



Islamabad POST

Monday, October 06, 2025

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Indian adventure will be giving a matching response

Detailed News On Page-08

Japan's new PM is not a feminist

Detailed News On Page-08



Mahnoor calls on Shehbaz

Detailed News On Page-08



Middle East peace

Pak, KSA, UAE among 8 nations back Trump Plan

The ministers commended Hamas for agreeing to the release of all hostages – both alive and deceased – and for showing readiness to begin negotiations on implementing the peace proposal

MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Ministers of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Pakistan, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Egypt issued a joint statement welcoming recent steps taken by Hamas concerning U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal to end the war in Gaza. The ministers commended Hamas for agreeing to the release of all hostages – both alive and deceased – and for showing readiness to begin negotiations on implementing the peace proposal. They also praised President Trump's call on Israel to immediately cease bombings and to start the process of the proposed exchange agreement, expressing appreciation for his efforts to establish lasting peace in the region. The joint communiqué described these developments as a "real opportunity" to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire and to address the severe humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. The ministers further welcomed Hamas's announcement of its willingness to transfer the administration of Gaza to a transitional Palestinian Administrative Committee composed of independent technocrats.

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Negotiators in Cairo for Gaza ceasefire

APP

CAIRO: Negotiators were converging on Cairo on Sunday ahead of talks aimed at ending nearly two years of war in Gaza, with Israel's leader expressing hope that the hostages still being held there would be released in a matter of days. The diplomatic moves came after the Palestinian militant group Hamas responded positively to US President Donald Trump's roadmap for freeing the captives and administering post-war Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday that he had ordered negotiators to Egypt "to finalise the technical details", while Cairo confirmed it would also be hosting a delegation from Hamas for talks on "the ground conditions and details of the exchange of all Israeli detainees and

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Briefs

Landslides kill 63 in Nepal, India

DNA

NEW DELHI: Landslides and floods triggered by heavy downpours in Nepal and neighbouring India have killed more than 60 people, officials said Sunday, as rescue workers raced to reach cut-off communities in remote mountainous terrain. Torrential downpours have lashed Nepal since Friday, leaving rivers in spate and many areas in the Himalayan nation inundated. At least 43 people have died in rain-triggered disasters and five are missing, Shanti Mahat, spokeswoman for Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, told AFP. At least 37 were killed by landslides in the worst-affected eastern district of Ilam. "Heavy rains overnight caused the landslides," said local district official Sunita Nepal. "With roads blocked, some areas are difficult to reach. Rescue workers are heading there on foot."

Almost 1,000 trapped on Tibetan side

NEWS DESK

KATHMANDU: Rescue efforts were underway on Sunday to clear access to campsites on Tibet's eastern slope of Mount Everest, where nearly 1,000 people have been trapped by a blizzard that has blocked roads, according to Chinese state media reports. Hundreds of local villagers and rescue teams have been deployed to help remove snow blocking access to the area, which sits at an altitude above 4,900 metres (16,000 feet), according to a report in Jimu News. Some tourists on the mountain have already been brought down, it added. The snowfall began on Friday evening and continued throughout Saturday, according to notices on the official WeChat accounts of the local Tingri County Tourism Company, which said ticket sales and entry to the Everest Scenic Area were suspended from late Saturday.

Differences widen

Sharjeel says PPP being used to target Centre

In response, Azma Bukhari accepts challenge, urges information minister to face her directly

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has challenged Punjab government ministers to an open debate, accusing them of trying to create division between the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the federal government. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Memon said Punjab's criticism of the PPP was actually aimed at the federal government, adding that "an attempt is being made to create an environment where the PPP withdraws its support for the Centre." He maintained that the Sindh government had no conflict with the Punjab administration and that "the people of Punjab are our own." "The Punjab government's real target is the prime minister," Memon said. "We are being used as a cover to attack the federal government." He added that the PPP would not let

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PML-N leadership meets to defuse tensions

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Senior leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) held a key meeting at Jati Umra to discuss the growing tensions between Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leadership. Party sources said the PML-N bigwigs expressed concern over Maryam's recent tirades against PPP leaders, which have intensified political friction within the ruling coalition. The meeting, chaired by senior

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Pakistan sees sharpest drops default Risk

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: As per the latest data posted by Bloomberg, Pakistan stands out globally as the 2nd most improved economy in terms of reduction in sovereign default risk, as measured by CDS-implied default probability globally. Pakistan stood 2nd only to Turkey in Global Emerging Market (EM) Rankings in Default Risk Reduction, as the country has recorded one of the sharpest drops in sovereign default risk globally over the last 15 months (since Jun-24 till Sep-25).

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Police probe mosque arson

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Police said on Sunday they were investigating a suspected arson at a mosque in southern England as a "hate crime", days after a fatal attack on a synagogue. Officers were called to the incident at the mosque in the south coast town of Peacehaven late on Saturday. No one was injured, but the blaze caused damage to the mosque's front entrance and a vehicle parked outside.

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PRIME MINISTER IN MALAYSIA



KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being welcomed by Prime Minister of Malaysia H.E. Anwar Ibrahim as he arrives in Malaysia on an official visit. The prime minister will spend two days in Malaysia. – DNA

Fitna-al-Hindustan

Four Indian proxy terrorists killed in Balochistan's Korki

One local martyred in clashes after Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists launch attack on residents, say security sources

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Four terrorists belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al-Hindustan were killed in a clash with the local tribe in Balochistan's Korki area, security sources said on Sunday. They added that the Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists attacked residents in the Korki area, sparking an armed clash with local tribes. As a result, four terrorists were killed and a citizen belonging to the local tribe was martyred during the exchange of fire, the security sources noted,

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Police officers unharmed after IED targets vehicle

APP

LAKKI MARWAT: A police vehicle was targeted by a remote-controlled Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on Indus Highway on Sunday. Officials confirmed all personnel inside, including a

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Country's coastline offers vast potential for ports

Senior security sources dismiss reports claiming Pakistan is offering a naval base to US in Balochistan

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Senior security sources have dismissed reports claiming that Pakistan is offering a naval base to the United States in Balochistan, clarifying that such

claims circulating in foreign media are unfounded. They said references to possible future arrangements through public-private partnerships are merely proposals, not concrete plans. The security sources emphasised that Pakistan's coastline holds vast potential for large and small commercial ports, adding that countries around the world assess such partnership proposals.

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General Practice hospital aims to serve humanity

Dr. Ali Raza Nasir, founder of General Practice Hospital, shared his inspiring journey and mission in an exclusive interview with Centreline magazine and daily Islamabad POST



ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Driven by a vision to make quality healthcare accessible and compassionate, Dr. Ali Raza Nasir, founder of General Practice Hospital, shared his inspiring journey and mission in an exclusive interview with Centreline magazine and daily Islamabad POST. Dr. Raza, who began his medical career at Shifa International Hospital before moving into private practice in 2017, said medicine has always been a calling rather than a career for him. "I have never been one to chase numbers. I focus on the quality of care I provide," he remarked,



emphasizing empathy and patient-centered care as the foundation of his practice. Explaining the concept behind General Practice Hospital, Dr. Raza said the idea stemmed from his belief in holistic healthcare—providing comprehensive services under one roof. "Health is not fragmented. It requires continuity, compassion, and accessibility," he noted, adding that the name General Practice reflects inclusivity for patients of all ages and backgrounds. The hospital's core mission, according to Dr. Raza, is to make healthcare accessible, reliable, and affordable for everyone. "Healthcare is a basic right, not a privilege," he stressed. The institution's philosophy revolves around ensuring dignity for

patients, minimizing their struggles, and providing trustworthy, affordable medical services. Dr. Raza envisions the hospital as a pillar of trust and education in the community. Beyond treatment, the hospital actively promotes preventive healthcare, awareness, and early screening. "We want to be known as the place where care comes first," he said. Describing what sets General Practice apart, Dr. Raza highlighted its blend of hospitality and healthcare, ensuring patients feel respected and cared for. The hospital's systems—from OPD to ICU—are designed with patient comfort and ethical transparency in mind. "It's not just a business; it's a mission to improve healthcare deliv-

ery in Islamabad and beyond," he emphasized. Offering advice to young doctors, Dr. Raza said the foundation of a successful facility lies in purpose, teamwork, and uncompromising quality. "Profit follows service, not the other way around," he stated. Looking ahead, Dr. Raza sees General Practice Hospital expanding into a network of secondary-care and specialized centers across Pakistan within the next decade. Plans include integrating telemedicine, AI-assisted diagnostics, and public health outreach programs to extend their impact. "In one sentence," he concluded, "General Practice is the hospital where patients feel genuinely cared for—modern, affordable, and compassionate healthcare under one roof."

Punjab CM orders 1,115 electric buses operationalisation by Dec

The CM lauded the Health Department for its exemplary performance during recent floods, noting that medical teams treated over 1.15 million patients in flood-affected areas across Punjab

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a comprehensive review meeting to receive detailed briefings from eight major departments and issued various directives for accelerating provincial development projects.

The CM lauded the Health Department for its exemplary performance during recent floods, noting that medical teams treated over 1.15 million patients in flood-affected areas across Punjab. She appreciated that despite 174 snakebite cases reported during floods, timely administration of vaccines ensured no loss of life. Expressing gratitude, she said that Punjab's health teams had set an example of dedication and service.

CM Maryam Nawaz highlighted that Punjab had achieved a record in cervical cancer vaccination by completing immunization of 6.5 million girls, leading all provinces in this public health initiative. She directed the Health Department to ensure early completion of the Cath Lab project and instructed Community Health Inspectors to expand their home survey initiative to include special persons, ensuring targeted assistance through inter-departmental coordination.

The CM directed that 1,115 electric buses be made operational across Punjab by December and instructed Deputy Commissioners to expedite the

establishment of electric bus charging stations. She said a uniform design for bus stops had been approved and that electric buses had gained immense popularity within a short span. She also approved the district-wise schedule for launching the electric bus programme and directed early commencement of the Super Autonomous Rapid Transit (SRT) project.

Reviewing the performance of the Housing and Urban Development Department, Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that WASA had been established in 19 cities within a few months, compared to only five a year and a half ago. She reaffirmed the target of expanding WASA to 25 districts by December 31 and noted that over 5,000 water filtration plants were already functional across the province. She directed Housing Minister Bilal Yasin to personally inspect filtration plants, include them in the KPIs of Deputy Commissioners, and ensure provision of bottled water to every household.

Under the Punjab Development Programme, the CM directed completion of urban works in 15 cities before monsoon and enhancement of municipal capacity. She was briefed that the first phase of the Lahore Development Project would be completed by November 30, with renovation of 4,624 streets already finalized. She ordered strict action against those damaging newly

constructed streets.

The CM expressed satisfaction over PHA's performance, directing expansion of its activities to more cities, plantation of bamboo forests, and promotion of urban greenery. She appreciated that PHA Lahore had planted 27,000 saplings through a door-to-door campaign and launched an online bouquet delivery project.

She was also informed that the Model Village Project had commenced in 472 villages, including 62 in Multan, 48 in Bahawalpur, and 38 in DG Khan, featuring parks, paved streets, covered drains, cemetery walls, and sanitation improvements.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed the authorities to formally launch the Placer Gold Project, ensuring that its profits benefit the people of Punjab. Officials briefed her that 11,000 miners had been issued Chief Minister's Ration Cards, with a target of 25,000 to be achieved this month. They added that old pink salt contracts had been cancelled and re-auctioned, increasing revenue fivefold. Marketing of pink salt in the US, Europe, and UAE was also planned. The CM was briefed that the initial study of the Chinot Iron and Steel project had been completed, with testing to conclude within four months. Section 144 had been imposed to curb theft of placer gold in Mianwali. _APP

FESCO introduces Raast QR Code System

FAISALABAD: Faisalaabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has launched a new facility to enable consumers to pay their electricity bills through "Raast QR Code System" developed in collaboration with Punjab Information Technology Company (PITC) and Bank Alfalah. The code system was formally launched during a ceremony at FESCO headquarters where FESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Muhammad Aamir signed an agreement with Bank Alfalah officials for the use of Raast QR technology in bill payments. Speaking on the occasion, FESCO Chief Engineer Muhammad Aamir said that consumers would now pay their electricity bills simply by scanning Raast-provided QR code printed on each bill. This service allows instant and secure transactions through any mobile banking application integrated with Raast network, he added. He explained that new system would remain available until bill's due date and provide a faster, more reliable and digital mode of payment. The system would reduce the need to visit banks or payment centers and eliminate long queues, he added. Engineer Aamir said the service was part of FESCO's broader digital transformation strategy with a focus on transparency, convenience and improvement in customer service. He thanked the PITC, Bank Alfalah and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for their cooperation and termed the initiative as a significant step for promoting a cashless economy in line with government's vision for digital financial inclusion. Branch Manager Corporate and Investment Banking at Bank Alfalah Muhammad Shoaib expressed satisfaction over the agreement and termed it an important move which would make bill payments easier and more efficient for FESCO consumers. _APP

Ahsan for edu reforms to ensure national uplift

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said that sustainable national development was only possible through continuity in policies, reforms, and a firm commitment to education and peace. He said that if Pakistan ensures consistency in its national policies and gives top priority to education for at least ten years, the country could join the ranks of world's developed nations. He expressed these views while addressing the Global Education Conference and International School Awards held at a local hotel on Sunday. The event brought together prominent educationists, heads of institutions, and representatives of various educational organizations from across the country. The planning minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, efforts were being made to lead the nation toward a brighter and more prosperous future under the "Uraan-e-Pakistan" vision. Highlighting the significance of World Teachers' Day, the minister said that teachers play a vital role in shaping societies and building nations. He said it was the collective responsibility of all segments of society to uphold the dignity and respect of teachers, as they were the architects of the nation's future. "Parents bring a child into the world, but a teacher teaches how to live in it," he remarked, adding that whatever success he achieved in life was due to the guidance and mentorship of his teachers. The minister said that education was the most valuable investment for any country and the key to eliminating poverty, creating employment opportunities, and ensuring social stability. He warned that lack of policy continuity repeatedly pushes nations back to square one, adding that Pakistan had faced three major economic setbacks in its history and could not afford another.

He stressed the need for learning from countries that achieved progress through consistency, long-term planning, and evidence-based policymaking. He added that a modern and research-oriented educational system enhances both individual and collective capacities, while teachers were the cornerstone of intellectual and moral development. "The quality of a nation's human resource depends on the quality of its education system, which in turn reflects the dedication of its teachers," he added. Ahsan Iqbal called for national and international collaboration to protect the rights and responsibilities of teachers and to make this noble profession more effective globally. He appreciated initiatives such as teacher exchange programs, international student collaborations, and joint research projects, saying these efforts help strengthen academic standards and promote harmony among nations. _APP

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BMP holds 2nd annual moot on 20 years of its establishment

KARACHI: The former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, Dr. Ishrat Husain urged the Banking Mohtasib Pakistan to expand outreach to smaller towns and rural areas where public awareness is low and banking issues are often more severe than in major cities. Emphasizing that administrative focus in Pakistan is overly concentrated in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, he called for stronger engagement at the grassroots level. At the event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Banking Mohtasib Pakistan, he congratulated the Banking Mohtasib Pakistan on two decades of dedicated service and appreciated the institution's critical role in providing affordable and timely justice through a quasi-judicial framework. Highlighting the origins of the Ombudsman concept from developed nations, he emphasized its importance in offering citizens an alternative to lengthy and expensive litigation processes. While commending BMP's achievements, he stressed the need to expedite complaint resolution to avoid delays similar to the judicial system. He encouraged BMP to focus less on monetary figures and more on maximum redressal of complainant's grievances. Dr. Ishrat Husain emphasized the importance of IT literacy across all levels of staff to improve productivity, regardless of age or technical background. Regarding the BMP Annual Report, he praised its quality but proposed deeper analytical insights, including frequency and nature of complaints. He also urged upon inclusion of microfinance banks under BMP's jurisdiction. He recommended the Report be discussed with stakeholders and submitted to the President for potential policy improvements. He further suggested engaging with the Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA) on sector wise issues and initiating bilateral discussions with individual banks facing higher complaint volumes to safeguard their reputations. Consultant (Legal Affairs) to the President of Pakistan Justice (R) Irfan Qadir while recording his appreciation for the Banking Mohtasib Pakistan, speaking at its 20th anniversary event, praised BMP's remarkable efforts in protecting the rights of banking customers and emphasized the importance of legal integrity, speedy justice, and ethical conduct in public institutions. Justice (R) Qadir reflected on his experience over one and a half years as a Legal Consultant, during which he reviewed and adjudicated more than 500 representations covering a wide range of banking issues. These included spoofed calls, ATM fraud, digital banking transactions, IBFT issues, staff misconduct, loan and locker disputes, account blockages, succession matters, dormancy, and service deficiencies. He noted that in nearly all cases, BMP had already provided thorough relief, and he was able to further enhance outcomes by including applicable mark-up or KIBOR, thereby reinforcing citizens' rights. _APP

Takht Bhai living legacy of Gandhara civilization

TAKHTBHAJ: Perched atop the rugged hills of Mardan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where silence hangs like a mist and time appears to rest in reverence, lies a timeless marvel of Takht Bhai- a UNESCO World Heritage Site, attracting tourists and followers of Buddhism.

Far from being mere remnants of ancient stone and bricks, these Buddhist monastic ruins call with the whispers of centuries, each stupa and sculpture narrating tales of devotion, art, and intellect from the cradle of the Gandhara civilization. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1980, Takht Bhai (literally "Throne of Origins") is one of South Asia's most well-preserved and spiritually significant archaeological treasures. Here, history does not just lie buried beneath the earth but it rises proudly against the sky, in soaring stone walls, intricately carved stupas, and monastic courtyards that once bustled with Buddhist monks and scholars. "Every stone here speaks," says Bakhtzada Khan, Assistant Director at the Department of Archaeology Peshawar. "It is not just a site but a narrative carved in stone that dates back to the early centuries before Christ, through the zenith of the Kushan dynasty and beyond,"

he told APP. The site, composed of multiple monastic complexes, was actively used until the 7th century CE. The construction executed in the signature Gandhara diaper-style masonry using locally sourced stone strongly reflects a blend of Hellenistic and South Asian architectural traditions, echoing the cultural confluence that defined the region during ancient times. Every year, Takht Bhai welcomes pilgrims, monks, historians, and cultural tourists from across the globe. Visitors from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, Turkey, and Singapore walk its time-worn paths in silent awe, retracing the spiritual footsteps of those who once studied, prayed, and meditated among these stone sanctuaries. Standing just five kilometers away is Sahri-Bahlol, a fortified ancient city believed to be from the Kushan period. Built atop a nine-meter-high mound, the site still retains fragments of its defensive walls, crafted in the same distinctive diaper-style masonry. This smaller site is part of a broader archaeological landscape that includes Jamal Ghari, further deepening the historical significance of the region. "Together, these sites represent the zenith of Buddhist architectural achievement in the

subcontinent," reiterates Bakhtzada Khan. He said their preservation is crucial not just for Pakistan, but for the cultural memory of humanity adding such ancient treasures are hardly seen in subcontinent. Takht Bhai is just one among 2,000 religio-heritage sites and 30,000 artifacts of the Gandhara civilization discovered across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Many of these remain understudied and under-promoted. Despite this, they form a crucial part of Pakistan's cultural identity and soft power potential. Manzoorul Haq, former ambassador of Pakistan, believes Takht Bhai can become a global cultural and heritage destination. "This is Pakistan's identity," he told APP. "By showcasing Takht Bhai through short videos, documentaries, and pictorial storytelling on digital platforms, we can attract global attention and generate substantial revenue through cultural tourism." The entire 445-hectare mountain region around Takht Bhai has been declared an archaeological reserve, ensuring protection from unchecked urbanization and encroachments. The site is safeguarded under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (1904) and the Antiquities Act (1975) of Pakistan, providing a legal framework for its preservation. _APP



LAHORE: Railway Walton School Academy participating in the women's round for recruitment in the Railway Police.

Bugti unveils landmark education reforms

QUETTA: On World Teachers' Day, Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, delivered a stirring tribute to educators, hailing them as the architects of our children's bright future and emphasizing that their contributions and sacrifices are unforgettable.

In a message, CM Bugti reaffirmed his administration's unwavering commitment to education and teacher welfare, declaring that honoring and empowering educators remains a top priority for the provincial government. Highlighting transformative strides in educational governance, the Chief Minister announced the successful implementation of sweeping reforms across Balochistan's education sector. "The merit-based recruitment of 16,000 teachers is a historical step," said CM Bugti. He underscored the transparency and integrity of the process, noting that 99.9 percent merit was ensured, ensuring that only the most qualified and capable candidates were appointed to these crucial roles. CM Bugti reiterated the government's resolve to deliver quality education to every child in Balochistan, stressing that the dignity and empowerment of teachers are essential to building a progressive society. "An honorable and empowered teacher is the one who can lay the foundation for a civilized and developed society," he added. The Chief Minister acknowledged the profound influence of teachers on the province's future, asserting that recognizing their hard work, dedication, and role is both a moral obligation and a national imperative. _APP

CSA trains 42 minority aspirants for CSS exam

LAHORE: The Civil Services Academy (CSA) successfully concluded the second cohort of the National Outreach Programme for Minorities (NOM) – a one-month residential training initiative designed to prepare youth from minority communities for the Central Superior Services (CSS) examination.

The closing ceremony was held on Saturday. According to official details, the latest cohort consisted of 42 candidates from across Pakistan, including 21 from the Christian community, 19 from the Hindu community, and two from the Muslim community. The programme, initiated by the federal government in consultation with provincial

authorities, aims to address the representation of minorities in the civil service. Official statistics reveal that out of 121 CSS posts reserved for minorities, only 14 have been filled. In response, the government introduced a Special CSS Examination allowing extended age relaxation up to 35 years and four attempts, also benefitting aspirants from Balochistan, merged FATA districts, and other marginalized groups. Speaking at the closing ceremony, CSA Director Capacity Building Dr. Syed Shabbir Akbar Zaidi described the programme as a strategic investment in diversity and inclusion. "It provides not only academic preparation but

also confidence and purpose to help aspirants serve the nation effectively," he said. Secretary of Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Department Farid Ahmad Tarar who attended as the chief guest, praised the initiative as a milestone in inclusive governance and lauded the CSA's efforts to empower minority candidates to compete on merit. CSA Director General Farhan Aziz reaffirmed the Academy's commitment to capacity building and pledged to further expand outreach efforts to underrepresented communities. Participants expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity, calling the training transformative. _APP

Punjab Forest Deptt moves to boost silk output

LAHORE: The Punjab Forest Department is taking steps to revive and strengthen the province's declining sericulture sector with the aim of boosting local silk output and reducing the country's heavy dependence on imported silk worth Rs112 billion annually. Sericulture has been practiced for decades in Punjab's rural areas, providing a vital source of livelihood to thousands of families despite facing numerous challenges. Over 4,000 households, including nearly 4,000 women, are currently engaged in silkworm farming in Punjab. Farooq Bhatti, Deputy Director of Sericulture at the Punjab Forest Department, said that silkworm farming in Punjab runs in

two main seasons, January to April and September to October. "Silkworms feed on mulberry leaves. That is why this cottage industry thrives in areas where mulberry tree plantations exist," he said. Currently, mulberry plants cover about 400 acres across Punjab, with the Changa Manga forest alone having around 150 acres of plantations, followed by 60 acres in Chichawatni. Other areas with mulberry cultivation include Mandi Bahauddin, Kamalia, Rajana, Toba Tek Singh, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Peerowal, and Bahawalpur. Farooq said that until the 1980s, Pakistan ranked 12th among natural silk-producing countries in the world, but local production later declined as imported

cocoons from India and Central Asia replaced domestic output. He pointed out that the textile industry now imports both synthetic and natural silk yarn worth Rs112 billion each year. "By promoting local production of natural silk, a considerable portion of foreign exchange can be saved," he emphasized. To strengthen the sector, he suggested that the Punjab government should upgrade its sericulture wing into a non-timber forest products directorate, following the example of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. "This would allow integration of sericulture with other non-timber forest products such as medicinal plants and apiculture (beekeeping)," he said. _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

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Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

APNS condemns police action at the national press club

Reiterating its unwavering support for the journalist community, the APNS expressed solidarity with the National Press Club in defending freedom of expression and the rights of working journalists. The meeting was also attended by Senator Sarmad Ali, President APNS



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Capital Committee of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), under the chairmanship of Mr. Faisal Zahid Malik, has expressed deep concern and strong condemnation over the incident that occurred at the National Press Club, Islamabad, on October 2, 2025, where police intervention led to an unfortunate situation involving members of the journalist community. The Committee reaffirmed that freedom of the press and the sanctity of press institutions must be respected at all times. It stated that any act of intimidation or use of force against journalists is a direct attack on press freedom, which is guaranteed under the Constitution of Pakistan. The APNS Committee called upon the Government and law enforcement agencies to immediately conduct an impartial inquiry into the incident, take strict disciplinary action against those responsible, and ensure that such occurrences are not repeated in the future. Reiterating its unwavering support for the journalist community, the APNS expressed solidarity with the National Press Club in defending freedom of expression and the rights of working journalists. The meeting was also attended by Senator Sarmad Ali, President APNS.

APHC warns India’s war rhetoric poses grave threat to S Asia’s peace

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has strongly denounced the belligerent rhetoric emanating from Indian defense and military leadership, warning that such provocative statements are pushing the entire South Asian region toward instability. APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement in Srinagar, said the war-mongering remarks by India’s defense minister and service chiefs clearly expose New Delhi’s dangerous military mindset and its obsession with the Hindutva-driven ideology of dominance and aggression. Instead of promoting dialogue and cooperation, the spokesman said, India’s generals are parroting the extremist narrative of the Modi regime, fanning the flames of hostility and undermining every effort aimed at regional peace. The

APHC spokesman said these provocations are part of the Modi government’s diversionary tactics to deflect attention from its internal failures and uprising in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The spokesman urged the international community to take serious notice of India’s reckless conduct, stressing that durable peace in South Asia hinges on the just settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He said New Delhi must be held accountable for its defiance of international law and its repeated attempts to endanger regional and global peace. The APHC expressed serious concern over the continued arrest and harassment of Kashmiris of all ages and genders by Indian forces in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The APHC spokesman

said the BJP regime and its forces have intensified their campaign of harassment, arbitrary arrests, torture, property confiscations, and dismissal of government employees since August 5, 2019. Even academics, journalists, and human rights and social activists have not been spared. The APHC lamented that Indian forces and dreaded agencies such as the SIA and NIA have turned Kashmir into a living hell for its residents under the guise of so-called cordon-and-search operations and raids. The statement urged India to abandon its intransigence on Kashmir, end its iron-fist approach, and open a new chapter by initiating a sincere and result-oriented dialogue with the Kashmiris and Pakistan to resolve the long-pending dispute once and for all. —APP

Intensified action demanded against stray dogs

ISLAMABAD :Residents of various sectors of the federal capital have demanded intensified efforts to tackle the rising number of stray dogs in the city. Citizens report that several areas — including sectors G-6, G-10, I-8, F-11, and surrounding localities — are witnessing increased activity of stray dogs, often moving in aggressive packs. Multiple dog bite cases have been reported, with children and elderly residents being the most vulnerable. “This is not just a matter of nuisance — it’s a public safety emergency. Authorities must act swiftly to implement humane and effective population control measures,

ensure vaccination of stray animals, and protect residents from further harm,” said Dr. Riaz Naru, a resident of G-6/4, who was bitten by a stray dog near Qutub Shaheed Masjid on Street 55. Residents have urged the CDA, Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation (IMC), and district health authorities to take immediate and coordinated action. They emphasized that mass sterilization, vaccination drives, and the creation of designated shelters are essential to address the issue in line with public health priorities and animal welfare standards. Meanwhile, a CDA official said that the Municipal Corporation Is-

lamabad (MCI) and CDA have intensified efforts to address and prevent the rising number of complaints regarding stray dogs in the federal capital. Joint teams from CDA and MCI are actively conducting operations, and the registration and resolution process for public complaints has been expedited. Citizens can register complaints through the 24/7 operational helpline 1334, which caters to both urban and rural areas of Islamabad. Improved arrangements have also been made at the Stray Dog Centre located in Tarmri, where the Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Release (TNVR) method is being implemented. Un-

der this method, stray dogs are captured, neutered, vaccinated, and relocated to safe areas. According to CDA records, between July and September 2025, action was taken on hundreds of reported cases from various markets, residential sectors, and rural localities. Areas covered include sectors G-14, D-12, F-6, F-7, I-9, I-10, G-10, F-11, and neighborhoods such as Saidpur, Margalla Town, Bhara Kahu, and the Red Zone. During this period, over 550 stray dogs were relocated to the Stray Dog Centre. The MCI administration stated that all complaints are being addressed promptly and that the Stray Dog Centre is fully operational.—APP

Muqam strongly condemns attack on Maulana, orders investigation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engr Amir Muqam has strongly condemned the assassination attempt on renowned Islamic scholar and Ameer of Ahle-Sunnat Wal Jamaat Gilgit-Baltistan and Kohistan, Maulana Qazi Nisar Ahmed, and has ordered a high-level investigation into the incident. The minister, who is currently on an official visit abroad, was informed about the attack during his trip. Upon receiving the news, he immediately contacted the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, Chief Secretary, and the Inspector General of Police, seeking a detailed report on the incident, said a press release. Muqam emphasized that Maulana Qazi Nisar Ahmed is a highly respected religious leader and an esteemed figure in the region. “An attack on him is not just an attack on an individual, but an assault on the peace and stability of the entire area,” he said. He directed authorities to utilize all available resources to ensure the perpetrators are swiftly apprehended and brought to justice under the full extent of the law. “Those involved in this heinous crime will not escape justice,” the minister affirmed. Commending the unity demonstrated by the public in the face of this act of terrorism, Muqam said, “Public solidarity against terrorist elements is our true strength. Such unity sends a clear message to the enemies of peace.” He also praised Maulana Qazi Nisar Ahmed’s call for calm and peace despite being injured, calling it a reflection of his wisdom and exemplary leadership. “His appeal to the public to maintain peace, even in such dire circumstances, is highly commendable,” the minister stated. Muqam appealed to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, particularly the youth, to continue playing a proactive role in maintaining peace and harmony in the region. The minister concluded by offering prayers for the swift recovery of Maulana Qazi Nisar Ahmed and all others injured in the attack.—DNA

Free CNIC cancellation Small reform with big impact on families

ISLAMABAD :In the middle of an open ground in Ali Town, Rawalpindi, where people throw garbage and children play among tin and plastic, 45-year-old Bakht Bibi, known as Bakhtan, sits outside her small hut made of cloth and metal sheets. Her husband passed away a few months ago, leaving behind six children and no property. For the first time in her family, a CNIC has been cancelled after a death. “We never thought cancelling the ID card was necessary,” she told APP. “But now NADRA has made it easy. The cancellation is free, and the entry appears in our family tree record automatically.” Across Pakistan, many families still do not cancel the CNICs of their deceased relatives. Some avoid the process because of the fee, while others are unaware of its importance. Without cancellation, the ID cards of the deceased remain active — creating issues in inheritance, pensions, and legal transactions. Under the direction of the Minister for Interior, the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has introduced key reforms: CNIC cancellation after death is now free of charge. Data sharing with the Civil Registration Management System (CRMS) has been strengthened. Biometric verification is now required to prevent false or mistaken death entries. When a death is recorded in the CRMS, NADRA automatically updates the family record. Relatives visiting NADRA for any other service are first asked to confirm the death through biometric verification before the deceased’s CNIC is cancelled. Although NADRA can cancel CNICs automatically based on provincial data, the biometric step ensures accuracy, especially as provincial systems still lack biometric devices. Officials say the reforms have shown strong results. CNIC cancellations after death have increased nearly six times, data accuracy has improved, and fake entries have sharply declined. A resident from Rawalpindi, Bilal Ahmed, said: “Earlier, people avoided the process because of the cost, but now we can easily cancel the ID cards of our elders after their passing.” “When a CNIC is cancelled, all related departments — like property and FBR — should automatically update their data. Poor and uneducated families find it hard to visit every office,” he said. Legal expert Usman Farooq Dhaddi told APP that NADRA’s decision to make CNIC cancellation free would not only help families but also strengthen national databases. “With accurate death records, the government can plan better from budgets to workforce estimates,” he said. He added that connecting NADRA’s verified data with other departments would promote transparency in inheritance and welfare systems. A woman named Sidra told APP with regret that while the free cancellation was a welcome step, more needed to be done. “I wish property transfer and inheritance division were also made free and automatic with CNIC cancellation,” she said, “so that daughters like me could easily receive our rightful share.” For women like Bakht Bibi, the change is more than administrative. It brings dignity and inclusion. Her late husband’s name is now properly marked in the NADRA family tree — proof that even families living in poverty are counted and acknowledged. _APP

15 new fogging machines deployed to curb dengue

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration has intensified its anti-dengue campaign, conducting fogging operations at 1,975 locations in the past 24 hours and deploying 15 new fogging machines across the city to control the spread of the virus. The Islamabad district administration has launched a large-scale anti-dengue operation in response to rising cases, expanding fumigation efforts throughout the federal capital. According to officials, 15 new fogging machines have been made operational to strengthen field activities and ensure that every dengue hotspot in the city is covered. During the last 24 hours, fumigation was carried out at 1,975 identified locations, including residential areas, parks, under-construction buildings, and open plots. The administration confirmed that fogging has also been completed in all neighborhoods where dengue-positive cases were recently reported. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Memon directed field teams to double their daily shifts to cover all areas without delay. He instructed that no locality should remain without fogging and that field officers must ensure full implementation of dengue prevention measures in their respective zones. The Deputy Commissioner also directed Assistant Commissioners to intensify actions against causes leading to dengue larvae breeding, such as stagnant water, uncovered water tanks, and unhygienic surroundings. He stressed that strict monitoring should continue in high-risk areas, and violators of dengue safety standards should face legal action.—APP

IFA inspects 1,224 restaurants, imposes Rs1.7m fines in SeP

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) inspected 1,224 restaurants and food outlets during September, sealing 52 eateries and imposing fines of over Rs1.7 million on 113 establishments for substandard food practices. Talking to APP, Deputy Director Operations of IFA, Dr Tahira Siddique, said that the Islamabad Food Authority released its monthly performance report for September, outlining extensive operations across the federal capital to ensure food safety and hygiene standards. According to the report, inspection teams conducted checks at 1,224 restaurants, bakeries, and food outlets. During these inspections, 113 establishments were fined a total of Rs1,708,000 for serving food that did not meet quality standards, while 52 outlets were sealed for preparing or selling unsafe food.—APP

Briefs

AIOU extends
convocation
registration
deadline

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) extended the registration deadline for its 2025 Convocation till October 15. Graduates from the Autumn 2022 to Autumn 2024 semesters would be eligible to participate in the upcoming ceremony, said a statement on issued on Sunday. The university has also announced a 50% fee concession for disable students, while PhD degree holders and medalists will be permitted to bring one guest to the event. Students were also guided to complete their registration through the official portal convocation.aiou.edu.pk. AIOU has advised students who have already submitted their applications but have not yet paid the fee to deposit it immediately to confirm their participation._APP

IGP chairs
meeting
on uplift
initiatives

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chaired an important meeting on Safe City Islamabad and planning and development initiatives to further enhance security and modernize police operations in the federal capital. An official told APP on Sunday that the meeting was attended by Director General (DG) Safe City Muhammad Haroon Joya, SSP Security, AIG Logistics, Director Special Initiatives, and Assistant Director Planning & Development. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the effective use of modern technology in the Safe City project, foolproof security measures, logistical requirements of the police, and new development projects aimed at providing better services to citizens. Strategies to improve police performance, enhance professional skills, and raise the standard of public service were also discussed in detail. IGP Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi reaffirmed that Islamabad Police is fully committed to utilizing technology, modern planning, and administrative reforms in line with contemporary needs to make the federal capital safer and more peaceful. He emphasized that the welfare of police personnel and the protection of citizens' lives and property remain among the top priorities of the Islamabad Police._APP

Grand
search,
combing
operation in
Tarnol

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a grand search and combing operation in different areas of Tarnol Police Station's jurisdiction to tighten security and curb criminal elements in the federal capital. An official told APP on Sunday that the operation began after senior police officers briefed the participating teams about the objectives and security protocols. Teams from various police units, including female police officials, actively took part in the search activity. He said during the operation, 150 individuals, 15 houses, 5 shops, 15 vehicles, and 55 motorcycles were checked, while 22 suspicious persons were shifted to the police station for legal action. He added that the Islamabad Police has been carrying out similar search and combing operations in different parts of the city to ensure effective law enforcement and public safety. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Muhammad Jawad Tariq said the primary purpose of these operations was to tighten the noose around criminal elements and strengthen overall security in the city. He reaffirmed that indiscriminate actions against criminals, land grabbers, and drug dealers would continue without interruption._APP

General practice hospital launches
breast cancer awareness initiative

This initiative reflects General Practice Hospital's ongoing commitment to community health and women's wellness. Women are encouraged to take advantage of this timely opportunity to get screened, seek advice, and take proactive steps toward a healthier future

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In recognition of International Breast Cancer Awareness Month, General Practice Hospital is proud to launch a community-focused health initiative aimed at promoting early detection and treatment of breast cancer. Throughout October 2025, the hospital will be offering subsidized screening X-Ray mammography for just PKR 3,000, along with free consultations from qualified female

breast surgeons. Breast cancer remains one of the most prevalent forms of cancer among women in Pakistan. However, when detected early, the chances of successful treatment and survival increase significantly. The hospital's campaign is centered on increasing accessibility and awareness, especially among women who may not otherwise have access to reliable screening services. Patients will be welcomed into a safe, hygienic, and confidential environment, ensuring their comfort and privacy throughout

the process. The initiative is designed to encourage women to prioritize their health without the burden of high medical costs or social stigma. "We understand the fear and uncertainty that can come with breast cancer screening," said a representative from General Practice Hospital. "That's why we're committed to providing compassionate, affordable, and professional care during this awareness month. Early detection saves lives — and we want every woman to have that chance." The

hospital also urges corporate organizations, educational institutions, and community groups to support the campaign by circulating this information among their members and encouraging participation. This initiative reflects General Practice Hospital's ongoing commitment to community health and women's wellness. Women are encouraged to take advantage of this timely opportunity to get screened, seek advice, and take proactive steps toward a healthier future.

PAL chairperson meets
Vietnam envoy

Discussions were held within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Vietnam Writers' Association (VWA) and the Pakistan Academy of Letters, with a particular focus on ongoing and upcoming translation projects



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL), Dr. Najeeba Arif, paid a courtesy call on the Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Pakistan, His Excellency Pham Anh Tuan, at the Embassy of Vietnam. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Truong Van Thang, First Secretary; Mr. Pham Hong Quang, Second Secretary; and Dr. Bibi Ameena, Deputy Director (Academics), PAL.

Discussions were held within the framework of the

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Vietnam Writers' Association (VWA) and the Pakistan Academy of Letters, with a particular focus on ongoing and upcoming translation projects. These include the translation of Prison Diary by Ho Chi Minh and the Academy's publication An Anthology of Pakistani Urdu Short Stories. Both sides also explored avenues to broaden literary exchanges, strengthen cultural cooperation, and initiate collaborative academic ventures.

Ambassador Pham Anh Tuan expressed his appreciation

to Dr. Arif for her participation in ASEAN Day, while she, in turn, conveyed gratitude to the Ambassador and his colleagues for attending the inaugural session of the Nasal-e-Nau Literary Festival 2025. The Ambassador noted with satisfaction that his participation in the festival had given him valuable insights into the richness of Pakistan's literary and intellectual traditions, showcased through the distinguished platform of PAL.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening bilateral cultural and literary ties. They agreed to expand cooperation through

translation projects, exchange of delegations, and the promotion of joint academic and creative activities. At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Arif presented the Ambassador with souvenirs on behalf of the Pakistan Academy of Letters, along with a copy of An Anthology of Pakistani Urdu Short Stories.

This interaction marked another step towards consolidating the friendly relations between Pakistan and Vietnam, with both parties reiterating their resolve to expand cultural and intellectual cooperation in the years ahead.

China delivers 90 tons of supplies
as monsoon relief assistance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China has once again reaffirmed its steadfast solidarity with Pakistan by sending another major consignment of humanitarian aid to support families affected by the recent devastating floods. A special Chinese relief aircraft landed at Islamabad International Airport on Saturday afternoon, carrying 90 tons of essential supplies, including 700 tents, 16,000 blankets, 1,000 life jackets, and 4,000 sleeping bags, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. The aid will be distributed among communities struggling with widespread damage caused by the heavy monsoon rains. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the arrival of this consignment is part of China's ongoing Monsoon Relief Assistance Programme for Pakistan. Acting on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, NDMA is coordinating with relevant federal and provincial institutions to ensure the swift and transparent distribution of supplies to flood-affected families. This latest shipment follows an earlier dispatch of aid on Sep-

tember 28, when China sent two relief flights carrying 300 tents and 9,000 blankets. Officials said the timely assistance underscores Beijing's determination to stand shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan in times of natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

The Government of Pakistan has expressed deep appreciation for China's continued support, noting that it not only brings urgent relief to those in distress but also symbolizes the enduring friendship and all-weather partnership between the two countries. Heavy monsoon rains have triggered flash floods across several parts of Pakistan in September and early October, leaving thousands of families displaced and damaging homes, roads, and agricultural land. The government has been mobilizing resources to provide emergency shelter, food, and medical aid, while appealing for international assistance to meet the scale of humanitarian needs. China's contribution is part of a broader wave of international relief, yet officials emphasized that Beijing has consistently been among the first to respond to Pakistan's natural disasters — including the 2010 super floods, the 2022 floods, and now the 2025 crisis.

ISSI hosts book launch on
“Fractured” Pakistan-India ties

DNA

ISLAMABAD: India Study Centre (ISC) of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the book launch event of "Pakistan-India Relations: Fractured Past, Uncertain Future", authored by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Pakistan's former Foreign Secretary. The event featured Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, as the Chief Guest; while the speakers included Ambassador Vice Admiral Khan Hasham bin Siddique, Pakistan's former Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Raja Amer Iqbal, former President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). In his welcome address, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that the book reflected both the abiding realism of a diplomat, and the enduring

passion of a peace activist. With both these strands, Ambassador Chaudhry had maintained his quest for Pakistan-India peace and normalisation, with the disposition of an incurable optimist. Shedding light on its contents, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that the book highlighted five central challenges to India-Pakistan relations. These included: the intractability of Jammu and Kashmir dispute; the unbridgeability of the two countries' positions on the issue of terrorism; the vagaries of domestic politics; the relentless Indian pursuit of regional domination; and the complexity of global geopolitics. While highlighting the challenges, the author also suggested the ways in which the two countries could attain peaceful coexistence and manage negative perceptions of each other. The book represented an important contribution from Pakistan's perspective to the discourse on Pakistan-India relations, which

had been heavily influenced by the Indian narratives. Sharing thoughts on the present trajectory of Pakistan-India relations, Ambassador Sohail emphasised that, over past 11 years since the Modi-led BJP regime took over, the edifice of the bilateral relationship had been systematically dismantled, brick-by-brick. Among others, this was reflected in the discontinuation of structured dialogue process; intransigence on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute; frequent resort to kinetic action and the use of force; enhanced use of Indian proxies for destabilisation of Pakistan; weaponisation of trade, sports and water; putting the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance; and stalling of the SAARC process. He also highlighted four structural constraints that now impeded progress in Pakistan-India relations: the RSS-BJP inspired 'Hindutva' ideology; the BJP's use of Pakistan 'bogy' for domestic political

and electoral calculations; the arrogance and hubris in Indian approach induced by India-Pakistan economic differential; and India's major-power ambitions. He stressed that Pakistan must maintain the overall objective of a peaceful and good-neighbourly relationship with India, but with dignity and honour. It should be based on mutual respect, sovereign equality, and mutual benefit. Any unseemly haste or unilateral concessions must be eschewed; and Pakistan's principled position on Kashmir steadfastly maintained. Pakistan should also employ all feasible diplomatic, political and legal options to safeguard its legitimate rights under the IWT. He concluded that, for Pakistan, this was the time for internal and external consolidation; and for strategic clarity and strategic patience vis-à-vis India. Even at the worst of times, "we should neither lower our ambition for peace, nor lose our faith in diplomacy."

Crackdown on
smoke-emittingvehicles from Nov 17
The crackdown, part of a broader government strategy to safeguard public health and environmental quality, reflects a commitment to tackling this challenge before the smog season peaks

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) has announced a strict crackdown on smoke-emitting vehicles in Islamabad, set to begin November 17, in a major step to tackle worsening air pollution ahead of the smog season. The enforcement campaign will involve surprise inspections, on-the-spot emission tests, fines, and possible impoundment of violating vehicles. Muhammad Saleem Shaikh, spokesperson for the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, told APP on Sunday that the campaign is a joint initiative with Islamabad Police, Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA), and the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP). "Protecting ourselves, our families, and our environment from the harmful effects of air pollution and smog is a collective responsibility," he stressed. The crackdown comes as smog season approaches — a period marked by hazardous air quality due to a mix of vehicular emissions, industrial pollutants, and burning of waste and crop residues. Smog is known to cause serious health risks, particularly for children, the elderly, and people with respiratory conditions. It also harms the environment by reducing visibility, damaging crops, and degrading air quality in urban areas. Under the campaign, Sheikh said vehicles will be tested at both static centres and mobile inspection points across Islamabad, including key locations such as D-Chowk near Old Parade Ground, F-9 Park, and major entry and exit routes like the Islamabad Expressway. Vehicle owners found exceeding permissible smoke emission limits will face penalties, and vehicles emitting excessive smoke may be seized immediately. The spokesperson urged all motorists to cooperate with enforcement teams and ensure their vehicles are well-maintained to meet emission standards. "We urge citizens to avoid unnecessary use of vehicles, use public transport, ensure regular maintenance to minimise smoke emissions, and refrain from burning waste or leaves in open spaces," he said. Vehicle owners are also encouraged to get their vehicles tested before the crackdown begins and obtain an official clearance sticker to avoid penalties. Testing points are operational at various locations, and details can be obtained by contacting the Pak-EPA office at 051-9250713 during working hours. "This campaign is not only about enforcement but also awareness," Shaikh added. "Public education efforts are underway to encourage voluntary compliance and ensure cleaner air for Islamabad's residents." Vehicular emissions remain one of the top contributors to urban air pollution in Pakistan. The crackdown, part of a broader government strategy to safeguard public health and environmental quality, reflects a commitment to tackling this challenge before the smog season peaks.—DNA

Floods
damage
over 229,000
homes,
kill 22,841
livestock

ISLAMABAD :Severe flooding has damaged at least 229,763 homes—including 59,258 completely destroyed and 170,505 partially—and claimed 22,841 livestock in flood-hit areas since June 26, according to the latest data shared by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

According to the latest data, a total of 213,097 houses were affected by the recent deluge in Punjab, including 55,134 fully destroyed and 157,963 partially damaged. Additionally, 3,992 livestock perished in the flood-hit districts In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a total of 3,222 houses were damaged in the floods, including 701 completely destroyed and 2,521 partially affected, while 5,467 livestock also perished in flood hit areas of the province. Similarly, in Sindh, a total of 3,332 houses were damaged in the floods, including 224 completely destroyed and 3,108 partially affected, while 577 livestock were also lost. In Balochistan, floods damaged 6,370 houses—2,080 completely and 4,290 partially—while 4,585 livestock were also lost in the province. In Gilgit-Baltistan, a total of 1,260 houses were damaged by the floods, including 779 completely destroyed and 481 partially affected, while 7,981 livestock were also lost.—APP

Seminar on
practice-based
research held
at RIMS

ISLAMABAD: The Riphah Institute of Media Sciences (RIMS) organized a seminar on "Practice-Based Research in Creative Arts and Communication", featuring Dr. Suriyya Choudhary, Chairperson of the Department of Fine Arts, Fatima Jinnah Women University, as the keynote speaker.

Addressing faculty and students, Dr. Suriyya discussed the growing significance of practice-based research in bridging creative exploration with academic rigor, said a press release.

She offered deep insights into critical theory, visual methodologies, and the postcolonial gaze, emphasizing their role in advancing scholarly and artistic inquiry in Pakistan's higher education landscape. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Riaz Adil, Chairman, Riphah Institute of Media Sciences, said that the seminar aimed to strengthen interdisciplinary learning and encourage research-driven creativity among students of media and communication.—APP

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
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E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

Warnings, retorts and the risk of escalation

A Fresh round of blistering rhetoric between New Delhi and Islamabad has raised alarm among diplomats and analysts, reviving fears that a sustained exchange of threats could slip into a wider—and dangerously unpredictable—military confrontation.

On October 3–4, senior Indian military and political leaders issued some of their sternest public warnings in months, with Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi bluntly telling troops that Pakistan must stop what he called support for “state-sponsored terrorism” if it wished to “retain its place on the world map.” He added that India would not exercise the same restraint it had in earlier operations, language that many interpreted as a veiled threat of large-scale action.

The statement drew an immediate and fiery response from Islamabad. Pakistan’s defence minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, publicly castigated the Indian leadership’s rhetoric as an attempt to restore credibility after setbacks in earlier clashes, and vowed that any fresh Indian adventurism would be met with an even stronger response. In a post on X (formerly Twitter) and comments to domestic media, Asif said India would be “buried under the wreckage of its planes” if it tried to strike again, framing his retort as both a morale message for Pakistani audiences and a direct rebuttal to talk of erasing Pakistan from the map.

The exchange comes against the ugly backdrop of air combat and mutual accusations earlier this year. Both sides have publicly disputed losses, but the episode in May—when each side claimed battlefield successes—remains a raw point of contention. Indian statements in August claimed its air defences had shot down several Pakistani aircraft during that confrontation; Pakistani sources and independent observers dispute some of those figures, but the incident hardened narratives on both sides and set the political context for the current rhetoric. Reuters+1

Rhetoric between nuclear-armed neighbours is more than posturing. It shapes public opinion, constrains diplomats, and can drive military commanders to adopt riskier postures. Analysts point to three immediate reasons why recent comments are especially worrying:

1. Domestic political dynamics. Indian leaders, some commentators argue, are facing pressure to project strength at home following perceived setbacks; similarly, Pakistani leaders feel compelled to respond robustly to protect national credibility. Khawaja Asif explicitly linked New Delhi’s tone to domestic political calculations. Geo News
2. Operational memories from May. The visceral memory of the

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



clashes earlier this year—not least the contested claims over aircraft losses—creates a volatile psychological baseline. Both militaries now have recent operational experience facing one another, which lowers the threshold for miscalculation.

Regional and global players have already been drawn into the diplomatic fallout. China, Pakistan’s closest strategic partner, publicly urged restraint while emphasizing its interest in regional stability; Beijing has reiterated support for Pakistan’s sovereignty in recent diplomatic exchanges. Meanwhile, the United States has sought to play a calming role—President Donald Trump publicly said he hoped the fighting would stop and indicated readiness to help mediate, reflecting Washington’s broader interest in avoiding a major South Asian war. How outside powers position themselves will influence calculations in New Delhi and Islamabad.

Several commentators and former diplomats have stressed that military threats between nuclear-armed rivals are inherently destabilizing. Even limited cross-border strikes risk rapid escalation through misinterpretation, accidents, or pre-planned contingency responses. Both countries have historically relied on red lines, back-channel communications, and international mediation to prevent limited crises from becoming all-out wars. Those mechanisms will be tested if the current rhetorical spiral continues.

At this stage, much will depend on the interplay of domestic politics, military signaling, and international pressure. Islamabad’s strong public posture aims to deter further Indian action and reassure its own population; New Delhi’s warnings are designed to punish what it deems unacceptable cross-border activity and to shore up domestic perceptions of resolve. Diplomatic actors—particularly Beijing, Washington and other regional stakeholders—are likely to intensify quiet diplomacy to prevent miscalculation.

Responsible reporting and commentary must separate verified facts from inflammatory claims. While incendiary language—such as talk of “erasing” a country from the map—dominates headlines and social media feeds, policymakers and the public need sober analysis of capabilities, escalation risks, and the limited utility of threats. Mutual restraint, restored channels of military communication and independent verification of contested incidents would reduce the danger that words turn into irreversible action.

For now, the world watches nervously as both sides trade warnings. The international community’s immediate priorities will be to prevent further violence, protect civilian lives near flashpoints, and revive dialogue channels that can cool tempers before rhetoric turns to irreparable deeds. The costs of miscalculation, as recent history shows, would be catastrophic for the region—and for global security.

360 Views of Trump’s Peace Plan

Qamar Bashir



Hamas’s reaction is a tactical acceptance laced with strategic reservations. Its negotiators abroad signal readiness for a full hostage exchange and a willingness to cede administrative control to an interim Palestinian body, but they resist unconditional disarmament and permanent exclusion from politics. Inside Gaza, command structures are fractured; senior military cadres are depleted; field units operate semi-independently. Leaders willing to compromise must still gauge whether they can enforce any agreement among fighters radicalized by devastation and grief

PRESIDENT Trump’s Gaza Peace Plan is simple in intention but complex in execution. It envisions a staged ceasefire tied to the release of all hostages, a phased Israeli withdrawal linked to verifiable benchmarks, the deployment of an international stabilization force, and governance reforms that transition Gaza toward a reconstituted Palestinian authority supported by technocrats. It concludes with a pathway—deliberately flexible in language—toward Palestinian self-determination and eventual statehood. For Hamas, the red lines are disarmament and exclusion from governance; for Israel, they are credible security guarantees and an avoidance of steps that appear to reward an armed adversary. Between these lines lies a narrow diplomatic corridor where progress must move swiftly or collapse under mistrust.

Hamas’s reaction is a tactical acceptance laced with strategic reservations. Its negotiators abroad signal readiness for a full hostage exchange and a willingness to cede administrative control to an interim Palestinian body, but they resist unconditional disarmament and permanent exclusion from politics. Inside Gaza, command structures are fractured; senior military cadres are depleted; field units operate semi-independently. Leaders willing to compromise must still gauge whether they can enforce any agreement among fighters radicalized by devastation and grief. Hence, the idea of surrendering heavy weapons to third-party custodians while retaining light arms as a “defensive dignity” measure—symbolically vital to Hamas but unacceptable to Israel without intrusive verification.

Israel’s stance is equally ambivalent. Strategically, the plan offers what Israel has long demanded: the return of hostages, demilitarization of Gaza, and an international mechanism to assume day-to-day responsibilities while blocking rearmament. Politically, however, it forces the ruling coalition to digest hard realities: staged withdrawals under international supervision, re-empowerment of a reformed Palestinian Authority, and text that implicitly gestures toward a future Palestinian state. For an Israeli leadership dominated by hard-liners, this feels like concessions under fire and risks coalition fracture. Hence, Jerusalem insists on strict benchmarks, real-time monitoring, and a conditional, performance-based path to statehood—not one dictated by dates.

Iran’s posture is obstructionist yet calculated. A low-intensity conflict serves its interest by keeping Israel and the U.S. occupied while Iran restores deterrence and influence. It will quietly encourage factions to brand disarmament as betrayal and redirect loyalty to splinter groups. Still, Tehran recognizes that a united Arab-Western front behind a ceasefire could shrink its diplomatic space. Expect it to question verification mechanisms and sovereignty provisions while retaining leverage through militant

proxies capable of derailing peace at will. Turkey, Qatar, and Egypt form the indispensable mediating triangle. Ankara frames Hamas’s partial acceptance as a “constructive step” and demands Israel halt military operations. Doha, central to past negotiations, supports the swap framework and advocates timelines that preserve face for both parties. Egypt, the gatekeeper of Rafah, emphasizes sequencing—ceasefire first, synchronized exchanges of hostages and prisoners, and gradual transfer of governance under Arab oversight. Their combined credibility will determine whether enforcement mechanisms succeed or unravel. The Palestinian Authority welcomes the plan but insists that Gaza’s sovereignty lies with the State of Palestine, unified with the West Bank under one civil and security framework. Yet its legitimacy deficit is glaring. Reforms must be real—transparent appointments, credible policing, and efficient public services—to regain Gazan trust. Jordan and other Arab states condition their support on those very reforms and on tangible progress toward the two-state horizon.

Europe, the U.K., Canada, and other Western partners view the plan as the first viable diplomatic track in months. Their priorities converge: secure a ceasefire, free all hostages, restore humanitarian lifelines, and cautiously advance a two-state endgame. They will bankroll stabilization and reconstruction but only under strict oversight. France and Germany call it “the best chance for peace”; Spain and Ireland demand stronger civilian protections; EU institutions emphasize timelines and enforceable humanitarian guarantees. Pakistan, Malaysia, and the wider Global South call the plan imperfect but necessary to end the siege and save lives. They urge a complete ceasefire, unrestricted aid access, and firm guarantees against annexation or forced displacement. Their support will be critical in lending legitimacy to any multinational peace force that must not appear Western-controlled.

Yet Trump’s plan, while pragmatic, misses a critical element: justice. Peace without accountability is fragile, and reconstruction funded by neutral donors ignores moral responsibility. It was Israel that unleashed overwhelming destruction—flattening neighborhoods, hospitals, schools, and mosques, killing thousands of civilians, and turning Gaza into ruins. Therefore, the financial and moral burden of rebuilding Gaza must not fall upon the Arab world or the international community, but squarely upon those who caused the devastation—Israel and its allies, principally the United States. They must finance reconstruction, compensate victims, and fund the restoration of homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Anything less would legitimize impunity and perpetuate the cycle of destruction. Equally, Hamas cannot escape scrutiny for its October 7 attack that killed and abducted civilians. Justice must be even-handed: a transparent, international investi-

gation under UN auspices should probe alleged war crimes, genocide, and ethnic cleansing by both Hamas and Israel. Those who ordered or executed attacks on civilians, destroyed civilian infrastructure, or used starvation and displacement as tools of war must face the law. Impunity—whether for militants or states—cannot coexist with lasting peace.

A just and sustainable settlement would thus require three compacts added to Trump’s architecture. First, a clarity compact—public, enforceable annexes specifying who verifies compliance, how violations are penalized, and when corrective mechanisms activate. Second, a sequencing compact—a 30-60-90 day ladder of actions tied to verifiable outcomes: immediate ceasefire and aid corridors; phased withdrawals; transfer of civil governance; and reconstruction monitored by auditors from neutral states. Third, a dignity compact—addressing not only arms but human dignity: mobility, jobs, municipal elections within a year, and a binding roadmap toward statehood linked to measurable governance performance.

To this must be added a justice compact—a moral and legal foundation ensuring accountability. An independent tribunal, perhaps modeled on the International Criminal Court but regionally backed, should document atrocities, assign blame, and impose reparations. This would transform peace from a political bargain into a moral restoration, proving that even in geopolitics, justice is not optional.

Arab and Western partners must move from mediation to stewardship—deploying peacekeepers, engineers, and funds not as charity, but as custodians of shared responsibility. Moreover, the reconstruction of Gaza must be sponsored and fully financed by Israel—the power that devastated those neighborhoods—and by any allies whose military or material support enabled that destruction. This is not punitive grandstanding; it is deterrence by consequence: any nation or actor that resorts to ethnic cleansing, mass starvation, or genocidal tactics must know it will bear the full financial, legal and moral costs of rebuilding, reparations, and accountability.

The alternative is a replay of history: more funerals, deeper resentment, and another generation growing amid rubble. Flexibility on process is not weakness; it is maturity. If disarmament becomes verifiable, withdrawal becomes milestone-driven, governance becomes transparent, and accountability becomes universal, then the guns can fall silent, Gaza can rebuild, and the Middle East can finally begin to heal.

– 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

Pakistan’s Resurgence: From Battlefield Triumph to Global Recognition

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Pakistan’s voice at the global stage also grew louder and more credible. At the United Nations General Assembly, our Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif spoke with unusual clarity and force about Gaza, Kashmir, and the cause of Islamic unity. These were not empty speeches; they were backed by diplomatic efforts, aid convoys, and public mobilization

Pakistan today stands at a turning point in its history, where the eyes of the world now rest upon it not as a struggling state but as a nation reborn in confidence and power. Except perhaps in the cricketing field, this country has been blessed by the Almighty with dignity and success in almost every sphere, including diplomacy and defense. The Qur’an reminds us of an eternal principle: “Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves” (Qur’an, 13:11). The remarkable shift in Pakistan’s fortunes in recent times is not accidental but the result of a conscious transformation, rooted in both struggle and sacrifice.

The turning of the tide came on the night of 8 and 9 May 2025, when Operation Banyan Al-Marsoos was launched against Indian provocations. It was not merely a military campaign but a decisive moment in the destiny of the nation. The world had long seen Pakistan as reactive in the face of Indian aggression, yet that night our military leadership turned the tables with a swiftness and precision that astonished even seasoned observers. What was achieved was not just a victory on the battlefield but the fulfillment of a collective dream nurtured since 1947—that Pakistan could defend its sovereignty with both courage and success. For once, the myth of Indian invincibility was shattered, and the world acknowledged the discipline, capability, and resolve of the Pakistani forces. This triumph redefined our image abroad. The very adversaries who had long sought to paint Pakistan as a failing state were compelled to recognize its strength. Soon after, the Israeli assault on Qatar provided another test, and Pakistan rose to meet it not with silence but with solidarity. Our readiness to defend a fellow Muslim state brought

us closer to the Gulf, with Saudi Arabia signing a landmark joint defense agreement with Pakistan. This agreement was not symbolic—it demonstrated that Pakistan was now perceived as the shield of the Islamic world. As the Qur’an promises, “If you support the cause of Allah, He will support you and plant your feet firmly” (Qur’an, 47:7).

Pakistan’s voice at the global stage also grew louder and more credible. At the United Nations General Assembly, our Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif spoke with unusual clarity and force about Gaza, Kashmir, and the cause of Islamic unity. These were not empty speeches; they were backed by diplomatic efforts, aid convoys, and public mobilization. Here, the role of former Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan deserves special recognition. By actively joining the Global Freedom Flotilla Movement for Gaza, he linked Pakistan with a wider international campaign of conscience. By stepping onto this perilous path, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan became the first Pakistani former parliamentarian to associate himself with a movement that has symbolized moral defiance against oppression. His presence reminded the world that Pakistan’s solidarity with Palestine was not rhetorical but physical, visible, and active.

In Washington too, Pakistan’s civil and military leadership received rare recognition. Where once there had been mistrust and strained relations, there was now admiration and an acknowledgment of Pakistan’s importance in regional stability. Defense cooperation, intelligence sharing, and trade discussions began touching new heights. It seemed as though decades of uneven relations had entered a fresh chapter.

Yet, amidst these laurels, we must temper pride with prudence. Terrorist networks, often supported by hostile neighbors intelligence agencies, continue

to spread fear within our borders. Attacks on our armed forces, sectarian fault lines, and attempts to destabilize our economy are part of a broader campaign to weaken Pakistan from within. It is essential, therefore, that we remain vigilant, refusing to allow external or internal enemies to exploit our unity.

We must also be wary of another danger; manipulation by those within our own circles. History has shown us that not every friendly hand is sincere. Some may seek to use Pakistan’s rising power for their own gain, risking the honor of the nation for fleeting advantages. Thus, the path ahead requires not only courage but also wisdom.

The analysis of Pakistan’s new standing reveals three truths. First, military success alone cannot sustain honor unless it is matched by political stability and economic growth. Second, global recognition is fragile—it must be nurtured by consistent diplomacy, principled foreign policy, and domestic unity. Third, the true test of leadership lies not in achieving victory but in safeguarding it against complacency, arrogance, and internal discord.

Thus, Pakistan’s resurgence today is both a gift and a responsibility. It is a gift from Allah, who has blessed this nation despite its many shortcomings. But it is also a responsibility upon every Pakistani to preserve and advance this dignity. Honor is not preserved by slogans but by deeds—by building stronger institutions, eliminating corruption, fostering education, and ensuring justice. The world now recognizes Pakistan as a nation of resilience and courage. The question that remains is whether we can recognize ourselves in the same light, and whether we will have the resolve to protect this honor with unity, wisdom, and unwavering faith. If we do, then Pakistan’s future is not only secure but radiant with the promise of greatness.

Briefs

Pak, KSA, UAE among 8 nations back Trump Plan

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They urged the swift commencement of negotiations to finalize implementation mechanisms and ensure that all aspects of the proposal are effectively addressed. Reaffirming their collective commitment to peace, the eight nations pledged to support efforts aimed at the immediate end of the war in Gaza, ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid, preventing the displacement of Palestinians, and safeguarding civilian lives. The statement emphasized the return of the Palestinian Authority to Gaza, the unification of Gaza and the West Bank, the establishment of a credible security mechanism guaranteeing the safety of all sides, and the eventual full withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Negotiators due in...

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Palestinian prisoners". Egyptian state-linked media had previously reported that the warring parties would hold indirect talks on Sunday and Monday. Trump also dispatched two envoys to Egypt on Saturday, according to the White House, sending his son-in-law Jared Kushner and his main Middle East negotiator Steve Witkoff. The US president warned he would "not tolerate delay" from Hamas, urging the group to move quickly towards a deal "or else all bets will be off".

Sharjeel says PPP...

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"any conspiracy against the Centre succeed." Memon criticised the Punjab chief minister's speechwriter, claiming he was misleading her. "Her scriptwriter — the same one who once wrote speeches about 'vote ko izzat do' — is now giving her speeches on playing the Punjab card," he remarked. "Criticise performance if you want, but don't spread hatred." He accused the Punjab government of prioritising political theatrics over governance, saying, "There's more work on TikTok than in government offices."

PML-N leadership...

FROM PAGE 01

Sharif family members, reviewed the situation and agreed that confrontation with coalition partners was not in the party's interest. According to insiders, efforts are being made to pacify both sides and prevent further escalation. The leadership reportedly advised Maryam to adopt a more conciliatory tone in future statements and focus on governance rather than political sparring.

Four Indian proxy...

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adding that two Fitna al-Hindustan militants were also injured in the clashes. The sources further noted that despite repeated requests from the local tribes to vacate the area, the militants had refused to leave. In response to the group's hostile actions and growing threats, local tribes decided to defend themselves against the Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists, the sources added.

Country's coastline...

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In this context, Pakistan's national interest would be given priority. A high-level source said, "It is not important for us what constitutes the US interest. The only thing that matters for us is what benefits Pakistan". He was responding to a question about a recent report published in the Financial Times claiming that "advisers to Pakistani Army Chief Field Marshal (Asim) Munir have approached US officials with an offer to build and run a port on the Arabian Sea."

Pakistan showcases surgical excellence at Medical Japan

The Ambassador assured exhibitors of the Embassy's continued support in connecting them with Japanese distributors, hospitals, and regulatory bodies

DNA

TOKYO: The Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo, in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), organized the participation of 10 leading Pakistani companies from the surgical instruments sector at Medical Japan 2025, held at the Makuhari Messe Exhibition Center from 1-3 October 2025. The participating firms, represent-

ing Pakistan's globally renowned Sialkot surgical cluster, are exhibiting a wide portfolio of instruments, ranging from general surgical tools to highly specialized equipment used in cardiovascular surgery (vascular clamps, micro-scissors), neurosurgery (aneurysm clips, dissectors, fine microscissors), and ophthalmic surgery (keratomes, microsurgical forceps, corneal scissors). Ambassador Designate Mr. Abdul Hameed, while visiting the Pakistani pavilion, highlighted Pakistan's growing international role in surgical manufacturing: "Sialkot manufactures nearly a quarter of the world's hand-held surgical instruments. Today, our exporters are aligning with global standards including ISO 13485, CE, FDA, and Japanese JIS certification. This gives us a strong foundation to expand into Japan's advanced healthcare market." Japan's healthcare market — valued at over USD 40 billion annually — is

among the largest in the world. It is driven by a rapidly aging population, increasing demand for surgical interventions, and an emphasis on certified, high-quality medical devices. Pakistan's participation at Medical Japan 2025 reflects the country's ambition to diversify exports, enter new high-potential markets, and deepen bilateral trade relations with Japan. The Ambassador assured exhibitors of the Embassy's continued support in connecting them with Japanese distributors, hospitals, and regulatory bodies. He encouraged the participants to actively pursue long-term partnerships, noting that Pakistani surgical instruments are already trusted worldwide, including in sensitive specialties such as heart, brain, and eye surgery. This initiative builds on Pakistan's strong presence at international exhibitions like MEDICA (Germany) and Arab Health (Dubai), and marks a significant step in expanding trade outreach to East Asia.



World Bank praises social and environmental progress at Dasu HPP

The initiative, supported by WAPDA, reflects a strong commitment to fair and transparent compensation in close coordination with community elders and stakeholders

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has expressed satisfaction with the social and environmental progress of the Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP) during its latest mission to Upper Kohistan, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to sustainable development with a strong Chinese partnership. A delegation from the World Bank's Social and Environmental Mission visited the project from September 29 to October 2, 2025, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. According to DHPP, the team "acknowledged the progress made so far and encouraged continued efforts to ensure that social and environmental commitments remain aligned with engineering and construction milestones." During the visit, the Social Resettlement & Environment Unit of DHPP, along with consultants and Chinese contractors, briefed the delegation on resettlement progress,

environmental safeguards, and social development initiatives. The World Bank team also toured construction sites to review on-the-ground implementation of safeguard practices. The mission emphasized the "timely execution of resettlement plans, meaningful engagement with local communities, and robust environmental monitoring". This marks the second such visit this year, following a review mission in April 2025 that also praised progress on community engagement and compliance with international standards. In August 2025, the Deputy Commissioner Upper Kohistan distributed compensation cheques to displaced families under the Enhanced Self-Managed Relocation (ESMR) program. The initiative, supported by WAPDA, reflects a strong commitment to fair and transparent compensation in close coordination with community elders and stakeholders. Alongside resettlement, WAPDA has earmarked Rs. 40 million under the Local Area Development Pro-

gram (LADP) to uplift socio-economic conditions in Upper Kohistan. The program covers infrastructure, education, healthcare, and livelihood support, ensuring that local communities benefit directly from the project. Since 2017, China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) has served as the main works contractor for DHPP, one of Pakistan's largest green and low-cost energy projects. CGGC is executing the dam, underground powerhouse, and highway relocation, while CGICOP manages project infrastructure. The China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) is working on the Right Bank Access Road, the Power Construction Corporation of China (PCCC) is building the 132 kV Dubair-Dasu transmission line, and Zhongmei Engineering Group is overseeing the resettlement site. DHPP is a flagship example of China-Pakistan cooperation in the energy sector, combining world-class engineering with strong social and environmental responsibility.

IoBM hosts HEC's 5-day NCRC meeting on Computing & IT

DNA

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) hosted the 5-day National Curriculum Revision Committee (NCRC) Meeting on Computing & IT, organized in collaboration with the Curriculum Division of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Government of Pakistan, and the British Council. Held from September 30 to October 4, 2025, the event brought together academicians, industry experts, and policymakers to align Pakistan's computing education with global standards. Representing IoBM were Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, Rector and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dean, College of Computer Science & Information Systems (CCSIS). The opening ceremony featured a welcome address by Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, followed by remarks from Dr. Amjad Hussain, Director General (Academics), HEC; and Mr. Abdul Hafeez Abbasi, EU TVET Technical Advisor, British Council. During the meetings, the committee finalized the structure of computing programs, introduced AI, cybersecurity, and other IT specializations, and agreed on common core courses for BS Computing. It also reviewed industry-linked final year projects, certifications, electives, and soft skills. The committee approved the learning outcomes, degree requirements, and eligibility criteria for BS Computer Science programs. At the closing ceremony, held on the fifth and last day, the speakers highlighted the importance of digital skills, academia-industry collaborations, and preparing graduates for the future of work. In his closing remarks, Mr. Nasir Shah, Director General QAA, HEC, commended the participants for their dedication throughout the five-day session and for successfully finalizing the BS Computer Science curriculum.

Pakistan sees sharpest drops...

FROM PAGE 01

Notably, Pakistan is the only country in the EM sample showing consistent quarterly improvement across the past year.

- Default probability down by a massive 2,200 basis points.
- This marks the sharpest decline among major EMs, ahead of South Africa (-3%), El Salvador (-1.95%).
- In contrast, countries like Argentina, Egypt, Nigeria, and others, have seen their default risks rise.

This sharp decline in country's risk signals strengthening investor confidence, underpinned by:

- Macroeconomic stabilization
- Structural reforms
- Timely debt servicing
- Staying the course with the IMF program
- Positive ratings actions from S&P, Fitch, and Moody's.

Police probe mosque arson

FROM PAGE 01

According to a statement from Sussex Police, emergency services were called to the fire at the building in Phyllis Avenue at about 9.50pm UK time on Saturday (1:50am PKT, Sunday). "This is a fast-moving investigation, and we are urging anyone with relevant information to report it to us. This includes anyone with CCTV, Ring Doorbell, dashcam, and mobile phone footage in the area at the time," Sussex Police Detective Superintendent Karrie Bohanna said in the statement.

PML-N leadership meets to...

FROM PAGE 01

Sharif family members, reviewed the situation and agreed that confrontation with coalition partners was not in the party's interest. According to insiders, efforts are being made to pacify both sides and prevent further escalation. The leadership reportedly advised Maryam to adopt a more conciliatory tone in future statements and focus on governance rather than political sparring. Political observers believe that Maryam Nawaz's recent approach reflects inexperience and a lack of proper guidance from senior advisers, including Pervez Rashid. Analysts warn that this confrontational path could undermine her leadership image and strain ties within the coalition, particularly at a time when unity is crucial for political stability in Punjab and at the federal level.

Police officers unharmed...

FROM PAGE 01

senior officer, escaped the blast unharmed. The attack occurred near Bayst Khel Phatak area. The vehicle, which was carrying the Additional Station House Officer (SHO) of Wargadi police station and his team, sustained partial damage. According to police sources, the device was detonated remotely as the van passed.

China, Pakistan sign 11 agreements marking CPEC 2.0 launch

DNA

BEIJING: China and Pakistan signed 11 comprehensive education cooperation agreements during the China-Pakistan Conference on Collaborative Innovation in Modern Agriculture and Industry-Education Integration. The ceremony, witnessed by senior Shandong Provincial officials, brought together a high-level Pakistani delegation led by Science Counselor Muhammad Khan, Secretary Nadir Chhatta, and Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran, along with representatives from TEVTA and MNS University of Agriculture Multan, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. Facilitated by UNI Services International Pvt. Ltd. and ITMC Technology China, and supported by the Chinese Business Council in Pakistan, the agreements aim to advance agricultural innovation, digital education, and vocational training. Key partnerships include a Four-Party Overseas Training Base for agricultural technology transfer, a Center of Excellence for Food Safety and Inspection, and the Oasis Stella Workshop Project to boost dairy and buffalo industry development. Additional accords cover new diploma programs in floriculture, livestock, and modern agricultural technology.

Donkey hides' export to China permitted, all set for final inspection

"According to the Commerce Ministry's notification, the export of donkey hides shall be allowed only to those firms and companies manufacturing in designated, approved and registered donkey slaughterhouses located in the Gwadar Free Zone North only," he added

ISLAMABAD: Amid the formal lifting of the ban on the export of donkey hides to China by the government of Pakistan, all is set for the final inspection of the Chinese pharmaceutical company Hengeng Trading Enterprise, in a bid to allow it to operate Pakistan's first donkey slaughterhouse in Gwadar North Free Zone. The General Administration of Customs of China has already conducted an online inspection of Hengeng to seal approval of its processes and procedures under prescribed laws. A Balochistan government official told Gwadar Pro that the federal government has finally authorised the export of donkey hides to China as part of an amendment to the Ministry of Commerce's Export Policy Order. "According to the Commerce Ministry's notification, the export of donkey hides shall be allowed only to those firms and companies manufacturing in designated, approved and registered donkey slaughterhouses located in the Gwadar Free Zone North only," he added. In July, 2024,

protocols to export donkey skins and meat to China had been finalised, he revealed. Meanwhile, certification from Pakistan Animal Quarantine (Import and Export of Animals and Animal Products) has also been received by the Chinese company Hengeng Trading Enterprise, a pharmaceutical company of China to run Pakistan's first donkey slaughterhouse in Gwadar North Free Zone. Pakistan's first China-led top-notch construction of modern slaughterhouse for donkey meat and hides has been completed and is waiting for official approval to operate in Gwadar North Free Zone. At a cost of 50 million dollars, the slaughterhouse has been built by Hengeng. An official from the Ministry for Maritime Affairs said that donkeys being reared at many farmhouses in various parts of Punjab will be slaughtered at the state-of-the-art Gwadar North Free Zone slaughterhouse. "Their meat and skins will be further processed keeping in view international standards and later exported to China," he added. — DNA

Pakistan Navy lifts CNS Hockey Trophy 2025

DNA

LAHORE: The 4th Chief of the Naval Staff All Pakistan Hockey Tournament 2025 concluded today with a spectacular closing ceremony at the National Hockey Stadium in Lahore. The ten-day event, which ran from September 25 to October 4, saw Pakistan Navy emerge as the champions after a thrilling final match against Mari Energies. The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, presided over the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest. He commended all the participating teams for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit. Admiral Ashraf presented the championship trophy to the Pakistan Navy team and awarded medals to the runners-up, Mari Energies, and the third-place winners, Pakistan Air Force. In his address, the Naval Chief praised the successful organization of the tournament, extending his appreciation to the Commander Central Punjab, Punjab Sports Board, Pakistan Hockey Federation, various sponsors, and the media for their vital support. He expressed hope that such

events would rekindle public passion for hockey, the national sport, and emphasized the need for further collaborative efforts from both public and private institutions to ensure its revival. The ceremony also recog-

nized outstanding individual performances. Zakariya Hayat from Pakistan Navy was awarded the title of Best Player of the Tournament. Ahmed Nadeem from Mari Energies was honored as the Top Scorer,

while his teammate, Abdullah Ishtiaq, was named the Best Goalkeeper. The tournament featured eight top teams from across the nation: Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force, Mari Energies, Rang-

ers, Police, Port Qasim, and National Bank of Pakistan. The primary objective of the event was to promote and revitalize the game of hockey, which has faced challenges over the past two decades. The final match and closing

ceremony were attended by a large number of senior civilian and military officials, former Olympians, students, and members of the public, who all witnessed a successful celebration of national sportsmanship



Briefs

Jordan's green energy initiative benefits 460,000 citizens

AMMAN: More than 460,000 people in Jordan have benefited from programs run by the country's Energy Promotion and Consumption Efficiency Fund, according to its CEO. Speaking on Saturday at the Jordan Economic Forum, Rasmi Hamza said the initiatives involved direct investment of about 40 million Jordanian dinar (\$56.4 million) and projects worth more than JD100 million. "The fund, established in 2014 with an initial government capital of JD25 million, has become a leader in the energy transition process in Jordan through programs targeting households and economic sectors," he said. Its various schemes had "directly impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of families and reduced the energy bill in vital sectors such as industry," the Jordan News Agency reported. Hamza said that since its creation the fund had focused on three main objectives: delivering direct economic and social impact, reducing the national energy bill and enhancing competitiveness. He highlighted the launch of the country's first large-scale solar power plant with capacity of 50 megawatts and 117MW wind projects in Tafleh, which "triggered a wave of investments in renewable energy." The adoption of solar water heaters had grown significantly since 2014, when only 13 percent of households had them, he said.—APP

Eight held, 20 police hurt in clashes at Spanish Palestine march

MADRID: Eight people were arrested and 20 police officers injured in clashes between pro-Palestinian protesters and police in Barcelona, police said on Sunday. Demonstrators vandalized shops, which they claimed had links to Israel, during a mainly peaceful march of 70,000 protesters on Saturday, police said. Tens of thousands took part in protests in Madrid and scores of other Spanish cities as well as demonstrations in Rome and Lisbon amid anger after the Israeli interception of the Global Sumud aid flotilla that had set sail from Barcelona, trying to break the blockade of the Palestinian territory. Out of the 49 Spaniards who were detained by Israeli forces on the aid flotilla, 21 will fly back to Spain from Tel Aviv on Sunday, the Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares told Spanish television RTVE. Spain, which recognized a Palestinian state in May 2024 and has been a vocal critic of Israel's actions in Gaza, last month banned ships and aircraft delivering weapons or military-grade jet fuel to Israel.—APP

Indian states ban cough syrup linked to child deaths

NEW DELHI: At least three Indian states have banned a cough syrup after several children died allegedly after consuming the product, said local authorities and reports. The death of at least nine children, all aged under five, since late August, in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been linked to a cough medicine they were prescribed. India's health ministry Saturday said laboratory tests on samples of the syrup the children had consumed revealed it was contaminated with diethylene glycol (DEG), a toxic substance used in industrial solvents that can be fatal if ingested even in small amounts. "The samples are found to contain DEG beyond the permissible limit," the ministry said in a statement. The product sold under the brand name Coldrif Cough Syrup was manufactured by Sresan Pharma at a unit in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. "The sale of this syrup has been banned throughout Madhya Pradesh," said Mohan Yadav, chief minister of the central state of Madhya Pradesh, where most of the deaths have been reported. APP



ISLAMABAD: Foreigners enjoying dancing on a Punjabi song during Sunday holiday at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.

FCCI invites UAF VC to strengthen industry-academia ties

FAISALABAD :Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Engineer Asim Munir has invited Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Prof Dr. Zulfiqar Ali to visit FCCI for enhancing practical linkages between academia and industry. He was addressing a ceremony organised to mark the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UAF and an Indonesian university. Engineer Asim Munir said that FCCI President Farooq Yousaf Sheikh is determined to strengthen industry-academia collaboration so that the research being conducted at the agriculture university may directly benefit industries particularly those involved in processed and packaged food production. He appreciated the role of embassies of both countries in promoting such cooperative ventures and said that mutual collaboration would open new avenues for both educational and economic progress. He said that Pakistan being an agrarian country still lacks adequate value addition in its agricultural produce. By developing agriculture sector on modern lines, the country could not only alleviate rural poverty but also enhance exports, he added. He however, expressed concerns on pulses import and said that despite being an agricultural nation, Pakistan is importing pulses and other crops which pose a significant challenge. He highlighted the alarming decline in cotton production and termed it a matter of grave concern as cotton remains the basic raw material for the textile export sector. He said that soft long-fiber cotton should be cultivated locally to ensure high-quality textile output. He also stressed the need to expand cultivation of oilseeds particularly olives to reduce heavy reliance on imported edible oils. Referring to Pakistan's ranking as fourth-largest milk producer in the world, he lamented that the country still fails to utilize full potential of its dairy sector.—DNA

Lebanon crooner turned fugitive militant surrenders himself to army

BEIRUT, Lebanon: Lebanese crooner-turned-fugitive militant Fadl Shaker surrendered himself to Lebanese authorities on Saturday after hiding in a Palestinian camp for over a decade, a Lebanese judicial official said. Shaker, a popular singer born to a Palestinian mother and a Lebanese father, was accused of taking part in 2013 clashes in Sidon, south Lebanon, that opposed Salafist Sheikh Ahmad Al-Assir and his supporters with the Lebanese military which left 17 soldiers dead. While Shaker was a supporter of Assir, he denied involvement in the clashes and has been hiding in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al-Hilweh, the biggest Palestinian camp in the country where Lebanese authorities had no jurisdiction. Assir was sentenced to death in 2017, then to 20 years of hard labor in 2021. In 2020, Lebanon's military tribunal sentenced Shaker to 22 years in prison for providing financial and logistical support to the "terrorist" Assir-led group. "Fadl Shaker surrendered himself to the Lebanese army at the entrance to the Ain Al-Hilweh camp as a prelude to concluding his legal case," a judicial source told AFP on Saturday. By longstanding convention, the Lebanese army stays out of the Palestinian camps and leaves Palestinian factions to handle security. A source close to Shaker told AFP the singer was "confident in his innocence and in the independence of the judiciary." Shaker in July released a song while in hiding, which topped charts in the Arab world. His video clip, filmed in Ain Al-Hilweh, reached over 113 million views on YouTube.—APP

UK govt to give police new powers to crack down on protests

LONDON: Police in the UK will receive new powers to crack down on protests. Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood is set to reassess all existing anti-protest laws, including giving police the ability to relocate regular demonstrations and ban protests outright based on the "cumulative impact" of "repeated disorder" at marches and rallies. It comes after around 500 people were arrested in central London for taking part in a demonstration in support of banned group Palestine Action. Mahmood told Sky News that she believes there is "a gap in the law" that requires immediate correction. "What I will be making explicit is that cumulative disruption, that is to say the frequency of particular protests in particular places, is in and of itself a reason for the police to be able to restrict and place conditions," she said. Mass events in support of the Palestinian cause have become a regular feature of weekends in London since the Gaza war began in October 2023. A new element, though, is demonstrations in support of Palestine Action, which was banned as a terrorist group after a series of incidents, including a break-in at a Royal Air Force base earlier this year. There had been calls for people not to march in support of the people of Gaza or Palestine Action this weekend following the deaths of two people in a terrorist attack on a synagogue in Manchester earlier in the week, including from Prime Minister Keir Starmer.—APP



Birmingham: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met world record holder Pakistani-origin student Mahnoor Cheema during his recent visit to London.

Iran approves plan to slash four zeros from currency

TEHRAN: Iran's parliament on Sunday approved a plan to remove four zeros from the national currency, the rial, which has sharply depreciated as the country grapples with renewed sanctions. Lawmakers passed the bill two months after a parliamentary commission revived the long-stalled proposal aimed at simplifying transactions, the legislature's website said. Under the plan, 10,000 current rials will be replaced by one new rial. Both versions will circulate for up to three years, with the central bank given two years to launch the transition. The rial has hit repeated record lows in recent days, according to black market trackers, amid the reimposition of United Nations sanctions on Iran. Britain, France and Germany — signatories to Iran's moribund 2015 nuclear deal — last month triggered the "snapback" mechanism to restore the international sanctions over the Islamic republic's non-compliance. On Sunday, the rial was trading at about 1,115,000 to the US dollar, compared with around 920,000 when the plan was revived in early August. The redenomination was first floated in 2019 but later shelved. It still requires approval by the Guardian Council and the signature of President Masoud Pezeshkian to take effect. In daily life, Iranians drop a zero from the rial and use the resulting figure, called the toman, for most transactions.—DNA

Israel strikes Gaza as Palestinians pin hopes on Trump peace plan

CAIRO/JERUSALEM: Israeli planes and tanks pounded areas across the Gaza Strip overnight and on Sunday, destroying several residential buildings, witnesses said, as traumatized Palestinians hoped a US plan to end the war would soon ease their suffering. US President Donald Trump, who had called for an end to the bombing, said on Saturday on his Truth Social platform that Israel had agreed to an "initial withdrawal line" inside Gaza and that "when Hamas confirms, the Cease-fire will be IMMEDIATELY effective." Israel escalated its offensive as Egypt prepares to host delegates from Hamas, Israel and the United States, and Qatar, to kick off talks over the implementation of the most advanced effort yet to halt the conflict. Cairo talks will tackle unresolved issues Hamas had drawn a welcoming response from Trump on Friday by saying it accepted certain key parts of his 20-point peace proposal, including ending the war, Israel's withdrawal, and the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian captives. But the group left some issues up for further negotiation, as well as questions unanswered, such as whether it would be willing to disarm, a key demand from Israel to end the war. "Progress would depend on whether Hamas would agree to the map, which shows the Israeli army would remain in control of most of the Gaza Strip," said a Palestinian official, close to the talks. "Hamas may also ask for a strict timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. The first phase of talks will determine how things are going to proceed," he told Reuters, asking not to be named. In a sign of Israeli optimism over the Trump plan, the shekel currency hit a three-year high against the dollar and Tel Aviv stocks reached an all-time high. Domestically, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is caught between growing pressure to end the war — from hostage families and a war-weary public — and demands from hard-line members

of his coalition who insist there must be no let-up in Israel's campaign in Gaza. Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said on X that halting attacks on Gaza was a "grave mistake." Smotrich and Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, also a hard-liner, have significant influence in Netanyahu's government and have threatened to bring it down if the Gaza war ends. Arab states welcomed Hamas response to Trump plan. But opposition leader Yair Lapid of the centrist Yesh Atid party has said political cover will be provided so the Trump initiative can succeed and "we won't let them torpedo the deal." Trump has won backing from Arab and other Muslim states. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, Turkey, Indonesia, and Pakistan issued a joint statement welcoming the steps taken by Hamas regarding Trump's Gaza plan. "The Foreign Ministers reiterated their joint commitment to support efforts toward the implementation of the proposal, to work for the immediate end of the war on Gaza, and achieve a comprehensive agreement," they said in the joint statement. In Gaza City, which Israel describes as one of Hamas' last bastions, Israeli forces continued attacks and warned residents who left against returning, saying it was a "dangerous combat zone." On Sunday, witnesses said Israeli planes escalated attacks against targets across the city, Gaza's biggest urban center. This followed a tense night in which drones dropped grenades on the rooftops of residential buildings and troops blew up explosive-laden vehicles, demolishing dozens of houses in two Gaza City neighborhoods, Sabra and Sheikh Radwan. A senior Hamas official on Sunday said the Palestinian militant group is eager to reach an agreement to end the war and implement a prisoner swap with Israel, as negotiators converge in Egypt for talks. Israeli and Hamas negotiators are set to iron out details during talks in Egypt in a bid to end nearly two years of war in Gaza, after Hamas approved a peace plan proposed by

US President Donald Trump. "Hamas is very keen to reach an agreement to end the war and immediately begin the prisoner exchange process in accordance with the field conditions," he said. "The occupation must not obstruct the implementation of President Trump's plan. If the occupation has genuine intentions to reach an agreement, Hamas is ready." A Palestinian source close to Hamas told AFP that the two delegations would be in the same building but away from media coverage. "The negotiations aim to discuss the timeline for preparing field conditions for the transfer of captives held in Gaza, as a prelude to launching the prisoner exchange process," he added. "During communications with mediators, Hamas insisted that it is essential for Israel to halt military operations across all areas of the Gaza Strip, cease all air, reconnaissance, and drone activity, and withdraw from inside Gaza City," the source said. "In parallel with the cessation of Israeli military activity, Hamas and the resistance factions will also halt their military operations and actions," he added. Gazans desperate for start of Trump's truce plan "Where is Trump in all of this?" said Rami Mohammad-Ali, 37, from Gaza City, now displaced on the city's western side. "The explosions don't stop, the drones drop bombs everywhere, as if nothing has happened. Where is the truce Trump told us about?" he asked. Local health authorities said at least one Palestinian was killed, and several others were wounded in those attacks. Three other people were killed in separate Israeli strikes across the enclave, medics said. Amjad Al-Shawa, head of the Palestinian NGOs Network, which liaises with the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations, said Gaza City has begun experiencing acute shortages of food and fuel, days after Israel blocked the route from the south to the north. Under Trump's plan, all Israeli hostages, alive and deceased, were due to be released within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting the agreement.—Agencies

Iran approves plan to slash four zeros from currency

TEHRAN: Iran's parliament on Sunday approved a plan to remove four zeros from the national currency, the rial, which has sharply depreciated as the country grapples with renewed sanctions. Lawmakers passed the bill two months after a parliamentary commission revived the long-stalled proposal aimed at simplifying transactions, the legislature's website said. Under the plan, 10,000 current rials will be replaced by one new rial. Both versions will circulate for up to three years, with the central bank given two years to launch the transition. The rial has hit repeated record lows in recent days, according to black market trackers, amid the reimposition of United Nations sanctions on Iran. Britain, France and Germany — signatories to Iran's moribund 2015 nuclear deal — last month triggered the "snapback" mechanism to restore the international sanctions over the Islamic republic's non-compliance. On Sunday, the rial was trading at about 1,115,000 to the US dollar, compared with around 920,000 when the plan was revived in early August. The redenomination was first floated in 2019 but later shelved. It still requires approval by the Guardian Council and the signature of President Masoud Pezeshkian to take effect. In daily life, Iranians drop a zero from the rial and use the resulting figure, called the toman, for most transactions.—APP

Morocco sees eighth straight day of youth protests

RABAT: Members of a Moroccan online youth collective protested for the eighth consecutive day on Saturday, demanding better public health and education services. The demonstrations in the usually stable North African kingdom have bucked the perception of young Moroccans as being politically disengaged, and have been organized since last Saturday by GenZ 212, a group active on the web platform Discord. In Tetouan, in the north of the country, hundreds of people gathered, chanting slogans such as "The people want an end to corruption" and "Freedom, dignity and social justice," local media reported. In the western city of Casablanca, protesters shouted "The people want education and health," while in the capital, Rabat, a dozen people gathered in front of parliament, an AFP photographer said. GenZ 212, whose founders remain anonymous, earlier on Discord called for protests in 14 cities between 6:00 p.m. (1700 GMT) and 9:00 pm They want reforms to social services, particularly health care and education, as well as an end to corruption and the resignation of Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch, whose tenure ends next year. On Friday evening, hundreds of people rallied in numerous cities, including Rabat and Agadir.—APP

Israeli army says intercepted missile launched from Yemen

JERUSALEM: The Israeli army said on Sunday that it had intercepted a missile fired from Yemen, from where Houthi rebels frequently launch attacks they describe as a response to the Israeli offensive in Gaza. "Following the sirens that sounded a short while ago in several areas in Israel, a missile launched from Yemen was intercepted by the IAF," the Israeli Defense Forces said, using an acronym for the air force. "Sirens were sounded in accordance with protocol," it said. The Houthis, who are backed by Iran, regularly send missiles or drones toward Israel, the vast majority of which are shot down. But last month, a drone attack claimed by the Houthis evaded Israeli air defenses and wounded 22 people in the tourist resort of Eilat. APP

Briefs

Death toll from Indonesia school collapse rises to 37

Part of the multi-storey building on Indonesia's Java island suddenly collapsed

DNA

JAKARTA: The death toll from an Indonesian school collapse rose to 37 on Sunday, officials said, as rescuers recovered more victims buried under the rubble. Part of the multi-storey building on Indonesia's Java island suddenly collapsed on Monday as students gathered for afternoon prayers. "As of Sunday morning, the number of recovered victims was 141. 104 were in safe condition, 37 were dead," National Search and Rescue Agency operations director Yudhi Bramantyo said in a statement. He added that 26 people were still missing. The death toll included a body part that rescuers retrieved from the rubble on Saturday, Yudhi said. Local search and rescue agency head Nanang Sigit confirmed the death toll of 37 in a separate statement. Investigators have been looking into the cause of the collapse, but initial signs pointed to substandard construction, according to experts. The rescue operation was complex because vibrations in one place could affect other areas, officials said. But the families of the missing agreed on Thursday for heavy equipment to be used, after the 72-hour "golden period" for the best chance of survival came to an end.

PPP, PML-N leaders trade fresh barbs over canals project

BUREAU REPR0T

KARACHI: A fresh war of words erupted between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on the canals issue on Saturday, following their recent clash on the flood relief efforts. The conflict between the allies began when Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz alleged that other parties used the flood devastation in the province for political mileage. She also dismissed PPP's objections to the canal project on the Indus River. Taking exception to her comments, PPP Sindh President Senator Nisar Khuhro said that CM Maryam's remarks were a violation of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) decision. In a statement issued on PPP's X account, the PPP senator urged PML-N President Nawaz Sharif to take notice of the Punjab CM's remarks and clarify the party's stance on the issue. "CCI has rejected and buried the controversial canals project," Khuhro said, adding that CM Maryam held no standing alone against the forum.

Trump authorizes troops to Chicago

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump authorized deployment of troops to Chicago after a federal agent shot an allegedly armed motorist Saturday, while a judge blocked the Republican leader's attempt to send the military into Portland, another Democratic-run city. The escalating crisis across the country pits Trump's increasingly militarized anti-crime and migration crackdown against opposition Democrats who accuse him of an authoritarian power grab. "President Trump has authorized 300 national guardsmen to protect federal officers and assets" in Chicago, White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson said in a statement, after weeks of the Republican threatening to send troops to the Midwestern city over the wishes of local leaders. - APP

Pakistan seeking repatriation of citizens detained by Israel

Ministry confirms ex-Senator Mushtaq Ahmed in Israel's custody, will be presented before Israeli court

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Sunday said that Pakistan was actively engaged with international partners to ensure the safety and repatriation of its citizens detained by Israel in the Gaza aid flotilla interception. "Through the diplomatic channels of a friendly European country, we have confirmed that former senator Mushtaq Ahmad is in the custody of the Israeli occupying forces and is safe and in good health," read the press release issued by the FO. It further added that Pakistan authorities have been advised that the ex-senator will be presented before a court and, upon the issuance of deportation orders, his repatri-

ation will be facilitated on a fast-track basis. The ministry's remarks come after the former lawmaker was detained by Israeli forces while taking part in the Global Sumud Flotilla on October 2, whose multiple vessels were carrying aid to the war-torn territory currently under Israeli blockade. The ex-senator, who was leading a five-member Pakistani delegation, joined the flotilla alongside international activists and humanitarian aid groups. However, the Israeli military intercepted more than 40 flotilla vessels, some 42.5 nautical miles (79 km) from Gaza and detained more than 450 activists aboard the vessels. Tel Aviv has since faced widespread criticism from countries around the world. Meanwhile, the FO recalled that the ministry "had previously coordinated the

safe return of individuals who disembarked earlier. In this context, we express our profound gratitude to the brotherly countries that assisted in the repatriation of our citizens". It further reaffirmed the government's commitment to the protection of all its citizens abroad and anticipates the completion of this repatriation process within the coming days. It is pertinent to know that negotiators are set to meet in Cairo today ahead of talks aimed at ending nearly two years of war in Gaza. The diplomatic moves came after the Palestinian group Hamas responded positively to US President Donald Trump's roadmap for freeing the captives and administering post-war Gaza. "Treated terribly": 137 of these activists arrived in Turkey a day earlier after their deportation, with two alleging that

Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg was mistreated during her detention. The activists who landed at Istanbul Airport included 36 Turkish nationals, as well as citizens from the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Morocco, Italy, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Switzerland, Tunisia and Jordan, Turkish foreign ministry sources said. Two of them, Hazwani Helmi, a Malaysian citizen, and Windfield Beaver, an American citizen, told Reuters at the airport that they had witnessed Thunberg being mistreated, saying she was shoved and forced to wear an Israeli flag. "It was a disaster. They treated us like animals," said Helmi, 28, adding that detainees were not provided with clean food or water and that medication and belongings were confiscated.

Khawaja Asif says

India will be 'buried under the wreckage of its warplanes' this time

Indian military and political leaders trying to restore "lost credibility" after humiliating defeat, says Khawaja Asif

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif early on Sunday responded sharply to what he called provocative statements from New Delhi's top security establishment, saying India would be "buried under the wreckage of its warplanes, Inshallah." In a post on X, Asif described recent comments by India's military and political leaders as a failed attempt to restore their lost credibility. He said their statements showed pressure at the top. "After such a decisive 6-0 defeat, if they try again, the [Pakistan's] score will only get better," the minister wrote. He added that public opinion in India had turned strongly against the ruling party after that defeat, and that was reflected in the leaders' words.

Editorial on Page 5

The defence minister also said, "Pakistan is a state built in the name of Allah, our defenders are soldiers of Allah. This time, India, Inshallah, will be buried under the wreckage of its planes. Allahu Akbar." Earlier, the military's spokesperson had also reacted to the same remarks from Indian security circles. Responding to India's war rhetoric, the country's armed forces warned that "provocative and jingoistic remarks" from senior Indian security officials risk fabricating pretexts for aggression and could lead to "cataclysmic devastation". The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that such remarks suggested a renewed

Pak forces statues increased after Marka-e-Haq: Gen Nasir

There is a dire need for capacity building. No foreign investment has come yet. Along with other institutions, the Foreign Office also needs to increase its capacity to face the new challenges emerging in the region

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Former National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. (ret'd) Nasir Janjua has said that Pakistan and Pakistani forces have increased their stature in the world after the "Marka-e-Haq" India has become isolated in the world, he expressed these views while addressing a seminar on "Pakistan's Recent Diplomatic Achievements, Future Hopes and Future Defense Strategy" at a local hotel. He



attempt to manufacture arbitrary pretexts for aggression that would have "serious consequences for peace and stability in South Asia". A day earlier, Indian Air Force Chief Amar Preet Singh claimed that India downed five Pakistani fighter jets of the F-16 and JF-17 class during the intense fighting between the nuclear-armed neighbours in May. "As far as air defence part is concerned, we have evidence of one long range strike... along with that five fighters, high-tech fighters between F-16 and JF-17 class, our system tells us," Singh told reporters at the Indian Air Force annual day press conference. However, he did not provide any evidence to back his claim. Pakistan's military slammed India for long portraying itself as a victim while "stoking violence and perpetrating terrorism in South Asia and beyond", saying that this narrative has been debunked. The ISPR added that the international community now recognises India as "the true face of cross-border terrorism and the epicentre of regional instability". Referring to incidents earlier this year, the ISPR said Indian aggression had previously brought "two nuclear powers to the brink of a major war", and criticised Indian leadership for apparently ignoring the "wreckage of its fighter jets and the wrath of Pakistan's long-range vectors".

said that America killed all the leadership of the Muslim Ummah, destroyed Iraq, Libya, Egypt and Syria, bombed Iran, Pakistan is the only Islamic nuclear power of the Muslim Ummah, which the enemy fears. On this occasion, foreign affairs expert Muhammad Mehdi, Vice Air Marshal (ret'd) Sajid Habib also expressed his views, while the forum was chaired by lawyer Safdar Ali Khan. Foreign affairs expert Muhammad Mehdi said that Pakistan's parallel relations with China and the US are a diplomatic success. However, a lot remains to be done in this regard. He said that America does not consider the Afghan Taliban and TTP as a threat to itself. The work regarding CPEC could not be done at the speed it should have been. For the improvement of the Pakistani economy, it is necessary for Pakistan to increase its capacity. There is a dire need for capacity building. No foreign investment has come yet. Along with other institutions, the Foreign Office also needs to increase its capacity to face the new challenges emerging in the region. Addressing the ceremony, Air Marshal (ret'd) Sajid Habib highlighted the excellent performance of the armed forces in Operation Banyan Al-Marsoos. He especially informed the participants about the expertise and professional activities of the Pakistan Air Force. Rear Admiral (Ret'd) N. A. Rizvi said that Pakistan badly needs Gwadar Port and Pakistan Navy is always ready to deal with any threat. The enemy will have to face a worst blow on the naval front as well.

Japan's first female PM, but Takaichi is not a feminist

TOKYO: Sanae Takaichi is poised to become Japan's first female prime minister, but many of her positions are socially conservative in an often still deeply patriarchal nation. Takaichi, whose hero is Margaret Thatcher, became head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Saturday and will likely take office later this month. She has promised to appoint a cabinet with "Nordic" levels of women, up from just two under outgoing premier Shigeru Ishiba. Takaichi, 64, has also said she "hopes to raise awareness" about women's health struggles and spoken candidly about her own experience with menopause. Despite these gestures, her policy positions on gender place her on the right of an already conservative LDP. She is against revising a 19th-century law requiring married couples to share the same surname, which overwhelmingly results in women taking their husbands' names. Takaichi also wants Japan's imperial family to stick to its male-only succession rules, and is "fundamentally opposed" to same-sex marriage. Yuki Tsuji, a professor specialising in politics and gender at Tokai University, said Takaichi "has no interest in women's rights or gender equality policies". "Therefore, it is unlikely that any change will occur in this policy area compared to previous LDP administrations," she told AFP. Tsuji added the symbolic significance of having a woman as premier is "quite substantial". But the pressure will be high to achieve results, and if she fails "this could foster negative perceptions of woman



prime ministers", Tsuji said. Yuka, a Tokyo office worker in her 50s, welcomed Takaichi's win. "We can proudly tell the world Japan will likely have a woman leader," Yuka told AFP. She is sceptical that there will be much progress on gender issues under Takaichi. Last year ex-cabin attendant Mitsuko Tottori became boss of Japan Airlines, but hers is a rare success story in the corporate world where hours are long and childcare options are often limited. Women in Japan held 13.2 percent of management positions in 2021, the lowest among members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Japan ranked 118 out of 148 in the World Economic Forum's 2025 Global Gender Gap Report. "There are many capable women but leadership roles tend to be taken by men in Japan," Yuka said, giving only her first name. "Many women are forced to give up at the height of their careers because they have to take care of their children or ageing parents." In politics too, women are underrepresented, accounting for only around 15 percent of lawmakers in the lower house of parliament. One notable exception is the three-term Tokyo governor, Yuriko Koike, who has announced several women-friendly policies including free day care for preschool children. Female MPs have highlighted the difficulties of juggling the duties of being a politician and a homemaker - not something that worries their male counterparts. They also routinely face sexist jibes. - Agencies

Ukraine says Russian strikes kill one

KYIV: Ukraine said on Sunday that a Russian attack on Zaporizhzhia had killed one person, as Poland said it had scrambled jets to secure its airspace. Ivan Fedorov, the head of the southeastern Ukrainian region, said on Telegram that a Russian "combined strike" had killed a woman and wounded nine other people. A 16-year-old girl was among those receiving "necessary assistance" from medical personnel after the attack, Fedorov said. He posted photos, seemingly from the site of the attack, showing a partly destroyed multi-storey block and a burnt-out car. A nationwide air alert was in place across Ukraine as of 4:09 am (0109 GMT). Poland's armed forces said on X that they had mobilised planes and put ground defences on high alert to secure the country's airspace, especially in areas close to Ukraine. The mayor of Lviv, a western Ukrainian city near the border with Poland, said public transport routes were not operating due to a "massive enemy attack". Public transport in Ivano-Frankivsk, another western city, would "start running later than usual" on Sunday, its mayor said. Russia has also stepped up its attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure as the weather chills. - APP

Syria selects members of first parliament

DAMASCUS: Syria will select members of its first post-Assad parliament on Sunday in a process criticised as undemocratic, with a third of the members appointed by interim leader Ahmed al-Sharaa. The assembly's formation is set to consolidate the power of Sharaa, whose Islamist forces led a coalition that toppled longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad in December after more than 13 years of civil war and five decades of one-family rule. According to the organising committee, more than 1,500 candidates - just 14 percent of them women - are running for the assembly, which will have a renewable 30-month mandate. Sharaa is to appoint 70 representatives out of the 210-member body. The other two-thirds will be selected by local committees appointed by the electoral commission, which itself was appointed by Sharaa. - APP



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