the borders—began to flow again into Gaza, bringing food, medicine, and hospital supplies to a population starved not only of nourishment but of hope. For the first time in years, mothers carried bread home with tears of relief, fathers clutched medicine as if it were treasure, and children smiled with bowls of food in their hands. This breakthrough was not achieved through Israel's goodwill, nor was it the result of another round of fruitless diplomacy. It was the direct consequence of American pressure, a departure from decades of U.S. policy that shielded Israel from accountability at all costs. Trump's plan not only offered deadlines and frameworks; it came with guarantees. The United States pledged to monitor the process directly, ensuring both Hamas and Israel would adhere to the commitments they had signed onto. Vice President JD Vance confirmed that monitoring teams had already been deployed inside Gaza, across the West Bank, and along the Israel-Gaza border, setting up observation and reporting posts to oversee every step of implementation. This was not a distant promise but a living process already underway, a signal that the plan had moved from paper to reality.

What made this moment remarkable was not only the details of the agreement but the way it came into being. For decades, Israel acted as though international law and humanitarian norms were irrelevant, dismissing United Nations resolutions, ignoring the International Court of Justice, and defying UNESCO rulings. Its leaders, particularly Benjamin Netanyahu, cultivated an aura of invincibility, convinced that American protection was unconditional. That conviction was not without foundation. For generations, U.S. lawmakers, policymakers, and media institutions had been bent to the will of pro-Israel lobbying networks, often at the expense of American reputation, global standing, and even national interest. It was this iron grip that made Trump's move so astonishing.

By pushing forward with the plan, Trump shattered that long-standing dynamic. He defied the machinery of lobbying, money, and influence that had dictated American policy on Israel for decades. He did not act alone; behind him stood the collective weight

of the Muslim world, whose wealth and unity presented a new reality. For the first time, Muslim nations—from Turkey to Saudi Arabia, from Pakistan to Malaysia—stood shoulder to shoulder at a United Nations conference, demanding action and refusing to endorse any solution that did not prioritize Palestinian dignity. Trump read the room not as an opportunist but as a realist. He recognized that American interests, global stability, and moral responsibility all converged on one conclusion: the time for enabling Israel's expansionist ambitions was over.

That Israel, despite its hardliners who openly called for the annihilation of Gaza's population, including infants, was compelled to accept the peace plan demonstrates just how far the ground has shifted. Trump is now set to visit Israel, addressing the Knesset in a moment that would have been unthinkable in past years. Even as extremists pledged to continue their crusade for "Greater Israel," the political reality has changed. The United States, not Israel, is now the guarantor of the next chapter.

Equally significant is the upcoming international conference in Egypt, to be co-hosted by Trump and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. World leaders will converge not merely to celebrate the peace plan but to design a mechanism of enforcement and punishment. For the first time, Israel is being told in clear terms that violations will not be without consequence. Trump's insistence, echoed by Vice President Vance, that America's Central Command presence and military infrastructure in the Middle East will ensure compliance provides the plan with the credibility all others lacked. It is this enforcement guarantee that transforms the plan from just another diplomatic gesture into a living reality.

The ripple effects are profound. Across Europe, long skeptical of Israeli intransigence, leaders expressed cautious relief. In the global South, the plan rekindled hope that justice could still prevail for the marginalized and oppressed. Within the Muslim world, unity was reinforced by the undeniable reality that their collective power had been decisive in shaping this outcome. And within the United States itself, ordinary citizens and social media movements found validation in seeing their government finally break from blind obedience to Israeli priorities.

For decades, mainstream media outlets, heavily influenced by pro-Israel interests, shaped the narrative to Israel's advantage. Today, however, that monopoly is collapsing. Social media platforms have pierced the information wall, exposing Israeli atrocities and amplifying Palestinian suffering to global audiences. Trump's plan tapped into this shift, reflecting not only strategic calculations but also the growing demand from civil society worldwide that U.S. foreign

policy reflect humanitarian values.

Israel's reluctant acceptance of limits imposed by the plan marks a watershed. For the first time, its leadership has been compelled to recognize that there are boundaries to its ambitions. The narrative of divine entitlement to Palestinian land is being challenged by political reality. The global message is clear: Israel is not above international law, not beyond accountability, and not free to dictate terms unilaterally. By enforcing these limits, the plan strikes at the heart of expansionist ideology. Of course, challenges remain. Hardliners within Israel will resist, and spoilers on both sides may seek to derail the fragile progress. But unlike past initiatives, this plan carries deterrence. Monitoring teams are already on the ground, reporting directly to Washington, and a punitive mechanism is being prepared. These elements give the plan resilience where others failed. If enforced with consistency, it may finally break the cycle of occupation, insurgency, and crackdowns that have defined the conflict for generations. The broader significance extends well beyond Israel and Palestine. Trump's 21-point plan signals a reorientation of American foreign policy, breaking the stranglehold of lobbying networks and restoring independence to U.S. decision-making. It affirms that Muslim nations, when united, can shape global outcomes. And it reasserts the principle that international law, humanitarian values, and logic have weight when backed by power.

History will remember this not only as a diplomatic breakthrough but as a moment when the architecture of global politics shifted. By confronting Israel's defiance and asserting American oversight, Trump altered the balance of power in the Middle East. He may never hold the Nobel Peace Prize, but he has accomplished something greater: he has shown that courage, enforcement, and unity can bring hope to a people long denied it.

The images of mothers feeding their children in Gaza, of freed prisoners reunited with families, and of global leaders preparing to converge on Egypt all testify to the reality of this change. For the first time in decades, light has broken through the darkness of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The peace plan is fragile, and its future uncertain, but with monitoring already underway and enforcement guaranteed, there is at last reason to believe that justice may triumph over despair.

Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister,
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former Press Attaché to Malaysia
Former MD, SRBC
Macomb, Michigan, USA

Strengthening Bonds: Pakistan, Türkiye, and Azerbaijan Unite

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The Istanbul Declaration that emerged from this gathering underscored the importance of parliamentary diplomacy as a vital instrument for fostering international understanding and cooperation. It also proposed transforming the forum into a more structured and practical mechanism for trilateral collaboration among the three brotherly nations

THE Muslim world today stands at a critical juncture, facing an array of complex challenges that test not only its stability but also its collective will to secure peace, prosperity, and dignity for its people. Among these challenges, security remains one of the most pressing. Terrorism, economic instability, political divisions, and external interference have hindered progress across several regions of the Muslim world. Yet, amid these trials, there remains a strong and growing recognition that dialogue and cooperation—both within the Muslim community and between Muslim and non-Muslim nations—are indispensable for charting a more stable and prosperous future. To address these multifaceted issues, countries have increasingly turned to joint forums at the governmental and parliamentary levels. These platforms enable nations to consult, deliberate, and formulate strategies to tackle common problems collectively. Among those who have played an instrumental role in advancing this form of parliamentary diplomacy is the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Through his leadership, Pakistan has not only reinforced its role as a vital participant in global parliamentary diplomacy but also positioned itself as a bridge among Muslim nations seeking unity and common ground.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has consistently sought to strengthen Pakistan's parliamentary engagement with the rest of the world. His approach is defined by an awareness of both Pakistan's national priorities and the broader concerns of the Muslim ummah. He is widely recognized for his ability to listen, deliberate, and build consensus—qualities essential in a world increasingly divided by ideological and geopolitical fault lines. He has taken meaningful initiatives to promote regional cooperation, understanding that the challenges faced by Muslim countries—ranging from economic disparities to defense vulnerabilities—can best be confronted through dialogue and mutual respect.

In this spirit, he has been a driving force behind the creation of regional parliamentary forums that bring

together nations bound by faith, culture, and shared aspirations. Among these, one of the most significant developments is the establishment of the Trilateral Speakers' Forum between Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Türkiye. The conception of this forum took root during the Second General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO), hosted by the National Assembly of Pakistan in Islamabad in June 2021. It was there that the three nations, recognizing their deep historical and cultural bonds, resolved to institutionalize their cooperation through a dedicated parliamentary platform.

The first meeting of this forum was graciously hosted by H.E. Ms. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, in Baku in July 2021. The conference culminated in the adoption of the historic Baku Declaration, a document that laid the foundation for long-term cooperation in areas such as trade, security, technology, and cultural exchange. The following year, the initiative was carried forward under the stewardship of H.E. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şentop, the then Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, who hosted the second Trilateral Speakers' Conference in Istanbul in July 2022.

The Istanbul Declaration that emerged from this gathering underscored the importance of parliamentary diplomacy as a vital instrument for fostering international understanding and cooperation. It also proposed transforming the forum into a more structured and practical mechanism for trilateral collaboration among the three brotherly nations. During that conference, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq extended an invitation for Pakistan to host the third meeting of the Forum, an offer that was warmly and unanimously welcomed.

Preparations were soon underway to hold the third Trilateral Speakers' Meeting in Islamabad in March 2023. However, this plan was postponed due to the devastating earthquake that struck the Republic of Türkiye in February 2023, leading Pakistan to express its solidarity through relief efforts and diplomatic support. Now, after careful rescheduling and re-

newed commitment, Pakistan stands ready to host the Third Trilateral Speakers' Conference from October 12 to 14, 2025, in Islamabad.

This forthcoming conference will bring together H.E. Ms. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, and H.E. Prof. Dr. Numan Kurtulmuş, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, who will lead their respective parliamentary delegations. The theme of the meeting—"Strengthening Fraternal Ties: Parliamentary Cooperation for Regional Peace, Security, and Prosperity"—aptly reflects the shared vision of these three nations. Their discussions will encompass critical global and regional issues, including new and emerging threats to peace, the growing urgency of environmental challenges posed by climate change, and the pursuit of sustainable economic development. Beyond these immediate concerns, the forum will explore pathways to deepen collaboration in diverse sectors such as trade, investment, science, technology, education, and culture. The gathering will serve not merely as a symbolic gesture of friendship, but as a working platform to translate the ideals of cooperation into practical outcomes that benefit the people of all three countries.

The initiative represents more than a diplomatic engagement—it is a reaffirmation of the enduring brotherhood that binds Pakistan, Türkiye, and Azerbaijan together through shared faith, common struggles, and mutual respect. It also demonstrates Pakistan's continued resolve to promote peace through dialogue rather than division, and to champion the principles of unity and collaboration that form the essence of the Muslim world's moral and political philosophy. In a world where misunderstandings between civilizations often eclipse opportunities for cooperation, the Trilateral Speakers' Forum stands as a testament to what parliamentary diplomacy can achieve. Through persistent effort and visionary leadership, Pakistan and its partners are setting an example for others to follow—a reminder that when nations come together in goodwill and mutual respect, the possibilities for peace and progress are boundless.

Briefs

KP Chief Minister Afridi rules out military operation

FROM PAGE 01
Referring to Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) leader Manzoor Pashteen, Afridi said that those placed under Schedule 4, including PTM members, would be discussed with the federal government for possible removal from the list. Commenting on the events of May 9, Afridi said the episode was exploited as an "operation to malign PTI and wipe it out from the political landscape." He announced that an inquiry would be launched into the attack on Radio Pakistan Peshawar, saying, "We will find out who was actually behind it." Afridi also referred to the Commonwealth report on Pakistan's February 8 general elections, saying it clearly stated that the polls were not free and fair. "PTI won the elections but was denied its rightful mandate. The people know who they voted for, and they stand with Imran Khan," he asserted. The new Chief Minister vowed to uphold constitutional governance in the province, ensure peace through dialogue, and protect the democratic rights of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Trump, mediators sign Gaza...

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painful nightmare" was finally over for Israelis and Palestinians. "For so many families across this land, it has been years since you've known a single day of true peace... The long and painful nightmare is finally over," the US president added. Meanwhile, several buses carrying prisoners released by Israel in exchange for hostages freed by Hamas arrived in the Gaza City of Khan Yunis. Thousands of people gathered to welcome the prisoners, cheering and waving Palestinian flags in celebration. Trump termed the agreement an "incredible triumph for Israel and the world" as he thanked mediators from the Arab and Muslim world. "Let me also convey my tremendous appreciation for all of the nations of the Arab and Muslim world that came together to press Hamas to set the hostages free and to send them home," Trump said. The US president also hoped for a peace deal with Iran, after the US joined Israel in striking the country's nuclear sites during a brief war earlier this year. "They got it from one side, from the other, and you know it would be great if we could make a peace deal with them," Trump said of Iran. Trump, however, said the ball was in Tehran's court for any agreement to come to pass. "We're ready when you are."

Pakistan, Turkiye, Azerbaijan..

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presence in the trilateral forum was an honor and a symbol of the enduring friendship among the three brotherly nations. He said the conference's theme "strengthening fraternal relations through parliamentary cooperation for regional peace and prosperity" reflects the shared determination of Pakistan, Türkiye and Azerbaijan to advance mutual development and ensure regional stability through parliamentary engagement. "Pakistan, Türkiye and Azerbaijan share a unique and strategic partnership — one rooted not in governmental arrangements but in the aspirations of our peoples and the collective voice of our parliaments," the Speaker said. He warned that the global security order was under tremendous strain, with repeated violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity threatening peace worldwide. Condemning the ongoing atrocities in Gaza, he said two years of bloodshed and brutality in Palestine will bring a dark stain on humanity's conscience. Speaker Sadiq also drew attention to the plight of the Kashmiri people, deprived of their right to self-determination for over seven decades.

Pakistan Army Wins Gold at Cambrian Patrol 2025 in UK

Pakistan Army Team, Led by Captain Muhammad Saad, Clinches Gold Medal at Prestigious Cambrian Patrol 2025 in Wales, Showcasing Exceptional Skill, Endurance, and Professionalism Among 137 Global Teams

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army's Team has won Gold Medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol - 2025 held at Wales, UK from 03-13 October 2025. This year, Exercise Cambrian Patrol celebrated its 66th year. The exercise has retained its demanding professional standards; patrols from all across the globe had to move tactically across inhospitable terrain, covering a distance of 60 kms within 48 hours, completing specialist tasks in a contested environment. This year, 137 teams from 36 Countries participated in the exercise and out of all these teams, Pakistan Army' Team lead by Captain Muhammad Saad showed Exceptional Performance in the exercise and awarded with the Gold Medal. It is indeed a proud moment for the whole Nation and Pakistan Army which is known for its professionalism and highest standards of training. Pakistan Army has always held Country's flag high and will keep endeavouring in future as well.



Kudus scores as Ghana qualify for FIFA World Cup 2026

PARIS: Mohammed Kudus scored as Ghana beat Comoros 1-0 in Accra on Sunday to win Group I and become the fifth African qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup 2026 after Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia. Cheered on by a capacity 40,000 crowd, Ghana dominated first-half possession and territory, but slow, predictable attacks meant Comoros goalkeeper Adel Anzimati-Aboudou was seldom troubled. However, the home side wasted little time after the interval in taking the lead as Tottenham midfielder Kudus struck on 47 minutes. Comoros only partially cleared a goalmouth scramble, and when the ball was crossed low into the six-yard box, Kudus tapped it into the net from point-blank range. Success against Comoros was particularly sweet as the Indian Ocean islanders shocked Ghana at the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) and beat them again in the second round of World Cup qualifying two years ago. Ghana top the group with 25 points from 10 matches. Madagascar finished second with 19 points

despite a 4-1 loss to third-placed Mali in Bamako. It will be the fifth appearance by the Black Stars in the global showpiece. Their best performance was in 2010 in South Africa, where they lost to Uruguay after a quarter-final penalty shootout. Qualification for the expanded 48-nation 2026 tournament, which the United States, Canada, and Mexico will co-host, justified the faith of Ghanaian officials in coach Otto Addo, who was under fire last year. There were persistent demands from the public and media in the West African country for Addo to be sacked after a disastrous 2025 AFCON qualifying campaign. Ghana, winners of the competition four times between 1963 and 1982, did not win any of the six AFCON qualifiers and finished a humiliating last behind Angola, Sudan, and Niger with just three points. The other four automatic African qualifiers for the World Cup will be decided on Monday and Tuesday, with Benin, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, and Senegal the group leaders. Egypt rested Liverpool star

Mohamed Salah for their final match at home to Guinea-Bissau, and an early goal from Mohamed Hamdy delivered a 1-0 Group A victory in Cairo. Niger upset Zambia 1-0 in Ndola to finish second in Group E behind Morocco, and currently lie third in the mini-leagues runners-up table behind Gabon and Burkina Faso. The four best-ranked second-placed teams after the final qualifiers on Tuesday advance to the play-offs in Morocco during November. Whoever wins the mini-tournament, featuring single-match semi-finals and a final, qualifies for six-nation inter-continental play-offs next March with two World Cup places up for grabs. Niger striker Daniel Sosah scored in his third straight qualifier, firing a rebound into the net on 56 minutes after goalkeeper Lawrence Mulenga failed to hold a Victorien Adebayor shot. Meanwhile, the Nigerian squad, coaches, technical staff, and officials arrived safely in the southeastern city of Uyo on Sunday. Returning home after a

Group C win over Lesotho in South Africa last Friday, the jet carrying the Super Eagles had to make an emergency landing in Angola due to a cracked windscreen. The team media officer, Promise Efoghe, said a replacement aircraft was sent to Luanda and the journey to Nigeria was safely completed. Nigeria, the pre-qualifying favourites to win Group C, are third entering the final round on Tuesday, three points behind Benin and one point below South Africa. However, the Super Eagles could finish first if they defeat shock leaders Benin in Uyo and South Africa do not win at home to Rwanda. South Sudan coach Nicolas Dupuis has reportedly been suspended for 15 days and told to stay away from the national squad after a 5-0 home loss to Group B leaders Senegal on Friday. France-born Dupuis, 57, guided Madagascar to a shock win over Nigeria in the 2019 Cup of Nations in Egypt, and the islanders exceeded expectations by reaching the quarter-finals in their first appearance. — Agencies

Usman Wazeer set to defend WBC OPBF Silver title

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's undefeated boxing star Usman Wazeer will defend his WBC OPBF Silver Welterweight title in the last week of November 2025, marking another major milestone in his unbeaten journey. The 24-year-old from Astore, Gilgit-Baltistan, enters the fight with a perfect 17-0 record, aiming to extend it to 18-0 in front of his home fans. Wazeer captured the WBC OPBF Silver belt earlier this year in Thailand after a thrilling knockout win over Indonesia's Stevie Ferdinandus in the tenth round. The fight, broadcast live on DAZN and viewed in 168 countries, established him as one of Asia's most promising boxing talents. "It was a tough fight against a very experienced opponent, but I trusted my stamina and game plan. Now, I'm ready to make history again on Pakistani soil," Wazeer said. Training under his long-time coach and team in Lahore, Wazeer has entered an intense preparation phase. "Every fight teaches me something new. We're refining strategy, power, and defense to ensure another convincing win. I want to put on a show that makes Pakistan proud," he added. A key part of his success has been the support of ACTIVIT, a sports and health initiative led by Dr. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed, Director of National Hospital DHA Lahore. "ACTIVIT has been like a family to me. Their sponsorship and medical support gave me the confidence to perform at my best internationally," Wazeer shared. Since turning professional in 2019, Wazeer has built an impressive resume — becoming the first Pakistani to win the WBO World Youth title and the WBA Asia Welterweight Championship, alongside his current WBC crown. From humble beginnings in Astore to international acclaim, his story embodies grit, belief, and national pride. "This fight isn't just about me; it's about Pakistan. I want to show the world that champions can rise from our soil," he said.

Pakistan eyes boost in citrus exports to China, global markets

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani government is firmly committed to strengthening Pakistan's agricultural export base, particularly in the citrus sector, through innovation, value addition, and quality enhancement aimed at boosting exports to China and other international markets, Gwadar Pro reported quoting a top official. Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, speaking on the sidelines of the Agri Expo Sargodha, highlighted that citrus, especially Kinnow mandarin, remains one of Pakistan's signature export commodities with immense potential in China and beyond. "Our priority is to regain our competitive position in international citrus markets by modernizing the entire value chain, from farm to foreign buyers," he said. He noted that the Ministry of Commerce was actively supporting initiatives to improve agricultural practices, enhance compliance with international phytosanitary standards, and upgrade the logistics infrastructure necessary for temperature-controlled exports, especially to China, which has emerged as a high-value destination for Pakistani fruit. At the Expo, the Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Company (PHDEC) organized a comprehensive technical workshop titled "Enhancing Citrus Quality and Export Competitiveness: Pest and Disease Control Measures, Harvest and Post-Harvest Management, and Effective Logistics Solutions." The session drew a large audience of citrus growers, exporters, and agricultural researchers. Experts from the Citrus Research Institute (CRI), Sargodha, shared insights on pest control, harvest optimization, and post-harvest management techniques to improve fruit quality and reduce export losses. The PHDEC also distributed Urdu-language citrus manuals to help farmers adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and modern orchard management systems aligned with international standards. To streamline export logistics, the National Logistics Corporation (NLC) introduced its reefer container transport solutions, ensuring efficient, temperature-controlled citrus shipments for the upcoming season starting in December. Minister Jam Kamal Khan lauded the collaboration between growers, exporters, and logistics providers, calling such partnerships vital for sustainable growth. — APP

Carlo Ancelotti ready to make World Cup history with Brazil

BRAZIL: No country has ever won the World Cup with a foreign-born coach, but Carlo Ancelotti said Monday that there was "always a first time" as he eyes glory with Brazil in 2026. The Italian became Brazil's first overseas coach in six decades when he took over in May, and he helped the five-times champions punch their ticket for next summer's World Cup. Brazil face Japan in a friendly in Tokyo on Tuesday, fresh from a 5-0 hammering of South Korea in Seoul last week. Ancelotti said he is aiming to create history for himself and his team at next year's World Cup in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. "My goal is to give my best for the Brazil national team, to try to get them to perform at their best and to win the World Cup," he said. "Of course, no foreign-born coach has ever won the World Cup, but there is always a first time in life." Brazil made hard work of qualifying, finishing fifth in the South American table. — Agencies

Muthusamy spins South Africa back in first Test against Pakistan

Pakistan collapse from 362-5 to 378 all out; Imam-ul-Haq and Salman Agha score 93 each



LAHORE: Senuran Muthusamy produced a brilliant spell of spin bowling on Day 2 to claim six wickets and help South Africa bowl out Pakistan for 378 in the first Test at the Gaddafi Stadium on Monday. Resuming their innings at 313 for five, Pakistan looked set for a big total as Salman Ali Agha and Mohammad Rizwan picked up where they left off, extending their sixth-wicket stand beyond 150, the highest for Pakistan against South Africa at home. Both batters appeared in full control before Muthusamy turned the tide. He first broke the partnership by dismissing Rizwan for a hard-fought 75 off 140 deliveries, which included two fours and two sixes. The left-arm spinner struck again almost immediately, removing Noman Ali and Sajid Khan for ducks to complete a well-deserved five-for. Senuran Muthusamy continued to wreak havoc, bowling Shaheen Afridi for seven to register his sixth wicket, leaving Pakistan nine down. The innings finally ended at 378 when off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen dismissed Salman Ali Agha for a composed 93 off 145 balls, an innings decorated with five fours and three sixes. Muthusamy finished with superb figures of 6-117 in 32 overs, while Subrayen chipped in with two wickets. Kagiso Rabada and Simon Harmer claimed one apiece. Earlier on Day 1, Pakistan had recovered strongly from an early setback after Abdullah Shafique fell cheaply to Rabada for two. Skipper Shan Masood and Imam-ul-Haq then steadied the innings with a 161-run partnership for the second wicket. Imam, making his return to Test cricket after nearly two years, scored a fluent 93 off 153 balls, while Shan contributed 76 off 147, featuring nine boundaries and a six. Babar Azam, who became the first Pakistani and eighth batter overall to cross 3,000 runs in the ICC World Test Championship, looked assured before being dismissed for 23 by Simon Harmer. Saud Shakeel's first-ball duck added to Pakistan's woes, but Rizwan and Salman's partnership ensured a respectable total, keeping the hosts competitive heading into South Africa's first innings later in the day. — Agencies

Imran's nominee Sohail elected as new KP CM

FROM PAGE 01
He said that a few people do not wish to see Sohail Afridi becoming the chief minister, adding that constitutional affairs cannot be run on the "wishes of the people, but as per the constitution" In a statement shared through party channels, Imran Khan congratulated Afridi, expressing confidence that he would uphold PTI's vision of transparency and public service. The new chief minister is expected to announce his cabinet in the coming days as the PTHed government begins its next term in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

KP people love armed forces, but country...

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He warned that KP would strongly react to any deviation from constitutional norms, urging all state institutions to work within their defined roles for the unity, stability, and progress of the country.

PM engages Trump, world...

FROM PAGE 01
shared commitment to peace. President Abbas expressed deep gratitude to Pakistan for its consistent support of the Palestinian people and its steadfast advocacy on political and diplomatic fronts. They lauded the historic and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Palestine, describing them as a source of pride for both nations and their peoples, said a statement.

Speakers call on President...

FROM PAGE 01
rooted in shared faith, mutual trust, and a collective aspiration for regional peace and prosperity. The President congratulated the Speakers on the successful conclusion of the Third Trilateral Speakers' Conference, noting that such engagements reflect the growing strength of parliamentary cooperation among Pakistan, Türkiye, and Azerbaijan. Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova conveyed greetings and best wishes from the leadership of Azerbaijan to President Zardari. She informed the President that the first meeting of the Trilateral Speakers' Conference was held in Azerbaijan, the second in Türkiye, and the third is now taking place in Pakistan. The Speaker of the Milli Majlis also invited Pakistani parliamentarians to visit Baku to explore avenues of cooperation, particularly in addressing challenges related to climate change. President Zardari said Pakistan's relations with Türkiye continue to grow across political, economic, defence, and security spheres. He appreciated Türkiye's support for Pakistan, including its backing for Pakistan's candidature to the UN Human Rights Council for 2026-2028.

‘KP CM-elect’s speech...

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the Constitution of Pakistan was passed in 2010, and among the changes it introduced was the devolution of many powers and responsibilities from the Centre to the provinces. Referring to Afridi's maiden speech in the KP Assembly, Sanaulah said: "If the chief minister-elect acts in line with what he said in his speech, I don't think he can function under the Constitution and the law as head of a provincial government." Highlighting the former ruling party's position on operations against terrorism, the PM's aide said that PTI should behave like a political party if it seeks a democratic and political treatment from the state and the institutions. Responding to another query, the PML-N leader said the KP Assembly session should not have been convened until the resignation of CM Ali Amin was formally accepted.

Ghana qualifies for the 2026 World Cup after 1-0 win over Comoros

Tottenham forward Mohammed Kudus scores Ghana's decisive goal in the 47th minute in their game against Comoros in Accra on Sunday at Accra Sports Stadium

ACCRA: Ghana became the fifth African nation to qualify for the 2026 World Cup on Sunday. The 2010 quarterfinalist joins Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia at next year's tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Ghana needed a point against Comoros in its final game in Group I to be certain of qualifying for back-to-back World

Cups and sealed its place with a 1-0 win at Accra Sports Stadium. In the end it didn't even need that after second-placed Madagascar lost 4-1 at Mali. Tottenham forward Mohammed Kudus scored the decisive goal in the 47th minute to ensure Ghana qualified in style. Madagascar still finished second, but victory would have improved its chances of be-

ing one of the four best runners-up, which compete for a place in the playoffs. The nine group winners automatically qualify for the World Cup. The four best runners-up play in a mini tournament of two semifinals and a final in November. The winning team advances to FIFA's playoff tournament against opponents from Asia, CONCACAF, South America

and Oceania. Burkina Faso, second in Group A behind Egypt, rounded off its campaign with a 3-1 win against Ethiopia, with substitute Pierre Landry Kabore scoring a second-half hat trick. Egypt had already qualified and picked up another win by beating Guinea-Bissau 1-0. In Group E Niger beat Zambia 1-0 and finished second. — Agencies

Briefs

Lebanon president says 'necessary' to negotiate with Israel

BEIRUT: Lebanese President Joseph Aoun called for negotiations with Israel on Monday, after US President Donald Trump brokered a ceasefire in Gaza. In October 2023, Iran-backed Hezbollah began launching rockets at Israel in support of Hamas in the Gaza war. Months of hostilities escalated into all-out war in September 2024, before a ceasefire was agreed two months later. Israel has continued to strike Lebanon, saying it is hitting Hezbollah targets, but according to the United Nations over 100 civilians have been killed since the truce. "The Lebanese state has previously negotiated with Israel under American and United Nations auspices, resulting in an agreement to demarcate the maritime border... so what prevents the same thing from happening again to find solutions to the outstanding issues," Aoun said according to a presidency statement. "Today, the general atmosphere is one of compromise, and it is necessary to negotiate," he added, specifying that "the form of this negotiation will be determined in due time." The US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas went into effect on Friday. There are no formal ties between Israel and Lebanon.—APP

Israeli PM not to attend moot in Egypt

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip: Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will not attend Monday's Gaza summit in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm El-Sheikh because it coincides with a Jewish holiday, his office said. "Prime Minister Netanyahu was invited by US President Donald Trump to attend a conference in Egypt today," his office said in a statement. "The prime minister thanked President Trump for the invitation but said he would be unable to attend due to the timing coinciding with the start of the holiday" of Simhat Torah, which begins Monday evening and continues until sunset Tuesday. Earlier, Egypt's presidency said Netanyahu had been invited to attend following a call between US President Donald Trump, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and the Israeli premier. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is also expected at the international summit.—APP

Ghana boat capsizes kills 15, mostly children

ACCRA: A boat capsized on a lake in northeastern Ghana, killing 15 people, mostly children, maritime authorities said on Sunday. "Tragically, 11 of the deceased were children between the ages of two and 14 years (five males and six females)" in the incident that took place Saturday on Lake Volta in the Krachi West District of the Oti Region, the Ghana Maritime Authority said in a statement. The children and other victims, aged up to 64, were traveling from Okuma to Bovime when their vessel overturned, it added. Four adults survived, the statement said, describing the accident as "a critical and unacceptable breach of safety standards." Preliminary findings suggested the boat was overloaded, the authority said. A specialized investigation team, including naval personnel, was deployed to determine the cause. The authority added that it would set up a high-level investigation committee with the transport ministry and launch a "sustained lake-side safety enforcement operation" to ensure compliance with passenger limits and life jacket rules. Boat disasters are common on Lake Volta, often caused by overloading and collisions with tree stumps.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Former Provincial Health Minister Punjab Dr. Jamal Nasir, Professor Shoaib Shafi, and General (R) Mazhar Ishaq with diplomats from Ireland, Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, and Nepal at the reception dinner hosted by the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan.

Women's empowerment

President Xi Jinping calls for renewed global commitment

President Xi emphasized that women are "important creators and promoters of human civilization" and urged global leaders to foster an enabling environment where women can grow, thrive, and contribute to peace and progress

DNA

BEIJING : Chinese President Xi Jinping called on the international community to carry forward the spirit of the 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women and to accelerate global efforts toward women's all-round development. He made these remarks while delivering the keynote address at the opening

ceremony of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women, held in Beijing to mark the 30th anniversary of the landmark conference. President Xi emphasized that women are "important creators and promoters of human civilization" and urged global leaders to foster an enabling environment where women can grow, thrive, and contribute to peace and progress. He outlined four key proposals: ensuring women's safe-

ty and participation in conflict resolution; promoting women's high-quality development through innovation and technology; improving governance and legal frameworks to protect women's rights; and deepening international cooperation under the United Nations framework. Highlighting China's achievements, Xi noted that women now comprise over 40 percent of the national workforce

and play leading roles in innovation and governance. He announced new commitments, including a US\$10 million donation to UN Women, US\$100 million in development cooperation funds, and 1,000 women-centered livelihood projects. "Standing at a new historic starting point," Xi concluded, "let us work together to build a better and more equal future for all humankind."

FPCCI urges FBR to extend income tax return filing deadline: Atif

Karachi: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), has proposed to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to extend the deadline for filing income tax returns for the Tax Year 2025 – currently set to expire on October 15, 2025 – to October 31, 2025. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh apprised that, in a letter addressed to Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Chairman of the FBR, FPCCI has highlighted the challenges faced by taxpayers and stakeholders in meeting the filing deadline. These include delays in obtaining essential financial documents, technical issues with the FBR portal, and difficulties in integrating Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems with FBR's digital invoicing requirements. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh emphasized the importance of a taxpayer-friendly approach and urged the FBR to take prompt action to address these concerns. He stressed that to facilitate taxpayers in fulfilling their legal obligations without undue stress, FPCCI has urged the FBR to extend the filing deadline. This extension is expected to provide much-needed relief to taxpayers grappling with these genuine constraints. SVP FPCCI highlighted that many taxpayers are struggling to gather necessary financial records due to procedural and logistical bottlenecks as FBR's online portal has been reported to experiencing slow performance and technical glitches – hindering smooth submission of returns. VP FPCCI said that businesses are facing difficulties in aligning their Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems with the FBR's digital invoicing requirements; which is causing delays in compliance.—DNA

Rupee gains 01 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 01 paise against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.16, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 281.17. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.65 and Rs 282.85, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 0.35 to close at Rs 326.16 against the last day's closing of Rs 326.51 according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.84, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound decreased by Rs 0.70 to close at Rs 374.87, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 374.17. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham came down by 01 paise to close at Rs 76.54, while the Saudi Riyal remained stagnant and closed at Rs 74.96.—APP

Kuwait-Pak Business expo to boost bilateral trade: ICCI President

He lauded the initiative as an ideal platform for Pakistani investors and entrepreneurs to build long-term linkages with their counterparts in Kuwait and across the region

ISLAMABAD: The Kuwait-Pakistan Business Expo 2025, scheduled for December 11 to 13 in Kuwait, would provide a world-class platform for promoting Pakistani products, exploring joint ventures, and enhancing trade and investment cooperation. "Pakistan and Kuwait, bound by historic ties of friendship and mutual support, are set to take another major step toward strengthening their economic relationship through the upcoming Expo," ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood said. Speaking to a visiting delegation from the Expo's organizing committee, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Sardar Tahir Mehmood said economic ties between both countries have steadily grown, supported by decades of mutual trust and cooperation. He noted that Kuwait has always stood by Pakistan in times of need, and both countries have signed several agreements in the fields of defense, investment, and health cooperation. Tahir Mehmood emphasized that the business communities of both countries should actively explore joint ventures and partnerships to unlock mutual trade and investment potential. He expressed confidence that the expo would serve as a catalyst for trade diversification, industrial collaboration, and economic growth. Through stronger partnerships and mutual understanding, both countries can achieve a balanced, win-win trade relationship that benefits our economies and strengthens bilateral ties, he added. Head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Muhammad Saleem Ansari, along with Dr. S. Sam, said that the Expo would be a major opportunity for Pakistani entrepreneurs to showcase their capabilities and expand their footprint in the Gulf market. They said the objective of the expo is to provide a world-class exhibition platform that promotes trade, investment, and partnerships between Pakistani businesses and Kuwaiti markets, thereby fostering mutual prosperity. In his vote of thanks, ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to fostering robust trade and investment relations between the both countries. He assured that ICCI would play a proactive role in promoting the event through its extensive communication and business network. He lauded the initiative as an ideal platform for Pakistani investors and entrepreneurs to build long-term linkages with their counterparts in Kuwait and across the region. Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry, Executive Members Malik Aqeel Ahmad, Imran Minhas, ICCI member Israr ul Haq Mishwani also present on the occasion.—DNA

26th Amendment case 'Constitutional matters to be only heard by CB'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail on Monday wondered whether judges comprising the Supreme Court's (SC) Constitutional Bench (CB) hearing petitions against the 26th Amendment could do so if they were its "beneficiaries". The Amendment was passed by the parliament during an overnight session in October last year, with the PTI claiming seven of its lawmakers were abducted to gain their favour as the party opposed the legislation. The Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) also alleged its two senators were being pressured, with both later defying party line to vote in the tweaks' favour. The legislation, which altered judicial authority and tenure, has been a lightning rod for debate with both opposition parties and legal experts questioning its impact on the judiciary's independence. The tweaks took away the SC's suo motu powers, set the chief justice of Pakistan's (CJP) term at three years and empowered a Special Parliamentary Committee for the appointment of the CJP from among the three most senior SC judges. It also paved the way for the formation of the CB, which is now hearing petitions against the very legislation that enabled its establishment. Former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Abid Shahid Zuberi continued his arguments on the case today. The hearing has been adjourned till 11:30am

tomorrow (Tuesday). The CB hearing the pleas is headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan and also includes Justices Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha Malik, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Musarrat Hilali, Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Shahid Bilal Hassan. During recent hearings, judges have questioned whether the CB has the power to issue orders for the constitution of a full court, as requested by petitioners.

So far, Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) lawyer Hamid Khan, Balochistan High Court Bar Association (BHCBA)'s counsel Munir A. Malik and petitioner Barrister Salahuddin Ahmed have presented their arguments. Hamid sought the formation of a 16-member bench as per the number of judges present in the SC in Oct 2024. Malik contended that the CB had the power to issue a judicial order for the formation of a

SC adjourns super tax case hearing until Tuesday

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's constitutional bench on Monday adjourned the hearing of the super tax case until Tuesday. The case was heard by a five-member bench headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan. During the proceedings, Advocate Farogh Naseem presented arguments on behalf of various companies. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail observed that NFC may impose taxes other than sales tax. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar remarked that no new tax can be enforced after the closing date. Advocate Farogh Naseem agreed, stating that once the prescribed period lapses, no new tax may be levied. Justice Mazhar questioned why the matter had not been clarified to date, adding that the issue keeps surfacing repeatedly without any final interpretation. Advocate Naseem informed the court that the Sindh High Court had earlier struck down a tax enforced from July 1, 2023, ruling instead that a 4 percent rate would apply instead of 10 percent. Chief of the bench, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, remarked that judges often face great pressure. Advocate Farogh Naseem commented that no judge has the right to insult a lawyer, to which Justice Amin-ud-Din agreed, emphasizing that patience and composure must be observed during proceedings. Naseem praised Justices Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Shahid Bilal Hasan for always maintaining patience and dignity during hearings.

"full court". On Saturday, a convention jointly hosted by the LHCBA and the Lahore Bar Association resolved to continue its struggle against the 26th constitutional Amendment, declaring that the legal fraternity would not accept any judicial verdict that undermines the judiciary's independence.

The bench will first determine whether the challenges should be heard by a full court comprising all available SC judges or by the same eight-judge CB, before deciding on the legality of the 26th Amendment. The case was initially taken up in January, and after the CB's approval of petitioners' request for it, the proceedings are being live-streamed on the SC's YouTube channel since October 8.

At the outset of the hearing, Justice Mandokhail questioned whether it was the right of any party to request a bench of its choice, to which Zuberi replied, "I do not think that any party has the right to select a bench of their choice. But here the case is that we are requesting a full court on some constitutional legal issues." The ex-SCBA president added that he had "always insisted that there should be a full bench". Justice Mandokhail then asked why Zuberi wanted a full court, to which the latter said he would cite past judgements by the judges on the bench that rule for the formation of a full court. Upon the judge asking how many judges were appointed in the apex court currently and what a full court would look like, Zuberi said there were a total of 24 judges. "I am not declaring any judge wrong. All judges are honourable."

EU says Russia 'gambling with war' with airspace violations

KYIV: The European Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas said Monday that Russia was "gambling with war," after a spate of Russian drones and military jets crossing into the bloc's airspace NATO has boosted its defenses along its eastern borders as it accused Moscow of testing the alliance's air defenses with drone incursions into several members and by flying military jets in Estonian airspace. "Every time a Russian drone or plane violates our airspace, there is a risk of escalation, unintended or not. Russia is gambling with war," Kallas said during a visit to Kyiv. "To keep war at bay, we must translate the economic power of Europe into military deterrence," she added. Kallas was in Kyiv for talks on military and financial support for Ukraine, and especially its energy infrastructure, as Russia has resumed attacks on power plants ahead of winter. Ukraine on Monday was forced to introduce power cuts across seven central and eastern regions as a result of the attacks, which Kyiv has called "cynical." "The enemy wants to affect the spirit and mood of our population," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga said during a joint press conference with Kallas.

"This is especially cynical on the eve of winter," he added. Ukraine retaliates by targeting Russian oil refineries, aiming to hamper funding of its war machine. It has launched more than 30 strikes on Russian energy sites since the beginning of August, also triggering a spike in petrol prices inside Russia.—APP

Qatar to open museum, first-ever dedicated to Indian artist

NEW DELHI: A museum dedicated to M. F. Husain will open in Qatar next month, the first such institution honoring the legacy of one of India's most famous and influential modern artists. Often called "the Picasso of India," Husain – full name Maqbool Fida Husain – was born in Pandharpur in Maharashtra in 1915. Self-taught as an artist, he began developing his skills by learning calligraphy at a madrasah in his early teens. He moved to Mumbai in the 1930s, surviving by painting cinema posters and honing his craft as the Bollywood industry grew. In 1947, he formed the Progressive Artists' Group with F. N. Souza, S. H. Raza, K. H. Ara, H. A. Gade, and S. K. Bakre, who sought to give Indian art a new modern identity after independence from British colonial rule. "They have all been the top stars of Indian modern art. All of them very consciously decided to create a new language for art in post-independence India, which is away from ancient art, which is away from the British school of art – a completely new language," said Sahar Zaman, an art journalist who has documented Husain's life and work.—APP

Gaza deal brings hope for Ukraine: Zelensky

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday hailed the "extraordinary" Gaza ceasefire as bringing hope that US President Donald Trump could broker an end to the Russian invasion of his country. "When peace is achieved for one part of the world, it brings more hope for peace in other regions," Zelensky said on social media. He added: "If a ceasefire and peace have been achieved for the Middle East, the leadership and determination of global actors can certainly work for us too, in Ukraine." Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, setting off the largest conflict in Europe since World War II. Tens of thousands have been killed, millions forced from their homes and much of eastern and southern Ukraine decimated.—APP

Briefs

EU to restart
border
monitoring
from today

DNA

BRUSSELS: The European Union will Wednesday restart a civilian mission to monitor the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt in support of a US-brokered ceasefire deal, the bloc's top diplomat said Monday. "The EU stands ready to do its part," Kaja Kallas posted on X after Hamas released a first group of Israeli hostages as part of the agreement. "This mission can play an important role in supporting the ceasefire," she said. The 27-nation bloc set up a civilian mission in 2005 to help monitor the Rafah crossing, but it was suspended two years later after the militant Islamist group Hamas took control of Gaza. The EU-BAM monitoring mission aims to provide a neutral, third-party presence at the key crossing and involves police from Italy, Spain and France. It was briefly redeployed in January but suspended again in March. Welcoming Monday's hostage release, Kallas highlighted US President Donald Trump's role in this "crucial milestone towards peace", saying the leader "made this breakthrough possible". In a separate statement, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said Monday's Gaza summit in Sharm el-Sheikh finalising the agreement to end the war would be "a historical milestone." The bloc "fully supports the peace plan brokered by the United States, Qatar, Egypt, and Türkiye," she wrote.

Pakistan,
Germany
collaborate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has taken a significant step toward strengthening its carbon market governance and pricing frameworks under the Supporting Preparedness for Article 6 Cooperation (SPAR6C) initiative, funded by the German Federal Government. Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Dr. Musadik Malik, met with Helene Paust, Deputy Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad, along with representatives from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and UNEP-CCC to review progress under the SPAR6C programme. The meeting focused on advancing Pakistan's transition from readiness to implementation in developing a transparent, credible, and high-integrity carbon market aligned with global standards. Both sides emphasized the importance of robust governance and fair pricing mechanisms to ensure environmental integrity and attract international investment. Highlighting the country's commitment, Dr. Musadik Malik said, "Carbon markets are not just about trading credits; they're about valuing climate action fairly and ensuring that every ton reduced translates into real benefits for our people and our economy."

Pak hopes for 'true representative government' in Afghanistan

Islamabad says Taliban aggression belies spirit of peaceful neighbourhood, cooperation

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed hope that one day the Afghan people would be emancipated and governed by a true representative government, as it voiced deep concern over the unwarranted aggression by the Afghan Taliban and its allied terrorist outfits. "We also hope that one day, the Afghan people would be emancipated and they would be governed by a true representative government," the Foreign Office said in a strongly worded statement on Sunday, as it expressed deep concern over unwarranted aggression by the Afghan Taliban, Fitna al-Khawarij, and Fitna al-Hindustan along the Pak-Afghan border on the night of October 11-12, adding that such actions "belie the spirit of peaceful neighbourhood and cooperation." The statement said Pakistan, exercising its right to self-defence, had repelled the assaults and inflicted heavy losses on Taliban and affiliated terrorists in terms of men, material, and infrastructure used for planning attacks inside Pakistan. It added that all possible measures were taken to avoid collateral damage and protect civilians.

Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to dialogue and diplomacy, saying it continued to closely monitor the situation and would take all necessary steps to safeguard its territory and citizens. It warned that "any further provocations will be met with a befitting and unwavering response." Islamabad also rejected the Afghan interim foreign minister's remarks made in India, terming them an attempt to divert attention from the presence of terrorist groups in Afghanistan. It said the Taliban regime cannot absolve itself of its responsibility for regional peace and stability, adding that the UN Monitoring Team reports have documented the activities of these groups. The statement noted that Pakistan has repeatedly raised concerns over the presence of Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan operating from Afghan soil, urging the Taliban to take concrete and verifiable action against them. Pakistan also highlighted that it had hosted around four million Afghans for over four decades, but would now regulate their presence according to international norms and laws. Reiterating its stance, Islamabad said it desired a peaceful, regionally connected, and prosperous Afghanistan, while calling on the Taliban to act responsibly and fulfil its commitments towards eliminating terrorism. In the border skirmishes, Pakistani forces killed more than 200 Afghan Taliban and affiliated terrorists in self-defence action responding to an unprovoked overnight attack by the Taliban forces and India-backed terrorists, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Police say protesters dispersed in Muridke; SHO martyred

All connecting roads between Islamabad and Rawalpindi reopened for commuters

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Normalcy began returning to the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Monday, as the police reportedly cleared Muridke of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) protesters and reopened key roads to traffic. Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) protesters, who had camped at Muridke after authorities blocked their route to Islamabad by digging up trenches, were dispersed on Monday after clashing with law enforcement personnel, according to police. Authorities moved to close roads and motorways again in and around Lahore and Islamabad — which had started reopening on Sunday — after the development as panic spread among citizens about the potential outcome of the clash. Meanwhile, some schools in Islamabad also closed earlier than usual. The TLP, which began its protest march in



LAHORE: SHO Shahzad who was killed in clash with TLP protestors, on Monday. — DNA

Lahore on Friday, was planning to reach Islamabad and stage a demonstration in support of Gaza and Palestine outside the US embassy. On Sunday, law enforcement agencies, including Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) and large contingents of police from five districts, were dispatched to Muridke and reportedly surrounded TLP protest camp, in what appeared to be preparations for a large-scale operation. A senior police official, who wished to remain anonymous, confirmed to Dawn.com today that police action to disperse PM Shehbaz commended Nagvi and his team for their efforts in managing the situation and stressed the importance of maintaining consistent, well-coordinated, and effective measures to safeguard the lives and property of all citizens. He reaffirmed the government's firm commitment to ensuring the rule of law and reiterated that the protection of public life and the complete eradication of terrorism remain top priorities of the administration.

Karachi police quell TLP road block protest

DNA

KARACHI: The Karachi police on Monday dismissed widespread rumours of sit-ins and protests in various parts of the city, assuring the public that the situation remains under control. Social media flooded with the reports of "deteriorating situation" in the city after claims of protest sit-ins being staged by Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), just hours after Punjab returned to calm following days of unrest. Karachi police, however, clarified that no demonstrations or sit-ins were currently taking place anywhere in the metropolis. They added that in some areas, shops were closed by residents themselves due to unverified reports, but the overall environment remains peaceful. Police further stated that Section 144 is in effect across the city, and no individual or group has been granted permission to hold protests. Officials also confirmed that a brief protest staged by the religious-political party near Sindh Hotel in New Karachi had ended. The area has been cleared and the road reopened for traffic, the police added. It may be noted that the Sindh government on Sunday announced a province-wide ban on protests, sit-ins, rallies, and public gatherings under Section 144 for a period of a month, citing security issues.

AI or inequality tipped for economics Nobel

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel economics prize wraps up the 2025 season when it is announced on Monday, as experts say this year's prize could honour research on artificial intelligence or inequality. The winner or winners of the prestigious prize will be announced at 11:45 am (0945 GMT). Last year it went to Turkish-American Daron Acemoglu and British-Americans Simon Johnson and James Robinson for research into wealth inequality between nations. Predicting winners is not an exact science, and the nomination and selection process is shrouded in secrecy. But prize watchers have their strategies to narrow down the contenders. For Micael Dahlen, a professor at the Stockholm School of Economics, it is important to look at the disciplines recognised in previous years. "Information economics is a strong contender," Dahlen told AFP, noting the field was last spotlighted for the 2016 prize. "In recent years, especially with AI, the field has become highly topical," he said. A strong candidate would then be American economist Erik Brynjolfsson, according to Dahlen. Dahlen also floated the name of Germany's Monika Schnitzer, a prominent economist in the field of international economics. — Agencies

Pak Stock Exchange extends losses amid IMF delay

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: The equity market continued its downward slide on Monday as investors reacted to renewed concerns over the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) inconclusive review talks, a widening trade deficit, and persistent fiscal challenges. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index closed at 158,443.42, down 4,654.77 points, or -2.85%, from the previous close of 163,098.19. During the session, the index hit an intraday high of 161,988.12 points, down 1,110.07 points, or -0.68%, and slid to a low of 158,067.92 points, reflecting a drop of 5,030.27 points, or -3.08%. "Markets are reacting to news flow around the IMF, shortage in FBR revenues, and the increasing trade deficit, which is leading to profit taking and pushing the index down," said Ahfaz Mustafa, CEO of Ismail Iqbal Securities. "Result season should help ease this pressure in the coming days," he added. Investor caution deepened after the

IMF's review mission concluded without a staff-level agreement (SLA), with unresolved discussions on external financing tables and the Governance and Corruption Diagnostic (GCD) report delaying progress. Officials said these matters would be finalised in the coming week. Adding to pressure, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) missed its annual FY25 collection target by Rs1.2 trillion, despite imposing Rs1.3 trillion in additional taxes. For the first quarter (July-September FY26), the shortfall stood at Rs190 billion, and the IMF has projected that the FBR could miss its annual target by over Rs400 billion for the current fiscal year. "It's an overall correction and healthy exchange of hands as people evaluate evolving domestic politics and Eastern border violence impact," added AAH Soomro, an independent investment and economic analyst. Meanwhile, Pakistan's trade deficit widened 46% year-on-year in September 2025 to \$3.34 billion, as imports surged 14% to \$5.85 billion while exports fell 11.7% to \$2.5 billion, according to PBS.

France's president unveils new cabinet lineup

PARIS: France's President Emmanuel Macron unveiled a new government Sunday, after marathon talks to cobble together a cabinet and prevent the country from slipping deeper into a political crisis. The lineup, a mix of old and new faces, is Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu's second attempt at bringing together a team to overcome months of deadlock and pass a much-needed budget through a hung parliament. Last Sunday he presented his first cabinet, but resigned a day later after the lineup was criticised for not having enough new faces. Macron reappointed him on Friday to try again. "A mission-driven government has been appointed to provide France with a budget before the end of the year," Lecornu wrote on X on Sunday. According to the lineup published by the

presidency, Jean-Noel Barrot remained as foreign minister. Outgoing labour minister Catherine Vautrin took on the defence portfolio. Roland Lescure, a Macron loyalist, is in charge of the economy, with next year's budget as a top priority. There were also new faces. Paris police chief Laurent Nunez took over the interior ministry, replacing Bruno Retailleau whose right-wing Republicans party said it would not be part in any government this weekend. Monique Barbut, the former France director of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), was to head the ministry of environmental transition. Gerald Darmanin however stayed on as justice minister. And Rachida Dati, a scandal-ridden culture minister who is set to stand trial for corruption next year, also retained her post. — APP

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