



Islamabad POST

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Pizza indebted to French govt for prestigious award

Detailed News On Page-01

Rana Sana says BISP data old

Detailed News On Page-08

Africa offers a plethora of opportunism

Detailed News On Page-08



Over 10 killed so far

Shehbaz orders probe into AJK protests

Prime minister said that peaceful protest was a constitutional and democratic right of every citizen, but the protesters should refrain from harming public order

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Expressing deep concern over the unfortunate incidents during the protests in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Prime Minister Shehbaz on Thursday ordered a transparent probe into the matter and directed the provision of immediate assistance to the affected families. In a statement, the prime minister said that peaceful protest was a constitutional and democratic right of every citizen, but the protesters should refrain from harming public order. "Government is always ready to resolve the issues of its Kashmiri brothers," he assured. At least six civilians and three police personnel were killed during demonstrations staged by the Awami Action Committee in AJK. The AJK government, in a statement, said that nearly 172 police personnel were injured in the protests, with the condition of 12 reported as critical. Around 50 civilians also sustained injuries amid the violent demonstrations. The PAC has issued a 38-point charter of demands, including ending 12 reserved seats for refugees and rolling back "privileges of the elite", The News reported. Taking notice of the situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appealed to the protesters to remain peaceful, assuring the resolution of their issues and committing to personally overseeing the negotiation process. He directed the law enforcement agencies to exercise restraint and patience with the protesters, ensuring respect for public sentiments and avoiding any unnecessary harshness. Premier Shehbaz also expanded the negotiation committee to find a peaceful resolution to the issue and included

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High level body talks to JAAC members

BUREAU REPORT

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level delegation of the government held negotiations with the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Thursday in a bid to put an end to the ongoing unrest in the territory. "A high-level delegation from Pakistan has started formal dialogue with representatives of the Joint Action Committee of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in Muzaffarabad today," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry posted on X as the talks commenced. A strike has paralysed AJK under a communications blackout after talks over elite privileges and reserved refugee seats collapsed between the JAAC, the AJK government, and federal ministers, sparking protests and violence. On Wednesday, AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq and federal minister Chaudhry invited the JAAC for fresh dialogue. Earlier today, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had expressed deep concern over the unrest in AJK and directed the negotiation committee to immediately proceed to AJK capital Muzaffarabad and find an immediate and lasting solution to the issues. The committee includes Senator Rana Sanaullah as well

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23 aid ships on way to Gaza

Pakistan demands release of Sumud Flotilla activists

The Istanbul chief prosecutor's office announced that it had opened an investigation after Israeli forces arrested Turkish citizens on board

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned the interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla by Israel, comprising over 40 civilian vessels and carrying about 500 international activists to deliver much-needed humanitarian assistance to the besieged people of Gaza. "The unlawful detention of international activists onboard the flotilla constitutes yet another flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law by Israel, and endangers the lives of innocent civilians," Foreign Office spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan said in a statement. He said that the reprehensible act was part of Israel's ongoing pattern of aggression and its illegal blockade of Gaza, which had caused immense human suffering and deprivation for over two million Palestinians. He said that the deliberate obstruction of humanitarian relief was a grave breach of Israel's obligations as the occupying power under

Continued on Page 06

Ex-senator Mushtaq Ahmed arrested

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Former senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan has been detained by Israeli forces while taking part in the Global Sumud Flotilla, the Palestine Action Coalition of Pakistan said in a statement on Thursday. Ahmad, who was leading a five-member Pakistani delegation, joined the flotilla alongside international activists and humanitarian aid groups in an effort to challenge Israel's blockade of Gaza. Israeli forces have intercepted 39 boats attempting to reach Gaza as part of the Global Sumud Flotilla, leaving only one vessel still en route, organisers said on Thursday.

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DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi inquires about the health of cops injured during clash with protestors in Kashmir. – DNA

Interior Minister inquires after police personnel injured in AJK

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reached PIMS Hospital and inquired after the Islamabad Police and Azad Kashmir Police personnel injured in Azad Kashmir. He individually met each injured police personnel and inquired about their well-being. He instructed the hospital administration to ensure the best medical care for the injured police personnel. Interior Minister lauded their courage and spirit, saying: "All of you fulfilled your duties with great bravery, strength, and commitment."

Continued on Page 06

Pak backed Trump plan with Muslim states consent

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Acting President and Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani on Thursday said Pakistan's decision to support US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan was made after consultations with Muslim nations and through collective consensus. Speaking to the media in Peshawar, Gilani stressed that Pakistan had not made any unilateral decisions and would not do so in the future. "We are consensus builders," he remarked. He added that the agreement with President Trump was not the decision of

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Statement about PPP

Why she should tender apology, says Punjab CM

Anyone who tries to divide Punjab's people is not a true friend of the province

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Thursday said defending her province's dignity is her duty and she will not apologise for it. Addressing an event honouring the position holders of educational boards in Punjab, she stated that it is her responsibility to respond to anyone who disrespects the people of Punjab and that she will never apologise for doing so. "Anyone who tries to divide Punjab's people is not a true friend of the province," she asserted, adding that her aim is to bind all cities of Punjab together like a closed fist. She also emphasised the importance of merit, quality education, and equal opportunities for all citizens of the province. CM Maryam proudly acknowledged the achievements of top-performing students, highlighting the crucial role of youth in national development.

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PML-N, PPP 'bury the hatchet' after NA speaker's mediation

PML-N assures Bilawal-led party of addressing their concerns, acknowledges unnecessary friction

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: After days of verbal spat resulting in growing tensions between allies, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq managed to persuade the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to end public criticism against each other, The News reported on Thursday. The meeting, held in the speaker's chamber, was

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At least 13 dead in separate bus crashes

Karachi-bound coach from Panjgur crashed into truck near Lasbela, while another met with accident in Hub-Winder

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: At least 13 passengers, including women and children, were killed and dozens more suffered traumatic injuries in two separate roadside accidents in Balochistan, police and rescue officials said early on Thursday. Local authorities reported that six people lost their lives and 17 others were seriously injured when a passenger coach rammed into an oncoming truck near Zero Point in Lasbela's Uthal. As per the first responders from

Edhi rescue service, seven travellers died and 16 were hurt after a coach crashed in Hub-Winder. According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Lasbela Atif Amir, the crash brought the traffic on the national highway to a standstill, with rescuers and other officials racing against time to clear the road and assist the victims. The police official later confirmed that rescue operations at the site have now been completed and traffic on the highway has resumed. On the other hand, the injured of the

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Briefs

4 police cops injured in blast

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: At least nine people, including four law enforcement personnel, were injured in a blast near Peshawar's Bani Mara area on Thursday, police said. Peshawar Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Dr Mian Saeed confirmed these details, adding that police were targeted in the incident. "Initial investigation shows that the device that caused the blast was planted on the route of a police mobile," he added. The CCPO added that the condition of one of the injured was serious. Rescue services shifted the injured to a nearby medical facility after the attack. He said police were investigation whether the blast was caused by an improvised explosive device or not.

Mustafa files appeal against registrar move

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Tehreek-i-Tahfuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) Vice Chairman Nawaz Khokhar on Thursday filed an appeal against SC registrar's decision to return his petition seeking a full court hearing of challenges against the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The 26th Amendment, passed on Oct 21, 2024, took away the SC's suo motu powers and empowered a Special Parliamentary Committee to nominate the next chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) from among the three most senior SC judges instead of the senior-most one. The SC is currently seized with multiple petitions urging the constitution of a full court to hear the matter rather than the Constitutional Bench (CB) formed under the 26th Amendment. The CB is set to resume proceedings on the original appeals on October 7.

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of France to Pakistan, Nicolas Galey, conferred the insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres on Ms. Fizza Hasan, an theatre director and cultural activist, at a ceremony hosted at the French Residency. The award is one of France's highest honors in the field of arts and literature. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Galey lauded Ms. Hasan's remarkable contributions to promoting French language, literature, and theatre in Pakistan. He noted that the French government has been honoring outstanding figures in the arts since 1957 through this order, which symbolizes France's gratitude for singular cultural achievements. Highlighting her diverse background, Ambassador Galey recalled that Ms. Hasan was born in London and grew up in Pakistan as well as in Africa, where she first learned French at the Alliance Française in Accra. She later pursued advanced studies in French at NUML in Islamabad and Université Stendhal in Grenoble, before teaching at Alliance Française Islamabad and serving as its Director of Studies. In 2004, Hasan founded Theatre Wallay, a group that has since become a vibrant platform for theatre in Pakistan. Under her leadership, the group has staged acclaimed adaptations of French classics such as Molière's Tartuffe and L'école

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey decorates Ms Fizza with the French award. – DNA

des Femmes, Eugène Ionesco's La Leçon, Jean Anouilh's Antigone, and Jean-Paul Sartre's Huis Clos. Ambassador Galey underlined that through these productions, Ms. Hasan introduced thousands of Pakistanis to the universal themes of French theatre, while also fostering dialogue,

reflection, and critical thinking.

Beyond French classics, Theatre Wallay has encouraged original works addressing social debates in Pakistan, which the ambassador described as being in harmony with France's cultural diplomacy—championing creativity, expression, and free thought. "Dear

Fizza Hasan, as we celebrate your entry into the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, we do so with gratitude, admiration, and the wish that your passion for theatre and the French language may remain firm," Ambassador Galey remarked. "Your work has given Pakistani audiences access to France's theatre tradition, while also creating a precious space for dialogue and critical expression."

At the close of the ceremony, Ms. Hasan was formally decorated with the insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres on behalf of the French Minister of Culture.

In her rather emotional speech after receiving a prestigious award from the French government, Ms. Fizza Hasan expressed deep gratitude for the recognition. She thanked the French government for honoring her contributions and shared her personal journey of learning the French language. Ms. Hasan recalled how she was first encouraged by her family to pursue French and spoke warmly of the support she received throughout the process. She emphasized that her late husband played a central role in inspiring her to learn the language, describing him as her guiding force and true motivation. She said the award was not just an individual achievement but a tribute to her family's encouragement and constant support. Ms. Hasan dedicated the honor to her loved ones, colleagues, and students, stressing that without them her accomplishments in promoting French culture and language in Pakistan would not have been possible.

Efforts afoot to make Islamabad tourism hub

Chairman CDA mentioned that a comprehensive tree plantation drive is ongoing in the National Hill Park as well as throughout the city to preserve the environment. He added that with each passing day, Islamabad's green cover is being increased, making the city greener and more beautiful

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, the Prime Minister's Coordinator on Tourism, met with Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa at CDA Headquarters on Thursday. The meeting discussed various projects related to promoting the tourism and hospitality industry in the Federal Capital, Islamabad. The meeting was attended by Member Planning and Design Dr. Khalid Hafiz, Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza, Member Environment Esfandiyar Baloch, DG Resource, DG Building and Housing and other senior officers. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that work is underway on various projects related to tourism including a cable car, theme park, safari park, and others, to make Islamabad as a tourism hub. He said that excellent opportunities exist

in Islamabad for promoting tourism and the hotel industry. Chairman CDA emphasized that significant focus is being placed on establishing Food Street and pedestrian track in Blue Area and other areas of Islamabad. He said that digital parking is being introduced to address parking issues and congestion across the city, and the parking plaza in Blue Area is in its final stage of completion and will be made operational soon. Chairman CDA mentioned that a comprehensive tree plantation drive is ongoing in the National Hill Park as well as throughout the city to preserve the environment. He added that with each passing day, Islamabad's green cover is being increased, making the city greener and more beautiful. Chairman CDA said that work is progressing regarding holding an international-standard industrial exhibition in Islamabad. Chambers of Commerce and the business community from across the country, includ-

ing Islamabad, will be involved to ensure the successful organization of the industrial exhibition. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, the Prime Minister's Coordinator on Tourism, said that promoting tourism is among the government's top priorities. He expressed his full readiness to provide all possible cooperation with the CDA in this regard. The Prime Minister's Coordinator on Tourism said that establishing the tourism and hotel industry would not only provide excellent recreational facilities but also create employment opportunities. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that these measures would not only promote tourism in the Federal Capital, Islamabad, but also ensure the provision of the best recreational facilities for citizens. He further said that all available resources are being utilized to implement these measures to make Islamabad the best and most beautiful tourist City.

NDMA warns of rainfall in Islamabad, Punjab, KP, GB

ISLAMABAD: The National Emergencies Operation Center of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a warning of intermittent rainfall in Islamabad, various regions of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit-Baltistan from October 5 to October 7. In its advisory, NDMA urged local authorities and residents to stay alert and take precautionary measures to mitigate potential risks, including urban flooding, landslides, and disruption of daily activities. The National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) has warned of possible rainfall in the upper catchment areas of major rivers including Jhelum, Ravi, and Sutlej from October 5 to 7. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, intermittent rains are expected in Chitral, Dir, Haripur, Kohat, Kohistan, Khyber, Kurram, and Mansehra. Thunderstorms and rainfall are also likely in Mohmand, Nowshera, Malakand, Charsadda, Abbottabad, Bannu, Buner, Hazara, Peshawar, Swabi, Waziristan, and surrounding areas. These rains may lead to increased water flow in rivers Swat, Panjkora, and Kabul. In Gilgit-Baltistan, rainfall could trigger landslides in mountainous regions. NDMA has cautioned that landslides may affect several key routes, including Torgar Road (120 km), Battagram Road (140 km), Shangla Road (160 km), Lower Kohistan Road (180 km), and Tattapani Road (320-360 km). In Gilgit-Baltistan, Gilgit Road (400-420 km).—APP

Mashhood opens Two-Day Int'l TVET dialogue

ISLAMABAD :Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, addressed the International Dialogue Ceremony at Serena Hotel today, underscoring that the future of Pakistan lies in technical and skills-based programmes that can equip the country's vast youth population for both domestic and global opportunities. He said that Pakistan's youth policy is no longer limited to conventional education alone. "We are investing not just in education but also in climate change adaptation and the green economy," he noted, emphasizing the government's commitment to align youth empowerment with emerging global trends. Rana Mashhood highlighted that the Prime Minister's Youth Programme is actively serving millions of young people, providing them with facilities, opportunities, and access to training platforms. He said youth can now register themselves online from their homes, making PMYP one of the most accessible government programmes in

the region. Sharing figures, he revealed that over 7,000 companies have registered with PMYP, offering jobs, internships, and training placements for Pakistani youth. "Our young people are excelling at home and abroad, and they continue to bring pride to the nation," he said. He also referred to the recently launched National Youth Employment Policy (NYEP), which he called a "game changer" for the country. The policy envisions providing 1.8 million jobs abroad for Pakistani youth, establishing employment exchanges in every district, and reducing the number of youth who are neither in education, employment, nor training (NEETs). The NYEP prioritizes green jobs, entrepreneurship, and women's participation, while identifying ten strategic sectors including IT, agriculture, health, manufacturing, tourism, logistics, and overseas employment. Expanding on this, Rana Mashhood said the government is tackling the critical challenge of the labor market, where 2-3 million youth enter annually,

while national training capacity is only around 400,000. He stressed that bridging this gap through skill development and international opportunities is essential for sustainable growth. Earlier this week, Pakistan's youth vision was also presented globally at the OIC Youth Capital 2025 Volunteers and Youth Gathering in Marrakesh, Morocco, where PMYP representatives showcased the Digital Youth Hub and highlighted volunteerism as a driver of social transformation. Reaffirming the government's resolve, Rana Mashhood said: "Pakistani youth are the true strength of the nation. Under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, we are determined to provide new avenues for skills, education, entrepreneurship, and global exposure, so that our youth can stand shoulder to shoulder with the best in the world." He stressed that with 68 percent of Pakistan's population below the age of 30, investing in young people is not a choice but a necessity.—APP

Commissioner orders early execution of Nespak beautification schemes

RAWALPINDI:Commissioner Rawalpindi Engineer Aamir Khattak on Thursday directed that the feasibility and technical aspects of the Nespak beautification schemes in Attock be finalised without delay so that tenders could be floated within days and timely execution ensured. Chairing a meeting of the Divisional Coordination Committee here at his office, he stressed that all development projects and public service facilities must be completed within the stipulated timeframe through close inter-departmental coordination. The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner Coordination Syed Nazart Ali, Director General Parks and Horticulture Authority, Director Health, and heads of other relevant departments. The commissioner instructed all assistant commissioners to immediately complete the updating and digitisation of revenue records and service books to ensure transparency and modern service delivery. Reviewing the Rawalpindi city projects, he directed the assistant commissioners City and Cantonment to monitor plantation and tree growth on both sides of the Murree Road, and prepare a comprehensive plan for further beautification of greenbelts to reduce air pollution and provide citizens with a pleasant environment. He also tasked the Rawalpindi Waste Management Company to further improve sanitation and adopt modern methods of waste disposal.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan Alexandra Berg Von Linde cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the painting exhibition by Minaa Haroon, at Satrang Arts Gallery in Federal Capital. -



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presenting a souvenir to Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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KP Food Authority declares 40% of bottled water unsafe

PESHAWAR:The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Food Authority has completed its province-wide water testing campaign, declaring 40 percent of bottled water samples substandard and hazardous to health. For the first time, the newly established Provincial Food Testing Laboratory and Center for Research carried out large-scale testing of food and water products in the province. According to officials on Thursday, 156 bottled water samples—ranging from 19-liter containers to 300 ml bottles—were tested. Results showed that 59.61 percent met quality standards, while 40.39 percent were found to be unsafe and substandard. Director General of Food Safety and Halal Food Authority, Wasif Saeed, briefed the provincial Food Minister, Zahir Shah Toru, on the findings. The report revealed the presence of dangerous bacteria, including Coliform, Fecal Coliform, E. coli, and Pseudomonas aeruginosa in 61 bottled water samples, while two samples contained harmful chemical substances posing serious risks to human health. During the campaign, 56

water sources were also tested—27 were satisfactory, while 29 were declared unsafe. The report further stated that 143 active water industries in the province collectively produce 419,096 liters of bottled water daily, out of which 117,543 liters were deemed unsafe. The water testing drive was conducted between August 23 and September 19, 2025. The minister was informed that in the second phase testing will extend to government and private water filtration plants, as well as other water sources across residential areas.—APP

MoU between KU, AIOU signed for digital learning

KOHAT:An important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday between Kohat University (KU) and Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad, regarding the promotion of education, implementation of modern teaching models, provision of digital learning opportunities, and provision of micro-credentials. The agreement was signed by Kohat University's Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Syed Zafar Ilyas, and AIOU's Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood. Deans, the principal officers and faculty members of both universities also participated in the occasion. Under these agreements,

both institutions will provide joint research projects, teaching and academic exchanges and technical assistance to enable access to quality education through online and hybrid learning models. Along with this, micro-credentials will be provided to the students in accordance with modern global educational requirements, which will provide new opportunities for skill development and employment for the youth. On this occasion, Professor Dr Syed Zafar Ilyas said: "Kohat University is committed to promoting modern educational trends and digital learning. This agreement is a milestone in the higher education sector in Paki-

stan, which will play an important role in equipping students with world-class education and practical skills." Expressing views, AIOU, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Nasir Mahmood said, adding that the promotion of digital learning and micro-credentials in education was the need of the hour. This agreement will not only provide new educational opportunities to the students in accordance with global standards but will also prove to be the beginning of a new era of learning in Pakistan. The joint effort of the two universities is a milestone in national development and prom.—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
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Potohar Town.....9209224

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Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Embassy hosts cultural exchange for Japanese learning students

Ms. Ura Mamiko, Deputy Head of Public Affairs, Embassy of Japan, expressed her deep appreciation for the students for their interest in learning the Japanese language and culture, calling it a bridge to bring the two people further closer

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: To foster cultural understanding and strengthen people-to-people ties, the Embassy of Japan successfully hosted a dynamic cultural exchange event for the students of Japanese language from the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Islamabad. The event offered the students a unique and interactive opportunity to engage directly with traditional Japanese culture, enriching their understanding and appreciation. While welcoming the students, Ms. Ura Mamiko, Deputy Head of Public Affairs, Embassy of Japan, expressed her deep appreciation for the students for their interest in learning the Japanese language and culture, calling it a bridge to bring the two people further closer. The event featured three engaging sessions designed to immerse participants in different aspects of Japanese culture and traditions. The first session introduced students to traditional Japanese

attire, including the iconic Kimono and its various types. The highlight of this session was a lucky draw, where three students were selected to participate in a live demonstration on how to properly wear a Yukata, a lighter summer version of the kimono. In the second session, students explored the art of Japanese calligraphy (Shodō) and enthusiastically practiced writing Japanese Kanji characters using traditional calligraphy brushes and ink, gaining hands-on experience with this centuries-old art form. The students filled with enthusiasm expressed their deep appreciation for this ancient art form. The final session focused on Japanese dining customs where students were specifically taught the use of chopsticks. This interactive activity included a fun challenge, transferring beans from one plate to another using chopsticks. The top four performers advanced to a mini-tournament, and the final two winners were awarded small commemorative gifts from the Embassy. In her con-

cluding remarks, Ms. Mamiko stated that this cultural exchange event reflects the Embassy's dedication to fostering youth-centered initiatives that promote mutual understanding and strengthen the friendship between Japan and Pakistan. She added that this cultural interaction is part of the Embassy's ongoing efforts to enhance people-to-people ties and build enduring bridges between the youth of both nations. While expressing their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation, the participants said that this event has been a great opportunity for them to experience the Japanese culture in an interactive way.

40 dengue cases reported in 24 hours in ICT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration on Thursday revealed that the Federal Capital has recorded 40 new dengue cases in the past 24 hours, and authorities conducted 1,742 fogging operations across the city as part of a large-scale anti-dengue campaign. The campaign, launched under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, involves continuous monitoring, awareness drives, and targeted actions against dengue breeding sites, said the spokesman of ICT administration here. In this regard, an important meeting chaired by the DC brought together medical experts to review recommendations for curbing the spread of dengue larvae. Assistant Commissioners have been deployed in different areas to oversee house-to-house fogging operations. The district administration said the

officials are ensuring that fumigation is carried out in both residential and commercial zones. Special attention is being given to areas identified as hotspots for dengue. During the last 24 hours, field teams conducted 977 inspections across Islamabad. These inspections led to the identification of 19 positive hotspots where dengue larvae were found and 19 negative hotspots where no breeding was detected. Alongside fumigation, teams are also running a door-to-door awareness campaign. Residents are being briefed on preventive measures, including removal of stagnant water and proper waste disposal, to eliminate potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The district administration confirmed that fogging was carried out at 1,742 locations in a single day. Officials stressed that the operations are aimed at covering

all reported areas, especially localities where new cases have been detected. The meeting chaired by the DC emphasized coordinated efforts between the administration, health professionals, and field teams. Experts reviewed the progress of preventive measures and put forward recommendations for stricter monitoring in high-risk zones. The district administration stated that the campaign will continue with daily inspections, fogging, and public awareness activities until the risk of dengue subsides. Teams have been instructed to maintain close coordination with local health facilities to track new cases and respond promptly in affected areas. Authorities urged citizens to cooperate with inspection teams and take preventive steps at the household level to support the ongoing anti-dengue drive.—DNA

Maqbool to promote translation of Arabic literature into Urdu

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, on Thursday, expressed his intent to promote the translation of Arabic literature into Urdu and Pakistani literature to foster knowledge-sharing and cultural exchange. He expressed these views during the meeting with the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, Fahad Khalaf Al-Kharusi. During the meeting, both sides expressed their commitment to further enhancing cooperation in the education sector. Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui emphasized that cooperation with Oman could be expanded in the teaching of the Arabic language and in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. He emphasized that learning the Arabic language was essential for a deeper understanding of the Holy Quran, and therefore, Arabic language courses would be introduced in schools and colleges. Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui highlighted that relations between Pakistan and Oman were rooted in history and based on mutual friendship, which contributed to regional stability. He added, "We will open new avenues of cooperation in the field of education with Oman." The Omani Ambassador observed that Oman has successfully embraced modernity while preserving its cultural heritage. The Omani Ambassador reaffirmed that collaboration would be strengthened between the Ministries of Education of both countries and extended an invitation to the Federal Minister to visit his office.—APP

Magsi stresses collective efforts to reduce pollution

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Khalid Hussain Magsi has said that pollution is one of the greatest challenges to Pakistan's health, environment, and economy, emphasizing that tackling it requires collective efforts at every level of society. He was addressing an interactive session titled "The Solution is to Reduce Pollution" organized by the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) at its auditorium in Islamabad on Thursday. The event brought together students, teachers, young scientists, and media representatives for a thought-provoking discussion on climate change and sustainable solutions. Highlighting the urgency of the issue, the minister said Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, where melting glaciers and extreme weather patterns pose grave risks to the country's agriculture-based economy. "Restoring ecological balance and reducing pollution is the need of the hour," he stressed, adding that the government's policies play an important role, but the country's future is directly linked with the vision and actions of its youth. The minister underlined that students, teachers, and young researchers are the true drivers of real change. "A strong sense of ownership of the country is the foundation of national progress," he noted, calling upon the youth to play a frontline role in awareness campaigns and initiatives against environmental degradation. He said that shifting to green energy, expanding tree plantation drives, and promoting sustainable scientific research are key to mitigating climate change effects. "Pakistan can only become prosperous and sustainable through collective efforts," the minister remarked. Speaking on the occasion, he reaffirmed that Pakistan Science Foundation has always promoted scientific thinking and research for the welfare of society. The session concluded with an open discussion where participants shared ideas on practical measures to combat pollution and climate change.—APP

Police round up 13 suspects

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police, in a series of operations, rounded up 13 suspects and seized over one kilogram of hashish, more than 75 litres of liquor, and illegal arms with ammunition from different areas. According to a police spokesman on Thursday, the Waris Khan Police apprehended one man and recovered 1.416 kilograms of hashish. Similarly, the Kallar Syedan Police held three men with 30 litres of liquor, while the Gujar Khan Police nabbed two others with 20 litres of liquor. The Bani Police caught one suspect with 10 litres of liquor, the Sadiqabad Police another with 10 litres of liquor, the Cantt Police one man with five litres of liquor, and the Saddar Wah Police a suspect with a bottle of liquor. Meanwhile, the Race Course, Gujar Khan and Dhamial Police arrested three suspects for possessing illegal arms and ammunition.—APP

Dengue prevention efforts accelerate in Murree

RAWALPINDI: In a bold move to safeguard public health, the district health department has ramped up its fight against dengue fever at various areas in Murree to monitor the recent dengue situation. Chief Executive Officer Health Dr. Azhar Mahmood Abbasi visited Union Council Trait and parts of Ghora Gali to inspect preventive measures. Dr. Noman Shaukat, Deputy District Officer Health, toured Union Council Murree City and Ghora Gali with surveillance teams. Meanwhile, Dr. Zulfiqar Satti Deputy District Officer Health, checked areas in Kotli Satiyan alongside the tehsil health inspector. The entomologists monitored indoor and outdoor activities in their respective union councils and evaluated team performance. Rescue 1122 and other government agencies continued their active support in the campaign. In various Murree areas, indoor residual spraying (IRS) and fogging operations were conducted. One case was registered against a violation of dengue standard operating procedures (SOPs), and another site was sealed. According to the health department, the total number of dengue patients in Murree district has now reached 112. Officials urged the public to fully cooperate with health teams, avoid stagnant water in homes and streets, and strictly follow dengue SOPs. The field maneuvering was made under the special instructions from Deputy Commissioner Murree Agha Zahir Abbas Shirazi. He emphasized that all institutions will work alongside the health department until dengue is completely eradicated, ensuring a safe environment through ongoing measures. APP

CCP approves Systems Ltd's acquisition of BAT SAA Services

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the proposed acquisition of SAA Services (Private) Limited by Systems Limited from the British American Tobacco International Holdings (UK) Limited. The transaction, executed under a Share Purchase Agreement, was reviewed under Phase-I of CCP's merger assessment framework in accordance with the Competition Act, 2010, said a release issued here on Thursday. Systems Limited, a leading Pakistani technology company in software development, BPO, and cloud services, will acquire full ownership of the captive service provider which currently operates within the global British American Tobacco Group. The entity provides IT and IT-enabled services such as HR, finance, procurement, and digital technology to group companies, without serving any external customers in Pakistan or internationally. After conducting its review, CCP concluded that the transaction raises no competition concerns as the target's operations are confined to the BAT Group and there is no overlap with Systems Limited in the domestic BPO sector. The Commission observed that while both companies are in the IT and IT-enabled services space, their customer bases are distinct and the deal does not consolidate market power or reduce competition. The acquisition is expected to bring strategic and economic benefits, enabling Systems Limited to leverage global expertise.—APP

Court Notice

IN THE COURT OF SHAMA YASEEN JUDGE FAMILY COURT RAWALPINDI

Application U/S 25 for Guardian and ward acts for the Minor Daughter namely Qurat Ul Ain Alias Aeni Aged about 9 year Muhammad Ikram Versus Mst.Noreen Notice to Mst.Noreen D/o Shahzada Khan R/o House No.Z-277, Street No.45, Milad Nagar, Dhock Ratta Rawalpindi

The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court personally, through counsel or attorney on 04-10-2025 at 8 am avoid ex-parte proceeding.

Ministry of HR celebrates Int'l Day of older persons

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Human Rights organized a ceremony in Islamabad today to mark the International Day of Older Persons. Federal Minister for Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, addressed the gathering, which was attended by representatives of civil society, senior citizens, community leaders, and partner organizations. In his address, the Minister paid tribute to the invaluable contributions of senior citizens, describing them as custodians of the nation's heritage, wisdom, and values. He emphasized that respect for elders is deeply embedded in Pakistan's cultural traditions and reinforced by Islamic teachings, noting the Hadith of the Holy Prophet (PBUH): "He is not one of us who does not show mercy to our

young ones and respect to our elders." The Minister underlined that the Government of Pakistan, under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, is committed to strengthening legal and institutional frameworks for the welfare and well-being of senior citizens. He highlighted the ICT Senior Citizens Act, 2021, through which tangible measures are being implemented, including the establishment of the Senior Citizens Fund and the development of Darul Shafaqat, a dedicated old-age home in the capital. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar further stressed that while legislation is important, real change requires a societal commitment where older persons are cherished, respected, and fully included in community

life. He emphasized that families, in particular, must devote quality time, love, and attention to their elders, as family care remains the strongest safeguard of dignity and well-being in old age. The Minister also drew attention to the growing impact of climate change on vulnerable populations, noting that older persons are among those most at risk during extreme weather events and natural disasters. He underscored the need for policies and community initiatives that take into account the specific challenges faced by the elderly in a changing climate. He appreciated the role of civil society, volunteers, and community workers, acknowledging their tireless efforts as the backbone of a compassionate and inclusive society.

Briefs

Police nab 14 criminals, recover drugs & weapons

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police arrested 14 criminals in separate actions and recovered narcotics and illegal weapons during an ongoing crackdown across the federal capital. An official told APP on Thursday that police teams from Golra, Sangiani, and Koral police stations apprehended seven accused and seized 2,850 grams of hashish, 1,900 grams of ice, and two pistols with ammunition from their possession. Cases have been registered against the accused, and further investigations are underway. He said that during a special campaign to apprehend proclaimed offenders and absconders, another seven criminals were also arrested. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Muhammad Jawad Tariq said the ICT Police is actively working to ensure the protection of citizens' lives and property, adding that no one will be allowed to disturb peace in the federal capital. —APP

SP inspects newly opened licensing counter

ISLAMABAD: Superintendent of Police (SP) Majid Iqbal visited and inspected the newly established licensing counter at the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) Headquarters in Faizabad, set up recently to facilitate citizens with improved licensing services. An official told APP on Thursday that during the visit, SP Majid Iqbal reviewed the arrangements made for the public at the new facility. He said Inspector Licensing In-charge Muhammad Shafiq briefed both the SP and citizens about the licensing process and services available at the counter. He added that citizens expressed their gratitude to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain (ret'd) Hamza Humayun for launching the new counter, terming it a positive initiative to reduce waiting time and improve service delivery. —APP

PRBC delegation meets Karachi Commissioner to boost eco ties

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan Romania Business Council (PRBC) met Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi, to discuss ways of expanding economic cooperation and building stronger ties between Pakistan and Romania. The delegation included PRBC Chairman Sohail Shamim Firpo, Advisor and Chief Operating Officer Atif Farooqi, and Regional Lead for Sindh, Jatin Kumar, said a PRBC press release. During the meeting, both sides highlighted the importance of strengthening trade links and encouraging people-to-people exchanges to support long-term cooperation. Commissioner Naqvi welcomed the initiative and underlined the role of city administration in facilitating business relations that contribute to growth and international collaboration. Discussions also touched on creating opportunities in trade, investment, and cultural exchange, reflecting the shared interests of both nations. PRBC Advisor and COO Atif Farooqi expressed appreciation for the support extended by Romania's Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Dan Stoenescu. He credited the Ambassador's efforts for laying the groundwork to enhance bilateral relations and promote trade. "His commitment has been a source of motivation for us, and we are proud to work alongside the Romanian Embassy in opening new avenues for cooperation," he said. The meeting further emphasized that closer interaction between Pakistani and Romanian business communities could play a vital role in diversifying markets, introducing new technologies, and expanding cultural understanding. The PRBC delegation noted that the council remains committed to working with government institutions to ensure that initiatives taken at the diplomatic level are translated into practical opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors. —APP

NUML hosts seminar to celebrate Int'l Translation Day

The celebration concluded with an expression of gratitude to all participants, reaffirming NUML's commitment to advancing translation studies, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and preparing students to shape a future built on trust and dialogue

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD : The Department of Translation & Interpretation, Faculty of Languages, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, organized a seminar to celebrate International Translation Day 2025 at Jinnah Auditorium, Salam Block, NUML. The event was graced by the presence of the Rector NUML, Maj. Gen. Shahid Mahmood Kayani HI (M) Retd, with enthusiastic participation from the university community including DG NUML, Brig (R) Nadeem Asghar, Pro-Rector, Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, faculty members, and students. The seminar commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Humaira Shahbaz, Director Department of Translation & Interpretation, who highlighted the significance of celebrating this day, 30th September, recognized by The United Nations, marked as International Translation Day under Resolution No. 288/75 passed on 24th May 2017. The theme for the year 2025 was announced as "Translation : Shaping the Future You Can Trust." Prof. Dr. Jamil Asghar Jami, Dean, Faculty of Languages, delivered the welcome address and emphasized that today, translation is held in high esteem precisely because of the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives, making this endeavor both meaningful and worthwhile. The highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by renowned scholar, educationist, poet, and anthropologist Professor Jalil Aali (TI). He particularly reflected on the complexities of translating poetry, with a special focus on creative writings and Naat, underlining the delicate balance between meaning, form, and cultural context. Rector NUML, shared the university's future plans and highlighted the upcoming project of "Bait-ul-Hikmah", the House of Wisdom, where the House of Translation will play a pivotal role. He also announced that NUML will begin publishing books in the future. A distinctive feature of the seminar this year was the acknowledgement of NUML's teaching faculty for their



contributions in the field of translation. For the first time, 17 faculty members were awarded certificates of acknowledgment and seminar shields in recognition of their published translated works. Certificates of acknowledgment and seminar shields were awarded to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Safeer Awan, Prof. Dr. Jamil Asghar Jami, and Dr. Ilyas Babar Awan from the English Department; Dr. Asma Naveed, Ms. Elena Sumina, Ms. Saniya Iskanova, and Ms. Yevgeniya Buch from the Russian Department; Dr. Abid Sial from the Urdu Department; Dr. Lubna Farrah and Dr. Muhammad Iqbal from the Arabic Department; Mr. Muhammad Safir Siddiqui from the

Bangla Department; Dr. Aamir Zaheer from the French Department; and Dr. Amber Yasmin, Dr. Muhammad Safeer, Dr. Shagufta Yaseen Abbasi, Dr. Muhammad Fayyaz, and Dr. Humaira Shahbaz from the Persian Department. Their published translated works stand as a testament to NUML's academic excellence and commitment to promoting intercultural understanding through translation. The celebration concluded with an expression of gratitude to all participants, reaffirming NUML's commitment to advancing translation studies, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and preparing students to shape a future built on trust and dialogue.

Ahsan confident of resolving AJK people's issues through dialogue

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday reaffirmed the government's pledge to resolve the public concerns and protests in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) through dialogue and legal means. He was speaking to the media before his departure to Muzaffarabad as part of a high-level committee, constituted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to assess the ground situation and engage with stakeholders in AJK. "A high-level delegation is going to AJK capital, Muzaffarabad to assess the situation firsthand and hold talks with the people there," he said, adding that wherever legal solutions were possible, the government was fully prepared to play its role in addressing the legitimate concerns of the people of Azad Kashmir. Acknowledging the sentiments of the patriotic local population, the minister urged the calm and caution, amid growing regional and global tensions. "The current situation in the region, and around the world, is extremely sensitive. There are elements that want to exploit any unrest in Pakistan to further their agendas. It is imperative that we do not create conditions that could be used against the country's peace and stability," he added. Ahsan Iqbal assured that the Federal Government was fully aware of the people's concerns and was committed to taking all necessary steps to resolve them in a peaceful and constructive manner. "We respect the feelings of the people of Azad Kashmir and assure them that their concerns will not be ignored. We hope that, through mutual dialogue, all issues can be resolved in a positive and peaceful environment," he remarked. —DNA

China-Pakistan agri-tech, skill uplift summit concludes in Qingzhou

ISLAMABAD: The high-level China-Pakistan Conference on Collaborative Innovation in Modern Agriculture and Industry-Education Integration concluded in Qingzhou with both sides pledging to accelerate cooperation in agriculture, vocational training, and technology transfer under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The conference, held over the past week, served as a landmark platform for academia, industry, and government leaders to finalize a strategy for a comprehensive, skilled workforce and technology transfer program. According to a Gwadar Pro's report, the Pakistani delegation, which included prominent figures from both the government and educational sectors, emphasized the urgency of modernizing agricultural and technical education to leverage China's technological leadership. The high-level Pakistani delegation outlined their vision for the future of skill development. Nadir Chattha, Secretary of the Skills Development Government of Punjab, highlighted the need for international-standard vocational courses to create high-value employment. He stressed that aligning training with Chinese industry demands is essential for successful

job placements for Pakistani youth. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran, Vice Chancellor of The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, highlighted the importance of joint curricula and dual-certification programs, while Punjab TEVTA officials emphasized integrating Chinese language and digital skills into training. Delegates also outlined large-scale student and faculty exchanges to strengthen cooperation. On the agricultural front, Dr. Tanveer Ahmad of MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, underlined collaboration in high-yield horticulture, cotton seed development, and climate-resilient farming suited to Pakistan's ecological zones. Private sector partners also announced commitments to support skill development. UNI International pledged to link training directly with industry demand, while ITMC Technology confirmed plans to provide digital infrastructure and precision agriculture software to support Pakistan's transition toward Smart Agriculture. The conference concluded with the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), paving the way for joint innovation centers, faculty training, and student immersion programs in the coming year. —DNA

Balochistan govt orders tanker water from Mirani Dam

The tanker deliveries are only a stopgap until Shadi Kaur Dam, the GPA desalination plant and the sensor boring system can operate at full capacity. Longer-term planning was also discussed to prevent future crises in Gwadar.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar's worsening water crisis has forced authorities to adopt emergency measures, including tanker supplies from Mirani Dam, as the port city endures its second year without meaningful rainfall. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Turbat had received its first rain in 379 days on August 21 while Pasni in Gwadar district saw 6 millimeters on August 22 after 354 dry days. But Gwadar itself, along with Jiwhani, Dalbandin, Nokkundi and Panjgur, remains thirsty, heightening pressure on its overstrained dams and pipelines, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. On September 17, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti chaired a meeting in Gwadar, ordering the transfer of the city's wa-

ter distribution network to the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA). On September 21, GDA reactivated an 83-kilometer pipeline from Shadi Kaur Dam, restoring two million gallons per day (MGD) to the system after more than three years. However, the line has not been able to operate at full capacity due to technical problems. Some officials noted that because the supply system had remained idle for three years, problems were inevitable as it came back online. Moreover, Anika Dam had already dried up and Sawad Dam was close to depletion. With shortages persisting, Sarfraz Bugti on Monday convened another high-level session with provincial and district officials, including MPA Hidayatur Rehman, GDA Director General Moin-ur-Rehman Khan and Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman

Noor-ul-Haq Baloch. "The first priority is to ensure that Shadi Kaur Dam is fully connected and operating at full capacity," Bugti said, adding that there should be no excuses for delays. "The second is tanker supply; and there must be no discrepancy in the service." He ordered immediate tanker deliveries from Mirani Dam and directed that supplies begin the same day under GPA supervision. Mirani Dam is located near Turbat in Kech district, about 125 to 130 kilometers northeast of Gwadar city. It was built mainly to irrigate the Kech valley but has also been used as an emergency water source for Gwadar when local dams dry up. Sarfraz Bugti ordered ensuring transparency in tanker supplies. "There must be no compromise on transparency in the tanker supplies," he said, instructing GPA and GDA leadership to maintain full oversight. Later in the day,

a follow-up meeting chaired by Baloch reviewed mechanisms to ensure transparency in the tanker operation. Committees comprising representatives of the district administration, GDA and the Public Health Engineering Department were tasked with monitoring registration, water quality and delivery volumes. Late Tuesday night, the GDA issued a notice inviting bids from tanker owners to transport water from Mirani Dam to Gwadar. The notice directed interested operators to submit proposals by 11 a.m. on Oct. 1, specifying rates either per trip or per gallon of water, as authorities moved to formalize the emergency supply system. The tanker deliveries are only a stopgap until Shadi Kaur Dam, the GPA desalination plant and the sensor boring system can operate at full capacity. Longer-term planning was also discussed to prevent future crises in Gwadar.

Pakistan, Tajikistan explore avenues to enhance trade cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 6th Session of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Tajikistan was held in Dushanbe, wherein the two sides explored avenues to enhance trade, particularly through increased collaboration in textiles, logistics, agriculture and food, and pharmaceuticals. The Pakistani delegation was led by Additional Foreign Secretary (West Asia and Afghanistan), Syed Ali Asad Gillani, while the Tajik side was headed by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Farrukh Sharifzoda. Discussions covered a wide range of bilateral matters, including political and parliamentary ties, trade and investment, defence and security, energy, connectivity, cultural and educational exchanges, multilateral cooperation, and consular affairs. Both sides noted the positive trajectory of bilateral ties and emphasized the role of high-level visits, which continue to provide renewed impetus to the partnership. They underscored the significance of regional transport corridors and reaffirmed their commitment to the early operationalization of CASA-1000, aimed at strengthening regional integration and energy security. Defence and security cooperation was reviewed, with discussions covering counter-terrorism efforts, training programs, and exchange of visits.

The two sides exchanged views on regional and international issues, including developments in South Asia and the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Both sides emphasized the importance of diplomacy and adherence to the principles of the UN Charter in resolving conflicts. The consultations were held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere. Both sides agreed to hold the 7th session of Bilateral Political Consultations in Islamabad in 2026. During the visit, Additional Secretary held meetings with First Deputy Minister of Transport, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade; and Director of Centre for Advanced Training of Diplomats, besides visiting Panj Free Economic Zone (FEZ) and Commercial Customs Facility at Panji Payon.

Precaution over panic urged to combat lumpy skin disease

RAWALPINDI: Farmers should focus on precautionary measures rather than panic in view of the spread of lumpy skin disease among cattle, livestock expert Dr Arshad Latif Arshad said on Thursday. He explained that the disease manifested as lumps and swelling on the animal's skin, which could weaken them and reduce milk production. However, with timely treatment and preventive care, most animals recovered. Dr Arshad said the infection could spread from one animal to another through mosquitoes, flies and other insects. Farmers were therefore advised to keep cattle sheds clean, shield their animals from insects, and immediately isolate any infected livestock to avoid transmission. They should also consult local veterinary doctors for treatment. He emphasised that although lumpy skin disease was dangerous for cattle, it did not spread to humans. "Farmers need not be alarmed, but must ensure cleanliness and preventive measures," he stressed. To contain the disease, he added, checkpoints had been set up at the district's entry and exit points. APP

Chuntra Police nab fugitive wanted in terror, murder cases

RAWALPINDI: The Chuntra Police have apprehended a proclaimed offender wanted in terrorism and murder cases during a major operation. According to a Rawalpindi Police spokesman on Thursday, the fugitive, along with his brother, had opened fire on a raiding police party, leaving an Elite Force assistant sub-inspector and a constable injured. His brother was already in custody. Acting on technical and human intelligence, the Chuntra Police traced and captured the fugitive. Superintendent of Police Sadder Muhammad Nabeel Khokhar said the accused would be challaned in court with solid evidence. He asserted that those who attack the lives of police personnel and citizens could not escape the clutches of the law. —APP

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Wake-up call in Azad Kashmir

AZAD Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has witnessed one of its most serious political and social crises in recent years, as protests turned violent, leaving more than ten people dead, including several policemen. The unrest has shaken the region, long considered relatively stable compared to other conflict-hit parts of Pakistan, and has sparked urgent calls for dialogue and reform. The protests erupted after years of simmering discontent among sections of the Kashmiri population. Demonstrators are demanding greater rights, a larger share in the legislative assembly, and, most controversially, the abolition of the migrant quota in the assembly. Protest leaders argue that the reserved seats for Kashmiri migrants, many of whom live outside AJK, are being misused. According to their point of view, these seats allow the establishment to place its preferred individuals in the assembly, tilting the balance of power at will. They allege that this mechanism has been used to influence government formation and undermine genuine representation of the people living in AJK. Initially, the government sought to quell the protests with the use of force, deploying security personnel to disperse crowds and restore order. However, the situation escalated tragically when security operations led to the killing of protesters, further fueling anger and resentment. Only after the bloodshed did the government extend an olive branch, announcing that a high-level committee would visit Muzaffarabad on October 2 to engage with the protestors' representatives. Despite the committee's visit, no breakthrough has been achieved. The Protestors' Action Committee has made it clear that they will not back down until their demands are addressed in a meaningful way. They are seeking not only reforms within the assembly but also broader measures to ensure that the voice of ordinary Kashmiris is respected in policymaking. The crisis represents more than a local governance issue; it is a wake-up call for Islamabad. After years of instability in Balochistan, AJK must not be allowed to become another ground where external enemies can exploit internal divisions. The region's proximity to the Line of Control with India raises the stakes even higher. Analysts caution that India, with its history of involvement in Kashmir, could attempt to take advantage of the unrest to destabilize Pakistan and weaken its grip on the region. In this context, the federal and AJK governments face a difficult but unavoidable task. The use of brute force has already proven counterproductive, resulting in loss of precious lives and deepening mistrust. The only sustainable path forward is meaningful dialogue and political reform. Bringing all stakeholders on board—including protesters, opposition parties, and civil society—will be crucial in forging a consensus that addresses legitimate grievances while protecting the region from further instability. Azad Kashmir's unrest serves as a stark reminder: ignoring voices of discontent, or attempting to silence them through coercion, risks pushing people towards alienation. Pakistan cannot afford another prolonged internal crisis, particularly in such a strategically sensitive region. The time for half-measures has passed—what is required now is sincerity, inclusivity, and swift action before the situation spirals further out of control.

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Poverty in Pakistan – A Nation left behind

THE latest report by the World Bank has delivered a sobering reality check for Pakistan. According to its findings, poverty in the country has surged by 7 percent, pushing the overall poverty rate to around 26 percent. This revelation should have shaken the conscience of policymakers, yet the silence and complacency surrounding the issue are deafening. What makes the situation worse is the World Bank's observation that no comprehensive household survey has been conducted in Pakistan for the past three years. Without reliable data, even the grim figure of 26 percent may understate the true scale of human suffering across the country. This rise in poverty is especially tragic given that the present government has repeatedly portrayed itself as "poor-friendly." Lofty slogans of social justice, subsidies for the marginalized, and promises of inclusive growth have proven hollow. The bitter truth is that poverty is not only rising—it is becoming entrenched. Millions of families lack access to basic amenities such as clean drinking water, healthcare, education, and affordable housing. For the poor, daily survival itself has become a battle. The contrast between the elite and the ordinary citizen has never been starker. While a small, privileged class enjoys lavish lifestyles—driving imported cars, holding extravagant events, and siphoning resources through corruption—the masses are left with little more than despair. This glaring inequality is not merely an economic issue but a moral crisis, eating away at the very fabric of our society. It breeds resentment, weakens social cohesion, and threatens the stability of the state itself. Corruption lies at the heart of this malaise. When public resources meant for schools, hospitals, and social safety nets are diverted into private pockets, the poor are effectively told that their lives do not matter. The message is clear: if you are wealthy, the system serves you; if you are poor, you have no rights. Such a system cannot sustain itself. No nation can progress when nearly one-third of its population is trapped in poverty, robbed of opportunities, and denied dignity. What is most alarming is the absence of urgency in addressing the crisis. Poverty alleviation requires more than token subsidies or temporary relief packages. It demands structural reforms: an overhaul of governance, a crackdown on corruption, investment in education and healthcare, and policies that generate jobs rather than mere rhetoric. Equally important is the need for credible data collection. Without accurate statistics, policymaking becomes guesswork—and guesswork has already cost this country dearly. Pakistan stands at a crossroads. If the present trajectory continues—where corruption flourishes, inequality widens, and poverty deepens—the future will be one of perpetual economic stagnation and social unrest. But if leaders muster the will to act, prioritizing the welfare of the people over the comforts of the elite, there is still hope. The choice is stark, and the time is running out. Poverty is not just an economic indicator—it is a national emergency. Unless confronted with honesty and determination, it will condemn millions more Pakistanis to lives of hardship and hopelessness, while the dream of a prosperous Pakistan remains out of reach.

The Forgotten 804

Qamar Bashir



Khan's removal was achieved through the time-tested formula of intrigue, betrayal, and manipulation. Once firmly established in power, his popularity was not eroded by scandal or economic collapse but by conspiracies spun from within, aided by external encouragement. He was stabbed in the back by allies, deceived by those he trusted, and undermined by the very establishment that should have protected him. His removal through a no-confidence vote in 2022 was presented as constitutional theater, but the timing and the subsequent unfolding of events revealed a deeper orchestration. He was expected, even by detractors, to return to power after elections

IN the long arc of global politics, some stories are not merely about one man or one nation, but about the deliberate removal of obstacles that could derail larger designs. The imprisonment of Imran Khan, referred to by many as the forgotten "Prisoner 804," is not only a chapter in Pakistan's turbulent democracy but part of a larger geopolitical strategy in which the United States, Israel, and their allies sought to ensure that no disruptive force could interfere with their unfolding project in the Middle East. His incarceration is not just a punishment for defiance at home; it is a calculated silencing of a leader whose stubborn refusal to obey foreign dictates could have unsettled the plan to reshape Palestine, neutralize resistance, and entrench the vision of a greater Israel. The United States has long been accused of thinking not just about present crises but of planning far ahead, identifying potential threats to its policies and eliminating them before they can materialize. From Latin America in the 20th century to the Middle East after 9/11, the record is replete with instances of intervention, destabilization, and regime change to pave the way for American interests. Pakistan, with its nuclear arsenal and ideological centrality to the Muslim world, has always been watched with particular suspicion whenever a leader emerged who spoke of independence, dignity, or solidarity with oppressed Muslims abroad. Imran Khan, by the time he matured into a national statesman, fit this profile perfectly: a man too self-confident to obey and too popular to be ignored. It was during one of his interviews that the world caught a glimpse of his defiance. Asked whether Pakistan would allow American bases on its soil, his answer was sharp, unequivocal, and without diplomatic varnish: "Absolutely not." For Washington, such a response was more than a sound bite. It was a warning that when the time came to launch broader operations in the region, including in Gaza, Khan would be an unpredictable and dangerous obstacle. The United States and Israel were moving towards their long-prepared campaign to dismantle Hamas and, more brutally, to ethnically cleanse Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank. In that plan, Pakistan mattered. Its nuclear status, its army's conventional strength, its historic role in the Muslim world, and the ability of its leader to mobilize opinion could all complicate the campaign. And so, before the bombs fell on Gaza, before the massacres of civilians filled the headlines, Pakistan's loudest and most defiant voice was removed from the stage and locked in prison. Khan's removal was achieved through the time-tested formula of intrigue, betrayal, and manipulation. Once firmly established in power, his popularity was not eroded by scandal or economic collapse but by conspiracies spun from within, aided by external encouragement. He was stabbed in the back by allies, deceived by those he trusted, and undermined

by the very establishment that should have protected him. His removal through a no-confidence vote in 2022 was presented as constitutional theater, but the timing and the subsequent unfolding of events revealed a deeper orchestration. He was expected, even by detractors, to return to power after elections. Yet the military establishment, in close alignment with U.S. preferences, ensured that even that possibility was closed off. For Washington, it was not enough to remove him once; they had to make sure he could never again return to disrupt the silence that was required when Gaza burned. What followed was a demonstration of how external powers reward obedience and punish defiance. The civilian government led by Shehbaz Sharif and the military leadership under General Asim Munir quickly aligned themselves with Washington's designs. Donald Trump himself revealed that both Sharif and Munir had been taken into confidence during the preparations for the U.S. strike on Iran and Israel's onslaught on Gaza. The symbolism was unmistakable. For the first time in living memory, the president of the United States bypassed Pakistan's civilian prime minister and held direct consultations with a serving general, elevating a subordinate servant of the state to the rank of geopolitical partner. The bypassing of the civilian chain of command spoke volumes: it was a reminder that power in Pakistan could be stabilized or destabilized at Washington's will, depending on whether it complied or resisted. The results were immediate and telling. When Israel unleashed its fury on Gaza and the West Bank, demolishing neighborhoods, bombing hospitals, and slaughtering women, children, and journalists, Pakistan's response was muted. The country that had historically been among the loudest defenders of the Palestinian cause was suddenly silent. The same Pakistan whose leaders once thundered in international forums against Israeli occupation now mumbled routine statements while ensuring that no real action was taken. The silence was not accidental; it was the price paid for staying in power. Washington, in turn, ensured that Pakistan's economy did not collapse entirely. IMF loans were eased, debt repayments were tolerated, and inflation was kept under some measure of control. The army and police were allowed to unleash brute force against protesters without fear of sanctions or reprimand. In exchange for obedience, the state was stabilized enough to carry out Washington's commands. Meanwhile, Prisoner 804 remained behind bars. Courts disregarded arguments by senior advocates and witnesses, not because the evidence was weak but because justice was never the point. The plan was clear: Imran Khan was to remain imprisoned until the Israeli project in Palestine was complete. His release, whether legally warranted or not, would have risked giving voice to the Muslim world at a moment when

silence was most precious to Israel and its backers. His love for Islam, his admiration for the Prophet, his ability to galvanize millions of ordinary Pakistanis, and his influence across the Muslim world posed the very real danger of rallying states to oppose the genocide in Gaza. He could have called for collective action, perhaps even kinetic action, uniting Pakistan with Iran or other Muslim nations to confront Israeli aggression. That risk could not be taken, and so he was kept locked away, forgotten by the courts, ignored by the establishment, and silenced by force. In this tragic arrangement, Pakistan has been reduced to a pawn. Its elected leadership lacks legitimacy, having been installed "by hook or by crook," without genuine majority support. Its military leadership has overstayed retirements and rules with impunity, rewarded for obedience and secured by foreign approval. Together, they preside over a silenced population, cowed into submission by fear of the army and police, pacified by small economic concessions, and deprived of the leader who once embodied their aspirations for independence. The entire spectacle demonstrates how Washington's leverage works: stabilize those who obey, destabilize those who defy. The case of the forgotten 804, therefore, is not merely about one man's imprisonment. It is about the systematic silencing of resistance in the Muslim world to clear the path for Israel's project of ethnic cleansing and annexation. It is about the quiet submission of a nuclear-armed nation to foreign diktats, reduced from potential leader of an Islamic bloc to a bystander while atrocities unfold before the world's eyes. It is about the reminder that in the theater of geopolitics, legality, democracy, and even human life itself are subordinated to the interests of the powerful. Yet history has a way of proving that silence never lasts forever. Imran Khan's imprisonment may achieve its short-term purpose, but the questions it raises will not vanish. How long can Pakistan endure the contradiction between its people's convictions and its rulers' obedience? How long can the Muslim world remain fragmented when the suffering of Palestinians continues to demand a collective response? And how long can any leader who bends too easily to foreign will sustain their own legitimacy at home? The forgotten 804 may one day emerge, and if he does, it will not only be as a man but as the embodiment of a suppressed nation's voice. Until then, his silence echoes in every demolished home in Gaza, every unmarked grave in the West Bank, and every tear of those who still look to Pakistan for leadership and find only compliance. – Press Secretary to the President (Rtd) Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France Former Press Attache to Malaysia Former MD, SRBC Macomb, Michigan, USA

The Shepherd of Hatred Across the Border

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



This poisonous shepherd has even thrown sport, the universal playground of peace, into the furnace of his vengeance. Behind closed doors, Indian and Pakistani players share handshakes, meals, and moments of brotherhood, but once on the field, the madness of the shepherd takes hold

THE life of a shepherd is an endless tale of labor, struggle, and perseverance. From the first light of dawn until the stars pierce the velvet of night, he trudges across barren fields and treacherous mountains. The rocks cut his feet, the winds bite his skin, yet he presses on because the survival of his sheep and goats depends upon him. Over time, a strange intimacy develops between him and his flock. With a wave of his stick, the animals change direction; with a murmur of his voice, they halt. He breeds them, protects them, and sacrifices his comfort for theirs. His authority rests not upon cruelty but upon care, for the true shepherd knows that his worth lies in safeguarding the lives entrusted to him. But there are those who corrupt this image for darker designs. Some men fancy themselves shepherds of nations, but in truth, they are nothing more than deceivers. They imagine millions of human beings to be nothing but herds to be driven wherever they please. They confuse authority with ownership, leadership with domination. They take the noble staff of the shepherd and turn it into a rod of tyranny. Such is the tragedy we see across our border, where the cool breeze of peace is constantly turned into sparks of enmity. India, instead of embracing the blessings of good neighborly relations, often chooses to fan the fires of hatred. Its politics, time and again, reveals the same pattern; when elections draw near, new dramas are staged, new villains are cast, and new spectacles of hostility are put on display. If the spectacle begins to falter, if the script threatens to flop, the quickest remedy is found in manufacturing conflict with Pakistan. It is a diversion, a sinister trick, but one repeated so often that even humanity blushes at the brazenness of it.

The Indian leadership imagines itself the Chaudhry of South Asia – the unchallenged gangster of the neighborhood. They believe they can bully smaller nations, trample over international norms, and drive their people like sheep with slogans of false grandeur. They see not one billion and forty-five crore individuals with rights, hopes, and dignity, but a herd to be manipulated. In this delusion, they have not raised sheep but have created confused and hateful creatures who thrive on violence and hatred, swooping down on their neighbors as well as their own kind. This poisonous shepherd has even thrown sport, the universal playground of peace, into the furnace of his vengeance. Behind closed doors, Indian and Pakistani players share handshakes, meals, and moments of brotherhood, but once on the field, the madness of the shepherd takes hold. Cricket, which should have been a bridge, becomes another battlefield where hostility is performed for domestic applause. Hatred, rehearsed in political arenas, is exported to stadiums and carried forward by fans as though it were sacred duty. Having gained awareness, those who initially declined the trophy are now asking to claim it. Let it be shown that it is the shepherd who has been leading them astray. Yet history has already reminded this shepherd of his limits. Not long ago, in a moment of reckless adventurism, India's aggression was met with a sharp and decisive response from Pakistan. That single day, that single dose of medicine, cured the fever of its delusions. But memories are short, and arrogance returns quickly. They should remember well that the pill of yesterday was mild compared to the injection that could follow tomorrow. And Pakistan, calm but vigilant, possesses many such remedies in stock – remedies potent enough to restore sanity to even the most fanatical of shepherds.

The greatest tragedy, however, lies not in the shepherd's arrogance but in the suffering of his flock. The ordinary people of India – men and women who yearn for peace, progress, and dignity – are led astray by slogans of hate. They are taught to see neighbors as enemies, not brothers; to see peace as weakness, not strength. Their dreams of prosperity are sacrificed on the altar of political theatre. In following their shepherd, they too are driven into the wilderness of enmity, paying the price for ambitions that are not their own. But such delusions cannot last forever. History has no patience with shepherds who breed hatred. Empires have risen and fallen on the same arrogance. Tyrants have strutted the stage, imagining themselves invincible, only to be swept aside by the winds of justice. India's fanatic shepherd may play his games for a while, but in the end he too will face the consequences of his deception. Hatred is a fire that first consumes the one who kindles it. The lesson is simple, though difficult for the arrogant to accept; true leadership is stewardship, not domination. The real shepherd sacrifices for his flock; the false shepherd sacrifices his flock for himself. If Indian leaders were to embrace the former path, South Asia could become a garden of peace, prosperity, and cooperation. If they persist in the latter, they will reap only isolation, disgrace, and eventual ruin. Let the shepherd across the border remember; the world has already seen through the masquerade. His stick no longer inspires fear, only pity. And when the final reckoning comes, when the time arrives for him to answer for the flames he has kindled, no delusion will shield him, no boast will save him. For the destiny of the false shepherd is always the same; contempt in life, disgrace in history, and oblivion in memory.

Briefs

Shehbaz orders probe into AJK...

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federal ministers Sardar Yusuf and Ahsan Iqbal, Senator Rana Sanaullah, former AJK president Masood Khan, and Qamar Zaman Kaira in the body. He instructed the negotiation committee to immediately travel to Muzaffarabad and find an immediate and lasting solution to the issues. The premier also announced to personally oversee the negotiation process upon his return to the country. The prime minister also appealed to the members and leadership of the Action Committee to cooperate with the government's negotiation committee, which would submit its recommendations and proposed solutions to the Prime Minister's Office without delay for immediate resolution of the issues. A day earlier, federal minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry offered negotiations to the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) amid ongoing protests.

High level body talks to JAAC...

FROM PAGE 01
as federal ministers Sardar Yusuf and Ahsan Iqbal, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Masood Khan, and PPP's Qamar Zaman Kaira. Photos shared by Chaudhry on X showed him, Kaira, Sanaullah, Iqbal, Kashmir Affairs Federal Minister Amir Muqam, PPP leader Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Religious Affairs Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousuf among those participating in today's negotiations. Before the delegation left for AJK capital Muzaffarabad, members of a government negotiating committee spoke to the media in Islamabad and stressed the need for dialogue to end the unrest that has gripped AJK for the past three days.

Pakistan demands release of...

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the Fourth Geneva Convention. "Pakistan reiterates its call for an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire across all Occupied Palestinian Territories; the lifting of the illegal blockade of Gaza; unfettered access and provision of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people; immediate release of all humanitarian workers and activists onboard the flotilla; full respect for international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law; and accountability for Israel's repeated violations of international law," the spokesperson added.

Ex-senator Mushtaq Ahmed...

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The flotilla, comprising 45 vessels carrying international activists and politicians, began its journey from Spain last month in an effort to challenge Israel's blockade of Gaza. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned the recent Israeli attack on the Samud Gaza flotilla, describing it as a "dastardly" act. In a post X, he said that Pakistan "strongly condemns the dangerously attack by Israeli forces on the 40-vessel Samud Gaza flotilla, carrying over 450 humanitarian workers from 44 countries."

Why she should...

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She also addressed the significant differences between public and private school systems, stating that one of her key goals is to eliminate the gap between these two sectors. Maryam also revealed that the provincial government has initiated numerous educational reforms, including providing scholarships to over 80,000 students pursuing higher education and improving the infrastructure of public schools and universities.



PESHAWAR: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani presenting a souvenir to Mr Jahangir Khan, a participant of the Pakistan Business Summit in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. – DNA

‘Normal’ Sinner romps to 21st title but Swiatek stunned in Beijing

Jannik Sinner won the 21st title of his career by thrashing American teenager Learner Tien at the China Open

BEIJING: Jannik Sinner won the 21st title of his career by thrashing American teenager Learner Tien at the China Open on Wednesday as women's top seed Iga Swiatek was dumped out in the last 16 in a shock. The Italian Sinner lifted the trophy for the second time on Beijing's hard courts, having done so on his tournament debut in 2023, and a return to world number one is within view after a ruthless 6-2, 6-2 win. Sinner's only ever loss on the centre Diamond Court has been to great rival and top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, who won last year's final in three gripping sets. "A very, very special place for me," said the victorious Sinner, who got past a couple of three-set scares and a bout of diarrhoea to reach the final. Alcaraz was not defending his title in the Chinese capital and on Tuesday won the Japan Open in Tokyo. Sinner is the third man to win multiple China Open titles, matching Rafael Nadal's record at two but so far well short of Novak Djokovic's six. "I always say comparing me to Novak, he's in a different league with everything he has achieved in his career," Sinner, a four-time Grand Slam champion, said. "I'm just a normal 24-year-old who tries to play the best tennis possible." But he added that his silverware collection has outgrown his home, telling reporters his trophies go "in my parents' place always". "My apartment is quite small, so there's not a lot of space." Sinner broke immediately in the first set on the way to outclassing the 19-year-old Tien, who was in his first ATP final. The world no. 52 got a rare chance to break in the second game of the second set but Sinner quickly retook control, ending a one-sided match with 10 aces over the 1h 12min final. "I just think the pressure he puts on you point to



point is really tough," said Tien, who had been bidding to become Beijing's lowest-ranked champion in tournament history. As it was, he was never really in the final, despite some flashes of his rich potential. Sinner's emphatic win was his third title this season, after victories at the Australian Open and Wimbledon. He may now be able to snatch back the top ranking before the season ends after Alcaraz pulled out of the Shanghai Masters injured on Tuesday.

The Spaniard took the world number one ranking from Sinner when he defeated the Italian in the US Open final last month. Sinner will be the top seed in Shanghai, which began this week and where he is defending champion. In the women's draw in Beijing, Emma Navarro stunned Poland's world number two Swiatek 6-4, 4-6, 6-0 to reach the quarter-finals. The six-time Grand Slam champion hit 70 unforced errors across the nearly two-and-a-half hour struggle – her second-most ever in a single 1000-level match. "I just played bad today," Swiatek said as she dispelled fears of injury. "I kind of knew what I'm doing, but I don't know, I was just stuck in doing it wrong rather than actually solving it." Navarro, world no. 17, next plays either fellow American Jessica Pegula or Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk. Swiatek, who won the China Open in 2023, saved four break points in the very first game but struggled for fluency throughout the first set, firing a slew of shots just long. She sent down six aces and wrestled back control in the second set, but a commanding Navarro raced away with the deciding set as Swiatek's game spectacularly deserted her. "I definitely had some adjusting to do after our last couple times playing," said the 24-year-old, who had lost both previous meetings to Swiatek. "I wanted to come out and play calm and steady and focused tennis. "I did that, so I'm happy with the way the match went tonight." Britain's Sonay Kartal beat world number five Mirra Andrejeva 7-5, 2-6, 7-5 in another surprise to clinch her first top-10 win. Kartal, ranked 81st, next plays world no. 27 Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic in what will be her first 1000-level quarter-final. – Agencies

Pakistani equestrian Usman Khan books 2026 Asian Games berth

Khan emerges as highest-ranked Asian rider at three-star eventing competition in France

KARACHI: Pakistani equestrian Usman Khan has booked a place at the 2026 Asian Games after securing the Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) at an international three-star eventing competition in Lignieres, France. Riding Eden of the Veret, Khan finished sixth overall in a competitive field of 59 riders, completing the CCI3*L event with a score of 32.9 penalties. He also emerged as the highest-ranked Asian rider at the competition, where France's Camille Lejeune claimed the two spot. The result confirmed Khan's qualification for the Asian Games, where all competitors are required to achieve MER standards in accordance with the International Federation for Equestrian Sports rules. To qualify, athletes must record penalty scores below 45 in dressage, a clear cross-country round within 75 seconds of

the optimum time, and fewer than 16 faults in show jumping. In the team standings, Pakistan placed second behind hosts France in the "Battle of Nations," outperforming regional rival India, whose rider Ashish Limaye finished ninth. The contest saw a dramatic shift in fortunes over three days. On Day 1, India led marginally after dressage. Day 2's cross-country phase saw Khan post one of the fastest clear rounds to push Pakistan ahead. On the final day, Khan delivered a double-clear show jumping round, sealing both his MER and a convincing win over India. "Alhamdulillah," Khan said in a message after the prize-giving ceremony. "This was a tournament where the world's top riders and nations came together. To finish sixth overall and qualify for the Asian Games while placing Pakistan second in the team standings is a proud moment." Khan's qualification marks another step forward for Pakistan in international equestrian sports. The rider is now set to represent Pakistan at the 2026 Asian Games, where eventing will be contested over three phases: dressage, cross-country and show jumping. – Agencies

Ramos snatches Champions League holders PSG late win at Barca

Ferran Torres sent hosts Barcelona ahead with a cool finish but Senny Mayulu fired a depleted PSG level before half-time

BARCELONA: Champions League holders Paris Saint-Germain stunned Barcelona with a 90th-minute Goncalo Ramos winner to claim a 2-1 away victory in the league stage on Wednesday. Ferran Torres sent hosts Barcelona ahead with a cool finish but Senny Mayulu fired a depleted PSG level before half-time. It was an even and thoroughly entertaining bout between two of the competition's favourites at the Olympic stadium which was eventually settled by Ramos' late strike, as PSG exploited Barca's high defensive line. Hansi Flick

selected Torres over veteran striker Robert Lewandowski and also benched Ronald Araujo for Eric Garcia, after the Uruguayan's red card against PSG in 2024. PSG coach Luis Enrique, who won the treble with Barcelona in 2015, was lacking several key players and his team held on at times but eventually got the better of last season's semi-finalists. "If you let in a goal in the last minute and you lose at home, you're going to be disappointed," Barcelona midfielder Frankie de Jong told Movistar. "There's a long way to go in the Champions League. It was a good game to test where we are, we have to improve. We know that and we will do it." Barcelona and PSG have not been on the best of terms over the past decade, with the Catalan recording one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the game in 2017 with a 6-1 win over the Parisians. – Agencies

University of Gwadar wins opening football match

ISLAMABAD: The University of Gwadar (UG) began the Inter-Universities Sports Festival 2025 with a 6-0 victory over the University of Loralai in Quetta on, underscoring the city's growing focus on education and youth development alongside its role as a strategic port. Gwadar Pro reported UG striker Jehand Scored a hat-trick, while Sagheer added two goals and Amir one in the win at Ayub Stadium. – Agencies

Haaland scores twice but Man City denied by Monaco in Champions League

Eric Dier's late penalty handed Monaco a 2-2 draw with Manchester City in the Champions League

MONACO: Eric Dier's late penalty handed Monaco a 2-2 draw with Manchester City in the Champions League on Wednesday as an Erling Haaland double was not enough to give Pep Guardiola's side the victory. The Norwegian striker netted twice in the first half for City either side of a Jordan Tettey stunner, taking his tally for the season to 11 goals in eight games in all competitions. It looked as though the 2023 European champions would leave the principality with a second win in as many outings in this season's league phase, but they were denied by a 90th-minute spot-kick. Nico Gonzalez was penalised for a high boot on Dier inside the area at a Monaco free-kick, with Spanish referee Jesus Gil Manzano eventually pointing to the spot after a long VAR check. Dier stepped up to send Gianluigi Donnarumma the wrong way from the penalty, as Monaco claimed a first point in this season's Champions League and City moved onto four points from two outings following their win against Napoli last time out. "That was a good game. We made some decisions, we created a lot of chances," Guardiola told broadcaster TNT Sports. "I don't know if it was a penalty but it was given. So that's that. "Nico touched the ball first, no intention. But it is what it is. We have a point and we will take it." Haaland reached a half-century of goals in Europe's elite club competition when he scored in the 2-0 defeat of the Italian champions two weeks ago, and a double strike at the Stade Louis II leaves him on 52 from 50 career Champions League appearances. The Norwegian scored twice late on in last Saturday's 5-1 Premier League defeat of Burnley, and he got the breakthrough quarter of an hour into this encounter. Josko Gvardiol lifted a ball over the top of the Monaco defence into the box, and Haaland escaped the attention of his marker before meeting the pass with a lob over home goalkeeper Philipp Koehn. This was the first meeting of the teams since a memorable last-16 tie in 2017, won on away goals by the principality side after it ended 6-6 on aggregate. – APP

PML-N, PPP 'bury the hatchet' after NA...

FROM PAGE 01
attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Senator Rana Sanaullah, Federal Minister Rana Mubashir and other senior leaders from the PMLN, while the PPP was represented by Naveed Qamar and Aijaz Jakhani. According to sources, PPP leaders voiced concern over Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's recent remarks, terming them unhelpful for coalition unity. The truce comes after the two parties were engaged in a war of words over flood relief, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), and the utilisation of water resources. The Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari-led party had been calling for the provision of aid to flood victims via BISP – a proposition turned down by the Punjab government. During the NA huddle, the PPP had conveyed its reservation about the recent statements from the PML-N provincial leadership and Punjab CM Maryam and provincial minister, saying that negative statements eroded trust and undermined political harmony, urging restraint from all sides to focus on the joint governance agenda.

At least 13 dead in separate bus crashes

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Hub-Winder accident, including women and children, were shifted to Civil Hospital Trauma Centre in Karachi for treatment, an Edhi spokesperson said. Last year, on August 25, a bus carrying pilgrims plunged into a ditch on the Makran Coastal Highway, leaving 11 people dead and over 30 others injured. Authorities said the bus, travelling from Punjab to Iran, suffered a brake failure. Rescue operations were carried out by levies and police and the victims' bodies were later repatriated. It was the second major bus accident due to brake failure in one week. In the previous fatal incident, 28 pilgrims, heading to participate in Arbaeen, lost their lives when a bus carrying them crashed into a wall and overturned due to speeding and brake failure near the Taftan-Dehshir checkpoint in Iran's Yazd city.

Interior Minister inquires...

FROM PAGE 01
Despite mischief and violence, you acted with restraint. You are the brave sons of Pakistan, and we are all proud of you," Mohsin Naqvi further directed the Chief Commissioner and IG Islamabad to take special care of the Azad Kashmir Police personnel. He also encouraged the injured policemen. Interior Minister reiterated: "Peaceful protest is everyone's right, but taking the law into one's own hands will never be allowed." He stated that few miscreants, on the enemy's instigation, are attempting to disrupt peace and order in Azad Kashmir, but their malicious aims will never succeed. He emphasized that The Hearts of Pakistanis beat with their Kashmiri brothers, and the Government is always ready to resolve their issues.

Pak backed Trump plan with...

FROM PAGE 01
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif or Field Marshal Asim Munir alone, but the result of collective thinking. The acting president explained that all coalition partners – including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Türkiye, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates – jointly prepared the agreed document. "The deputy prime minister has already given a detailed clarification on the matter," he added. Gilani assured that when the parliamentary session begins, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar would brief the Parliament to address any concerns. He reiterated that Pakistan's position was based on broad consultation and consensus within the Muslim world.

Women's World Cup: Pakistan win toss, decide to bat against Bangladesh

Two sides have come face to face on 16 occasions with each bagging eight victories

DNA

COLOMBO: Pakistan have won the toss and opted to bat first against Bangladesh in the third match of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 here at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The two sides have come face-to-face 16 times in Women's ODIs, with their head-to-head re-

cord equally poised at eight victories each. **Playing XIs:** Pakistan: Muneeba Ali, Omaira Sohail, Sidra Amin, Aliya Riaz, Natalia Parvaiz, Fatima Sana (c), Sidra Nawaz (wk), Rameen Shamim, Nashra Sundhu, Diana Baig and Sadia Iqbal. **Bangladesh:** Farqana Hoque, Rubya Haider, Sharmin Akhter, Nigar Sultana (capt, wk), Sobhana Mostary, Shorna Akter, Fahima Khatun, Nahida Akter, Rabeya Khan,

Marufa Akter and Nishita Akter.

Form guide:

Pakistan and Bangladesh enter the fixture with similar momentum in their favour, as both teams have two defeats in their last five completed ODIs.

In the build-up to the Women's World Cup 2025, Pakistan hosted South Africa for a three-match series, suffering a 2-1 defeat. It followed their perfect World Cup Quali-

er campaign, during which they won all five matches and sealed the qualification.

Bangladesh last featured in the format in the qualifier, where they finished second after the hosts. The last meeting between the two sides also came during the same tournament, where the home side emerged victorious by seven wickets.

Pakistan: W, L, L, W, W (most recent first)
Bangladesh: L, L, W, W, W

Briefs

Sudan activist among human rights awardees

STOCKHOLM: The Right Livelihood Award was awarded Wednesday to activists from Sudan and Myanmar, where military and political violence devastates communities, to the Pacific Islands, where climate disaster threatens entire nations, and to Taiwan, which is the frequent target of threats and disinformation. "As authoritarianism and division rise globally, the 2025 Right Livelihood Laureates are charting a different course: one rooted in collective action, resilience and democracy to create a livable future for all," the Stockholm-based foundation said about the winners. It considered 159 nominees from 67 countries this year. The youth-led organization Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change and Julian Agoun were awarded the prize "for carrying the call for climate justice to the world's highest court." Justice for Myanmar was awarded "for their courage and their pioneering investigative methods in exposing and eroding the international support to Myanmar's corrupt military." —APP

UN HR Office called for renewed efforts for durable truce

GENEVA: The United Nations said Wednesday it had verified the deaths of 103 civilians in Lebanon since the November 2024 ceasefire with Israel, demanding a halt to the ongoing suffering. The UN Human Rights Office called for renewed efforts for a durable truce, more than 10 months on from the agreed ceasefire. "We are still seeing devastating impacts of jet and drone strikes in residential areas, as well as near UN peacekeepers in the south," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement. Israel has kept up near daily strikes on Lebanon, usually saying it is targeting Hezbollah operatives or sites, despite the truce that sought to end more than a year of hostilities including two months of open war with the Iran-backed group. "Families are simply unable to make a start on rebuilding their homes and their lives, and instead are faced by the real and present danger of more strikes," Turk said. "Hundreds of damaged schools, health facilities, places of worship, among other civilian sites, are still no-go zones, or at best, only partly useable." The Human Rights Office said that until the end of September, it had verified 103 civilians killed in Lebanon since the ceasefire.—APP

Morocco's youth protest for fourth night

RABAT: Anti-government demonstrations gripped Morocco for a fourth straight night as youth filled the streets of cities throughout the country and destruction and violence broke out in several places, according to human rights groups and local media. With billions in investment flowing toward preparations for the 2030 World Cup, promises to fix Morocco's strained social services haven't quelled anger from Internet-savvy youth who launched some of the country's biggest street protests in years. Young Moroccans took to the streets on Tuesday clashing with security forces and decrying the dire state of many schools and hospitals. After dozens of peaceful protesters were arrested over the weekend, violence broke out Tuesday in several cities, especially in parts of Morocco where jobs are scarce and social services lacking, eyewitness video and local outlets reported. "The right to health, education and a dignified life is not an empty slogan but a serious demand," the organizers of the Gen Z 212 protest movement wrote in a statement published on Discord. Still, the protests have escalated and become more destructive, particularly in cities far from where development efforts have been concentrated in Morocco.—APP

Women empowerment key pillar of ICCI's economic vision

Welcoming the ICCI President, Ms. Samina Fazil, President IWCCI, congratulated him on assuming the leadership of ICCI and expressed confidence that under his tenure, ICCI and IWCCI would work hand in hand to strengthen the role of women in the economic mainstream

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has reaffirmed its strong commitment to empowering women economically, with a special focus on promoting entrepreneurship as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth in the country. President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Sardar Tahir Mehmood attended the Annual General Meeting of Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IWCCI) as the Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Tahir Mehmood reaffirmed ICCI's commitment to fully support IWCCI in carrying forward its core agenda of women empowerment through the promotion of entrepreneurship, startups, and business initiatives. He said ICCI's doors are open for IWCCI activities aimed at advancing the cause of women-led enterprises. He added that ICCI leadership is dedicated to playing the role of a bridge between the government and private sectors for the ease of doing business and the economic prosperity of the country. He informed that ICCI has planned several significant events for the promotion of women empowerment and academia-industry collaboration with the vision to turn young graduates into job providers instead of job seekers. Welcoming the ICCI President, Ms. Samina Fazil, President IWCCI, congratulated him



on assuming the leadership of ICCI and expressed confidence that under his tenure, ICCI and IWCCI would work hand in hand to strengthen the role of women in the economic mainstream. She also apprised that IWCCI is organizing a two-day Women Entrepreneurs Expo on November 8-9, 2025 at Pak-China Friendship Centre, Islamabad, which will

showcase innovative products and services by women entrepreneurs from across the country. Both leaders emphasized that closer collaboration between ICCI and IWCCI would create new opportunities for women entrepreneurs and startups, paving the way for inclusive economic growth. Earlier, the ICCI President distributed certificates among

prominent performers of IWCCI Executive Members. Rizwana Asif, former President IWCCI, Shumaila Naz, Senior Vice President, Rabia Farhan, Vice President, and Naima Ansari, Spokesperson, also shared their views and expressed confidence that this collaboration would prove a milestone for both chambers.

Israel criticized internationally for blocking Gaza-bound aid flotilla

DUBAI: International leaders have strongly criticized Israel's interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla, a convoy of around 45 vessels carrying humanitarian aid and activists attempting to reach Gaza, where the United Nations has warned of famine conditions. Israeli naval forces began intercepting the ships on Wednesday, citing the waters as part of its blockade. By Thursday, at least 39 vessels had been intercepted or were assumed to have been intercepted, according to the flotilla's tracking system. President Cyril Ramaphosa called on Israel to immediately release the detained activists, including Nelson Mandela's grandson, and ensure the safe delivery of the flotilla's aid. "The interception of the flotilla in international waters is contrary to international law and violates the sovereignty of every nation whose flag was flown on the vessels," he said. Pretoria has been a leading critic of Israel's actions in Gaza, previously bringing a case before the UN's top court alleging Israel's military campaign amounts to genocide, a charge Israel denies. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the interceptions as aggression, asserting that Israel's actions show a lack of willingness to support peace efforts. The Turkish Foreign Ministry called the interception "an act of terrorism" in international waters, violating international law and endangering civilians. Türkiye is taking measures to protect its nationals aboard the flotilla and said it will pursue legal steps to hold Israel accountable. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry denounced Israel's actions as illegal, stating it has no authority over Palestinian territorial waters off Gaza. Meanwhile, Hamas expressed support for the flotilla, calling the interception a "criminal act" and urging public protests to condemn Israel. A British Foreign Office spokesperson said the UK has engaged with Israeli authorities to ensure the situation is resolved safely and in line with international law. The spokesperson emphasized that the flotilla's humanitarian aid should be delivered to organizations on the ground in Gaza. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim criticized Israel's blockade of the humanitarian mission, calling it "utter contempt" for the rights of Palestinians and global humanitarian norms. He said the flotilla represented solidarity and hope for those living under blockade. The flotilla's organizers said multiple vessels were "illegally intercepted and boarded by Israeli forces in international waters," while a Greek participant described the actions as repeated acts of piracy violating international law. Israel's foreign ministry stated that the detained activists, including Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, were being transferred to an Israeli port and would be deported to Europe.—DNA

Gaza mother clings to her sick daughter after losing twin babies in midst of war

GAZA: Nancy Abu Matroud has already lost three children during Gaza's war Now, the Palestinian mother, 22, is fighting to save her daughter, Etra — a two-year-old cancer patient newly deprived of vital medical care: the children's hospital treating her shut down last month during Israel's latest offensive in Gaza City. "We are just asking for a shelter," Abu Matroud said. "I don't want to lose the daughter I still have." A deadly mix of disease, displacement, lack of medical care and malnutrition has beset most Gazan families during the almost two-year-old war, but the turmoil has placed a particular burden on young children and pregnant women such as Abu Matroud. She was six months pregnant with twins when, fleeing Israeli bombardment in Gaza City last month, she arrived in the central Gaza Strip after three days of walking, she said, along with her husband and Etra. After the family reached Al Nuwairi area, her belly started to hurt and her waters broke, Abu Matroud recounted. She gave birth to her twins prematurely. One of the twins died in Al-Awda Hospital in nearby Nuseirat. The second child was transferred to the infants' department in Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. After two days, that child also died, said a spokesperson for Al-Aqsa hospital, Khalil Al-Daqrان. Premature babies are exceptionally vulnerable to the pressures of Gaza's war; in particular, there are not enough incubators and ventilators available to keep them alive, according to Jonathan Crickx, a spokesperson for UNICEF State of Palestine "There is an increase in the number of babies who are born premature," he told Reuters.—APP

Lebanon says 2 dead in Israeli strike UN verifies 103 civilians killed in Lebanon since ceasefire

BEIRUT: Lebanon said two people were killed in an Israeli strike on the country's south on Thursday, the latest deadly attack despite a November ceasefire between Israel and militant group Hezbollah. "The Israeli enemy strike that targeted a vehicle on the Jarmak-Khardali road led to a preliminary toll of two dead and another wounded," Lebanon's health ministry said in a statement. The area is located around 10 kilometers (six miles) from the Israeli border. Israel has kept up near daily strikes on Lebanon, usually saying it is targeting Hezbollah operatives or sites, despite the truce that sought to end more than a year of hostilities including two months of open war with the Iran-backed group. It has also kept troops in five areas of south Lebanon that it deems strategic. On Wednesday, the health ministry said one person was killed and five others wounded in an Israeli strike on the south. The United Nations said it had verified the deaths of 103 civilians in Lebanon since the ceasefire, demanding a halt to the suffering. Under intense US pressure and fears of expanded Israeli military action, the Lebanese government is seeking to disarm Hezbollah and the army has drawn up a plan to do so beginning in the country's south. Hezbollah is the only major armed group allowed to keep its weapons following Lebanon's civil war, doing so in the name of resistance against Israel, and has warned it will not surrender its arms. It is pertinent to mention that The United Nations said Wednesday it had verified the deaths of 103 civilians in Lebanon since the November 2024 ceasefire with Israel, demanding a halt to the ongoing suffering. The UN Human Rights Office called for renewed efforts for a durable truce, more than 10 months on from the agreed ceasefire. "We are still seeing devastating impacts of jet and drone strikes in residential areas, as well as near UN peacekeepers in the south," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement. Israel has kept up near daily strikes on Lebanon, usually saying it is targeting Hezbollah operatives or sites, despite the truce that sought to end more than a year of hostilities including two months of open war with the Iran-backed group. "Families are simply unable to make a start on rebuilding their homes and their lives, and instead are faced by the real and present danger of more strikes," Turk said. "Hundreds of damaged schools, health facilities, places of worship, among other civilian sites, are still no-go zones, or at best, only partly useable." The Human Rights Office said that until the end of September, it had verified 103 civilians killed in Lebanon since the ceasefire. There have been no reports of killings from projectiles fired from Lebanon toward Israel since the truce, it said. Turk's office said five people, including three children, were killed when an Israeli drone struck a vehicle and a motorcycle in the border area of Bint Jbeil on September 21. Turk demanded an independent and impartial investigation into the incident, along with others he said raised concerns about compliance with international humanitarian law.—DNA

FM stresses Private sector led growth, structural reforms

Finance Minister commended the organizers for convening a high-profile forum in Peshawar and underlined the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for the private sector to lead Pakistan's economic growth

DNA

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, delivered the keynote address at the Pakistan Business Summit held on Thursday at the local hotel, Peshawar. The summit, organized under the patronage of the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, carried the theme "Shaping What's Next" and brought together policymakers, business leaders, and corporate executives to deliberate on Pakistan's economy, innovation, and global competitiveness, said a release issued here. The one-day event was co-hosted by Nutshell Group and Al Baraka Bank (Pakistan) Limited, with the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) as Strategic Partner. In his remarks, the Finance Minister commended the organizers for convening a high-profile forum in Peshawar and underlined the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for the private sector to lead Pakistan's economic growth. He emphasized that the government's role is to ensure macroeconomic stability, introduce structural reforms, and provide the right ecosystem for business and investment. Reviewing recent economic progress,

Senator Aurangzeb highlighted a sharp decline in financing costs following reductions in the policy rate, improved foreign exchange reserves covering close to three months of imports, and stability in the exchange rate. He noted that these developments have strengthened investor confidence and facilitated repatriation of dividends and profits. The Minister also reported a significant improvement in remittances, which reached USD 38 billion last year and are projected to grow to \$ 41-43 billion in the current fiscal year. He further pointed out that Pakistan successfully repaid \$ 500 million in Eurobond obligations in September without market disruption and is well-positioned to meet the upcoming \$1.3 billion repayment in April 2026. Addressing structural reforms, Senator Aurangzeb reaffirmed the government's resolve to implement comprehensive tax reforms, separating tax policy from tax administration to restore credibility and consistency for investors. He underlined ongoing reforms in state-owned enterprises, privatization efforts, and energy pricing as critical components of the economic reform agenda. The Finance Minister also discussed Pakistan's export-led growth strategy, tariff reforms

aimed at reducing duties on raw materials and intermediate goods, and measures to attract efficient foreign direct investment (FDI). He cited recent engagements in Beijing, Riyadh, Washington, and New York as evidence of renewed investor confidence, including the signing of 24 joint venture agreements with Chinese companies. He further announced plans for Pakistan's inaugural Panda Bond issuance before the year's end, opening access to China's deep capital markets. Senator Aurangzeb underscored that Pakistan's path to sustainable growth rests on greater competitiveness, private sector dynamism, and closer coordination between the federation and provinces. He also stressed the need to prioritize effective utilization of the Rs. 4.3 trillion national development budget for infrastructure, health, and education. Highlighting long-term challenges, the Finance Minister identified climate change and population growth as existential issues for Pakistan. Concluding his address, Senator Aurangzeb reaffirmed the government's commitment to steering Pakistan towards sustainable economic recovery, global competitiveness, and resilience, while ensuring that reforms and growth translate into tangible benefits for the people of Pakistan.

Philippines ends quake rescue efforts, priority to help 20,000 displaced

BOGO, Philippines: Philippine authorities said on Thursday that search and rescue operations in quake-hit Cebu province have ended, as the current death toll of 72 was not expected to go much higher and missing people had been accounted for. Attention has now turned to delivering aid to survivors of the 6.9-magnitude quake that has become the country's deadliest in more than a decade. Striking waters off Cebu's central island late Tuesday, the quake has caused more than 20,000 people to be displaced, while over 300 have been injured. On Thursday, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr visited Bogo, a city of some 90,000 that was the worst-affected, seeking to reassure evacuees and noting that relief operations have been complicated due to widespread damage to infrastructure. "We are having some difficulty because we have nowhere to put the displaced families because we're unsure of the integrity of the evacuation centers," he told reporters.—APP

Anti foreigner sentiments, politicians on rise as Japan faces population crisis

TOKYO: Outside a train station near Tokyo, hundreds of people cheer as Sohei Kamiya, head of the surging nationalist party Sanseito, criticizes Japan's rapidly growing foreign population. As opponents, separated by uniformed police and bodyguards, accuse him of racism, Kamiya shouts back, saying he is only talking common sense. Sanseito, while still a minor party, made big gains in July's parliamentary election, and Kamiya's "Japanese First" platform of anti-globalism, anti-immigration and anti-liberalism is gaining broader traction ahead of a ruling party vote Saturday that will choose the likely next prime minister. Anti-immigrant policies, which allow populists to vent their dissatisfaction on easy targets, are appealing to more Japanese as they struggle with dwindling salaries, rising prices and bleak future outlooks. "Many Japanese are frustrated by these problems, though we are too reserved to speak out. Mr. Kamiya is spelling them all out for us," said Kenzo Hagiya, a retiree in the audience who said the "foreigner problem" is one of his biggest concerns. The populist surge comes as Japan, a traditionally insular nation that values conformity and uniformity, sees a record surge of foreigners needed to bolster its shrinking workforce.—APP

Police confirm 134 arrested for supporting Palestine Action in London

LONDON: The Metropolitan Police in London have said 134 people have been charged with allegedly supporting Palestine Action in the UK capital. The Independent reported. It comes after 20 people became the latest to be charged under section 13 of the UK's Terrorism Act for their part in demonstrations backing the proscribed group, which can carry a sentence of up to six months in prison. The 20 were arrested on Aug. 9, and are due to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Nov. 24. Palestine Action was banned in the UK after several high-profile incidents, including a break-in at a Royal Air Force base that saw damage done to two military aircraft. Protests in support of the group have subsequently been held across the country, with campaigners seeking to overwhelm police stations and courts through the number of people arrested and charged under the Terrorism Act, which forbids showing support for a banned group.—APP

Briefs

Pak condoles deaths by earthquakes in Indonesia, Philippines

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday conveyed its deepest condolences to the Governments and peoples of Indonesia and the Philippines on the loss of lives caused by recent earthquakes. "We pray for the swift recovery of the injured and stand in solidarity with both countries in this hour of grief," Foreign Office spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan said in a statement. According to the media reports, a 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck 12 miles northeast of Bogo City in Cebu province of the Philippines on Tuesday night, killing dozens of people. Similarly, a 6.5 magnitude hit Indonesia's East Java province on Tuesday, damaging as many as 30 buildings, including houses, four places of worship and a health facility.— Agencies

PSX surges on strong investor sentiment

"Liquidity from mutual funds is driving up the index," says analyst

NEWS DESK

KARACHI: The equity market pushed to fresh record highs on Thursday, lifted by mutual fund liquidity and upbeat economic sentiment following improved US ties, with analysts pointing to equities' growing appeal as an asset class amid limited alternatives. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index settled at 168,489.62 points, up 2,849.29 points, or 1.72%, from the previous close of 165,640.33. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index touched an intraday high of 168,619.32, gaining 2,978.99 points, or 1.8%, while the low of the day was recorded at 165,567.22, reflecting a decline of 73.11 points, or -0.04%. "Liquidity from mutual funds is driving up the index. There is FOMO (fear of missing out) and disbelief of a correction," said AAH Soomro, an independent investment and economic analyst.

"Economic sentiment is positive after improving US ties also. Mid caps with growth triggers are beginning to rerate," he added. "Investors' preference for equities as an asset class due to lack of returns from other asset classes and taxation incentives," added Samiullah Tariq, Head of Research at Pak-Kuwait Investment Company. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday ruled out any mini-budget, despite the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) Rs200 billion shortfall in the first quarter of FY26, adding that IMF review talks were moving in the right direction. He also noted pending tax-related court cases would help improve collections. In the latest T-bill auction, the government raised Rs696 billion, short of its Rs750 billion target, while yields climbed across all tenors.

Exploring African Markets: RCCI holds business Africa trade forum

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) successfully organized the Business Africa Trade Forum under Pakistan's "Look Africa, Engage Africa" policy. The Forum brought together ambassadors, high commissioners, trade envoys, business leaders, and policymakers to explore trade and investment opportunities, joint ventures, and enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and African nations.

In his welcome remarks, RCCI President Usman Shaukat highlighted RCCI's role in strengthening bilateral trade linkages and providing a platform for dialogue. Chairman of the Forum, Zahid Latif Khan, provided an overview of the event's objectives and significance and role of RCCI in taking leads to explore new avenues and markets including Africa.

Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Commerce and Industries, emphasized the government's commitment to boosting trade, connectivity, and foreign investment to achieve sustainable economic recovery. He appreciated RCCI's efforts in promoting new markets for Pakistani businesses. He reiterated that Africa—with a population of 1.5 billion and fast-growing economies—offers immense opportunities for collaboration in textiles, agriculture, IT, renewable energy, leather goods, food processing, and machinery. Pakistan, with its industrial strength and skilled workforce, stands ready to be a reliable partner in Africa's development journey.

Addressing the Forum, Ambassador



Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, lauded RCCI for bridging gaps between Pakistan and Africa, stating that Pakistan is repositioning itself geo-politically and geo-economically by leveraging its "blue economy" and diverse export portfolio including rice, cotton, marble, and textiles.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed,

President of the Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR), shared his vision on enhancing connectivity with Africa and effectively implementing Pakistan's Engage Africa Policy.

The event was attended by ambassadors, high commissioners, and senior diplomats from several African countries, including Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia,

Sudan, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. The envoys highlighted current levels of cooperation with Pakistan, identified challenges, and proposed measures to increase bilateral trade and investment. A special commemoration was also held to honor the outgoing Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, for his services in

strengthening Pak-Ethiopia relations. The Forum was further graced by dignitaries including Sardar Yasir Ilyas, PM's Coordinator on Tourism, and H.E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of participants and reaffirming RCCI's commitment to expanding Pakistan's trade horizons.

Russian scholar says

Turkmenistan current export infrastructure is outdated

Turkmenistan, despite American investment in some areas such as the Caspian Sea, still lacks updated energy statistics, with institutions like the Eurasian Development Bank no longer publishing data since 2018: Dr. Illeritsky

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, through its Central Asia Program for Regional Connectivity and Cooperation, organized a thought-provoking session as part of its Eminent Speaker Series titled "Turkmenistan's Perspective on Regional Energy Corridors: TAPI and Beyond". The lecture was given by Dr. Nikita Illeritsky, Leading Research Fellow at the International Center for Central Asia (ICCA), Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. Dr. Illeritsky emphasized that while Turkmenistan is energy-rich—with an estimated 24 trillion cubic meters of gas reserves—its current export infrastructure is outdated and underutilized. Most of its gas is exported to China under arrangements that give Chinese corpora-

tions significant control over production. In this context, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline emerges as a central project, offering potential access to South Asian markets. However, TAPI faces substantial obstacles, including limited capacity, high costs, and geopolitical complications, especially in Afghanistan, which remains the weakest link due to persistent instability and lack of infrastructure financing. Dr. Illeritsky highlighted the broader context of regional energy dynamics, comparing three models of infrastructure development in Central Asia: the Russian model, which is based on legacy Soviet pipelines but is now outdated; the Chinese model, which is fast and efficient but entirely controlled by Chinese firms; and the Western model, which prioritizes selective, commercially viable infrastructure. Energy trends across Central Asia further

complicate the picture. Kazakhstan's gas production is declining, Uzbekistan faces seasonal electricity shortages, and Kyrgyzstan is highly vulnerable to climate change—especially glacier melt, which threatens both hydro and fossil fuel projects. Turkmenistan, despite American investment in some areas such as the Caspian Sea, still lacks updated energy statistics, with institutions like the Eurasian Development Bank no longer publishing data since 2018. Additionally, various swap deals with Iran and Uzbekistan remain small in scale and lack transparency. Dr. Illeritsky concluded that while macro-economic indicators may suggest positive growth, they mask underlying structural issues tied to foreign investment, dependence on natural gas, and weak field development. For Turkmenistan, the pathway forward requires opening its economy to

diversified investments, improving data transparency, and actively engaging regional partners. Projects like TAPI, though difficult, are essential to monetizing its vast gas reserves and integrating more deeply with South Asian markets.

He also stressed the role Pakistan can play in advancing the project, given its growing energy needs and infrastructure capabilities. However, challenges remain, especially with India's reluctance to rely on Afghan transit routes and the broader lack of regional cohesion. The session ended with a robust Q&A, with participants raising questions about geopolitical risks, pricing mechanisms, and the future of regional energy cooperation. The IRS reaffirmed its commitment to fostering informed dialogue on regional integration, economic cooperation, and energy security in Central Asia.

US to back Ukraine with data for hitting Russia's oil and power facilities

US officials are also asking NATO allies to provide similar support to Ukraine, according to WSJ

NEWS DESK

LONDON: The United States has decided to give Ukraine intelligence that will help it strike Russia's oil and power sites, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday, as it weighs whether to send Kyiv weapons that could put more targets within range. Officials said the move could make it easier for Kyiv to target refineries, pipelines and power plants, aiming to cut the Kremlin's war funds. The United States has long been sharing intelligence with Kyiv but Wednesday's report said the new development will make it easier for Ukraine to hit refineries, pipelines, power stations and other infrastructure with the aim of depriving the Kremlin of revenue and oil. US officials are also asking NATO allies to provide similar support, according to the newspaper. US President Donald Trump has been pressing European countries to stop

purchases of Russian oil in exchange for his agreement to impose tough sanctions on Moscow to try to dry up funding for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Neither the White House nor Ukraine nor Russia's missions to the United Nations immediately responded to separate requests for comment from Reuters on Wednesday. According to US officials cited by the Wall Street Journal, approval on additional intelligence came shortly before Trump posted on social media last week suggesting that Ukraine could retake all its land occupied by Russia, in a striking rhetorical shift in Kyiv's favour.

"After seeing the Economic trouble (the war) is causing Russia, I think Ukraine, with the support of the European Union, is in a position to fight and WIN all of Ukraine back in its original form," Trump wrote on Truth Social last Tuesday, shortly after meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. In terms of additional military assistance, the United States is considering a Ukrainian request to obtain Tomahawks, which have a range of 2,500 km (1,550 miles) - easily enough to hit Moscow and most of European Russia if fired from Ukraine. Ukraine has also developed its own long-range missile named the Flamingo. Quantities are unknown as the missile is in early production.

Police attack National Press Club

HRCS strongly condemns the attack

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday ordered an inquiry into a raid carried out by Islamabad police at the National Press Club, where several journalists were allegedly attacked. According to a statement from his office, Naqvi said that he had taken notice of the "unfortunate" incident and demanded a report from the Islamabad inspector general of police. "Violence against the journalist community cannot be tolerated under any circumstances," he was quoted as saying. "Disciplinary action must be taken against officials involved in the incident." Earlier, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) condemned the "assault on journalists by Islamabad police" at the National Press Club.

Synagogue attacked in UK

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Four people were injured and a suspected knifeman shot by police on Thursday after a car ramming and stabbing incident outside a synagogue in Manchester, officials said. Greater Manchester Police (GMP) declared a "major incident" shortly after 9:30am (1:30pm PKT) after officers were called to the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in the Crumpsall neighbourhood of the northwestern city. "Paramedics arrived at the scene ... and are tending to members of the public".

Acting President Gilani holds meeting with the Opposition

The Acting President also offered Fatiha for the departed soul of MPA Shazia Tahmas. The Acting President also visited different chambers of the Governor House

DNA

PESHAWAR: Acting President of Pakistan and Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, held a meeting with the Opposition and Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) women members of the provincial assembly at the Governor House, Peshawar. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal

Karim Kundi, PPP's provincial president Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, and Leader of the Opposition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Dr. Ibadullah were also present on the occasion.

The meeting discussed the province's political situation, matters concerning the federal government, and other issues of mutual interest. Acting President Gilani assured the lawmakers of full support in resolving their concerns. During the interaction, the legislators lauded the role of Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, to which Chairman Senate Gilani remarked that, despite the undemocratic attitude of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's provincial government, the way Faisal Karim Kundi has been running the Governor's office is commendable.

Meanwhile, the acting President also held meeting with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) central and provincial leaders at the Governor House. Those present included PPP Central

Secretary General Engineer Humayun Khan, Provincial President Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, former federal ministers Najmuddin Khan and Sajid Hussain Turi, former provincial minister and Information Secretary Amjad Khan Afridi, former Speaker and MPA Kiramattullah Khan Chugharmatti, Parliamentary Leader in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Ahmad Karim Kundi, MPA Arbab Zarak Khan Khalil, Divisional President Misbahuddin, District President Razaullah Chugharmatti, Provincial Joint Secretary Malik Saeed, and Chairman of Red Crescent KP Farzand Ali Wazir. During the meeting, discussions were held on party organizational matters, the political situation of the province, and other related issues.

The Acting President also offered Fatiha for the departed soul of the father of MPA Shazia Tahmas. The Acting President also visited different chambers of the Governor House.

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