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Pakistan to play role in Palestine peace, says Asim

Detailed News On Page-08

Ethiopian airline Promoting ties, says Murad Shah

Detailed News On Page-08



Differences with PPP family matter

Detailed News On Page-01



President, PM condemn

Suicide attack in Quetta claims 10 lives

All six Indian-sponsored terrorists killed as forces effectively repulsed bid to infiltrate FC headquarters, say security sources

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA/RAWALPINDI: At least 10 people were killed and 32 were injured on Tuesday after a bomb blast ripped through a busy street near Quetta's Frontier Corps (FC) headquarters, officials said. Speaking to Dawn.com, Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar confirmed the death and injury toll, saying, "Ten people have been killed while thirty-two were injured in the blast. The injured have been taken to the Civil Hospital and Trauma Centre." Meanwhile, Civil Lines Police Station House Officer (SHO) Ameen Jaffar told Dawn.com that "eight bodies were brought to the Civil Hospital after the blast." According to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Special Operations Quetta Muhammad Baloch, "The blast took place when a vehicle turned from Model Town towards Hali Road, close to the Frontier Corps (FC) headquarters." Television and social media footage captured the moment when the powerful explosion ripped through the street. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the incident, calling it a "terrorist attack." "Following the incident, security forces gave a swift and effective response, eliminating four terrorists," a post from the Balochistan government's X account quoted him as saying. "The terrorists cannot weaken the nation's resolve through cowardly acts. The sacrifices of the people and security forces will not go in vain. We remain committed to making Balochistan peaceful and secure. I express solidarity with the families of the martyrs, pray for the elevation of their ranks, and for the speedy recovery of the injured." Later, speaking during an event in Quetta, he said that "four terrorists were killed by the security forces, while an operation against them is underway." President Asif Ali Zardari, on

Russian Embassy condemns Quetta terrorist attack

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Russian Federation in Pakistan has strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack in Quetta. In a statement, the Embassy stressed the urgent need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, expressing hope that those responsible for organizing and carrying out the attack will be swiftly identified and brought to justice. The Embassy extended heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the victims and conveyed wishes for the speedy recovery of those injured. Russia reaffirmed its solidarity with Pakistan in the fight against terrorism. The other hand, said it was a "suicide attack." "The president has strongly condemned the suicide attack in Quetta carried out by the Fitna-al-Khawarij, the misguided extremists acting on India's agenda," a statement from the President's Secretariat said. Fitna-al-Khawarij is a term the state uses to refer to terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). "The president said that the elements serving the interests of Fitna-al-Khawarij and India cannot undermine Pakistan's peace and stability. He commended the security forces for their timely and effective response, which foiled the malicious designs of the terrorists."

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Pakistan, Australia discuss ties

Neil Hawkins pays farewell call on the petroleum minister Malik

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Petroleum, Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik had a farewell meeting at his office today with the outgoing Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Neil Hawkins, who is concluding his diplomatic assignment in Pakistan. Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik lauded High Commissioner Hawkins as a "true friend of Pakistan" and commended his efforts in strengthening the bilateral relationship between the two countries. The Minister expressed his best wishes for the High Commissioner's future endeavors and hoped he would depart with fond memories of his time in Pakistan. The discussion focused on the robust and growing partnership in the mining sector. High Commissioner Hawkins acknowledged the significant potential that Australian companies see in Pakistan's mineral resources. He noted the existing footprint of Australian sub-contractors currently operating in Balochistan and highlighted Australia's support for ADB in the strategically vital Reko Diq project.

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Gandapur offloads two ministers

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR .. In the light of alleged poor performances and failure of bringing targeted audience to historical Peshawar rally Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandhapur has initiated steps for reshuffling of his cabinet. So far two provincial ministers have tendered resignations whereas a few others have been directed to do so. Soon after Peshawar historical rally Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandhapur rushed to Adyala Jail where as he held exclusive meeting with his jailed leader Imran Khan. Though details of such a meeting yet to be made public but advisor to Chief Minister Barrister Saif was quoted by a section media, "Imran Khan has shown satisfactions and directed us to go ahead." However, certain circles close to Pakistan Tehrik Insaf informed that through this historical rally Chief Minister has got the chance of settling scores with his rivals and trouble makers as well. During the meeting

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ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins in a meeting with the petroleum minister Ali Pervaiz Malik. – DNA

Differences between PML-N, PPP 'family matters', says Tarar

Says the alliance had delivered success for Pakistan "from Saudi Arabia to the United Nations," stressing that it was founded on good faith

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that differences between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) were internal matters, but their alliance remained intact and was based on ideology and sincerity. Responding to a point of order raised by PPP leader Syed Naveed Qamar in the National Assembly, he said, "If anyone has been hurt by words, we apologize. Politics comes with ups and downs, and such verbal exchanges happen. These issues will be resolved within the house, as our focus is to strengthen democracy and the country." He added that the alliance had delivered success for Pakistan "from Saudi Arabia to the United Nations," stressing that it was founded on good faith. "Today, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has declared Pakistan's people as guardians of the Haramain Sharifain," he noted. Earlier, speaking on a point of order, Syed Naveed Qamar highlighted the flood situation across the country, particularly in his constituency, where villages and farmland were submerged.

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PPP-PML-N rift deepens over flood relief

PPP stages walk out from Senate and NA sessions, seeks Maryam's apology

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Cracks appeared to have emerged in the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) alliance after leaders from both parties criticised each other on Tuesday. The public rift between the parties surfaced after the floods, with the PPP demanding that Punjab's flood affectees be assisted through the Benaazir Income Support Programme (BISP), while the Punjab government insisted it had its own plans to aid those who had suffered losses in the disaster. The dispute on the burning issues intensified after the PPP walked out of both the Senate and the National Assembly sessions to protest remarks made by the Punjab CM on the canals and her

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Briefs

Karachi receives light showers

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Parts of city received rain on Tuesday with downpour reported in Li-aqatbad, Federal B Area, II Chundrigar Road, Saddar and Old City Area. The showers come amid Pakistan Meteorological Department's (PMD) forecast of light to moderate rain with thunderstorms and strong winds in the metropolis today. The Met Office has forecast cloudy weather in the city over the next 24 hours, with chances of light to moderate rain at scattered places. The maximum temperature is expected to range between 35 to 37 degrees Celsius, while the humidity levels in the city currently stand at 65%, with light winds blowing from the southeast.

PHC suspends PECA notices to journalists

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has temporarily suspended notices issued to journalists under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA). A two-member bench, comprising Justice Ejaz Anwar and Justice Khurshid Iqbal, issued the ruling while hearing a petition filed by journalists. The court also served notices to the National Cyber Crime Wing and other concerned authorities, directing them to submit a detailed reply at the next hearing. During proceedings, the petitioner's counsel argued that his clients, who are professional journalists, had been served notices by the FIA Cyber Crime Wing without any mention of a specific crime or allegation.

Another milestone achieved Pakistan test-fires Fatah-4 cruise missile

Equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigational systems, the Fatah-4 is designed to evade enemy missile defense systems through terrain-hugging flight capabilities

STAFF REPORT

Rawalpindi, September 30, 2025 – The Pakistan Army successfully conducted the training launch of the newly inducted, indigenously developed Fatah-4 Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM) at a range of 750 kilometers, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday. Equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigational systems, the Fatah-4 is designed to evade enemy missile defense systems through terrain-hugging flight capabilities. The missile can engage targets with high precision, significantly enhancing the Army's conventional strike capability. According to ISPR, the successful launch

is a major boost for the Army Rocket Force Command, strengthening its reach, lethality, and survivability in modern warfare. The training launch was witnessed by the Chief of General Staff, senior officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces, and teams of dedicated scientists and engineers who contributed to the missile's development. Following the successful test, the President, Prime Minister, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and Services Chiefs congratulated the troops, scientists, and engineers for their remarkable achievement and commitment to national defense. The Fatah-4 is the latest addition to Pakistan's growing indigenous missile arsenal, reflecting the country's advancing technological capabilities and emphasis on self-reliance in defense production.

Pakistan yet to decide on sending army to Palestine, says Ishaq Dar

Foreign minister says Pakistan's stance on Palestine remains clear with no policy change

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said Pakistan's leadership will decide on the possible deployment of personnel to a proposed peace force for Palestine, reaffirming that the country's policy on the issue remains clear with no change in its stance. Addressing a press conference, the foreign minister defended the country's decision to back the Gaza peace plan, floated by US President Donald Trump, saying that ground operations in Palestine would primarily be handled by local law enforcement agencies. "Indonesia has offered 20,000 personnel for the peace force," he said, adding that Pakistani leadership would also take a decision in this regard. "I'm sure Pakistan will also decide – the leadership will make the decision

Trump says Hamas has two, three days to respond

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that his administration is awaiting Hamas' response to the Gaza peace plan he recently outlined. Speaking to reporters before departing the White House, Trump claimed that both Israeli and Arab leaders had endorsed the proposals. "We're just waiting for Hamas," he said, without providing details on the next steps. The plan, according to U.S. officials, is aimed at reducing violence in Gaza and fostering long-term stability in the region. However, Hamas has yet to make an official statement regarding Washington's proposal. – DNA

– and we have told them that whatever arrangement is made should be documented at the United Nations. There is also the UN peacekeeping force, but this was about a special force only for Gaza," he added. His remarks came a day after the White House released Trump's 20-point plan that calls for a ceasefire, a swap of hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, a staged Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian enclave, Hamas disarmament and a transitional government led by an international body. Addressing a presser, Trump said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to a US-backed peace plan for Gaza, even as Israeli forces press one of their fiercest offensives in the battered Palestinian enclave. The proposal calls for a ceasefire and the release of hostages,

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Provinces free to use allocated water share: Sanaullah

He said the PPP leadership enjoyed great respect in PML-N and their partnership extended beyond governance into political struggle. "This alliance will continue to serve Pakistan's betterment," he remarked

ISLAMABAD: Central leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday said that every province has the right to decide on the use of its allocated share of water.

Responding to a point raised by Senator Nazir Ghumro in the Senate, Rana Sanaullah said that water was a national resource distributed under a National Water Accord, which defined the share of each province. He went on to say that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was not

only an ally of the government but also a longstanding partner in the joint struggle against authoritarian project imposed between 2018 and 2022.

He said the PPP leadership enjoyed great respect in PML-N and their partnership extended beyond governance into political struggle. "This alliance will continue to serve Pakistan's betterment," he remarked.

Rana Sanaullah clarified that Punjab never sought unilateral control, adding that Punjab had always act-

ed as an elder brother by sacrificing its interests but was often dubbed as a 'water thief'. "We are ready to prove at any forum that Punjab has neither stolen nor intended to steal a single drop from its smaller provinces," he asserted.

He urged that the issue of water distribution be debated within the Senate, which he described as the guarantor of the federation.

He said that the remarks attributed to the Punjab government should be seen as part of a constructive discussion rather than a provocation.—APP

Nikah Registrars call for effective laws to end child marriages

GUJRAT: Participants of a training session for Nikah Khawans and marriage registrars, organized in collaboration with the District Population Welfare Office, Gujrat, called on provincial legislators to urgently strengthen legal frameworks to protect the rights of girls and boys in Pakistan. Referring to the ICT Child Marriage Restraint Act, the participants stressed that all provinces should adopt and implement similar legislation to curb the practice of underage marriages.

The training, which brought together a large number of Nikah Khawans and registrars, provided a platform to reflect on the social, legal, and health implications of early marriages. Many participants expressed concern that child marriage continues to undermine fundamental rights, particularly the right to education, health, and personal development.

Umer Farooq, District Population Welfare Officer, Gujrat, described child marriage as a serious health risk. He noted that due to complications such as fistula, sudden increases in blood pressure, and excessive bleeding during pregnancy and childbirth, the rates of maternal and infant mortality in Pakistan remain alarmingly high. These realities, he said, make it imperative to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years.

Participants also called for the introduction of mandatory blood testing prior to marriage to protect future generations from chronic and life-threatening diseases, including thalassemia. They further emphasized the crucial role of Nikah Khawans in ensuring that marriages are contracted only with the free and informed consent of both adult individuals. They pointed out that while girls are often forced into marriage, boys too can face pressure from their families to marry at an early age, sometimes to protect family property.

Advocate Khawaja Zahid Nasim, legal

consultant for PODA, said that under Articles 35 and 38 of the Constitution, all provinces are bound to make laws for the protection of the child, the mother, the family, and marriage. He noted with concern that despite the presence of these provisions, which safeguard the family setup and promote social justice, the provinces have not adequately addressed these constitutional obligations. He underlined the urgent need for consistent legislation across the country to protect the rights of children and families. Discussions also touched on harmful practices that perpetuate child marriage. It was noted that in many rural and marginalized communities, families marry off their daughters to settle debts or resolve disputes, leaving the girls vulnerable to abuse and lifelong deprivation. The participants collectively committed not to solemnize underage marriages and endorsed the practice of requiring identity cards as a prerequisite for marriage registration. This, they observed, could serve as a practical step to verify the age of the bride and groom and thereby reduce the incidence of child marriages.

Participants further recommended that clear criteria be developed for the official appointment of Nikah Khawans, along with salaries, so that they can work independently and without local pressures.



KP minister for solar installation at govt schools

PESHAWAR:Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal on Tuesday directed the Communication and Works (C&W) Department to prepare a feasibility report for repairing dilapidated classrooms and boundary walls at Government Sentinel Model School Chokara, district Karak. He also ordered the installation of a solar plant in the school to facilitate students. Barakwal assured that the provincial government is committed to improving educational facilities and promoting quality education. He paid a visit to several educational institutions in Karak district, including Government Sentinel Model School Chokara—APP

Bugti urges youth to counter anti-state propaganda

QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, on Tuesday strongly urged the youth of the province to actively confront and defeat anti-state propaganda with logic and action, emphasizing that they focus heavily on national resolve and honoring those who sacrificed for peace. The Chief Minister delivered his remarks at the Government Post Graduate Girls College Quetta Cantonment during the inauguration of a new block, named after Shaheed Professor Nazma Talib, and a modern auditorium. Addressing the ceremony, Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti said that the sacrifices of the martyrs will never go in vain. This state belongs to all of us, and every individual must play their pivotal role in its protection, development, he added. He lauded the courage of students for standing firm against terrorists who seek to shut down educational and health facilities. "The bravery and determination with which our daughters and young people are standing firm is not only commendable but a source of pride for the nation," Bugti said. The Chief Minister paid a special tribute to Professor Nazma Talib, who traveled from Karachi to Quetta out of a pure spirit of service to education but was targeted by a cowardly act of terrorism. He also remembered Justice Nawaz Marri, announcing that Serena Chowk would be renamed after Shaheed Justice Nawaz Marri to permanently commemorate his sacrifice. CM Bugti also addressed the security situation, acknowledging the recent successful operation by security forces in Quetta. "The nation pays tribute to our zealous young men who promptly acted and sent the terrorists to hell," he said. He recognized the security forces the Army, Police, FC, Levies, and general public who have rendered their lives for the province's peace and development, declaring them the real heroes of history. He further said that ongoing operations in the Zehri area have broken the back of the terrorists, whose screams are now being heard. The Chief Minister highlighted his government's efforts for modernizing the education sector. Balochistan is developing an advanced educational environment that will allow experts from around the world to deliver online lectures. He also announced that additional classes will be constructed at the Girls College Quetta Cantonment, and the government will fulfill its promise to provide laptops to the female students. Sarfraz Bugti added that the college would be equipped with digital facilities and modern infrastructure to provide students with a world-class education. In a show of support for student talent, CM Bugti announced a prize of Rs 50,000 for each student who managed the stage, recited the Quran, and performed the national anthem during the ceremony. —DNA

Murad suspends DHOs, issues notices to DCs, removes ACs over polio cases

KARACHI:Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, expressing displeasure over the detection of two more polio cases in the province, has placed the services of two District Health Officers (DHOs) of Badin and Keamari under suspension, issued disciplinary notices to the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of Badin and Thatta and removed Assistant Commissioners (ACs) Matli and Mirpur Sakro. "Polio is a debilitating disease, and its eradication is our national duty, which everyone must perform diligently. Negligence will not be tolerated," he stated. The CM made this statement while presiding over a meeting on polio eradication at the CM House here

on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Minister of Health Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary to the CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary of Health Rehan Baloch, Coordinator EOC Irshad Sodhar, and other concerned officials. The chief minister said that the new cases, one each from Hyderabad, Badin, and Thatta – all within the Hyderabad Division – highlight a critical reality. The health minister added that despite achieving over 98 per cent coverage in recent vaccination drives, the virus continues to find and paralyse vulnerable children. The CM was also informed that nine polio cases had been detected in the prov-

ince including three in Badin, two in Thatta, and one each in Hyderabad, Larkano, Kambar, and Umerkot. In response, the chief minister while expressing displeasure, ordered the suspension of two District Health Officers Dr Anjum Ali Soomro of Badin and Dr Wali Muhammad Rahimoon of Keamari and issued disciplinary notices to the Deputy Commissioners of Badin and Keamari. He also removed Assistant Commissioners of Matli and Mirpur Sakro due to their poor performance in the polio eradication effort. Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah approved these notifications. "Our campaigns are reaching the majority, but polio eradication is about protecting every last child,"

stated Murad Shah. Minister of Health Dr Azra mentioned the virus was a ruthless opportunist exploiting the smallest gaps, and that the strategy was shifting to systematically find and protect missed children. The chief minister directed the Sindh Health Department and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to launch an aggressive new phase of the polio eradication campaign following the detection of three new cases in September. Pakistan has seen a significant reduction in polio cases compared to 2024. The provincial government, through the Health Department, is confronting stubborn challenges that keep the virus circulating in the province,

he said. The September campaign left a critical gap approximately 4,500 children refused. It was also pointed out that 81 per cent of Sindh's environmental samples test positive for the virus, with all 12 sites in Karachi consistently testing positive. Recent cases in Badin and Umerkot are linked to mobile and migrant populations, who are often hard to reach with static health services. The chief minister instructed the health department to unveil a comprehensive plan for the last quarter of 2025. "I want two large-scale campaigns to be planned for October and December, supported by a focused Fractional Inactivated Polio Vaccine campaign (FIPV) in Karachi.—DNA



S ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf MEETING WITH Vatican City's Ambassador, Archbishop Germano Penemote.

Call for greater investment in constitutional awareness

PESHAWAR: A seminar on rights and responsibilities of citizens as per the Constitution of Pakistan, concluded with a strong call for greater investment in constitutional awareness and civic education at all levels of society. Speakers emphasized that protecting fundamental rights and fulfilling civic responsibilities are two sides of the same coin—both vital for strengthening democratic governance.

The seminar was jointly by Centre for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA), in collaboration with the Development Insights Lab (DIL) and the Department of Economics at the University of Peshawar.

The seminar brought together academics, civil society members and students.

Ms. Shahzadi Rubab Zeb, Program Officer at CGPA, opened the session by welcoming participants and introducing CGPA's mission of promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance.

Chairman Department of Economics, Sajjad Ahmad Jan said constitution is not just a legal document; it serves as a moral compass that guides our society toward justice, equality, and accountability.

He highlighted that governance and economic progress are closely linked, noting that sustainable growth requires functioning institutions. APP

Yousaf discusses interfaith harmony, minority rights with Germano Penemote

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf on Tuesday met with Vatican City's Ambassador, Archbishop Germano Penemote, to discuss growing trends of religious intolerance, terrorism, and ways to promote interfaith harmony. During the meeting, the minister reaffirmed the government's resolve to foster inclusivity, tolerance, and mutual respect across society. He said Pakistan has taken multiple initiatives to politically, socially,

and economically empower minority communities. Sardar Yousaf noted that seats are reserved for minorities in both federal and provincial legislatures, while the establishment of the National Commission for Minorities, the approval of the Interfaith Harmony Policy, and measures to promote religious tolerance have strengthened minorities' freedom and independence. He described Pakistan's ties with Vatican City as an important opportunity to enhance mutual understanding, emphasizing

that exchanges of delegations could further improve bilateral relations. Ambassador Penemote highlighted the Catholic Church's ongoing contributions in Pakistan's education and health sectors. He also proposed the establishment of a university equipped with modern disciplines in Pakistan. The minister welcomed the proposal and assured full government support in this regard. Archbishop Penemote also extended an invitation to Sardar Yousaf to visit Vatican City.—APP

Man held for harassing girl through fake Facebook accounts

LAHORE: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) conducted a successful raid in Panjra, district Gujranwala, arresting a man accused of sharing immoral content and blackmailing a young girl through social media. According to NCCIA spokesperson, the raid, led by Sub-Inspector Muhammad Bilal of NCCIA Gujranwala, was carried out on Tuesday in connection with FIR No. 176/2025, registered under Sections 20, 21 and 24 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016, amended in 2025.

The accused, identified as Ali Hassan, son of Irshad Ahmad, was apprehended

from the crime scene. During the operation, authorities recovered a mobile phone from his possession, which contained multiple pieces of incriminating evidence, including immoral pictures and videos of the complainant.

According to details, the victim, a young girl, had been harassed for several weeks through multiple fake Facebook accounts. The accounts were allegedly operated by the suspect to send threatening messages, make abusive calls and blackmail the girl using her private photos and personal information. The complaint was formally lodged by the victim's father, following which

the NCCIA initiated a thorough digital forensic investigation. Using advanced tracking tools, the agency successfully traced the suspect's mobile number, IP address, and IMEI data, which led to his swift arrest. "The accused exploited digital platforms to harass and mentally torture the victim. We are treating this case with utmost seriousness, and such acts will not go unpunished," said NCCIA spokesperson. Further investigations are underway, and more arrests may follow if other individuals are found to be involved in the operation of the fake accounts or distribution of the illegal content, added spokesperson. APP

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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

October 24/United Nations
United Nations Day


Oct/25/Romania
Armed Forces Day

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Cantonment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan

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Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Punjab CM lauds Khawaja Imran for flood relief efforts

Under the leadership of CM Maryam Nawaz, the Punjab government has launched extensive relief and rehabilitation operations in the affected regions

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, has praised Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Khawaja Imran Nazeer, for his exemplary role in providing immediate medical relief to flood-affected areas through the government's flagship Clinic on Wheels project. The recognition comes amid large-scale devastation caused by recent floods across Punjab, which have resulted in significant loss of life and property. Under the leadership of CM Maryam Nawaz, the Punjab government has launched extensive relief and rehabilitation operations in the affected regions. As part of these efforts, Khawaja Imran Nazeer played a key role in mobilizing Clinic on Wheels—a mobile healthcare initiative designed to deliver primary medical services directly to communities in crisis. The initiative was aimed at not only ensuring timely medical assistance to flood victims but also at curbing the spread of infectious diseases in vulnerable areas. The mobile clinics provided door-to-door healthcare access, significantly reducing health risks in flood-stricken zones. Acknowledging his efforts, CM Punjab expressed deep appreciation for Khawaja Imran Nazeer's dedication and leadership during this critical time. In response to this recognition, E-Commerce Gateway Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd., a leading international event organizer and stakeholder in national development initiatives, extended its congratulations to the Minister. The organization stated that Khawaja Imran Nazeer's work sets a strong example for other public service institutions across Pakistan.

In an official statement, the organization added that projects like Clinic on Wheels reflect a true spirit of public service in the health sector, and their effective implementation under Khawaja Imran Nazeer's leadership is both inspiring and commendable.

Nursing Council to ensure transparency, credibility

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services Mustafa Kamal, on Tuesday, informed the Senate that the Pakistan Nursing Council had been restructured into a new body during the past 48 hours and now is being digitized to ensure transparency, accountability and credibility in the nursing sector. Responding to various supplementary questions during the Question Hour, he said the previous council had been marred by litigation, allegations and lack of ministerial oversight, which made reforms impossible. "Now the ministry has direct responsibility, the entire record is being digitized, and no malpractice or fake institutions will be able to escape scrutiny," he said. He said the new Nursing Council will ensure only qualified institutions and individuals remain in the system, while fake degrees and dubious colleges are eliminated. In response to another question, the minister said Pakistan currently faces a requirement of up to 1.1 million nurses domestically, while the global demand stands at 2.5 million. "This sector offers a vast scope for our workforce at home and abroad. By digitizing and reforming the council, we are protecting credibility and strengthening opportunities for trained nurses," he said.—APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Railways & Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani meeting with the Finnish delegation comprising Hannu Ripatti, Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan, Ms. Piia Karhu, President, Minerals at Metso, and Willie Eerola, Honorary Consul General of Pakistan in Finland.

Landlocked states can become land-linked economies

ISLAMABAD:Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Tuesday underlined Pakistan's pivotal geo-strategic role in connecting South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia, stressing that regional trade corridors could transform landlocked states into land-linked economies. Addressing the Silk Way Transport Forum held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, he stated that the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul road link is of critical importance for Pakistan as well as the entire region, said a press release. The minister highlighted that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) flagship projects, like the Belt and Road Initiative which are aligned with Pakistan's vision of achieving self-reliance and sustainable economic growth by 2030. He added that CPEC is integrated with other regional corridors, including ECO and SCO initiatives, while Pakistan's membership of TIR and the Quadrilateral Transit Agreement marks a milestone for regional connectivity. Aleem Khan stressed that through trade corridors, landlocked states can be transformed into land-linked economies, while digital transformation is enhancing transparency in the communication sector. He underlined the strategic significance of Eurasia as the world's largest landmass and reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to play its role in South Asia, Middle East and Central Asia. He remarked that turning international transport corridors into pathways of peace and prosperity is a shared responsibility but customs regulations and visa restrictions remain impediments to regional integration. The Forum was attended by Transport Ministers from 12 countries including Türkiye, Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Belarus, Russia, Latvia and Kazakhstan. The host, Kazakhstan's Minister of Transport Mr. Nurlan Sauranbayev warmly welcomed the Pakistani delegation and extended generous hospitality to Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan. On the sidelines, a high-level bilateral meeting was held between Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and Kazakhstan's Minister of Transport Nurlan Sauranbayev, accompanied by their respective delegations. Discussions focused on the initiation of direct flights, easing of travel procedures and issuance of multiple-entry visas especially for the business community. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan invited his Kazakh counterpart to attend the upcoming Regional Transport Conference in Pakistan scheduled for October 23-24 with participation

COMSATS hosts seminar on clean energy technologies

ISLAMABAD: Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), in collaboration with a number of national and international partner organizations, held an international seminar titled "The Future of Energy: Innovations in Renewable and Clean Energy Technologies" here on Tuesday. The event brought together scientists, researchers, policymakers, and industry experts to discuss the latest advancements in the renewable and clean energy sector, along with the related challenges and opportunities. Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria delivered the opening remarks. He expressed gratitude to the Honorable Chief Guest, Federal Minister for Energy, Sardar Awaish Ahmed Khan Leghari, for gracing the occasion with his presence. He also welcomed other esteemed guests, speakers, panelists, and students attending both in Islamabad and online from across the globe. In his address, Dr. Zakaria said that convening this seminar was both strategic and timely. "Energy security is a cornerstone of sustainable development. Access to reliable, affordable, and clean energy is fundamental to eradicating poverty, enhancing healthcare, advancing education, and driving industrial growth," he emphasized. "Let this seminar be a platform for forging actionable strategies, strengthening partnerships, and sharing cutting-edge knowledge," Dr. Zakaria concluded. Federal Minister for Energy, Sardar Awaish Ahmed Khan Leghari, in his address, said that Pakistan, as a nation contributing less than 1% of global emissions but ranking among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, does not have the luxury towards the delay. "A transition to clean energy is not an option; it is a necessity," he urged. He called for increased investment in mitigating the risks of climate-related disasters. Leghari shared that as a responsible member of the international community, Pakistan has set an ambitious clean energy target for 2030, aiming to generate 60% of its electricity from clean energy resources, and progress is already underway. He emphasized that youth are the future of the country. He highlighted the significant role of hydropower and noted that reforms and digitization in the energy sector are enhancing transparency. Regarding circular debt, Leghari mentioned positive progress in controlling it, alongside effective reforms in the energy sector. He stressed that digitization would further improve transparency in the system.—DNA

ISSI hosts session on Pakistan-Bangladesh relations, regional cooperation

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an In-House Round-table, titled "Pakistan-Bangladesh Relation and Regional Cooperation." The Round-table featured Maj. Gen. (R) Fazle Elahi Akbar, Chairman Foundation for Strategic and Development Studies, Bangladesh, as the Distinguished Speaker. It was attended by former diplomats, practitioners, academics, and area specialists. The participants reviewed the recent upward trajectory in the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh, opportunities and challenges in geopolitical dynamics of South Asia, and the likely future shape of regional cooperation architecture. Commending the recent warmth in fraternal relations, participants emphasized the importance of pursuing a forward-looking, future-oriented approach and expanding mutual cooperation beyond traditional spheres. They noted promising developments in productive, multi-sectoral engagement from the government to people's levels. The participants were optimistic that common historical and cultural roots, shared interests, and similar challenges give solid basis to pursue shared future objectives. It was suggested that, in order to further strengthen people-to-people exchanges, the two countries should resume direct flights; further ease travel barriers; diversify trade to arenas of their respective strengths; promote bilateral tourism; encourage cultural cooperation; inter-connect youths; open up academic and think-tank exchanges; and learn from each other's experience and expertise in various domains. The participants agreed that both Pakistan and Bangladesh share the perspective that regional cooperation can no longer be allowed to remain hostage to the whims of one country. The rapid global transformation to a multipolar world order requires this region to move in tandem and also deepen ways of economic integration and connectivity. As the leaderships of the two countries have recently reiterated, regional cooperation remains imperative and the revival of SAARC remains crucial. At the same time, the prospects for regional cooperation in myriad formats should be proactively pursued. The recent Bangladesh-China-Pakistan trilateral was an innovative step and could be replicated in different other geometries. Participants agreed that reimagining South Asia in terms of security, development, and regional cooperation architecture was now indispensable.—DNA

Gilani reviews overall political situation

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday hosted a luncheon at Aiwan-e-Sadr in honour of senators belonging to various political parties. The meeting reviewed the overall political situation in the country and abroad and took stock of the relief and reconstruction efforts underway in flood-affected regions. Law Minister Azam Nazir Tatar and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry discussed with the participants matters related to their respective ministries. The luncheon was attended by Senator Sherry Rehman, Parliamentary Leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in the Senate, Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, Parliamentary Leader of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) in the Senate; Senator Ali Zafar of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI); Senator Ata-ur-Rahman, Parliamentary Leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F); Senator Hidayatullah of Awami National Party (ANP); and Senator Amir Chishti of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM). Gilani emphasised the importance of maintaining political engagement and cooperation among parliamentary representatives to address national challenges effectively. He said that inclusive dialogue and collective efforts were essential for strengthening democracy and ensuring the well-being of the people.—DNA

Gold rates surge to record Rs 406,778 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24-karat gold reached a historic peak on Tuesday, climbing by Rs3,178 to an unprecedented Rs406,778 per tola as compared to the previous day's closing of Rs403,600. Figures released by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association showed that the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also increased sharply by Rs2,725, settling at Rs348,746 against Rs346,021 a day earlier. Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold rose to Rs319,695 from Rs317,197, reflecting an increase of Rs2,498. In the international bullion market, gold was quoted at \$3,855 per ounce, higher by \$37 from the previous rate of \$3,818. Silver, however, witnessed a downward trend. The rate of per tola silver declined by Rs16 to Rs4,776 from Rs4,792, while 10 grams silver slipped by Rs14 to Rs4,094 from Rs4,108. International silver also edged down to \$46.77 per ounce, losing \$0.16 from \$46.93. The Association noted that the domestic gold rates were calculated in line with the interbank exchange rate of Rs281.35.APP

Briefs

ICT admin
seals 7
sheesha
cafes,
arrests 6 in
crackdown

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration sealed seven illegal indoor sheesha cafes, arrested six people, and imposed heavy fines during late-night operations. The spokesman of the district administration said the action was part of an ongoing campaign against unlicensed sheesha outlets in the federal capital. According to the administration, the cafes were operating without legal permission and offering indoor sheesha, which is banned under government regulations. The raids were carried out in different areas of the city following public complaints and field reports. Teams from the district administration, assisted by police, visited several cafes late at night. Seven establishments found violating the ban were sealed on the spot. Six individuals, including managers and employees, were taken into custody for running the illegal business. Authorities also confiscated sheesha pots and related equipment. The administration clarified that indoor sheesha cafes have been declared illegal due to health and regulatory concerns. Despite repeated warnings, several cafes continued operations in violation of the law. Along with sealing the cafes and making arrests, officials also imposed fines on the violators. The fines, according to the administration, are meant to deter others from engaging in similar activities. Authorities pointed out that indoor sheesha smoking poses health risks not only to users but also to those exposed to second-hand smoke. Public health departments have repeatedly highlighted the risks associated with flavored tobacco smoking in enclosed spaces. The ban on indoor sheesha cafes is intended to minimize these risks and regulate public spaces.—APP

Nutritionist
warns health-conscious
of excessive
artificial
sweetener use

ISLAMABAD: A medical expert on Tuesday warned that the rising use of artificial sweeteners by health-conscious people could be harmful in large amounts, noting that the tongue's many taste buds and their receptors for various flavors may be affected by frequent consumption. Talking to a Private news channel, Nutritionist Dr. Zubala Yasir Lutfi expressed serious concern over the increasing trend of artificial sweetener use among health-conscious individuals. She warned that many people assume these sweeteners are a completely safe substitute for sugar and tend to consume them in excessive amounts, often without understanding the potential health implications. Dr. Lutfi emphasized that while artificial sweeteners may help reduce calorie intake, their overuse can lead to long-term issues. "Just because something is marketed as 'sugar-free' doesn't make it harmless," she stated. "The body's natural mechanisms, including how we perceive taste, can be disrupted by regular over-consumption of these substitutes." The tongue is covered with thousands of taste buds, each containing receptors responsible for detecting different flavors. According to Dr. Lutfi, continuous and excessive exposure to artificial sweeteners can dull the sensitivity of these receptors, potentially altering taste preferences and increasing cravings for intensely sweet foods, ironically leading to poor dietary choices. She urged the public to be more informed and cautious. "Moderation is key," Dr. Lutfi advised, adding that, instead of relying solely on artificial sweeteners, individuals should focus on a balanced diet rich in whole foods, fruits, and vegetables. Public awareness is urgently needed to prevent potential harm from what seems like a healthy habit but can become a silent risk if misused."APP

Forced statelessness of
Bengali Muslims in Assam

Ambassador Jauhar Saleem underscored that India, despite branding itself the "world's largest democracy," has stripped nearly 1.9 million people of citizenship under the 2019 National Register of Citizens (NRC)

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a roundtable held at Institute of Regional Studies expressed grave concern over the escalating dispossession and statelessness of Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam, India. The discussion highlighted how discriminatory policies, arbitrary legal practices, and systemic marginalization under the BJP government have created a humanitarian crisis with regional and international implications. Ambassador Jauhar Saleem underscored that India, despite branding itself the "world's largest democracy," has stripped nearly 1.9 million people of citizenship under the 2019 National Register of Citizens (NRC). He noted that Foreigners' Tribunals exploit clerical errors to render people stateless, while entire families, including children, are denied their fundamental rights. "Citizenship—the foundation of all other rights—has been eroded in Assam," he stated, calling these measures a violation of international human rights law. Ambassador Naela Chohan emphasized that this manufactured statelessness is driven by ethno-religious discrimination. She noted that Bengali-speaking Muslims, despite their generations-long presence in Assam, are branded as "illegal" and subjected to arbitrary evictions and deportations. "These policies deepen poverty, fuel insurgencies, and erode human dignity," she warned, adding that historical prejudices and Hindutva-inspired exclusion are systematically marginalizing Muslim communities. Dr. Natalie Brinham drew parallels between the plight of Bengali



Muslims in Assam and the Rohingya in Myanmar, stressing that both groups face dispossession through manipulated citizenship and identity systems. He termed this crisis "mass citizenship stripping," describing it as a deliberate, state-led process that criminalizes communities with deep roots in their homeland. Mr. Asad Shabbir highlighted the toxic propaganda environment, where senior BJP officials label Bengali Muslims as "termite infiltrators" to justify

exclusion. He cautioned that such rhetoric normalizes dehumanization and fosters Islamophobia, not only in Assam but across India and South Asia. Mr. Mukhles Ur Rehman shed light on the brutal ground realities, arbitrary detentions, forced deportations, and entire families abandoned in no man's land. He warned that the crisis risks destabilizing the wider region, with Bangladesh already raising concerns about spillover effects. Participants called on the international community, human rights

organizations, and neighboring countries to take urgent notice of the crisis. They stressed that India's actions violate Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, undermining its global credibility on human rights. The roundtable concluded that unless India shifts from exclusionary practices toward inclusive governance, the crisis will deepen, destabilizing both Assam and the wider South Asian region.

Pakistan sign language
workshop ends

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In recognition of September as the global month of Deaf Rights Activism, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFE&PT), in collaboration with UNICEF Pakistan, successfully concluded the National Consultation on the Standardization of Pakistan Sign Language (PSL) at Islamabad Hotel. The landmark consultation brought together government representatives, leaders of the Deaf community, academia, civil society, and international partners to deliberate on a unified PSL framework as a cornerstone of Deaf identity, inclusion, and rights in Pakistan. The day began on a powerful note with the National Anthem performed in Pakistan Sign Language by students of the National Special Education Centre for Hearing-Impaired Children, followed by a digital recitation of the Holy Quran and a Naat in PSL. Capt. (Retd.) Asif Iqbal Asif, Director General of Special Education, welcomed participants, setting the stage for meaningful dialogue. Mr. Nadeem Mahbub, Federal Secretary of MoFE&PT, officially inaugurated the consultation as Chief Guest, highlighting the Ministry's vision for inclusive education. In the opening session, Ms. Sharmeela Rasool, Deputy Representative of UNICEF Pakistan, commended the shared commitment of partners, while Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Shahid Mahmood Kayani, Rector NUML, provided a thoughtful context-setting address. The keynote was delivered

by Ms. Afke Bootsman, Head of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, who deliberated on how they have incorporated UN Disability Inclusion Strategy throughout the initiatives. The inauguration was complemented by a moving statement on sign language rights from Mr. Irfan Mumtaz, CEO of the Pakistan Association of the Deaf. Ms. Wajihah Qamar, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, graced the event as Guest of Honour. She applauded the collaborative efforts of the federal and provincial governments, Deaf leadership, and development partners in advancing the cause of PSL standardization, describing it as a milestone for inclusive Pakistan. The consultation culminated with the Closing Address of Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, who joined as Chief Guest. He underscored the Government's strong political will to recognize Pakistan Sign Language as a complete and natural language. Addressing the media later, Dr. Siddiqui reaffirmed that PSL standardization is central to advancing inclusive education, social participation, and Pakistan's obligations under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Throughout the day, panel discussions, group work, and collaborative exercises enabled participants to identify barriers, propose solutions, and recommend the formation of a National Task Force on PSL Standardization. The recommendations will inform a strategic roadmap for curriculum development, interpreter training and certification.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri presenting formal invitation to Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro for the participation of parliamentary delegation of Montenegro in upcoming ISC.

Uzbek, Kazakh delegations visit NDMA
to strengthen regional disaster coop

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegations from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan separately visited Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at the National Emergency Operations Center to enhance regional cooperation in tackling shared challenges posed by natural disasters and climate change, fostering collaboration and mutual support. Led by Uzbek Speaker Nuriddin Ismoilov and Kazakh Security Council Secretary Gizet Nurdauletov, the delegations received a detailed briefing on Pakistan's disaster management framework, NDMA's central coordination role, and the integration of advanced technology in early warning systems and disaster response operations. NDMA Lt General Inam Haider Malik, welcomed both delegations and delivered a detailed briefing on Pakistan's national disaster risk reduction strategies, coordination mechanisms with provinces during Monsoon 2025, and the role of modern tools in strengthening national preparedness and resilience through National

Common Operating Picture (NCOP) along with Global Common Operating Picture (GCOP). NDMA team gave a comprehensive account of development of disaster early warnings (DEW), risk communication, relief and response operations being carried out across the flood affected regions, highlighting NDMA's role in global disaster relief assistance, conducting Comprehensive International Simulation Exercises (CISE) with regional countries, including Uzbekistan & Kazakhstan, for knowledge sharing and global best practices. Both sides underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral and regional cooperation in disaster risk management, capacity building, and the exchange of expertise. The visiting dignitaries from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan appreciated NDMA's proactive initiatives, resilience-building measures, and modern preparedness mechanisms. The visits highlight growing regional solidarity between Central Asia and Pakistan in tackling natural

disasters and climate change through collaboration and mutual support. The Uzbek delegation was led by Nuriddin Ismoilov, Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, and included Maksudbek Kurbonboyev, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Economic Affairs, along with other members of the committees including Bakhtiyor Pulatov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection; Ms. Sevara Ubaydullayeva; Navruzbek Yusupov; Azizjon Alov; and Jakhongir Tychiev. The 20-member state-level delegation from Kazakhstan, led by Gizet Nurdauletov, Secretary of the Security Council accompanied by Kazakhstan's Ambassador in Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, also visited NEOC, where they were briefed on Pakistan's disaster management framework, NDMA's lead coordination role, and the operational integration of technology in disaster response and early warning systems.—APP

Pakistan to meet
10000 MT sesame
export target to
China this year

ISLAMABAD: In order to meet 10000 metric tonnes (MT) sesame export target to China by the end of 2025, Pakistan-China agriculture cooperation and China-led "contract farming" initiative are in full swing under CPEC-driven agri advancements. Introduced by Chinese companies especially by China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) Pakistan, sesame contract farming spreading over 5000 acres is becoming instrumental to increase export volume, growers training on modern liens, transfer of agriculture-based technology, high-income generation to farmers, and revamp of input and output of Agri-infrastructure. CMEC official Mr Liu told Gwadar Pro that Pakistan's sesame export target to China stands at 10000 metric tonnes. "Despite the fact that flood devastation may inflict dents to set target but it is attainable as contract farming has taken effect in the light of CPEC agriculture cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative's agriculture collaborations," he said. CMEC Pakistan, part of CMEC group (a flagship company of SINOMACH Group, one of the largest manufacturing & trading groups in China), debuted contract farming with around 500 acres in Pakistan in 2020. "It is expected that sesame exports to China will exceed \$1 billion in the coming years. Pakistan's exports of sesame seeds to China exceeded \$226 million in 2024, marking a significant development in bilateral trade relations. This export growth reflects the increasing demand for Pakistani agricultural products in the Chinese market and highlights potential areas for further economic cooperation. The rise in sesame seed exports in recent years can be attributed to several factors, including enhanced agricultural practices, improved quality control measures, and the establishment of direct trade links between Pakistani farmers and Chinese importers.—DNA

Govt expands Gwadar's health
sector with immunization
in remote areas

GWADAR: While putting women and children at the center of its health strategy, the government of Balochistan has appointed new health workers, vaccinators and other medical staff in Gwadar, a step seen as vital for improving care and expanding immunization in far-flung communities. Gwadar Pro quoting an official notification issued by the District Health Office Gwadar, stated on Tuesday that 26 qualified candidates have been appointed and have been directed to join duty with an immediate effect. The new staff includes a family medical technician, an ECG technician, an OT assistant, three lady health workers, 15 vaccinators, as well as other support staff. The appointments not only provide job opportunities to the local population but also strengthen healthcare delivery across the district. Health officials said vaccinators and lady health workers are the backbone of immunization campaigns, particularly in far-flung areas where women and children are often difficult to reach. The inclusion of female staff members is a positive step in empowering women and ensuring maternal and child healthcare services. The immunization drives against polio and other preventable diseases remain a priority in Gwadar and other part of Balochistan, where mobile vaccinators and female health workers are essential for reaching children and women in remote settlements. In addition to staffing, the provincial government has earlier earmarked millions of rupees under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2025-26 for new and upgraded hospitals, solarization and furnishing of trauma centers, and the construction of several Rural Health Centers and Basic Health Units across Gwadar district. While the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, a flagship health project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), continues to play a central role in delivering modern healthcare to Gwadar city, the expansion of RHUs and BHUs, combined with the newly appointed staff, is expected to benefit remote communities; particularly to improve maternal and child care, and strengthen immunization coverage in areas where residents cannot easily travel to the city.—APP

Mukhtar Bharath urges unity
against HPV vaccine misinfo

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath Tuesday made a powerful appeal to civil society, religious leaders, teachers, students and social media influencers to join forces in eradicating the dangerous propaganda surrounding the HPV vaccine, reaffirming that it is safe, lifesaving and accessible to every eligible girl. In an exclusive video message to a private news channel, Minister of State Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath strongly emphasized the safety and importance of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. He highlighted that the vaccine is approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) and has been available globally for over a decade without causing any harm. The minister condemned the spread of negative propaganda on social media, calling it baseless and misleading. Minister urged the public to reject these false claims and instead trust the scientific evidence supporting the vaccine's safety and effectiveness. He further appealed to civil society, religious leaders, educators, students and social media influencers to actively work together to dispel myths and misinformation. The HPV vaccine remains a critical tool in protecting the health of eligible girls and preventing life-threatening diseases. He stated that cervical cancer ranks as the third most common cancer among women in Pakistan, with a mortality rate where two out of every three diagnosed women do not survive. He emphasized that the HPV vaccine is highly effective and scientifically proven, preventing more deaths per vaccinated individual than any other immunization. He urged everyone to protect the future of our daughters and sisters.—APP

Chinese-made electric
buses
continue
to roll out
across Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Chinese-made electric buses continue to roll out across Punjab under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Green Initiative, with the newest fleet of 90 inaugurated in Faisalabad. Maryam Nawaz said she had "brought 150 electric buses for the Faisalabad division. Out of these, 90 will serve Faisalabad, 30 Jhang, and 15 each Chiniot and Toba Tek Singh." She noted that, for the first time, Faisalabad is getting a proper public transport system. The buses are fully electric, each with 30 seats and capable of carrying up to 80 passengers, a major step toward curbing smog and bringing safe, clean, affordable transit to people across cities. Since the launch of the pilot project in Lahore in February with 27 buses, the program has quickly expanded across Punjab. Fifteen buses were introduced in Mianwali on September 15, followed by another 15 in Wazirabad on September 17, which now serve nearly 10,000 passengers daily. On September 19, 33 buses began operating in Sargodha, facilitating around 25,000 passengers each day. Just days later, on September 22, Sahiwal launched its own electric bus service, marking the start of a new era of clean and modern travel for the city.—APP

Power
Cement to
build 7.5MW
captive wind
power plant

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Power Cement Ltd. on Monday announced what it called the country's "first-ever" green transaction to install a 7.5-megawatt captive wind power plant. The project is supported by a PKR 1.5 billion financing facility from Burj Clean Energy Modaraba. It will be constructed by Orient Energy Systems using turbines from the Chinese manufacturer Goldwind. In a statement, Power Cement said the initiative would reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and contribute to Pakistan's industrial decarbonisation. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. The deal highlights a growing trend of Pakistani industrial firms adopting captive wind power using Chinese technology. Earlier in September, Goldwind reported that its portfolio of operational captive wind power projects in Pakistan had surpassed 76 MW, with another 118 MW under construction.—APP

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Afghanistan under Taliban: isolation, suppression, and uncertain future

THE future of Afghanistan under Taliban rule presents a complex picture of internal challenges, strained international relations, and cautious regional engagement. Since their return to power in August 2021, the Taliban have sought to project a new image of a more pragmatic and diplomatic entity. Yet, beneath the façade of political engagement, their governance remains marked by repression, human rights violations, and decisions that further isolate the war-torn nation from the modern world.

In a move that has shocked both Afghans and the international community, the Taliban recently imposed a nationwide ban on internet services, plunging the country into an unprecedented communication blackout. The ban, which they justified on the grounds of curbing “immoral” content and foreign influence, has cut off millions of Afghans from access to information, business opportunities, education, and even contact with family members abroad. In modern times, such tactics are not only impractical but also counterproductive. The internet is a lifeline for global connectivity, trade, education, and governance. By shutting it down, the Taliban risk further alienating themselves from the rest of the world while exacerbating the daily hardships of ordinary Afghans. Businesses reliant on digital transactions have collapsed overnight, universities cannot function, and humanitarian agencies face severe difficulties in coordinating relief efforts. This blackout represents more than just a technical barrier; it symbolizes the Taliban's desire to control thought, expression, and communication in an age where connectivity defines progress. Experts warn that such a regressive policy will deepen Afghanistan's isolation, push its youth further into despair, and undermine any prospects for long-term economic recovery.

The Taliban's rule continues to be defined by harsh restrictions, particularly on women and girls. Despite initial promises of moderation, they have systematically rolled back freedoms. Girls are banned from schooling beyond the sixth grade, women are excluded from most forms of employment, and their movement is tightly controlled. These restrictions, which human rights groups describe as “gender apartheid,” have robbed half the population of basic dignity and curtailed the nation's potential for economic growth.

Reports of arbitrary arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances of activists, journalists, and political opponents are widespread. The justice system has been replaced with a strict interpretation of Sharia, often enforced through public floggings, amputations, and executions. Such punishments, condemned globally, reflect the Taliban's rigid ideology and unwillingness to align with in-



ternational norms. The internet ban will only worsen this repression by silencing dissenting voices. Previously, social media and digital platforms provided at least some space for activism, debate, and global attention. Now, with that window closed, Afghans are left voiceless in the face of mounting authoritarianism. The Taliban's foreign policy remains a balancing act between pragmatism and ideology. They have limited recognition on the global stage, with only a few countries like Russia taking tentative steps toward formal engagement. For most of the world, the Taliban's human rights record and extremist policies remain an insurmountable barrier to official recognition.

Relations with Pakistan, once considered their closest ally, are now strained. Border clashes, trade disruptions, and Pakistan's accusations that the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) operates freely from Afghan soil have soured ties. While diplomatic channels remain open, tensions are at their highest in years, underscoring the complex dynamics between the two neighbors.

China has adopted a pragmatic approach, engaging the Taliban out of concern for security in its Xinjiang region and to explore economic opportunities through potential extensions of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). For Beijing, stability in Afghanistan is crucial for the Belt and Road Initiative, but its engagement remains cautious, conditional, and primarily interest-driven. Iran, meanwhile, continues to clash with the Taliban over water rights, refugee flows, and ideological differences, further complicating the regional picture.

During their previous rule in the 1990s, the Taliban's hardline policies led to international isolation and ultimately contributed to their downfall. This time, they appeared initially to recognize the importance of international engagement, seeking aid and recognition from regional powers. Yet, their internal governance has shown little sign of reform.

By banning the internet, restricting women's rights, and enforcing medieval punishments, the Taliban risk repeating history by creating a state that is ungovernable, impoverished, and isolated. The humanitarian cost is already staggering, with millions facing food insecurity, lack of healthcare, and unemployment. The future of Afghanistan is clouded with uncertainty. Regional cooperation remains critical, but it will require the Taliban to demonstrate genuine flexibility and a willingness to address humanitarian concerns. The international community faces a dilemma: how to engage with a regime that systematically violates human rights while avoiding the complete collapse of the Afghan state.

Experts argue that cutting Afghanistan off entirely would only worsen the suffering of ordinary Afghans and create fertile ground for extremist groups to flourish. However, unconditional recognition of the Taliban would legitimize their oppressive policies. A balanced approach, combining humanitarian assistance with strict conditions on human rights, remains the most viable path.

Afghanistan today is trapped between the Taliban's rigid ideology and the modern world's demands for openness, rights, and connectivity. The internet ban is perhaps the clearest symbol of this disconnect—a futile attempt to suppress progress in a world driven by information. For Afghans, the blackout represents yet another betrayal by a regime that promised moderation but delivered only repression and isolation. For the Taliban, it underscores their inability to adapt to the realities of the 21st century. Unless they change course, Afghanistan risks sinking deeper into darkness, cut off from both its region and the wider world.

Pak Sino Friendship: Alliance of Trust

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Through subsequent decades, every regime in Pakistan—whether civilian or military—found in Beijing an ally whose friendship was beyond expediency. China, in return, stood by Pakistan at every difficult hour.

Whether it was the wars of 1965 and 1971, or the turbulent years that followed, Beijing's moral, diplomatic, and material support never wavered. The Silk Route was reimagined through the Karakoram Highway, and the steady march of trade and cultural exchange continued to weave the destinies of the two nations together

THE story of Pakistan-China relations is one of the most remarkable chronicles of modern international diplomacy, stretching from the birth of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949, to the present day. At a time when the world was polarized by Cold War politics, Pakistan and China found in each other a trusted partner, a relationship that steadily grew from cautious beginnings into a towering edifice of friendship, cooperation, and unyielding support across every sphere of national life. This bond has endured regime changes, global upheavals, and the shifting sands of international politics, yet it stands today as a shining example of unbroken trust between two sovereign nations.

When Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai charted the course of the new China, Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize the legitimacy of their government. At a time when the West was hesitant, Pakistan chose courage over convenience, and this act of foresight laid the foundation of a relationship that has since matured into brotherhood. During the presidency of Field Marshal Ayub Khan, this understanding blossomed into strategic cooperation. It was Ayub Khan's vision, supported by the statesmanship of Zhou Enlai, that placed the two nations on a road of collaboration. The construction of the Karakoram Highway, often hailed as the Eighth Wonder of the World, was a monumental symbol of this partnership. Built through mountains that defied engineering, it became not merely a passage for commerce but also a corridor of friendship, tying the people of Pakistan and China in bonds deeper than geography.

It was during the era of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto that the alliance reached new heights. Bhutto, with his dynamic diplomacy, became a bridge between Beijing and the world. It was Pakistan that opened doors for China to the international community by playing a critical role in ensuring China's rightful place in the United Nations and its permanent seat in the Security Council. This was no ordinary service; it was a gift of history, remembered in Beijing with gratitude and acknowledged in Islamabad with pride. Through subsequent decades, every regime in

Pakistan—whether civilian or military—found in Beijing an ally whose friendship was beyond expediency. China, in return, stood by Pakistan at every difficult hour. Whether it was the wars of 1965 and 1971, or the turbulent years that followed, Beijing's moral, diplomatic, and material support never wavered. The Silk Route was reimagined through the Karakoram Highway, and the steady march of trade and cultural exchange continued to weave the destinies of the two nations together.

In the twenty-first century, the friendship has ascended to new dimensions under the banner of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the crown jewel of the Belt and Road Initiative. Through CPEC, China has poured billions into Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, ports, and industry. Gwadar, once a quiet coastal town, has been transformed into a deep-sea port with global potential. Highways, railways, power projects, and industrial zones are not merely investments in Pakistan's economy but commitments to its stability and progress. At a time when the international financial climate has often been unkind, China has extended generous loans, rolling over debts and providing crucial assistance to steady Pakistan's economic wheel.

Defense cooperation remains another vital pillar. The co-production of the JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft is a triumph of shared technology and mutual trust, giving Pakistan's Air Force a modern edge while strengthening self-reliance. Collaboration has also extended to the Navy and Army, where China's technical expertise and supply of modern equipment have fortified Pakistan's defense capability. Joint exercises, training programs, and transfer of technology have deepened military ties, ensuring that both countries remain secure in the face of external threats.

Equally important is the technological support that China has extended to Pakistan in fields beyond defense. From space technology to telecommunications, from nuclear energy to digital infrastructure, Beijing has offered Islamabad tools of progress that few other nations have been willing to share. This transfer of knowledge has placed Pakistan on

a path of modernization that might otherwise have been denied to it.

At every international forum, China has defended Pakistan's cause with consistency and courage. Whether the issue has been Kashmir, economic crises, or global security debates, Beijing has lent its voice to Pakistan's position, resisting the pressures of powerful adversaries. Pakistan, in return, has remained steadfastly aligned with China, affirming the principle that their destinies are intertwined. Together, they have faced global challenges, whether of terrorism, extremism, or international isolation, with the conviction that their partnership is shield enough against the storms of time.

It is often said that nations have no permanent friends, only permanent interests. Yet the Pakistan-China relationship is an exception to this rule. Built on shared values of sovereignty, mutual respect, and non-interference, it has risen above the ebb and flow of international self-interest. The names of Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Ayub Khan, and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto are inscribed at the foundation of this brotherhood, but their legacy has been carried forward by every leader in both lands.

Today, as Pakistan and China look to the future, the friendship of the past serves as both anchor and compass. The Karakoram Highway has transformed into a network of economic corridors; the diplomatic support of the 1970s has evolved into a strategic partnership that shapes regional security; the defense cooperation of the past decades has blossomed into joint ventures of cutting-edge technology. The bond remains as firm as the mountains it traverses, as deep as the seas it touches, and as enduring as the ideals of sovereignty and dignity that both nations hold sacred.

In the shifting global order, where alliances break and powers realign, the Pakistan-China friendship stands unshaken, a testament to trust that has withstood wars, crises, and changing tides. It is, and shall remain, a friendship higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the oceans, and sweeter than honey—an immortal pledge between two nations who have chosen loyalty over expediency and brotherhood over mere diplomacy.

The plan to distribute cups of poison

Ghassan Charbel

He mutters: Iran is not what it was before the “flood.” Its axis is in shambles, its role has diminished, its aura is gone.

Its economy is bleeding, its currency is committing suicide, and sanctions are now reinforced by clear European determination.

He remembers the Houthis, their missiles and their drones. The strike on their government did not provide enough catharsis.

He dreams of doing more to settle the score despite the distance and the protection geography provides. Israel

has never had a better friend in the White House than Donald Trump. He has provided unlimited support

BENJAMIN Netanyahu certainly wanted to see a different scene. He had hoped to eventually announce an end to the war with the surrender of Israel's enemies from Jerusalem. That has not happened. In such protracted conflicts, knock-out blows are extremely scarce. On Monday, he will make his way to a difficult meeting at the White House with a president who has not been reserved in his support; the man who joined him in punishing Iran and sent his aircraft to strike Tehran's nuclear facilities. On his way to the White House, Netanyahu will console himself with the successes he believes he has achieved. He turned the “Sinwar Flood” into an existential war. He fought on seven fronts. He wiped Gaza off the map, leaving only rubble over the tunnels of the Al-Qassam Brigades. He killed many more Palestinians than any of his predecessors. He killed Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. He killed Yahya Sinwar and his brother, as well as Mohamed Deif and others. It must be hard for the man to remember the names of everyone he has killed. He has certainly removed the Gaza Strip from the military equation and a ceasefire is conditioned on the removal of Hamas; every proposal stipulates that there is no future for Hamas in Gaza.

As he worries about his audience with the president, he lists his perceived accomplishments. He expelled the heirs of Qassem Soleimani from Syria after they had entrenched themselves there over decades. He made Bashar Assad pay a heavy price for tying himself to the “Axis of Resistance.” Assad fled to Russia. He smiles as he asks himself: Who would have thought that a Syrian judge would dare issue an arrest warrant in absentia for the son of Hafez Assad, whose statues have been toppled like those of Saddam Hussein? Netanyahu reminds himself that he made a very dangerous decision: punishing the patron after having dealt with the proxy He mutters: It is difficult to trust the intentions of Ahmad Al-Sharaa but the balance of power imposed by the war leaves me no choice. Ensuring Syria's territorial integrity demands walking away from military confrontation with Israel: a security agreement, a buffer zone and US guarantees.

Al-Sharaa has chosen to board the global train and everyone knows the price of the ticket.

He continues his internal monologue. The day after the “Sinwar Flood,” Hassan Nasrallah chose to dive into the war. Hezbollah imagined that we would respect the old “rules of engagement.” He failed to realize that nothing would be the same. The Israeli machine wiped out the party's leaders. The new balance of power is clear: without the Syrian hinterland, Hezbollah cannot wage war on Israel. For the first time, its arsenal has become a domestic question and its relations with the other components of Lebanese society have become toxic. It has lost the veneer of legitimacy that the Lebanese state once provided for its weapons. It is clear Iran will not resign to losing Lebanon after losing Syria, but turning back the clock is not on the table. Strict implementation of the cessation of hostilities means Lebanon abandoning armed conflict with Israel.

He reminds himself that he made a very dangerous decision: punishing the patron after having dealt with the proxy. His aircraft roamed free over Tehran's skies, eliminating generals and nuclear scientists in seconds. He turned the tables and unleashed his war machine on the land of Soleimani. He put an end to the game it had mastered over decades: war via proxy. He mutters: Iran is not what it was before the “flood.” Its axis is in shambles, its role has diminished, its aura is gone. Its economy is bleeding, its currency is committing suicide, and sanctions are now reinforced by clear European determination. He remembers the Houthis, their missiles and their drones. The strike on their government did not provide enough catharsis. He dreams of doing more to settle the score despite the distance and the protection geography provides. Israel has never had a better friend in the White House than Donald Trump. He has provided unlimited support. Time and again, he gave it the space it needed to settle its wars. Netanyahu managed this relationship masterfully. It is best not to anger this man. When he is enraged or when he feels his partner is deceiving him, the consequences can be severe. The key to the Israeli fortress is the White House.

Accordingly, enraging the ‘general’ in the Oval Office is not an option Netanyahu has no doubt that Israel is a solid military fortress and its technological superiority has been evident during its recent wars. He also knows, however, that sustaining this fortress requires American military and diplomatic support. The key to the Israeli fortress is the White House. Accordingly, enraging the “general” in the Oval Office is not an option.

He feels that Israel is strong. It cannot be threatened: not by Gaza, not by Lebanon, not by Syria and not by Iran. At the same time, he feels a certain bitterness. The mass walkout of delegates at the General Assembly Hall at the UN made him feel that the Israeli fortress is genuinely threatened by isolation and his hard-line partners in government do not understand the grave ramifications of this threat.

A touch of bitterness and lots of anxiety. He has killed many, but the specter of what he considers the most dangerous threat looms. A ceasefire will not only bring back the hostages and the bodies. It will also unleash a torrent of trials in Israel. Who knows, maybe someone who is compelled to acquiesce to the establishment of a Palestinian state will take his seat. He sees the specter of this state lurking behind calls for a ceasefire and peaceful co-existence. The specter hovers over the American plan. Trump's pledge to prevent him from annexing the West Bank — or parts of it — is highly significant. He worries about Trump's determination to end the war and his hunger for a Nobel Peace Prize. The car approaches the White House. A painful thought crosses his mind. He has given out cups of poison to those who launched rockets at Israel. Today's appointment, however, stirs apprehension: has Trump grown weary of helping Israel and covering for its excesses? Will Trump force him to drink a cup of poison? Has he won his wars on several fronts only to lose the front of the war on the Palestinian state? Is the American plan actually a plan to distribute cups of poison to the combatants?

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Briefs

Suicide attack in Quetta claims 10 lives

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Per the statement, the president "prayed for the swift recovery of the injured FC personnel and lauded the courage and resolve of the country's security forces in defending the motherland." Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday praised the security forces for killing terrorists of Fitna-al-Hindustan involved in the Quetta terrorist attack. The prime minister, in a statement, prayed for the swift recovery of the personnel and civilians injured in the attack. He said that the nefarious designs of those who harmed the lives and property of innocent and defenseless citizens would be crushed. "The elements attempting to harm Pakistan's integrity will be dealt with exemplary punishment. The government, security forces, and the entire nation are determined to eradicate terrorism and Fitna-al-Hindustan from the country," the prime minister added.

Pakistan yet to decide on sending army to...

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but its success still hinges on whether Hamas will come on board. During today's presser, Dar pointed out that five countries believe Hamas will accept the plan, and "we should trust their assurances." Dar added that the idea also includes establishing an independent technocrat government in Palestine, overseen by a supervisory body largely made up of Palestinians. Dar clarified that Pakistan had not struck any deal directly with Israel. "If we had to deal with Israel, we would have done it directly. We dealt with the United States, and the United States dealt with Israel," he asserted. The deputy PM further confirmed that in his meeting with President Trump, Pakistan, along with seven other nations, agreed to the Gaza agenda. "We raised the matter of ceasefire and aid, and a secret understanding was reached for foreign ministers of the eight countries to hold further consultations with Trump's team," he disclosed. He reiterated that Pakistan, alongside seven other nations, stands firmly united on the Palestinian policy. "Pakistan's policy is absolutely clear, and there has been no change in it," Dar underlined. Highlighting Pakistan's diplomatic role at UNGA session, Dar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif led the delegation and held meetings with International Monetary (IMF) officials, the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, the President of Sri Lanka, as well as leaders from Arab states.

Differences between PML-N...

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He said that people were distressed and looking to the national leadership for relief and rehabilitation. Quoting a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report, he warned that upcoming Rabi crops were at risk and immediate recovery efforts were needed. "Speeches alone will not solve the crisis. We must show compassion for those whose responsibility lies on our shoulders," he said. Naveed Qamar said PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had visited flood-hit areas and even appreciated the Punjab Chief Minister's response. He said that while Punjab rarely faced such disasters, Sindh was affected every year, stressing the urgent need for post-flood rehabilitation. Recalling the World Bank-supported housing project in Sindh after previous floods, Naveed said it had succeeded and encouraged other institutions to extend assistance. "As coalition partners, we can advise, but criticism should not be taken negatively," he added, expressing disappointment over recent political statements.



ISLAMABAD: The state-level delegation from Kazakhstan led by Mr. Gizet Nurdauletov, Secretary of the Security Council, Kazakhstan visited National Emergencies Operation Centre, NDMA HQs today. — DNA

PCB suspends player NOCs for overseas T20 leagues: report

According to the report, PCB Chief Operating Officer Sumair Ahmad Syed issued a notice to the players and their agents, making the announcement

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has suspended all no-objection certificates (NOC) for players who want to participate in T20 leagues outside Pakistan, ESPNcricinfo reported on Tuesday. According to the report, PCB Chief Operating Officer Sumair Ahmad Syed issued a notice to the players and their agents, making the announcement. The notification, seen by ESPNcricinfo, read:

"With the approval of chairman PCB, all NOCs for players with respect to participation in leagues and other out of country tournaments are hereby put on hold until further orders." According to the publication, the reason behind the move is currently unknown. "Reports have suggested the PCB aims to tie NOCs to a performance based system, the criteria for which has not been made public. The goal, from the board's perspective, is for players to incentivise national and domestic performances. However, there is no information on how long such

an evaluation will take before the current suspension on NOCs is lifted," the report said. According to ESPNcricinfo, seven Pakistani players, including Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan, and Shaheen Afridi, are expected to take part in Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) which will be held in December. Additionally, 16 Pakistani players, including Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub and Fakhar Zaman, are in the shortlist to participate in the International League T20 auction which will be held on October 1 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), it said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's own domestic first-class tournament, the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, will begin on October 26, with 18 regional teams, divided into three groups, vying for a win. The development comes two days after the Green Shirts lost the Asia Cup 2025 final against arch-rivals India, after also having lost twice to the Indian team in previous matches during the tournament. The tournament had come on the heels of Pakistan winning the T20 International tri-series which included Afghanistan and the UAE.

DDWP approves Rs348.864m for uplift of sports infrastructure in KP

PESHAWAR: The second meeting of the Departmental Development Working Party (DDWP) of the Sports and Youth Affairs Department was held under the chairmanship of Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Saadat Hassan, here at his office, in Peshawar. During the meeting, the department reaffirmed its commitment to the promotion of sports and youth development across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In a significant development, the DDWP approved three major development projects amounting to over Rs. 348.864 million. The approved schemes include the Tehsil Level Playground Scheme for District Buner, the Repair and Rehabilitation of the Existing Football Ground at Safid Arkari in Chitral Lower and Sports Initiatives for the Sustainability of Sports in the Merged Areas. These projects are expected to significantly enhance sports infrastructure in the province, particularly in underserved and remote areas, thereby providing greater opportunities for youth engagement and community development through sports. — APP

Saliba signs new long-term deal at Arsenal

LONDON: William Saliba has signed a new long-term contract with Arsenal, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday. The France defender has reportedly put pen to paper on a five-year deal, which will keep him at the club until 2030. His previous contract had been due to run until 2027. Saliba, 24, had been expected to extend his stay at the Emirates despite earlier reported interest from Real Madrid. The center-back joined the Gunners in 2019 but had a number of loan spells before establishing himself as a regular in Mikel Arteta's team during the 2022/23 season. Since then Saliba has been at the heart of an Arsenal side that has finished second in each of the past three seasons in the Premier League. "I feel at home. We have a good team, we have a good squad, we have good staff. The coach is perfect for me, so it's the best place to be," said Saliba. — Agencies

Pakistan wheelchair cricket squad thrashes Afghanistan

KARACHI: Pakistan made a dream start to the four-match Wheelchair T20 series, defeating Afghanistan by 5 wickets in the opening encounter at UBL Sports Complex. Chasing 146, the host sealed victory in just 15.5 overs. Usama Tariq dazzled with a quick-fire 66, while leg-spinner Imran Arain delivered a match-winning spell, claiming five wickets to earn the Player of the Match award, Monday late night. Batting first, Afghanistan posted 145 in 19.4 overs after winning the toss. Asif top-scored with 28, Raheem made 26, and Zar Alam chipped in with 13. Pakistan's bowlers dominated the innings, with Imran Arain taking 5 wickets, Muhammad Fayyaz 3, and Ayub 1. Pakistan's Usama Tariq made 66 in 40 balls, supported by Muhammad Fayyaz's unbeaten 37. Ahmed added 16 runs, while contributions from Misal (5), skipper Muhammad Zeeshan (5), and Mubeen (6) ensured a smooth pursuit. Imran Arain remained not out alongside Fayyaz as Pakistan reached the target with ease. Speaking after the match, Pakistani Wheelchair captain Muhammad Zeeshan expressed pride: "After 20 years, we are finally hosting international wheelchair cricket on home soil. — APP

Paralympics' vote to lift Russian suspension 'bold step'

"The IOC under President Coventry is already signaling a more dialogue-driven approach to reintegration questions." The IOC said Monday it "acknowledged" the IPC's decision

PARIS: The International Paralympic Committee's decision to lift the temporary suspension of Russia and Belarus is a "bold step" but "many will argue it is premature" while the conflict continues, a former IOC executive told AFP. The vote at the IPC's general assembly in Seoul on Saturday was a close-run thing but the narrow majority of 51.7% potentially opens the way for Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete under their own flags at the Winter Paralympics in Milan-Cortina next year. Russia invaded Ukraine over three years ago, in February 2022, and peace appears a distant hope — Moscow unleashed a massive drone and missile attack against Ukraine lasting 12 hours overnight Saturday. Terrence Burns, a former IOC marketing executive, told AFP the IPC was trying to perform a delicate balancing act. "It's a bold and consequential and controversial step," the American said. "The IPC is trying to balance athlete rights, sporting principles, and moral legitimacy. But yes, many will argue it is premature while the conflict continues and civilians suffer. "The optics are very sensitive, and this won't be judged merely in sporting terms." The IPC's change of tack contrasted to that of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), whose Executive Board earlier this month maintained the status quo from the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics, with Russians and Belarusians competing as neutral athletes. Burns, who since leaving the IOC has played a role in five successful Olympic city bids, said the IPC vote will "almost certainly reverberate" at IOC headquarters in Lausanne, where Kirsty Coventry assumed the reins as president in June. "Although the IOC and IPC are separate, the public and media will view them as connected players," Burns said. "The IOC under President Coventry is already signaling a more dialogue-driven approach to reintegration questions." The IOC said Monday it "acknowledged" the IPC's decision. Russia was suspended by the IOC in 2023 for violating the Olympic Charter by incorporating sports councils in four regions in eastern Ukraine. However, at the most recent IOC Executive Board meeting this month the IOC "committed to finding a pathway for every NOC to participate... in the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games". Burns, though, believes the IOC might have a tough task justifying Russia returning to the fold for that event in Dakar. "That's a bit of a minefield," he said. "The Youth Olympics are supposed to foster inclusion and positive values among young people. But any decision to include or exclude has to stand up to scrutiny, especially if the country in question faces credible allegations like child abduction. "The IOC will have to show consistency, transparency, and moral grounding if it goes that route." — DNA

PPP-PML-N rift deepens over flood relief

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comments about PPP leaders' reactions to her government's performance during the floods. The PPP leaders took exception to CM Maryam's statement on Monday, in which she said she wanted to use Punjab's water to cultivate Cholistan. "If Punjab speaks about constructing canals, why does it trouble you? Why object to Punjab's initiatives?" she asked. "My water, my money — what pain does that cause anyone? Those advising Punjab should keep their advice to themselves," she added. Earlier today, she doubled down on her criticism of her party's ally, saying that other provinces tried to use the Punjab floods for 'political mileage'. In her address in Chakwal, CM Maryam reiterated that the Punjab government was rehabilitating flood affectees using its own resources, without asking anyone for help. Her comments, however, did not sit well with PPP, with its lawmakers announcing a boycott of legislative proceedings until CM Maryam apologises for her remarks. PPP's Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro said that his party will boycott all legislative proceedings in the Senate until the Punjab CM issues an apology for her comments.

Pakistan, Australia discuss ties

FROM PAGE 01

In response, Minister Malik reaffirmed the government's full support for Australian investment and expertise. He emphasized that Pakistan's mineral wealth is not limited to copper and gold but also includes extensive reserves of rare earth metals, which are crucial for modern technology and the global energy transition. "Australia is a world leader in mining, and their growing interest is positive sign for Pakistan," stated Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik. "We are committed to providing a facilitative environment for international companies and value our partnerships as crucial for the development of our mining sector." Both sides expressed a shared commitment to further enhancing Pakistan-Australia cooperation in trade, investment, and energy.

Gandapur offloads two ministers

FROM PAGE 01

Sardar Ali Amin Ghandapur has informed Imran Khan about poor performances of some if ministers, poor response of certain persons in Peshawar rally and others. On such grounds Imran Khan reportedly permitted Sardar Ali Amin Ghandapur for action against such persons. Two ministers Education Minister Faisal Tarakai and Irrigation Minister Saqib Ullah Khan have tendered resignations from their offices on Tuesday. Former Speaker of National Assembly and MNA from Swabi has confirmed tendering resignations of both from the offices. Saqib Ullah Khan is brother of Asad Qaisar whereas Faisal Tarakai is younger brother of MNA Shahram Khan Tarakai and son of Senator Liaquat Taraki.

Pakistan announce 18-member squad for South Africa home Test series

Shan Masood retained as captain; Babar, Rizwan and Shaheen also part of squad

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has named an 18-member squad for the two-match Test series, to be played at home coming month as a part of the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27, against South Africa. Shan Masood will continue to lead Pakistan in the longest format, while three uncapped players — Asif Afridi, Faisal Akram, and Rohail Nazir — have also been included, according to a statement issued by the PCB. The squad will be further trimmed before the start of the first Test, the national cricket governing body said. South Africa will be touring Pakistan in October and November for series in all formats of the game. The tour is set to commence with a two-match Test series, set to kick off country's new cycle of the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27. The first Test is scheduled from October 12 to 16 at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, while the second Test will be staged at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi from October 20 to 24. The red ball series will be followed by three T20Is and as many ODIs to be played from October 28 to November 8. The squad for the white-ball series will be announced in due course. The PCB added that the players for the pre-series camp will undergo training under red-ball head coach Azhar Mahmood and NCA coaches from today till October 8. The players who featured in the recently concluded ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup will join the squad on October 4. Pakistan squad and schedule: Shan Masood (captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Asif Afridi,



Babar Azam, Faisal Akram, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Noman Ali, Rohail Nazir (wicket-keeper), Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah Afridi

October 12-16 — First Test at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore
October 20-24 — Second Test at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

Briefs

Euro gas acquisition cleared by CCP

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of a majority shareholding in M/s. Euro Gas (Private) Limited by M/s. BBE D Pte. Limited. BBE D Pte. Limited is a Singapore-based investment holding company and a wholly owned subsidiary of BB Energy Group Holding Limited, a global energy trading company. Under a Share Purchase and Share Subscription Agreement, it will acquire majority ownership in Euro Gas (Private) Limited, said a release issued here on Tuesday. Euro Gas (Private) Limited, incorporated in Pakistan in 2022, has not yet commenced commercial operations but intends to enter the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector, subject to regulatory approvals. After the transaction, the sellers will retain a minority shareholding in the company. The CCP conducted a comprehensive review of the transaction and determined that it does not raise competition concerns at this stage. Since Euro Gas has not yet entered the market, the transaction is not expected to create or strengthen a dominant position in the LNG import and distribution sector. APP

Economy shows stability rising manufacturing

ISLAMABAD: Despite disruptions caused by severe floods since July 2025, the country's economy maintained its trajectory of stabilization and growth during the first two months of the current fiscal year, supported by moderating inflation, strong large-scale manufacturing (LSM), improved fiscal discipline, the finance ministry reported here Tuesday. According to the "Monthly Economic Update and Outlook" for September 2025 issued by the Finance Division on Tuesday, industrial momentum strengthened with the LSM sector posting 9 percent year-on-year growth in July, led by textiles, automobiles, and cement. Cement dispatches rose over 20 percent, while automobile production recorded sharp gains across vehicles. Inflationary pressures eased considerably, with Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation dropping to 3.0 percent in August compared to 9.6 percent a year earlier. On a cumulative basis, inflation stood at 3.5 percent during July–August FY2026, down from 10.4 percent in the same period last year. Fiscal accounts reflected resilience, with revenue mobilization and expenditure discipline helping to contain the deficit at 0.2 percent of GDP and yielding a primary surplus of Rs. 228.9 billion. Federal Board of Revenue's collection rose 14.1 percent to Rs. 1.66 trillion during the period. —APP

Erdogan hails Trump's efforts to end Gaza war after deal

ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday praised Donald Trump's "efforts and leadership" to end the war in Gaza, after the US leader secured Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's support for a US-sponsored peace proposal. After talks between Trump and Netanyahu in Washington, the White House released a 20-point plan that would see an immediate ceasefire, an exchange of hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, a staged Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, Hamas disarmament and a transitional government led by an international body. It was unclear whether Hamas would accept the deal. "I commend US President Donald Trump's efforts and leadership aimed at halting the bloodshed in Gaza and achieving a ceasefire," said Erdogan, who met Trump at the White House for the first time in six years last week. —APP



ISLAMABAD: The Uzbek delegation was led by Nuriddin Ismoilov, Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan visited National Emergencies Operation Centre, NDMA HQs.

Four dead, 8 injured in Michigan church shooting

Police said the perpetrator, identified as Thomas Jacob Sanford, 40, a former US Marine from the nearby town of Burton, deliberately set fire to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which was engulfed in flames and billowing smoke

MICHIGAN : A man who crashed his vehicle through the front doors of a Michigan church opened fire with an assault rifle and set the church ablaze, killing at least four people and wounding at least eight others before dying in a shootout with police, officials said. Police said the perpetrator, identified as Thomas Jacob Sanford, 40, a former US Marine from the nearby town of Burton, deliberately set fire to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which was engulfed in flames and billowing smoke. Two of the shooting victims died and eight others were hospitalized, officials said. Several hours after the shooting, police reported finding at least two more bodies in the charred remains of the church, which had not yet been cleared and may contain other

victims.

"There are some that are unaccounted for," Grand Blanc Township Police Chief William Renye told a press conference. An official with the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said investigators believe the shooter used an accelerant - probably gasoline - to fuel the fire, and that some explosives were recovered. The FBI said it was leading the investigation of what it considered "an act of targeted violence." Hundreds of people were in the church when Sanford drove into the building, Renye said. Two law enforcement officers rushed to the scene within 30 seconds of receiving emergency calls and engaged the suspect in an exchange of gunfire, shooting him dead in the park-

ing lot about eight minutes after the incident began, Renye said. Investigators will search the shooter's home and phone in search of a motive, Renye said. US military records show Sanford was a US Marine from 2004 to 2008 and an Iraq war veteran. Coincidentally, another 40-year-old Marine veteran who served in Iraq is a suspect in a North Carolina shooting that killed three people and wounded five others less than 14 hours before the Michigan incident. Police in Southport, North Carolina, accused Nigel Max Edge of firing on a waterfront bar from a boat on Saturday night. Edge has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder and five counts of attempted murder, police said. According to court records, a federal lawsuit that

Edge had filed against the US government, and others, describes him as a decorated Marine who suffered severe wounds including traumatic brain injury in Iraq. The lawsuit, which was dismissed, showed Edge was previously known as Sean William DeBevoise before changing his name. In Michigan, one witness told WXYZ television she heard "a big bang and the doors blew." "I lost friends in there and some of my little primary children that I teach on Sundays were hurt. It's very devastating for me," said the woman, who gave her name as Paula. President Donald Trump in a statement on Truth Social said that the shooting "appears to be yet another targeted attack on Christians in the United States of America" and that,

"THIS EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE IN OUR COUNTRY MUST END, IMMEDIATELY!" The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, informally known as the Mormon church, follows the teachings of Jesus and also the prophecies of Joseph Smith, a 19th-century American. Grand Blanc, a town of 7,700 people, is about 100 km northwest of Detroit. The Michigan rampage marked the 324th mass shooting in the US in 2025, according to the Gun Violence Archive. It was also the third US mass shooting in less than 24 hours, including the North Carolina incident and a shooting a few hours later at a casino in Eagle Pass, Texas, that killed at least two people and injured several others. — Agencies

Madagascar protesters return to streets

ANTANANARIVO: Security forces fired teargas to disperse hundreds of young protesters in Madagascar's capital who took to the streets again on Tuesday despite the president's decision to partly yield to their demands by dissolving the government. Andry Rajoelina went on state television late on Monday and said he wanted to create room for dialogue with young people pressing for access to water and an end to power cuts, and promised measures to support businesses affected by looting. In a message on the protest movement's Facebook page, some of the protest organizers said they were disappointed by his speech and demanded an apology from him and the now dismissed prime minister, as well as the firing of Antananarivo's administrator. Others went further, waving placards with messages such as "We need water, we need electricity, Rajoelina out," footage of protesters marching in the capital Antananarivo, broadcast on the privately owned broadcaster Real TV Madagascar, showed. Protesters also marched in the city of Fenoarivo, a small town 20 km (12 miles) west of the capital, footage from Real TV showed. Rallies were reported in Mahajanga, 510 km (315 miles) northwest of Antananarivo, and in Diego Suarez, 950 km (590 miles) north of the capital, privately owned 2424. MG and Fitaproduction reported. A government spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Tuesday's protest. The United Nations says at least 22 people have been killed and more than 100 injured in protests that began last week and are now in the fourth day. —APP

Ukraine begins sharing drone expertise with Denmark deployment: Zelensky

KYIV: The Ukrainian military is sharing with European countries its expertise in fighting Russian drones, sending a mission to Denmark for joint exercises, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said Tuesday. "Our military has begun deploying a mission in Denmark to disseminate Ukrainian experience in drone defense," Zelensky said. European defense ministers agreed last week to build what they called a "drone wall" along their borders with Russia and Ukraine to better detect, track and intercept drones violating Europe's airspace. Europe's readiness and technology are lagging far behind Ukraine and Russia, however, as cutting-edge drone warfare has become a hallmark of their three-year war since Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbor. "Ukrainian (drone) experience is the most relevant in Europe right now, and it is our experience, our specialists, and our technologies that could become a key element of the future European 'drone wall' — a large-scale project that will guarantee safety in the sky," Zelensky added in a post on Telegram. —APP

Ukrainian detained in Poland over 2022 Nord Stream gas pipeline explosions

WARSAW: A Ukrainian man suspected of being involved in causing undersea explosions that damaged the Nord Stream gas pipelines between Russia and Germany in 2022 was arrested in Poland, a spokesperson for the District Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw said Tuesday. Volodymyr Z. was detained in Pruszkow, central Poland, according to Polish radio station RMF FM, which first reported his capture. He has been transferred to prosecutors in Warsaw. The man, whose full name wasn't released due to privacy rules, was detained on a European arrest warrant issued by German authorities, said Piotr Antoni Skiba, a spokesperson for the Warsaw prosecutor's office. A spokesperson for Germany's federal prosecutor did not immediately return a request for comment Tuesday. Another Ukrainian man was arrested in Italy last month in connection with the explosions on the undersea pipelines that were built to carry Russian natural gas to Germany under the Baltic Sea. "Taking into consideration the full-scale war in Ukraine and the fact that Nord Stream is owned by the Russian company Gazprom, which finances these activities, the defense currently does not see any possibility of pressing charges against anyone who participated in these events," Tymoteusz Paprocki, Volodymyr Z.'s lawyer, told RMF FM. The lawyer said it was not certain whether his client was involved in the sabotage act and he was awaiting official information about the intentions of the German justice system in pressing charges. The defense would fight extradition, the lawyer said. —APP

Hamas yet to respond on Trump's Gaza plan

JERUSALEM: Hamas had yet to respond Tuesday to Donald Trump on his plan for Gaza, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Israeli military would stay in most of the territory after he gave the US president his backing. The plan calls for a ceasefire, release of hostages by Hamas within 72 hours, disarmament of Hamas and gradual Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, followed by a post-war transitional authority headed by Trump himself. A senior Hamas official said Monday the group had not yet received the 20-point plan, but an official briefed on the matter later told AFP that Qatari and Egyptian mediators had met with Hamas to provide them with the document. Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Egypt's intelligence chief Hassan Mahmoud Rashad "just met with Hamas negotiators and shared the 20-point plan. The Hamas negotiators said they would review it in good faith and provide a response," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity. In a video statement posted on his Telegram channel after his joint press conference with Trump, Netanyahu said the military would stay in most of Gaza, and also said he did not agree to a Palestinian state during his talks with Trump. "We will recover all our hostages, alive and well, while the (Israeli military) will remain in most of the Gaza Strip," he said. Still, Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a member of Netanyahu's coalition government, blasted the plan as a "resounding diplomatic failure." "In my estimation, it will also end in tears. Our children will be forced to fight in Gaza again," he said. In Washington on Monday, Trump insisted that peace in the Middle East was "beyond very close" and describing the announcement as a "beautiful day — potentially one of the greatest days ever in civilization." His plan includes deployment of a "temporary international stabilization force" — and the creation of a transitional authority headed by Trump himself and including former British premier Tony Blair. Blair, still widely hated in the Middle East for his role in the 2003 Iraq war, hailed the "bold and intelligent" plan. The deal would demand Hamas militants fully disarm and be excluded from future roles in the government, but those who agreed to "peaceful co-existence" would be given amnesty. During the press conference, Netanyahu cast doubt on whether the Palestinian Authority, which nominally runs the occupied West Bank, would be allowed a role in Gaza's governance. Trump noted that during their meeting Netanyahu had strongly opposed any Palestinian statehood — something that the US plan leaves room for. "I support your plan to end the war in Gaza which achieves our war aims," Netanyahu said. "If Hamas rejects your plan, Mr. President, or if they supposedly accept it and then basically do everything to counter it, then Israel will finish the job by itself." Trump said that Israel would have his "full backing" to do so if Hamas did not accept the deal. Reaction was global, and swift. Key Arab and Muslim nations, including mediators Egypt and Qatar, hailed the agreement's "sincere efforts" in the wake of their own talks with Trump last week. —DNA

ICCI calls for relief in power costs to boost eco growth

ISLAMABAD: The Patron-in-Chief of the United Business Group (UBG), S. M. Tanveer, has said that even after 78 years we are still standing at the same point; only by changing the system will the country move forward. New provinces should be created and powers must be transferred to the grassroots level. He said he will soon arrange a meeting between the ICCI delegation and the Interior Minister. "Together we will resolve the issues of the business community." He expressed these views while visiting the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with a large delegation of traders to congratulate the newly elected President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, and Vice President Irfan Chaudhry on their remarkable victory. On this occasion, S. M. Tanveer also presented bouquets to the newly elected leadership and extended his best wishes. Addressing the participants, he said that every division has its own product, and each division can generate 5 to 6 billion dollars in exports. Agreeing with the proposal of former ICCI President Ahsan Bukhtawari, he said that very soon a representative delegation of traders would meet the Interior Minister, and together they will resolve issues related to CDA, FBR, and other matters. He questioned, "If India can have 36 states and the U.S. 50 states, then what are we waiting for?" Despite huge spending on education and health, nothing has been achieved. Defense expenses amount to 2.3 trillion, while all four provinces combined spend 3.2 trillion on education and health, yet the quality remains very poor. "Our armed forces, however, have raised the nation's head high in the battle for truth." He stressed, "We are the largest taxpayers; we deserve respect.



The only solution to trade deficit, IMF dependency, and domestic debt lies in boosting business, imports, exports, and remittances. We are paying 14 trillion in taxes, but 25% of the education and health budget is wasted." President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh said they will raise their voice at every forum for the resolution of traders' issues, describing S. M. Tanveer as a courageous leader. President ICCI Sardar Tahir Mehmood thanked S. M. Tanveer and emphasized the need for joint action against harassment and for ease of doing business, adding that "CDA is like a rogue elephant; we will not let a few bureaucrats decide our fate." MNA Mirza Ikhtiar Baig said the business community is a powerful voice and a key stakeholder that can assert its case with strength and logic. He assured that

in the National Assembly he has always safeguarded traders' rights. Founder Group Chairman Tariq Sadiq said UBG has always worked for solving traders' problems and improving the business environment, and this tradition will continue in the future. President UBG Pakistan Zubair Tufail and FPCCI Vice President Zaki Ijaz said the newly elected ICCI leadership will succeed in securing a prominent place for the chamber in national economic policymaking. They also affirmed they will protect the rights of the country's business community and will not allow FBR officials to conduct undue raids or seize computers. UBG Islamabad Region President Abdul Rauf Alam vowed that efforts will continue day and night from the Chamber's platform to resolve the problems of traders. —DNA

Briefs

ADB warns
of inflation
hike to 6%

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday said that it expects Pakistan's real GDP to growth to stand at 3% in Fiscal Year 2025-26 (FY26) courtesy of deepening macroeconomic stability. In its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) September 2025, the lender credits improved macroeconomic conditions contributed to an uptick in growth in fiscal year 2025 (ended 30 June 2025), underpinned by increased investment driven by continued policy reforms and economic stability. "Pakistan's growth prospects remain positive. However, the country continues to face structural challenges, compounded by recurring disasters such as the recent floods," said ADB Country Director for Pakistan Emma Fan. "In this context, consistent reforms and policy implementation are essential for reinforcing policy credibility, sustaining economic momentum, and enhancing the country's resilience," she said. The lender further pointed out that the economic reform has progressed considerably under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Fund Facility arrangement that began in October 2024 and stressed that policy consistency and climate resilience remain vital to maintaining the growth momentum. It also warned that the downside risks to the outlook remain high. Noting that the economic activity is expected to strengthen in FY26, supported by improved external buffers and renewed business confidence following the US-Pakistan trade agreement, the ADB warned that the damage caused to infrastructure and farmland by the recent floods may weigh on growth.

Taliban internet
cut sparks
Afghanistan
telecoms
blackout

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Afghanistan faced a second day without internet and mobile phone service on Tuesday, after Taliban authorities cut the fibre optic network. The government began shutting down high-speed internet connections to some provinces earlier in the month to prevent "vice" on the orders of supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada. On Monday night, mobile phone signal and internet service gradually weakened nationwide until connectivity was less than one per cent of ordinary levels, according to internet watchdog NetBlocks. It is the first time since the Taliban government won their insurgency in 2021 and imposed Sharia law that communications have been shut down in the country. "We are blind without phones and internet," said 42-year-old shopkeeper Najibullah in Kabul.

Ethiopian airlines a game
changer in bilateral relationsCM Sindh lauds Ethiopian Airlines as Key Instrument
of Look Africa & Engage Africa Policies

DNA

KARACHI: H.E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of Ethiopia (FDRE) to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, called on H.E. Syed Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister of Sindh, Pakistan at his office in Karachi on Tuesday. The two sides discussed the growing bilateral cooperation between the two countries across various sectors, including trade, investment, aviation, tourism, culture, and climate change. They also explored new areas for partnership, specifically in agriculture and agro-processing, education, and health, to further strengthen bilateral relations. The Ambassador commended the Chief Minister's recent initiative to host a high-level Ethiopian delegation for a Green Dialogue at the Chief Minister Sindh House recently. This visit, he added, plays a crucial role in formalizing bilateral cooperation against climate change. Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker also briefed the Honorable Chief Minister on the preparations underway in Addis Ababa to host a large number of delegates for Pakistan's Single Country Exhibition scheduled for October in Ethiopia. He also praised the increasing connectivity between Pakistan and Africa facilitated by Ethiopian Airlines, underscoring its key role in Pakistan's Look Africa and Engage Africa policies. The Honorable Chief Minister called the Ethiopian Airlines as a game-changer for



Pakistan-Africa relations, lauding the carrier as a key instrument of the Look Africa and Engage Africa policies. The CM Sindh also appreciated the Amba-

sador's effective role in strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries. The Honorable Chief Minister vowed to further enhance bilateral cooperation to

elevate the relationship to the high degree. Mr. Ibrahim Khalid Tawab, Honorary Consul of the FDR Ethiopia in Karachi, was also present during the meeting.

Pakistan pledges
constructive role
in US peace plan
for Palestine

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: At the United Nations Security Council, Pakistan welcomed US President Donald Trump's initiative to advance a peace plan for Gaza and the wider Middle East, in coordination with eight OIC and Arab states. Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, told the Council members that Islamabad would actively participate in the consultative process to support a sustainable resolution. "We value the initiative of President Donald Trump, working with eight OIC and Arab countries to advance peace through concrete measures," Ahmad said, addressing a briefing on the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine (SCR 2334). "As a participant in this consultative process, Pakistan will closely engage and play a constructive role in promoting consensus," Ahmad said, stressing that the goal is to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians and achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace consistent with UN resolutions. President Trump on Monday said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to a US-backed peace plan for Gaza, even as Israeli forces press one of their fiercest offensives in the battered Palestinian enclave. The proposal calls for a ceasefire and the release of hostages, but its success still hinges on whether Hamas will come on board. Speaking at a joint press conference with Netanyahu, Trump said they were "beyond very close" to forging an elusive peace deal and that he hoped Hamas would also accept it.

IMF directs govt to set up
asset disclosure system
for officers by year-end

Islamabad requests lender to allow PM Relief Package for flood-hit areas via emergency funds earmarked in budget

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission has asked Pakistan to comply with the publication of Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment (GCD) Report within the envisaged deadline. Calling for amendment in the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules 1964 allowing actions against those involved in any corrupt practices, the lender has also instructed the government to build a system by December 2025 to ensure the disclosure of assets held by officers from grades 17 to 22. The development came during the maiden session between the IMF review mission and the Pakistani officials including Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb during which the two sides dwelt upon the revision in the real GDP growth figure from the envisaged target of 4.2% to below 3.9% for the current fiscal year in the context of devastating floods. On the asset declaration for bureaucrats, the officials told the IMF that the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules 1964 required amendments with the permission of the prime minister and the federal cabinet for allowing asset declarations to be made digitally, which was agreed with the IMF. The IMF inquired if asset declarations were made public and found any mismatch then who would take action against them. One senior official of the government

recommended that this should be granted to the FBR.

However, it was mentioned in the discussion that any wing or agency under the FBR might be assigned this task. However, it was also discussed that any separate agency should be assigned to take action against corrupt officials. The Washington-based lender has been pressing Islamabad on this issue since last year, but progress has been repeatedly delayed. The FBR has now been tasked with providing technical assistance to the Establishment Division. The new mechanism would allow the FBR to flag incorrect or incomplete asset declarations by government officers. Officials found submitting false information would face penalties and formal investigations under the IMF's directives. The country has nearly 25,000 officers in grades 17 to 22, and there is a widespread perception that many do not accurately declare their holdings. Compounding the problem, employees of several powerful institutions, including the State Bank, Nepra, Ogra, and PTA, currently enjoy exemptions from disclosure requirements. The IMF's demand aims to improve transparency, strengthen accountability, and close loopholes in Pakistan's governance structure. For years, public scrutiny of senior bureaucrats' wealth has been limited, fueling concerns about corruption and misuse of authority. With the Fund's pressure mounting, officials say the government will be compelled to take unprecedented steps to bring civil servants' financial affairs into the public domain, a move likely to face resistance from within the bureaucracy but seen as crucial for restoring public trust.

PSX hits record high,
surges past 166,000
points thresholdKSE-100 Index climbs to intraday high of
166,556.29, gaining 2708.61 points, or 1.65%

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index climbed to an intraday high of 166,556.29, gaining 2708.61 points, or 1.65%, and hit a low of 164,208.33, reflecting a rise of 360.65 points, or 0.22%. "Stocks reached a new all-time high at the quarter-end close as investors weighed upbeat Pak-US relations," said Ahsan Mehanti, Managing Director and CEO of Arif Habib Commodities. Resolve over Rs1.225 trillion circular debt, and rupee stability on Saudi FDIs commitments following the Pak-Saudi defence pact played a catalyst role in record bullish activity at PSX," he added. Investor confidence remains buoyant after yesterday's re-

cord-setting rally, underpinned by high-level engagement with the US, a landmark Rs1.225 trillion circular-debt financing arrangement with commercial banks, and renewed optimism around Saudi economic involvement. Analysts see near-term momentum persisting – particularly in banks, energy and power – while noting that IMF conditionalities and external funding flows remain key risks. Sentiment has also been supported by efforts to broaden external financing – including planned Panda bonds and additional commercial borrowings – alongside a recent uptick in foreign exchange reserves. The State Bank reported a \$22 million increase to \$14.4 billion (as of September 19, 2025), with the rupee firming 0.03% to Rs281.37 per US dollar. Separately, the Asian Development Bank said in its ADO September 2025 that Pakistan's real GDP growth is expected at 3% in FY26, with inflation potentially rising to 6%. The lender credited improved macro conditions and reform progress under the IMF EFF (since Oct 2024), but cautioned that policy consistency and climate resilience are vital, and that recent flood damage could weigh on growth even as external buffers and business confidence improve following the US-Pakistan trade agreement. On Monday, the benchmark rose 1,590.68 points, or 0.98%, to 163,847.69, after touching an intraday high of 163,903.62 and a low of 162,058.64.

Dozens
missing,
three dead
in Indonesia
school
collapse

SIDOARJO: Searchers raced Tuesday to rescue at least 38 people still believed trapped a day after the collapse of an Islamic school building in Indonesia that has already left three dead, authorities said. Tearful families desperate for news of their loved ones crowded around the flattened multi-storey building, as rescuers navigated a maze of concrete rubble in the town of Sidoarjo on Indonesia's main Island Java. The building gave way on Monday, where students were gathered for afternoon prayers, said local reports, citing a witness. "The number of victims is 102 people, consisting of 99 survivors, 3 deaths," National Search and Rescue Agency head Mohammad Syafii said. National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) spokesman Abdul Muhari said 38 people were still unaccounted for while 77 injured victims had been evacuated to several hospitals, while, – Agencies

EU solidarity
faces big test

BRUSSELS: The EU's new migration pact faces its first real test in coming months as countries are called to split the "burden" of resettling at least 30,000 asylum seekers – with a Christmas deadline to strike a deal. The European Union's 27 states last year struck a landmark agreement that hardens border procedures, envisages accelerated deportations and overhauls how the bloc deals with asylum seekers. The deal will fully enter into force in 2026. But talks on its so-called "solidarity mechanism" are set to begin in October – and dominate the agenda in the coming weeks. Seeking to "ensure fair burden sharing" between countries along migration routes, such as Greece or Italy, and the rest of the EU, the pact requires other member states to take in a certain number of asylum seekers. – APP

YouTube
to pay \$22
million in
settlement
with Trump

NEW YORK: YouTube has agreed to pay \$22 million to settle a lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump after it suspended his account over the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, according to a court document released Monday. The online video platform, a Google subsidiary, is the latest Big Tech firm to settle with Trump after he went to court in July 2021 over his suspension. Major platforms removed Trump at the time due to concerns he would promote further violence with bogus claims that voter fraud caused his loss to former president Joe Biden in 2020. The 79-year-old Republican took social media companies and YouTube to court, claiming he was wrongfully censored. The settlement will go toward Trump's latest construction project at the White House, through a nonprofit called Trust for the National Mall. – APP

Pakistan launches sovereign
sustainable financing framework

Developed with Citi Bank and Deutsche Bank as Joint Sustainability Coordinators, the Framework aligns with international standards, including ICMA principles for green, social, and sustainability bonds, loan market association principles for green and social loans, and blue bond guidelines from leading global institutions

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has established its Sovereign Sustainable Finance Framework ("Framework") to reinforce its commitment to sustainability and provide a structured approach for raising Sustainable Financing Instruments (including Green, Social, Sustainability). Through this initiative, Pakistan aims to enhance its participation in the global sustainable finance market while fostering the development of a robust sustainable financing ecosystem.

Developed with Citi Bank and Deutsche Bank as Joint Sustainability Coordinators, the Framework aligns with international standards, including ICMA principles for green, social, and sustainability bonds, loan market association principles for green and social loans, and blue

bond guidelines from leading global institutions. Sustainable Fitch has provided an independent Second Party Opinion (SPO) to ensure transparency and credibility. Pakistan's Framework has been recognized as "Excellent" by Sustainable Fitch, reflecting its strong alignment with global best practices in sustainable finance. The SPO is publicly available on the Ministry of Finance's website for reference. This Framework will apply to any Sustainable Financing Instrument (including bonds, international sukuk) issued by the Government of Pakistan and will be in force until updated from time to time, to align with the latest market practices and the evolution of Pakistan's ESG agenda. This strategic initiative is expected to improve Pakistan's access to international sustainable finance, helping to accelerate the country's transition towards a more resilient and inclusive economy.

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