



Tuesday, October 07, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**Amanda Anisimova
beats Noskova to
win Beijing title**

Detailed News On Page-06

**Gilani leads
delegation
to CPC**

Detailed News On Page-08


**Pak capable
to respond to
Indian threat**

Detailed News On Page-02



\$200m halal meat deal

Pak, Malaysia deepen trade cooperation

Islamabad, Kuala Lumpur sign six accords for cooperation in education, tourism, and anti-corruption

CENTRELINE REPORT

KUALUMPUR: Pakistan and Malaysia on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in trade, education, technology, and governance, as Kuala Lumpur announced plans to import \$200 million worth of halal meat from Pakistan. The announcement was made during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's three-day official visit to Malaysia, where he held extensive discussions with his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim on strengthening bilateral cooperation. Speaking at a joint press conference with his Malaysian counterpart, PM Shehbaz acknowledged Prime Minister Ibrahim's significant role in Malaysia's development, describing him as a leader of remarkable qualities. "Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan was a memorable one, and we had very positive discussions," Shehbaz added. On bilateral trade, the prime minister welcomed Malaysia's decision to import halal meat worth \$200 million from Pakistan. "We will continue to expand halal meat trade with the passage of time," he said, expressing interest in joint ventures and collaboration to benefit from Malaysia's expertise. "Our relations have strengthened over time, and I thank the people of Malaysia for their heartfelt welcome," said Prime Minister Shehbaz. "Malaysia is like a second home to us," he added. PM Shehbaz further noted that a large number of Pakistani students are currently studying in Malaysia and appreciated the opportunities provided to them. Speaking alongside him, Malaysian PM Ibrahim emphasised the importance of peace between Pakistan and India for regional stability. "Peace between Pakistan and India is vital for our region," he stated.

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Private sector, key to boost Pakistan- Malaysia bilateral trade

DNA

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed the vital role of the private sector in driving economic growth, urging business leaders from Pakistan and Malaysia to seize new opportunities for bilateral trade and investment. Addressing the Pakistan-Malaysia Business and Investment Conference, the prime minister emphasized that governments could only create enabling environments, but real progress depended on private enterprise. "It is the private sector that must drive the engine of growth," the prime minister said adding "Governments can only lay the foundation and provide a framework, business should be run by business houses, enterprises, and experts, not government." The conference, attended by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and a host of entrepreneurs from both countries, was aimed to explore joint ventures and deepen trade relations. PM Shehbaz expressed confidence that enhanced cooperation between Pakistani and Malaysian businesses could reduce Pakistan's reliance on external financial assistance.

Continued on Page 06



PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim giving Joint Press statement. – DNA

Stop friendly fire PTI tells PPP

PML-N and PPP at odds over flood relief and water resources in Punjab and Sindh

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser on Monday urged the Pakistan Peoples Party to stop "friendly fire" and bring a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly, as tensions grow between the PPP and the ruling PML-N. Addressing the lower house of the parliament after PPP lawmakers staged a walk-out, Asad Qaiser assured the Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari-led party of PTI's support for a no-confidence motion against the Shehbaz Sharif-led government.

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Four countries host talks on Afghan future

DNA

MOSCOW: On the eve of the seventh meeting of the Moscow Format of Consultations on Afghanistan (MFC) – another meeting was held between the special representatives of the countries of the regional quartet (Russia, China, Iran, and Pakistan). Pakistan property listings Zamir Kabulov, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for Afghanistan, took part in the event on behalf of the Russian Side. The quartet acts as the contact group of the MFC. The participants focused their discussions on substantive issues of the upcoming October 7 session of the Moscow Format of Consultations on Afghanistan, including the drafting of the final document.

PML-N, PPP differences

President Zardari calls interior minister to Karachi for talks

The coalition partners in the Centre have been engaged in a war of words for the past many days over issues from flood compensation to water rights in the context of the Cholistan canals project

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday called Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to Karachi for an urgent meeting on the rising tensions between the PPP and PML-N as the coalition allies continued to trade barbs over multiple issues. A post on X from the presidency said that Zardari and Naqvi held a telephonic conversation today related to the ongoing row between the Sindh and Punjab governments. "President Asif Ali Zardari spoke to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi over the phone to discuss the recent tensions between the Sindh and Punjab governments. The president has called the interior minister to Karachi for an urgent meeting in this regard," the post said. The coalition partners in the Centre have been engaged in a war of words for the past many days over issues

Continued on Page 06

Deal with US Govt should take nation into confidence : PPP

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former Senate chairperson Raza Rabbani emphasised on Monday that the federal government should "immediately" take parliament into confidence on its "new US policy", particularly mentioning media reports about the sale of rare minerals and the supposed plan to offer Pasni port to Washington. "The federal government has not taken the people or parliament into confidence on the dynamics of

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Probe launched into violations in Afghanistan

DNA

GENEVA: The UN Human Rights Council on Monday decided to launch a probe into serious rights violations in Afghanistan, amid growing alarm over the Taliban's measures targeting women and girls. The United Nations' top rights body decided to set up an investigation to gather and preserve evidence of international crimes. A draft resolution brought forward by the European Union was adopted without a vote by the 47-country council in Geneva. "Four years since the Taliban takeover by force, human rights situation has only deteriorated amidst a deepening humanitarian crisis," said Denmark's ambassador Ib Petersen, introducing the resolution on behalf of EU.

Pak forms body to business engagement with KSA

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has constituted an 18-member committee to carry out bilateral economic engagements and negotiations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), a notification issued on Sunday by the Prime Minister's Office said. According to the notification, made available to Dawn.com today, the committee will be co-chaired by Climate Change Minister Musadik Malik and the national coordinator for Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ahmad. The notification, dated October 5, said that the co-chairs "shall constitute core/negotiation teams for negotiations with the Saudi counterparts".

Flotilla capture

FO says ex-senator evacuation in 'next couple of days'

Foreign ministry says working "tirelessly" to secure safe evacuation of former lawmaker

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Monday said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is making "tireless efforts" to evacuate former Senator Mushtaq Ahmad, who was detained by the Israeli forces in the Gaza aid flotilla interception. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, through its Embassy in Amman, is working tirelessly to secure the safe evacuation of former Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan," read the press release issued by the FO. The foreign ministry hoped that the process for the former lawmaker's evacuation would be completed in the 'next couple of days' with the assistance of the Jordanian government. "With the invaluable assistance of the Jordanian government, we are hopeful that the process can be successfully concluded within the next couple of days," the FO added. "We are deeply grateful to

the brotherly government of Jordan for [its] exemplary cooperation and generous support." Earlier on Sunday, the FO had said that Pakistan was actively engaged with international partners to ensure the safety and repatriation of its citizens. "Through the diplomatic channels of a friendly European country, we have confirmed that former senator Mushtaq Ahmed is in the custody of the Israeli occupying forces and is safe and in good health," read the press statement. It further added that Pakistan authorities were told that the ex-senator will be presented before a court and, upon the issuance of deportation orders, his repatriation will be facilitated on a "fast-track basis." Ahmed 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.

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Arrest warrants issued for PTI leaders in Sangjani rally case

ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra orders police to present PTI leaders before court by Oct 20



FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in the federal capital on Monday issued arrest warrants for several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in a case relating to the party's rally in Sangjani area back in September 2024. ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra conducted the hearing of the case today and issued arrest warrants for former National Assembly speaker Omar Ayub, PTI leader Zartaj Gul and party's Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram. Judge Sipra also directed the police to arrest and produce

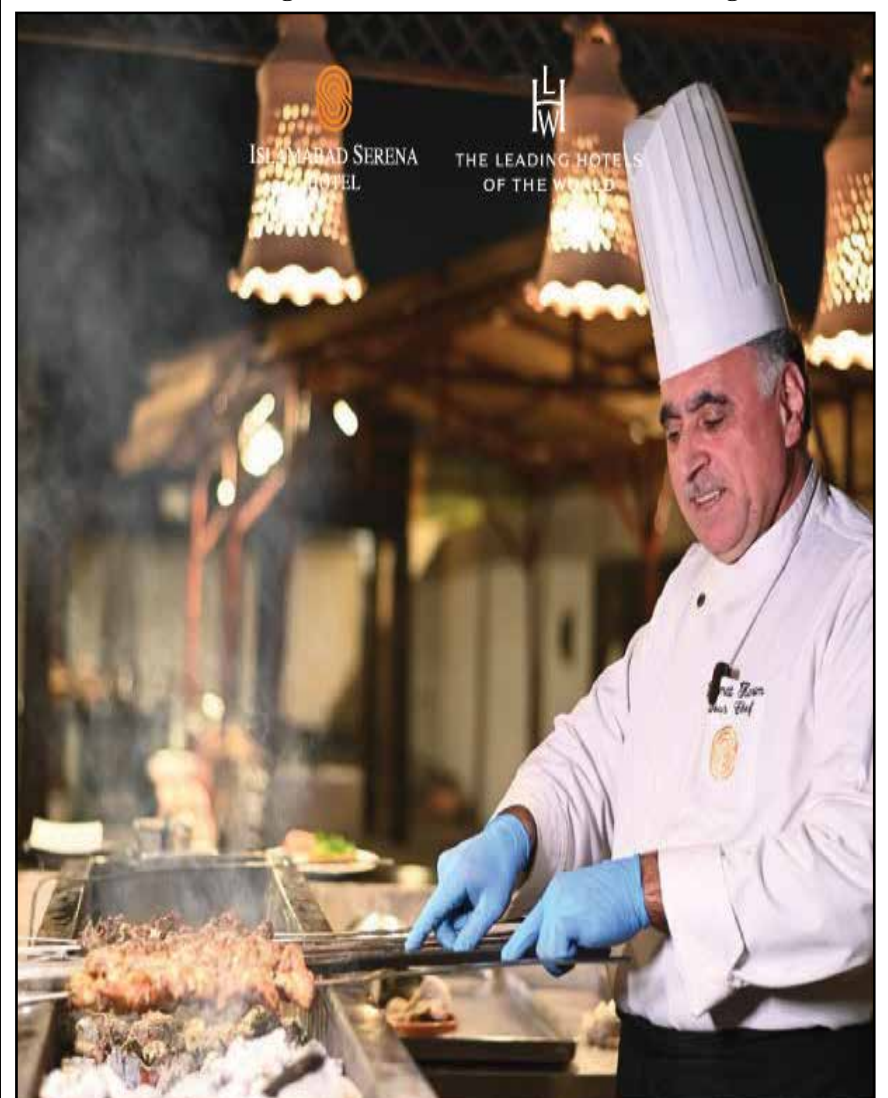
Continued on Page 06

Court Issues questionnaire to Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: A special court on Monday granted last opportunity to PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi to prove themselves innocent under section 342 in Toshakhana-II case. The court shared the questionnaire with the accused and sought answers of it on next hearing October 8. The cross-examination of the last prosecution witness in the Toshakhana-II case against PTI founder and Bushra Bibi has been completed during this day hearing. Special Judge Central Shahrugh Arjumand heard the case at Central Jail Adiala Rawalpindi wherein accused PTI founder and Bushra Bibi were produced before the court. The accused have been provided with

Continued on Page 06



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Light to moderate rain brings cold conditions

LAHORE :The provincial capital on Monday early morning received light to moderate rain which brought cold conditions as tempearture dropped to 18 degrees celsius. According to the loac Met office, the first spell started at 02:10am and continued till 02:50am while second spell which started at 07:20am, remained continue for more than two hours. Jail Road received 14 millimeter, Upper Mall 40, Gulberg 15, Laxmi 18, Farrukhabad 30, Iqbal Town 32, Gulshan e Ravi 20 and Samnabad 33 millimeter while other areas also witnessed light rain. The district government machinery remained active during and after the rain._APP

Smog early warning system reports improvement in Lahore's air quality

LAHORE:For the first time in the province's history, Punjab's first smog early warning system has been activated, providing real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) data and forecasts to help manage air pollution more effectively. According to the latest report, Lahore's average AQI was recorded at 62 following rainfall at 4:00 AM yesterday, indicating a significant improvement in air quality. The air quality continued to improve with sunrise and rising temperatures, reaching an AQI of 70 by 10:00 AM, when the temperature stood at 29°C. By 2:00 PM, the AQI was expected to rise to 92 with the temperature increasing to 33°C. Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) informed APP that air quality data has now been fully analyzed in 18 districts of Punjab, thanks to the newly operational smog monitoring and weather forecasting system. This system marks a major milestone in environmental management at the provincial level. Punjab Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, in a statement, emphasized the importance of tree plantation and increasing greenery as long-term strategies to combat air pollution. She highlighted that under the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, targeted smog operations are actively underway in Lahore and other major cities.—APP

Australian delegation visits UoS

SARGODHA: A delegation from the University of Queensland, Australia, and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) visited the University of Sargodha (UoS) on Monday to review progress on the Citrus Value Chain Project—a joint initiative aimed at strengthening Pakistan's citrus sector from production to export. According to a UoS spokesperson, the delegation included Dr Tim Sun, Senior Researcher at the University of Queensland; Dr Rajindra Adhikari, Project Leader and Professor at the University of Queensland; and Dr Munawar Raza Kazmi, Country Manager—Pakistan for ACIAR. During the visit, the delegation met with Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Qaisar Abbas.—APP

Pakistan desires to further expand bilateral ties with UK

ISLAMABAD:Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, held separate meetings in London with British Member of Parliament Mohammad Yasin and Deputy Mayor of Slough Asim Ranjha during his brief stay in the United Kingdom en route to Barbados to attend the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC). The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, promoting parliamentary cooperation, strengthening people-to-people linkages, and recognizing the vital role of the Pakistani diaspora in fostering mutual understanding and development, said a news release. During the meeting with MP Mohammad Yasin, both sides reaffirmed their commitment



ISLAMABAD: KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Additional Foreign Secretary Hamid Asghar Khan, Shahid Latif Khan, Zahid Latif Khan, Abid Latif Khan, President RCCI Usman Shaukat and others on the occasion of a ceremony organized by Metropolitan Warehouse and Delivery, at Serena Hotel. —DNA

Pak fully capable of responding to India's war threats: Kundi

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people and their right to self-determination, stressing that Pakistan would continue to raise the issue at all international forums

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Kashmir Council European Union (EU), Ali Raza Syed, called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House in Islamabad on Monday. The two discussed the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Ladakh, as well as India's escalating aggression in the region. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people and their right to self-determination, stressing that Pakistan would continue to raise the issue at all international forums. He said India's political and military leader-

ship was issuing war threats to cover up the humiliation of its defeat in May, but Pakistan had the capability to respond strongly and effectively to any aggression. Ali Raza Syed briefed the Governor on ongoing diplomatic and political efforts in Europe to highlight the Kashmir issue, emphasizing that global awareness of India's human rights violations in the occupied territory was increasing. He said that following Governor Kundi's visit to Brussels in August and his meetings with European parliamentarians, the Kashmir cause and Pakistan's position had gained significant attention across European capitals. Both sides

underscored the need for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute for lasting regional peace and stability, reaffirming their commitment to continue supporting the Kashmiri people's struggle for freedom. Ali Raza Syed also invited Governor Faisal Karim Kundi to attend the Islamabad launch of the upcoming book "Kashmir: Wait and See" by international journalist Cedric Gerbay, scheduled for November. Meanwhile, General Manager Projects, SNGPL Engineer Syed Sajid Hussain Shah, called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and briefed him on the ongoing gas pipeline project in Dera Ismail Khan.

Breast cancer awareness campaign highlights importance of early detection

ISLAMABAD: In connection with the international Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a series of awareness campaigns, seminars, and community outreach activities are being held across Pakistan to educate women about the importance of early detection and regular screening. Health experts emphasized that breast cancer remains one of the most common cancers among women in Pakistan, but early diagnosis can significantly improve survival rates. Medical professionals urged women to conduct regular self-examinations and consult doctors for timely mammography. Various organizations, including hospitals, universities, and NGOs, have joined hands to spread awareness through pink ribbon events, walks, and free screening camps. Landmark buildings and institutions across major cities are being illuminated in pink as a symbol of solidarity with breast cancer survivors. Dr. Ayesha Malik, an oncologist, stated, "Awareness and early detection are the most powerful tools in the fight against breast cancer. Every woman should prioritize her health and never ignore warning signs." The campaign also encourages men to play an active role in supporting the women in their families to seek medical advice without hesitation.—APP

Survey for rehabilitation of flood victims continue: Punjab CM

LAHORE :On the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a comprehensive survey for the rehabilitation of flood victims is in full swing across the province. The CM was briefed that 2,233 survey teams have reached flood-affected households in 27 districts to collect data, including visits to remote areas being conducted through boats. PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia apprised the Chief Minister that data of over 127,000 victims has been collected so far, while information regarding crop losses has been obtained from 88,865 farmers covering more than 342,000 acres of flood-affected land. He further informed that data of 37,044 damaged houses and 1,400 livestock owners has been gathered, with details of 5,836 dead animals reported from various districts. The CM was informed that personnel of the Pakistan Army, Urban Unit, and the Revenue, Agriculture, and Livestock departments are conducting a door-to-door survey, while PDMA Punjab is monitoring the progress daily. Flood-affected people have expressed satisfaction and gratitude over the swift response of the survey teams, praising Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for their timely measures. The survey teams assured the victims that every deserving person would receive their rightful assistance in accordance with the Chief Minister's directions. Meanwhile, The Punjab government on Monday approved the expansion of the school meal program to 10 additional districts across the province. According to sources from the Punjab School Education Department, the program will be launched in Bhakkar, Mianwali, Layyah, DG Khan, Rajanpur, and Muzaffargarh. Additionally, the program will cover Chiniot, Rahim Yar Khan, Lodhran, and Vehari. Under this initiative, free meals will be provided to children from classes 1 to 5, aiming to improve nutrition and support student attendance. Furthermore, the Punjab Education Minister announced that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has approved the construction of Danish schools in Sarai Alamgir and Phul Nagar to further enhance educational opportunities in these areas.—DNA

Govt officers urged for honesty, dedication

MANSEHRA: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf has said that government employees should perform their duties with complete honesty and dedication, treating them as a national responsibility. He expressed these views while addressing a meeting held at the Circuit House Mansehra, to review ongoing development projects and assess district-level challenges. Speaking on the occasion, the minister directed government officials to take impartial measures for resolving the public's basic problems and to prioritize public service above all else. He assured that all possible efforts would be made at both federal and provincial levels to address the district's issues and accelerate development work. The minister said that the meeting was convened to review ongoing development projects and assess district-level challenges. During the briefing, the district administration apprised the minister of various issues._APP

130 teachers honored with hero awards

ATTOCK: World Teachers' Day has been observed in Attock, in which as many as 130 teachers from across the district were honored with the prestigious "Hero Award" to honor the pivotal role that teachers play in shaping societies and guiding future generations.

The event was hosted at MC High School, Attock, under the chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer (Education) Dr Muhammad Azhar. Additional Deputy Commissioner Attock, Anil Saeed, attended the event as the chief guest.

A large number of Deputy District education officers, assistant education officers, teachers, and citizens from across the district participated.

The event was coordinated by District Education Officer

(Elementary-Female) Ms Shahwar Gul, while DEO Secondary Altaf Hussain and DEO Elementary (Male) Syed Taqi Abbas also attended the ceremony. The speakers at the event noted that the Hero Awards would further boost teachers' morale and serve as a source of inspiration to raise educational standards in the district. Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Executive Officer (Education) Dr. Muhammad Azhar has said that the awards had recognized the outstanding contributions of primary, secondary, and subject specialist teachers who had demonstrated excellence in their profession. He added that the initiative aimed to acknowledge the dedication, innovation, and impact of teachers in shaping the future generation.

He emphasized the vital role of teachers in nation-building. "Teaching is not merely a profession but a sacred responsibility. The development of nations, the shaping of character, and the guidance of future generations rest on the shoulders of teachers. A teacher is a guiding light, illuminating hearts and minds with knowledge, character, and wisdom. We must not only acknowledge their status but also demonstrate it through meaningful recognition," he said. Additional Deputy Commissioner Attock, Anil Saeed, speaking on this occasion said: "Teachers' commitment to fostering curiosity, nurturing values and shaping young minds is central to building stronger communities and a brighter future".—DNA

Ban on plastic bags to be enforced strictly

KHANEWAL:The Punjab government has assigned the task of ensuring the practical implementation of its policy banning plastic bags Deputy Commissioner Dr Salma Suleman has given the Environment Department a free hand to take strict action in this regard. A meeting of the Plastic Management Committee was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Ghulam Mustafa Sihar. Deputy Director of Environment Protection, Sarfraz Anjum, briefed the meeting about actions taken in September against the sale and purchase of single-use plastic. Over 300 kilograms of banned plastic were seized, and 283 shopkeepers submitted written pledges to stop its use. Violators were fined Rs 30,000 during the campaign. The meeting issued directives to ensure a complete ban on single-use plastics. ADC (G) Ghulam Mustafa said that the production, sale, and use of polythene bags are strictly prohibited. He added that the district administration was fully committed to environmental protection and public health.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

Oct 01/China
National Day

Oct 01/Cyprus
National Day

Oct 01/Republic of Korea
Armed Forces Day

Oct 01/Nigeria
Armed Forces Day

Oct 02/Guinea
National Day

Oct 03/Germany
Unification Day

Oct 03/Republic of Korea
National Foundation Day

Oct 05/Indonesia
Armed Forces Day

Oct 06/Egypt
Armed Forces Day

Oct 09/Uganda
Independence Day

Oct 12/Spain
National Day

Oct 23/Hungary
National Day

October 24/United Nations
United Nations Day

Oct/25/Romania
Armed Forces Day

Oct 26/Austria
National Day

Oct 27/Turkmenistan
Independence Day

Oct 28/Czech Republic
National Day

Oct 29/Turkey
Republic Day



Emergency	
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Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
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& Rescue Services.....	4451122
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MH.....	561116
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RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666



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TMA.....	5770886
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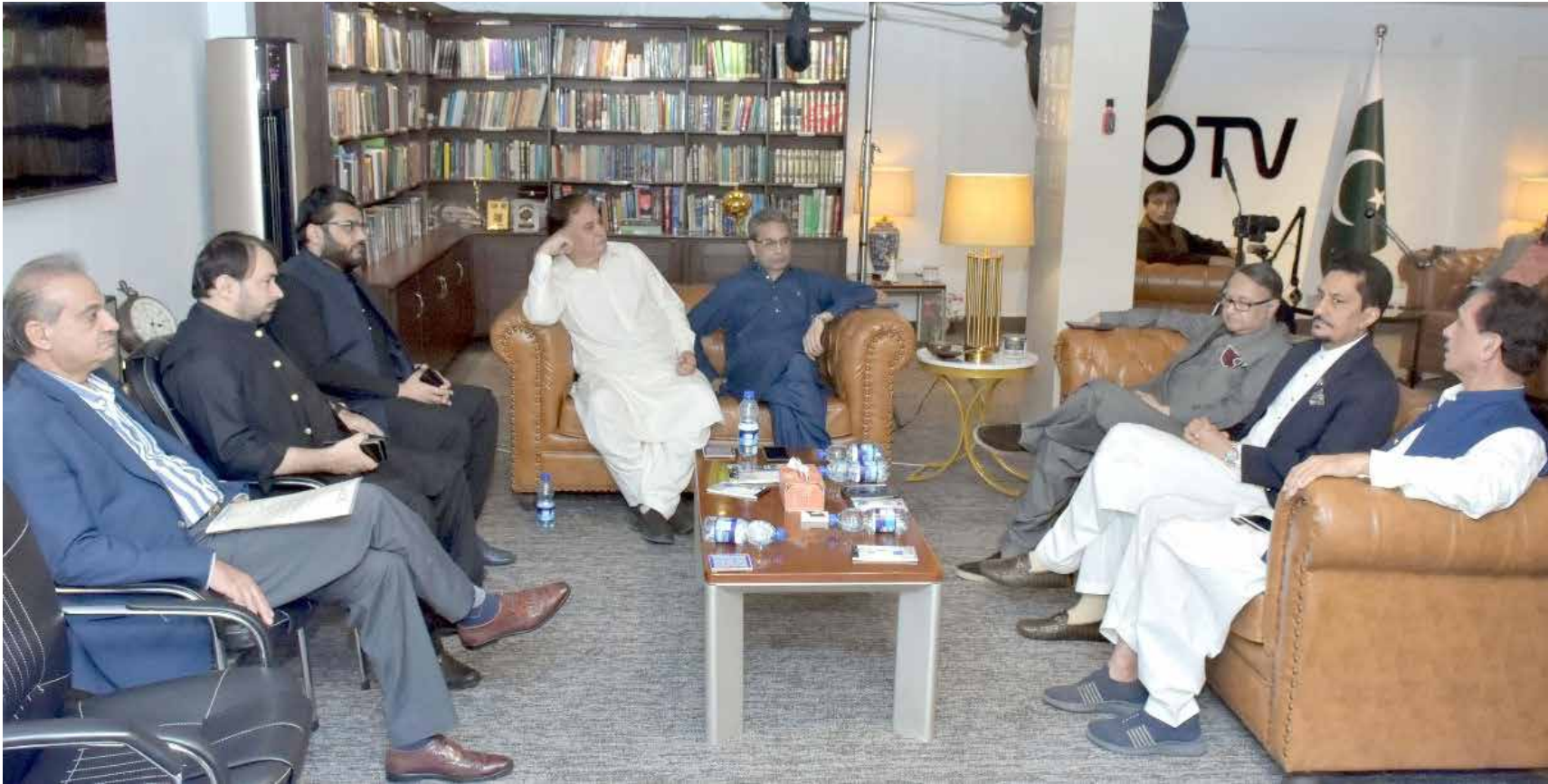
Islamabad Metropolitan	
Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343
Water Tank	
Islamabad.....	0321-5744480

APNS urges PID for fair distribution of advertisements, early payments

The members of the Committee appreciated the recent decision of the Punjab Government to cancel declarations of 8,000 dummy newspapers, terming it a positive step towards strengthening genuine publications; The Committee resolved that in the forthcoming meeting with the PIO, it would request that future advertisements be allocated on a priority basis to APNS and CPNE members

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) Federal Capital Committee has urged the Press Information Department (PID) to ensure fair and transparent distribution of government advertisements among member publications and to expedite the clearance of outstanding payments. A meeting of the Federal Capital Committee, presided over by its Chairman Mr. Faisal Zahid Malik, was held to review issues being faced by member publications regarding the delayed release of advertisements and prolonged pending dues from PID. Senator Sarmad Ali, President APNS, briefed the Committee that he had already discussed the issue of payments with the Principal Information Officer (PIO), who assured that the pending payments would be released during October. It was further decided that a delegation of the Federal Capital Committee, headed by the APNS President, would meet the PIO at the earliest to follow up on the matter. The members of the Committee appreciated the recent



decision of the Punjab Government to cancel declarations of 8,000 dummy newspapers, terming it a positive step towards strengthening genuine publications. They also urged the Punjab Government to ensure that advertisements are released to Islamabad-based publications without discrimination. The Committee resolved that in the forthcoming meeting with the PIO, it would request that future advertisements be allocated on a priority basis to APNS and CPNE members. The Committee also held a detailed discussion on the state of print media and emphasized the need for member publications to enhance their digital presence in line with modern media trends. The meeting was attended by Mr. Faisal Zahid Malik (Chairman), Senator Sarmad Ali (President, APNS), Mr. Tahir Mughal (Daily Nawa-i-Pak), Mr. Khushnood Ali Khan (Daily Sahafat), Mr. Ansar Mahmood Bhatti (Monthly Centreline), and Mr. Rafay Khan Niazi (Daily Patriot).

FIA registers FIR against Rina Saeed over corruption allegations

She is also the one who was behind closure of iconic Monal restaurant. In connivance with her friends in the higher judiciary she managed a verdict that led to closure of Monal. The action had reportedly rendered around 1,100 people jobless and turned one of Islamabad's most scenic areas into a deserted site

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Rina Saeed following the directives of the Islamabad High Court (IHC). Saeed, who had been associated with several wildlife and environmental initiatives in the capital, is accused of misappropriating millions of rupees received from foreign NGOs in the name of wildlife conservation. According to reliable sources, Saeed allegedly transferred large sums of donor funds into her personal accounts, leading to financial irregularities and the closure of various wildlife-related projects. She is also the one who was behind closure of iconic Monal restaurant. In connivance with her friends in the higher judiciary she managed a verdict that led to closure of Monal. The action had reportedly rendered around 1,100 people jobless and turned one of Islamabad's most scenic areas into a deserted site. For the past six months, Saeed had managed to delay legal proceedings by obtaining a stay order. However, after detailed investigations, the FIA moved forward with registering the case. Sources further revealed that the agency has launched search operations at several locations to arrest the accused. The case has drawn significant attention, as it highlights growing concerns about transparency and misuse of foreign aid under the guise of environmental conservation projects in Pakistan.

ICCI investment moot to attract Chinese investors

ISLAMABAD: Chief Patron of the China Pakistan Business Forum (CPBF) Lt. General (R) Abdul Qayyum has stressed the need to further strengthen Business-to-Business (B2B) linkages between Pakistani and Chinese entrepreneurs to enhance bilateral trade and investment for mutual benefit. He stated this during a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) while leading a large delegation of Chinese investors along with Sheikh Ejaz Asghar, Co-Chairman CPBF, said a press release. The delegation included Mr. Guan Yinkui, President CPBF Yuncheng City China; Mr. Guo Peng, Chairman China Medical Industry; Mr. Zhang, Medical Industry; Mr. Wan, Cash & Carry and Departmental Store; Ms. He, Secretary General CPBF, Shijiazhuang Office China; Mr. Cuihao; Mr. Zhangzeping; and Mr. Xiongpeixin of Hebei Bashi Supply Chain Company. Lt. Gen. (R) Abdul Qayyum said that the visit is a follow-up to the B2B meetings held by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to China, aimed at translating those discussions into practical outcomes. He proposed the establishment of a permanent joint committee comprising leading entrepreneurs from both countries, to be headed by the ICCI, for continuous engagement on trade and investment issues. In his welcome address, Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President ICCI, said the Chamber is working actively to expand Pakistan-China economic co-operation through regular B2B interactions. Highlighting the importance of Phase-II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said it focuses on exports, digital economy, renewable energy, regional connectivity, and mineral development, besides investing in youth through scholarships and technical training. He added that under this phase, over ten thousand Pakistani youth will receive training in China to acquire cutting-edge technology that will surely boost Pakistan's production and exports. Sardar Tahir Mehmood further informed that ICCI is planning to host an international investment conference to showcase Pakistan's export and tourism potential and attract foreign investment. Sheikh Ejaz Asghar, Co-Chairman CPBF, appreciated ICCI's role in strengthening business linkages and suggested that ICCI should organize a major investment conference in collaboration with CPBF, assuring that over 100 Chinese companies would participate in the conference. He also urged ICCI to take a lead role, with the support of FPCCI, in establishing a modern Expo Center in Islamabad to host exhibitions and trade fairs. The visiting Chinese investors reaffirmed their commitment to contribute to Pakistan's economic growth by investing in industrial up-gradation, production enhancement, and employment generation. The meeting was also attended by Executive Members Zulqurnain Abbasi, Raja Naveed Satti, Mohammad Waseem Chaudhry, Imran Minhas, and ICCI Member Zeeshan Mehmood.—DNA

2,097 sites fumigated, 29 new dengue cases reported

ISLAMABAD: In the past 24 hours, the Islamabad district administration carried out anti-dengue fumigation at 2,097 sites, reported 29 new cases, and arrested 38 individuals for violating dengue prevention guidelines. The administration has so far achieved 33,706 anti-dengue operations across the city under its ongoing campaign. According to the spokesman of Islamabad district administration, the authority has intensified its crackdown against dengue following a rise in reported cases across the city. According to official data, 29 new dengue cases were confirmed in the past 24 hours, with 17 patients admitted to various hospitals for treatment. To prevent further spread of the virus, the administration completed fumigation at 2,097 locations in different parts of the city. Officials confirmed that dengue larvae were found at 706 sites during inspections, where immediate fumigation and monitoring were carried out. Overall, the administration has achieved its target of 33,706 anti-dengue activities under its ongoing operation, which includes fumigation, site inspections, and public awareness drives. Authorities said these actions are part of a coordinated effort to curb the spread of the mosquito-borne disease. During inspections, 38 people were arrested for violating standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued to prevent dengue breeding. These violations included improper water storage, stagnant water accumulation, and negligence in maintaining clean surroundings. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad directed teams to enforce dengue SOPs across all urban and rural areas without exception. He warned that individuals found responsible for breeding sites would face legal action. "The administration is maintaining a zero-tolerance policy against violations of dengue SOPs," the DC said, instructing field teams to continue inspections and take strict measures where needed.—APP

MoU signed to strengthen cybersecurity coop

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) here on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance information sharing and cooperation, with a focus on bolstering cybersecurity posture and initiatives for both organizations. The signing ceremony was held at the NTC Headquarters and was attended by the Managing Director NTC, Maj Gen (R) Ali Farhan, SECP Commissioner Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi, and senior officers from both organizations. The MoU establishes a framework for bilateral cooperation in several key areas of mutual interest. These initiatives include promoting joint deliberation on emerging cybersecurity threats, trends, and mitigation strategies; exchanging technical insights and best practices to enhance cybersecurity; and advancing digitalization efforts to facilitate businesses and users. Furthermore, the collaboration will focus on capacity building for threat detection and response, research and innovation in cybersecurity technologies, and the improvement of audit and compliance related to standards like ISO 27001. It also covers capacity building for emergency response and cyber incident handling, as well as collaboration on the establishment and operation of Sectoral CERTs in line with national rules. This agreement represents a significant step toward increased coordination between the SECP and NTC in cybersecurity matters. It builds upon NTC's past support to the SECP and paves the way for future collaboration on national-level cybersecurity initiatives. The Managing Director NTC, Maj Gen (R) Ali Farhan, speaking at the occasion, highlighted NTC's successful collaborations across various sectors, noting that such partnerships are essential for building a secure and efficient digital infrastructure. "By leveraging our collective strengths, we can not only optimize service delivery but also ensure that critical data and infrastructure remain protected from unauthorized access and exploitation," he emphasized. SECP Commissioner, Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi, applauded NTC's proactive efforts in creating a safe and secure digital ecosystem in the country. He thanked NTC for its support.—DNA

10-day ultimatum to restore train punctuality

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Monday gave a 10-day ultimatum to railway authorities to restore train schedules, stressing that punctuality must be ensured without compromise. Presiding over an important meeting, the minister expressed strong displeasure over repeated train delays across the country. He reprimanded senior railway officials and issued strict directives to all divisions and the headquarters to immediately address the causes behind the disruptions. The officials briefed the minister that the main reasons for delays included the late arrival of power plants and certain technical issues affecting operations. Abbasi said ensuring punctuality, modernization, and digital transformation of Pakistan Railways were among the government's top priorities. He said that passengers must be provided with clean stations and improved travel facilities, terming them vital for restoring public trust.—APP

Intermittent rain in ICT

ISLAMABAD: Intermittent rain continued in the federal capital on Monday as the Islamabad district administration deployed assistant commissioners and field staff across the city to monitor roads and low-lying areas. According to the spokesman, the Islamabad district administration remained active across the city as intermittent rainfall continued in various areas. On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, assistant commissioners and field teams were present in the field to ensure smooth traffic movement and monitor rainwater drainage. Officials said that all major roads, intersections, and low-lying areas were being closely observed to prevent water accumulation and traffic disruptions. The teams were instructed to take immediate action in case of any blockage or flooding. The administration reported that traffic on major routes remained unaffected, with coordinated efforts between the district administration and traffic police ensuring a steady flow of vehicles during the rain. Citizens have been urged to stay cautious and report any untoward incident or rain-related emergency to the district administration's control room without delay.—APP

CCP okays SALIC's acquisition of 'Olam Agri'

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the proposed acquisition of a controlling interest in Olam Agri Holdings Limited (Olam Agri) by the Saudi Agricultural and Livestock Investment Company (SALIC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Saudi Public Investment Fund. The transaction involves the transfer of shares from Olam Group's Singapore-based entities—Olam Agri Pte. Limited and Olam Holdings Pte. Limited—to SALIC. The acquisition is aligned with Saudi Arabia's long-term food security objectives. In Pakistan, Olam Agri operates in the origination, trading, and processing of agricultural commodities, including edible oils, rice, cotton, rubber, and timber. Following a detailed Phase I review, the CCP determined that although Olam Agri holds a meaningful presence in certain commodity markets, the transaction will not create or strengthen a dominant position in Pakistan. The Commission also noted that SALIC does not have any direct business operations in Pakistan, and the transaction essentially represents a shift from joint to sole control at the shareholder level. The CCP further observed that Pakistan's agricultural commodities sector remains broad and competitive, with several active traders and importers participating in the market. On the basis of its assessment, the Commission concluded that the acquisition does not raise competition concerns and will not substantially lessen competition in the relevant markets. Accordingly, the proposed transaction has been authorized under the Competition Act, 2010 and the Competition (Merger Control) Regulations, 2016.—APP

Briefs

IHC disposes of contempt case against ex-chief judge GB

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday disposed of the case against former Chief Judge Gilgit-Baltistan Rana Shamim's alleged affidavit in favor of Nawaz Sharif in the Panama Papers case after 3 years. The court disposed of the contempt of court case due to ineffectiveness. Chief Justice Sardar Sarfaraz Dogar heard the contempt of court case against Rana Shamim and others. Lawyer Aamir Abdullah took the stand that Rana Shamim had submitted an apology letter, after which the case was not scheduled, now this case has become ineffective. The Deputy Attorney General said that this case has been fixed after a long time. In this case, only Rana Shamim was indicted. In the last hearings, Rana Shamim had submitted an apology letter to the court. Chief Justice Sarfaraz Dogar said that then we will dispose of this case. The High Court disposed of the contempt of court case due to ineffectiveness. In 2021, former judge Rana Shamim had alleged in his affidavit that former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar had ordered an Islamabad High Court judge not to take bail of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz. When Rana Shamim's affidavit was published in the newspaper, former Chief Justice Athar Minallah took notice of the matter and initiated contempt of court proceedings.—APP

Tarar sees amicable resolution of PPP-PML-N differences

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar on Monday expressed optimism that current differences between the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would eventually be resolved in an amicable manner. Responding to Sherry Rehman's speech in the Senate, Tarar said, "As Islamabad's weather cools, so do the emotions. I'm optimistic that relations will improve." He urged the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) not to be overjoyed on strained ties between the PPP and PML-N, saying political difference was a normal phenomenon in a democracy where protest was a legitimate right. He assured that water distribution among provinces was being managed by Indus River System Authority (IRSA) according to established criteria. Tarar added that President Asif Ali Zardari had taken cognizance of the issue, while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif were committed to reconciliation. He said the recent deluge was a natural calamity, while climate change remained a global challenge — one in which Pakistan had no direct role, yet continued to suffer its devastating consequences. The Punjab government had allocated a substantial amount to compensate victims affected by flooding in three major rivers, he added.—APP

IIUI students visit Parliament House

ISLAMABAD: A group of students from the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), accompanied by faculty members, visited the Parliament House on Monday. Senior officials of the Senate warmly welcomed the delegation and guided them through the Senate Museum, where they watched an informative documentary showcasing Pakistan's parliamentary history and the role of the Upper House. The students were also given a detailed briefing on the legislative process and the working procedures of the Senate. The delegation showed keen interest in the Senate's performance, parliamentary traditions, and democratic practices. Later, the visitors observed the Senate proceedings. The delegation thanked the Senate officials for their hospitality and termed the visit both memorable and informative.—APP

Ethiopia, Pakistan agree on strengthening defence coop

He also praised Ethiopia's pivotal role in promoting peace, security, and stability in the Horn of Africa, affirming Pakistan's unwavering support for these efforts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have agreed to enhance defence and aviation cooperation for further strengthening their bilateral relations. The discussion took place on Monday during a meeting between H.E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan, and H.E. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister of Defence for Pakistan. The two sides discussed growing bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Ethiopia and Pakistan in various areas including peace and security, defence, aviation, climate change, trade and investment, culture, and tourism. The Ambassador briefed the Federal Minister about the recent inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which is built on the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of water, fostering regional integration without causing any significant harm to any other country. Furthermore, the Ambassador emphasized Ethiopia's significant advancements in the aviation sector and expressed a keen interest in expanding flight destinations to Pakistan, in addition to the existing Karachi route. The Federal Minister lauded the visionary leadership of Ethiopia, commending the transformative initiatives undertaken by Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed



to advance socio-economic development and prosperity in the country. He also

praised Ethiopia's pivotal role in promoting peace, security, and stability in the Horn

of Africa, affirming Pakistan's unwavering support for these efforts.

Govt takes major step towards tackling organised crime

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A two-day workshop was held in Islamabad to help Pakistan develop its first National Strategy Against Organised Crime. The event was organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in partnership with the Government of Pakistan and the UK Government. The workshop brought together senior officials from law enforcement agencies across Pakistan, as well as experts from civil society, academia, and international partners. Together, they discussed how to better respond to serious crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime, and other illegal activities that cross borders and threaten public safety. Participants included representatives from key national bodies such as the Ministry of Interior, Anti-Narcotics Force, Federal Investigation Agency, and provincial police forces. Officials from the British High Commission, including Deputy High Commissioner Mr Matt Cannell, also attended. Troels Vester, UNODC Country Representative in Pakistan said, "Organised crime affects everyone — it weakens institutions, puts communities at risk, and often targets the most vulnerable. This workshop shows the strong commitment of Pakistan, the UK, and UNODC to work together and build safer, more resilient societies." Dr. Ehsan Sadiq, Director General, Anti-Money Laundering said, "This initiative reflects our collective determination to address the complex challenge of organised crime. By working together with the Government of

Pakistan, UNODC, our international partners and national stakeholders, we are laying the foundation for a stronger and more coordinated response. Through this joint effort, we aim to build safer communities, protect the rights of our people, and ensure a future where justice and security are accessible to all" Raja Riffat Mukhtar Director General, Federal Investigation Agency, highlighted The growing complexity of organized crime, noting that it cuts across borders and sectors. He emphasized that such crime cannot be viewed in isolation, as its impact is felt worldwide. He underscored that organized crime is a global threat requiring collective action and strong international cooperation. Matt Cannell, Deputy British High Commissioner to Pakistan said, "This partnership reflects our shared commitment to tackling serious threats that affect both our countries. Through strong cooperation with the Government of Pakistan and UNODC, we are helping build a safer, more resilient future grounded in inclusive justice. During the workshop, delegates explored how to improve coordination between agencies, share intelligence, and strengthen laws to stop criminal networks. They also focused on protecting victims and ensuring that efforts to fight crime respect human rights and promote gender equality. The discussions were based on UNODC's global toolkit for tackling organised crime, and centred around four key areas: Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Promote. Participants shared ideas on how to improve investigations, build capacity, and monitor progress. The outcomes of the workshop will help shape Pakistan's national strategy, which aims to make communities safer, support justice, and contribute to long-term peace and development.

SDPI, Kyrgyz team explore new avenues for Central, S Asia coop

ISLAMABAD: A high-level experts' delegation from Kyrgyzstan on Monday visited Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) to explore avenues for enhanced collaboration between Central and South Asia, particularly in research, policy advocacy, trade, and connectivity. Welcoming the delegation, Dr Sajid Amin Javed, Deputy Executive Director of SDPI, highlighted Pakistan's renewed stance on strengthening ties with Central Asian Republics (CARs), in line with the vision of the Pakistan government, said a press release. "Pakistan and Central Asia share deep historical and cultural roots," he said, adding that "Our collective future depends on reviving those connections through research, policy dialogue, and sustainable cooperation." He added that SDPI is ranked among top 100 non-US think tanks globally by the University of Pennsylvania that continues to deepen its engagement across the region. "Central Asia is the least explored region, and SDPI aims to bridge that gap," he said. Dr Sajid briefed the delegation on SDPI's core work areas of research, advocacy and outreach, and capacity building, and remarked that SDPI has over 100 active memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with national and international partners and regularly produces policy briefs, research papers, and working papers. The institute is also hosting Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) in November this year, which is Pakistan's largest annual policy gathering for the past 28 years. This time the institute is set to organize the 16th South Asia Economic Summit and the UNESCAP Seventh SDGs Forum alongside the SDC. Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Dayo, Program Advisor, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Pakistan mentioned the long-standing partnership between SDPI and FES, emphasizing their collaboration on "many cross-cutting policy issues." Prof. Dr. Emil Dzhuarev, political scientist and analyst in Kyrgyzstan lauded SDPI's pioneering role in sustainability and public policy. "SDPI's work predates the global sustainable development discourse by nearly a decade," he remarked. Highlighting the potential of Central Asia-South Asia Trade Connectivity, he stressed that recent geopolitical shifts have opened new corridors for collaboration. "The Central Asian Republics are increasingly engaging with Afghanistan and Pakistan to access seaports," he said, adding that the region must overcome institutional inertia to build effective think-tank ecosystems. Bobsurshoh Alimov, Project Officer, FES Uzbekistan, shared insights from Central Asia, noting that Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are taking steps to strengthen ties with neighbouring states. "Uzbekistan, a double landlocked country, depends on Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for water. Water diplomacy and regional forums have therefore become essential," he said. He pointed out that air pollution and climate challenges are shared concerns, and cities like Lahore, Bishkek, and Tashkent are ranked among the region's most polluted ones. Tourism and youth cooperation.—APP

Seminar focuses to equip youth to discern truth in digital age

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Media Cell to Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) under the Press Information Department (PID) successfully organized a thought-provoking seminar on "Disinformation and Digital Media Literacy: Navigating Truth in the Age of Social Media", aimed at equipping youth with critical tools to discern truth in the digital age. The event took place at Information Service Academy on Monday, where Director General, PID, Tahira Saeeda attended the event as the chief guest. Executive Di-

rector General, Information Service Academy, Imrana Wazir and the Project Director CVE, Shahid Imran Ranjha graced the occasion as well. The seminar brought together media professionals, academia and students for a dynamic dialogue on the rising challenges posed by misinformation in today's fast-paced online landscape. Acclaimed journalist and media analyst Aoun Abbas Sahi, known for his investigative reporting, emphasized on the government's commitment to foster media literacy and promoting factual integrity across digital platforms.

He highlighted the pivotal role of informed citizens in a democracy and encouraged young participants to be responsible digital consumers and creators. He also shed light on the consequences of disinformation on public perception, policy, and societal trust. He shared real-world examples of journalistic integrity combating false narratives. He highlighted the importance of laws pertaining to the digital landscape of the country. He said that the youth of Pakistan should be especially aware of laws such as PECA that govern the digital world in

Pakistan. Talal Chaudhary, CEO of TechJuice, shared insights into the evolving digital ecosystem and how tech platforms can be both sources of empowerment and misinformation. He stressed the need for digital literacy as a foundational skill in the 21st century. He focused on the mechanism behind the various forms of misinformation and how truth can be distinguished from propaganda. This seminar is part of CVE's ongoing efforts to build an informed and digitally literate society, capable of navigating the complexities of modern media.

Centreline Pakistan's largest and most respected diplomatic magazine

DNA

ISLAMABAD: For sixteen uninterrupted years, Centreline has held a singular place in Pakistan's media landscape as the country's largest and most respected diplomatic magazine. Distinguishing itself from other publications that touch on foreign policy and international affairs, Centreline focuses exclusively on diplomacy, international relations, and the institutions and personalities that shape Pakistan's global engagement. What sets Centreline apart is not only its editorial focus and longevity, but also its recognized standing within the professional press community: it is the only diplomatic magazine in Pakistan that is a full member of the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS). That membership underscores the magazine's credibility, adherence to press standards, and its integration into the nation's mainstream media ecosystem. Centreline's uninterrupted circulation for the past 16 years speaks to its consistency and the trust it has earned among diplomats, policy-makers, academics, and informed readers across the country. Each issue combines in-depth analysis, exclusive interviews, and timely reporting — material that informs debate and helps shape policy conversations. Its pages regularly feature contributions from seasoned diplomats, foreign-affairs experts, and leading commentators, making it essential reading for anyone engaged with Pakistan's foreign relations. Widely read and widely respected, Centreline remains the go-to publication for clear, authoritative coverage of diplomatic affairs — a magazine that not only reports international developments but also helps interpret their implications for Pakistan's place in the world.

Senate slams absence of top communications

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Communications on Monday expressed concern over the absence of senior officers from the Ministry of Communications and the National Highway Authority (NHA) during its meeting held at the Parliament House. The meeting, chaired by Senator Pervaiz Rashid, was attended by Senators Jam Saifullah Khan, Niaz Ahmad, Kamil Ali Agha, Saifullah Abro, Dost Ali Jeasar, Mohammad Abdul Qadir, and Zamir Hussain Ghumro, said a press release. The members emphasized the importance of the Committee as a vital parliamentary forum dedicated to addressing issues in the national interest and serving the people of Pakistan. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Pervaiz Rasheed, took strong notice of the non-serious attitude displayed by the concerned Ministry and departments. He directed that, in future, the Chairman NHA must inform the Committee in advance in case of any unavoidable absence. The Chairman further instructed that a strong message of displeasure be conveyed to the relevant authorities for showing disregard toward such an important parliamentary forum. Senator Saifullah Abro informed the Committee that not a single meeting of the Sub-Committee, constituted under the main Standing Committee on Communications, had been attended by the senior management of the Ministry of Communications. He alleged that officials were attempting to conceal major irregularities within their departments and lacked the courage to appear before the parliamentary body. He further stated that the Ministry had failed to address the concerns of the Sub-Committee and had not produced relevant documents before the committee. Senator Abro also appreciated the recent action taken by the Prime Minister regarding the suspension of three members and eight officers of the concerned Ministry/ Department for neglecting their duties and alleged involvement in corrupt practices. The Committee expressed grave concern over the awarding of the Gilgit-Shandur contract to a blacklisted company that had previously failed to deliver on multiple projects. Members of the Committee unanimously appreciated the sincere efforts of Senator Saifullah Abro and lauded his decision to continue serving in the Senate. In view of the absence of senior officials from the Ministry of Communications and NHA, the Committee unanimously decided to postpone the meeting.—DNA

IESCO imposes Rs16.7m fine on power pilferers

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has intensified its ongoing crackdown against electricity theft, imposing fines worth Rs16.7 million and arresting 62 power thieves during operations conducted across various areas in September 2025. According to IESCO Chief Executive Engineer Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood, the campaign is being carried out in compliance with the special directives of the Federal Government and the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) as part of a nationwide effort to curb power pilferage, said a press release. He said IESCO's dedicated teams have been conducting day and night operations to detect and eliminate electricity theft, which not only causes heavy losses to the national economy but also infringes on the rights of honest consumers who regularly pay their bills. Sharing operational details, the IESCO chief said that during September, operations teams checked 82,979 meters, out of which 39 meters were found tampered, while 174 consumers were found drawing direct electricity supply. A total of 318,000 units were charged to the culprits, and 16.7 million fine charged to electricity pilfer He added that the police, in collaboration with IESCO's enforcement teams, arrested 62 individuals involved in electricity theft, while dozens of illegal connections were disconnected and meters removed. Ch. Khalid Mahmood reaffirmed commitment that anti power theft campaign will continue until complete elimination of electricity theft. He requested to report power theft on IESCO help line number 118 or on IESCO commercial directorate Head office, Islamabad phone number 051-9252906.—APP

IRSA releases 113,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 113,800 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 114,200 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum conservation level of 1550.00 feet, which was 148.00 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 69,600 cusecs and 69,200 cusecs, respectively. The water level in the River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1241.10 feet, which was 191.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 9,000 cusecs each respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 96,800, 77,400, 75,300, and 41,600 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 10,500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 13,000 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

Rs 5m transferred to family of missing person: IHC told

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) was informed on Monday that the government had transferred Rs 5 million as aid to the account of the family of a missing person Omar Abdullah Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the petition filed by Zainab Zaem, the wife of missing citizen Omar Abdullah, in the IHC. Omar Abdullah's father, Khalid Abbasi Advocate, informed the court about this development. Representatives of the Ministry of Defense also appeared in the court and the court was given an in-camera briefing. During the hearing, the Additional Attorney General presented a report regarding the missing citizen in the court and requested that the court might review this report before in-camera briefing. The petitioner's lawyer reminded the court that in 2018, the IHC had imposed fines on some officials in the case of a missing citizen, but these orders have not been implemented till date. The court, raised the question of what action was taken against these officials. Justice Kayani took notice of the lack of any action despite the court order. The hearing of the case was later adjourned.—APP

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

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

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



Gaza peace deal – so close, yet so far

FOR weeks the world has watched a fragile choreography play out in Cairo: negotiators in whispered corridors, technicians sketching timetables, and leaders offering cautious optimism that a deal to free hostages and end the bloodletting in Gaza might finally be within reach. U.S. statements and reporting from the region suggest momentum: technical teams are due to reconvene in Egypt and senior mediators have expressed hope that the first phase of an agreement could be concluded in days.

Optimism, however, is no substitute for hard guarantees. Headlines that declare a deal “imminent” should be read with the sober caveat that the devil is in the details: who withdraws which forces, on what timeline, how many hostages are released when, what legal and security architecture replaces an occupying force – and crucially, what guarantees exist to prevent a replay of mass destruction. Reports indicate Hamas may be prepared to release hostages and has accepted many of the practical demands on the table, but internal divisions and political sensitivities on all sides mean even a near-complete deal can still unravel.

If an agreement is truly imminent, the international community must be clear-eyed about what success looks like and what follows. First, ending active hostilities is only the beginning. Ceasefires that do not address the political status of Gaza, the humanitarian catastrophe, and long-term security arrangements will be fragile. Gaza needs immediate, large-scale humanitarian relief and a reconstruction plan that is fast, transparent, and protected by enforceable guarantees. Homes, hospitals, schools, and water and power infrastructure must be rebuilt without delay – and reconstruction must be supervised in a way that prevents illicit arms flows while allowing normal civilian life to resume.

Second, the fundamental political question remains unresolved: the national rights of the Palestinian people. Peace that treats Gaza as merely a deconfliction zone or a temporary administrative fix will store up future violence. The ultimate aim must be a just and durable solution that recognizes Palestinian statehood and political dignity – not as a bargaining chip, but as the endpoint of a process that includes Gaza and the West Bank, with Jerusalem’s status resolved by negotiation and mutual agreement. Recognition of Palestine as an independent state by the international community, including countries that have not yet done so, would be an historic step – but it must be carefully sequenced, inclusive of Palestinian leadership and public opinion, and coupled with concrete

guarantees for minority rights and regional security.

Third, nobody who stayed in their homes during the fighting should face eviction after the guns fall silent. International law, basic morality, and the long-term prospects for reconciliation demand that Gazans be allowed to return to their property and live in dignity. Any population transfer or forced displacement would be a moral and strategic catastrophe – and the world must make it clear such moves will not be tolerated. Fourth, there must be accountability and deterrence. World powers, regional actors, and multilateral institutions must design mechanisms that ensure Israel – or any actor – cannot repeat large-scale operations that reduce entire urban areas to ruins without proportional, political consequences. That does not mean reflexive punishment; it means binding constraints, transparent investigations of alleged violations, and a framework that links security needs to respect for civilian life. The goal is not to punish a single state but to prevent cycles of destruction that radicalize populations and destabilize the region.

For countries like Pakistan that have long-standing principled positions in solidarity with the Palestinian cause, the question of bilateral recognition of Israel – or any diplomatic shift – must not be rushed. Recognition is a strategic, moral and diplomatic act with deep domestic resonance. If states contemplate changing posture, they must do so in consultation with the Palestinian leadership, with clear criteria, and with full dialogue back home. The Pakistani nation – whose public opinion is passionately invested in the question – should be part of any national conversation that alters foreign policy on such a consequential issue.

Finally, the most important actors in any lasting peace are the Palestinians themselves. They must be central to the negotiation, the design of post-conflict governance, and the distribution of aid. External plans that ignore Palestinian ownership will fail. The United Nations, regional powers, and donors have a duty to support institution-building, economic recovery, and reconciliation among Palestinian factions – not to replace local agency. A deal brokered in Cairo can open a door; whether we walk through it toward peace or step back into the same cycle depends on choices made in the coming days. If the parties and guarantors seize this moment to combine an end to active hostilities with a credible reconstruction timetable, robust safeguards against displacement, pathways to political recognition, and real Palestinian ownership, then “so close” can become “achieved.” If not, another temporary pause will simply postpone the next calamity. History will judge whether the international community used its leverage to forge a durable peace, protect civilians, and finally recognize the political rights of the Palestinian people. The compass for action is clear: justice, reconstruction, and inclusion – pursued with patience, principle, and a ferocious insistence that what was done once must never be allowed again.

When the World Says: Enough is Enough

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The isolation is not accidental, nor is it merely symbolic. It is the cumulative result of decades of brutality that has finally exhausted the world’s patience. Nations, corporations, international courts, and civil societies are aligning in a chorus that declares enough is enough. The message is clear: when oppression exceeds its limit, it loses legitimacy, and when legitimacy evaporates, power crumbles no matter how entrenched. The walkouts in the United Nations, the calls for expulsion from the World Cup, the restrictions from technology giants, the legal proceedings at the ICC, and the diplomatic...

IT is a truth carved into the pages of history that oppression, however strong and prolonged, ultimately meets its end. No tyrant, no empire, no oppressor has ever succeeded in sustaining injustice forever. The arc of human conscience, though often delayed, bends inevitably towards justice. Today, the world witnesses this timeless law playing out against the brutalities of Israel. What seemed unshakable for decades is now trembling under the weight of global condemnation, as the cries of the oppressed have begun to echo louder than the claims of the oppressor. The first glimpse of this turning tide emerged in the august chamber of the United Nations General Assembly. When the Israeli Prime Minister rose to speak, about thirty-five nations stood and walked out, an act not of silence but of thunderous rejection. It was a gesture that conveyed disdain more powerfully than words could. Nations chose absence over listening, proving that Israel’s narrative no longer commands even the courtesy of patience. Hatred of injustice had taken form in a rare, united defiance. Sport, the supposed sanctuary of neutrality, has also become a battleground of conscience. During the World Cup, demands were raised in many quarters that Israel should not be allowed to participate in future tournaments. Spain’s prime minister went further, declaring that until barbarism ceases, Israel should have no place in international competitions. The United States, often the foremost shield of Israel, has now been drawn into the debate, trying to resist mounting calls for Israel’s exclusion from the 2026 World Cup. Yet the very fact that the debate exists, and that it is being echoed at the executive levels of global sporting bodies, signifies how deeply Israel’s isolation has begun to set in.

Even the world of technology, which for years seemed aloof from moral judgments, has begun to shift. Microsoft, one of the most powerful software companies, terminated the Israeli intelligence agency’s access to its cloud services. According to credible investigations by the British press, the agency had been using Microsoft’s Azure platform to monitor Palestini-

ans, collecting and analyzing up to one million phone calls every hour. Such mass surveillance was not only a chilling abuse of technology but a violation of Microsoft’s own terms of service. Brad Smith, Vice President of the company, publicly remarked that no state should be allowed such powers over its citizens or over oppressed communities. For the first time in the ongoing war on Gaza, a major American corporation withdrew facilities from Israel’s military establishment. This act of corporate conscience carries weight, for it signals that even in the profit-driven corridors of business, the line of morality is beginning to be drawn. Meanwhile, the shadow of the law has crept closer to Israel’s leadership. In May 2024, Karim Khan, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, applied for arrest warrants against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. They stand accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Though the judges have yet to issue the warrants, the application itself has created tremors. Should the warrants be granted, Netanyahu would be barred from entering 124 countries that are parties to the Rome Statute, including major powers such as Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, and Brazil. A man once received with ceremony across capitals could suddenly find the world turned into a prison without bars. Beyond the ICC’s reach, there exists already a wide swathe of nations where Netanyahu cannot tread. Much of the Arab and Muslim world remains closed to him by the very absence of diplomatic recognition. From Iran to Pakistan, from Indonesia to Malaysia, from Lebanon to Yemen, his presence would invite not dialogue but fury. Countries such as Bolivia and Belize have severed diplomatic ties altogether. South Africa, a beacon of resistance against apartheid, has recalled its diplomats and taken the battle against Israel to the International Court of Justice. In Turkey, where relations exist in name, President Erdogan’s scathing denunciations of Israel make any visit nearly impossible. Even Egypt and Jordan, bound by peace treaties, would find the presence of Netanyahu within their borders a

grave provocation to their peoples. In Europe, nations like Spain, Ireland, and Norway, which have recognized Palestine, are openly hostile to Israel’s policies, and his reception would be met with outrage rather than respect.

The isolation is not accidental, nor is it merely symbolic. It is the cumulative result of decades of brutality that has finally exhausted the world’s patience. Nations, corporations, international courts, and civil societies are aligning in a chorus that declares enough is enough. The message is clear: when oppression exceeds its limit, it loses legitimacy, and when legitimacy evaporates, power crumbles no matter how entrenched. The walkouts in the United Nations, the calls for expulsion from the World Cup, the restrictions from technology giants, the legal proceedings at the ICC, and the diplomatic estrangements across continents—each of these may seem like scattered sparks. But together, they form a blaze of reckoning that Israel cannot extinguish.

History offers countless examples. The walls of apartheid South Africa, once thought indestructible, collapsed under the weight of international sanctions, travel bans, sports boycotts, and legal challenges. The same tools of moral resistance are now being deployed against Israel. The oppressor may deny, resist, or mock the process, but the writing on the wall is unmistakable. Oppression may endure for years, even decades, but it never endures forever.

The world is witnessing that eternal truth unfold once more. The cries of Gaza’s children, the tears of its mothers, the rubble of its homes, and the graves of its martyrs are no longer confined to Palestine—they reverberate across parliaments, stadiums, boardrooms, and courts of law. Israel’s brutality has not silenced the oppressed; it has silenced itself, stripping away the remnants of respect it once demanded on the world stage.

Thus, the tide turns. From the corridors of diplomacy to the pitches of sport, from the cloud servers of technology to the chambers of justice, the signs are clear. When oppression reaches its peak, it begins to vanish. And as history has always shown, the disappearance of injustice is not a question of “if” but of “when.”

Global Warming is devastating Pakistan

Dr. Muhammad Ikram Zaheer



Pakistan is a country that has done little to combat global warming and now it is being worsen much due to Global Warming and the Monsoon. The South Asian summer monsoon is part of the regional climate pattern. Mainly from June to September, winds blow from the south-west. This terrestrial wind brings the rainy season. In general, this is usually a good...

SUMMER flood killed more than 1,500 people in Pakistan. Since June rain swept away buildings, flooded homes and destroyed roads. One third of the country was under water. Scientists still can’t say exactly how climate change contributed to the disaster, but they do know that global warming is dramatically increasing the likelihood of extreme rains in South Asia, a quarter of humanity’s area. This global warming has made the monsoon season worse this year for the region particularly Pakistan.

Pakistan is a country that has done little to combat global warming and now it is being worsen much due to Global Warming and the Monsoon. The South Asian summer monsoon is part of the regional climate pattern. Mainly from June to September, winds blow from the south-west. This terrestrial wind brings the rainy season. In general, this is usually a good thing for the agricultural activities. Farmers across the region depend on monsoon rains for their crops. But this is not a normal time anymore. Due to global warming, the water in the

oceans is evaporating very fast. And warmer environments can hold more moisture. Hence, heavy rains can occur during monsoon. It will take time for researchers to examine the attribution to determine what happened this summer, but Steven Clemens, professor of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences at Brown University, said Pakistan’s plains have caused significant flooding.

The country’s disaster management agency says that rains have been three times higher this monsoon season in Pakistan. Sindh province, which borders the Arabian Sea to the south, receives five times the average rainfall. The ongoing political instability in Pakistan complicates the task of preparing for heavy rains. In Pakistan, no prime minister has completed his term. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan was also forced to resign in April. He was indicted this month under anti-terrorism laws amid a power struggle with incumbent leaders. The country’s difficult economic situation also means that there are not enough resources for adaptation projects. At one point this month, the annual inflation rate was 42.3

percent. Madiha Afzal, an analyst at the Brookings Institution in Washington, says the heavy rains damaged much due to late response by the government that was already facing economic and political crisis in the country. He further said that the government did not pay attention and not took it serious. “So things that should happen in a disaster, like the message to evacuate people from flood areas, didn’t happen.” Economic difficulties are also affecting the government’s ability to help the house displaced people and rebuild damaged properties, he added.

There is a risk of damage to agriculture as well. According to the World Bank, more than 40 percent of Pakistanis are employed in agricultural sector. The United States this month announced almost 1 million dollars for Pakistan to deal with natural disasters. And in September, the country has secured a \$1.3 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund to avoid default. But government officials in Pakistan believe that the damage was caused by a natural disaster that is the result of public sins.

Briefs

Pak, Malaysia deepen trade cooperation

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He also assured that Malaysia would extend every possible cooperation to combat terrorism. In a symbolic gesture, Shehbaz Sharif lauded Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's newly launched book, saying, "This book will serve as a bridge between Islamabad and Kuala Lumpur." Premier Shehbaz concluded that the visit would further strengthen relations between the two brotherly nations. Pakistan, Malaysia sign six MoUs

Meanwhile, Pakistan and Malaysia signed six accords to strengthen bilateral cooperation covering different areas, including education, Halal certification, tourism and combating corruption. The pre-signed documents were exchanged at a ceremony held at Perdana Putra Complex. Both the prime ministers witnessed the ceremony held after their meeting as well as the delegation-level talks. Pakistan and Malaysia signed an MoU on Exchange of Notes between the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) and the Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan on cooperation in the field of training for diplomats.

Private sector, key to boost...

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He also lauded Malaysia's remarkable economic transformation under the leadership of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, calling it "nothing less than a miracle." He expressed confidence that with similar commitment and cooperation, Pakistan too could achieve sustained economic growth and independence from international financial support. "We are currently under an IMF program that is helping stabilize our economy. This program will end in two years. But if entrepreneurs from both Pakistan and Malaysia step forward, commit to joint ventures, and build lasting business relationships, I believe we can say goodbye to the IMF forever," the prime minister added.

President Zardari calls interior...

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from flood compensation to water rights in the context of the Cholistan canals project. The PPP, which is in power in Sindh, has been particularly incensed by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's remarks, whose party is also leading the federal government. The war of words between the two sides initially kicked off over flood compensation but expanded to water rights on the Indus River as CM Maryam told the PPP leadership to keep its advice to itself. In response, the PPP lawmakers decided to stay away from parliamentary proceedings last week to protest the diatribe. PPP and PML-N bigwigs subsequently met in Islamabad to find a way out of the row, with the former asking CM Maryam to "rethink her tone" while speaking about water rights of the provinces.

Govt should take nation...

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the new relationship with the United States," Rabbani stated in a press release. He added, "It is the right of the people to know the details and the direction of the foreign policy. In history, the US has never been a reliable friend to depend upon." On the sale of precious and rare minerals to American metals company US Strategic Metals (USSM), he said it was "unfortunate" that information about the deal had come through the media. He stressed that "real stakeholders" in this matter were the provinces, which should have been taken into confidence through the Council of Common Interests. "The federal government fails to realise that Article 172 [of the 1973] Constitution [...] is in operation, [and] the provinces are 50 per cent owners of the mineral resources," Rabbani pointed out.

India defeat Pakistan in Women's Cricket World Cup to top points table

Goud and Sharma star with the ball in Colombo to give the tournament hosts their second win in two games, while Pakistan lose two in two

SPORT DESK

COLOMBO: India stormed to an 88-run win against Pakistan in their highly anticipated ICC Women's World Cup 2025 encounter in Colombo, and moved to the top of the points table with four points. Tournament hosts India posted 247 in their 50 overs, having been bowled out on the last ball of their innings on Sunday in bowler-friendly conditions in the Sri Lankan capital, which is hosting all of Pakistan's matches as a neutral venue. Pakistan stuttered and collapsed in reply and were put under pressure right away by young Indian seam bowler Kranti Goud, who took three wickets for 20 runs in her 10 overs. The team in green struggled with the conditions and the weight of the opposition, who have now beaten them in all 12 of their meetings in one-day internationals. The match drew more than the usual attention due to the ongoing political tensions between the South Asian neighbours, who were involved in a four-day armed and aerial conflict in May. Much like the men's fixtures between the nations at the recent Asia Cup, there were no handshakes at the toss nor at the end of the match between the sides. The toss went Pakistan's way and, having been put in, India mostly laboured to their total after a strong bowling performance on a pitch that had spent two days under covers due to the recent rain in Colombo. There was a fair share of grass still on the top, but it was the amount of moisture, through sweating under the covers and the rainfall, which was the most noticeable aspect of the surface. India's batter Jemimah Rodrigues, who hit 32,



noted at the interval that the ball was "stopping" in the surface. Pratika Rawal (23) and Smriti Mandhana (31) gave India a solid, if slow, start in a 48-run partnership that came to an end off the last ball of the ninth over as the former was trapped lbw by Fatima Sana (2-39). Get instant alerts and updates based on your interests. Be the first to know when big stories happen. Harleen Deol appeared to be anchoring the innings with a fine 45, but holed out to long-on, handing Rameen Shamim (1-39) her only wicket and per-

haps looking for a big shot to reach the milestone. India's total was their highest in ODI cricket without a batter reaching fifty. Richa Ghosh's unbeaten 35 off 20 threatened to prevent that stat, and her strike rate left many baffled as to why the wicket-keeper-batter only came in at eight. Seamer Diana Baig's 4-69 was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan, albeit at a high economy rate. The innings was also elongated by 20 minutes when the players were asked to leave the field as a fumigator was brought in due to the number of

flies affecting the play. To what extent the measure worked was arguable, as players continued to battle the bugs throughout. The reply couldn't have gotten off to a worse start for Pakistan, as they were reduced to 26-3 in the 12th over. The swing for Renuka Singh Thakur and Goud was proving near unplayable. Thakur was unlucky to end her spell wicketless, partly due to dropped catches and the rest due to leg before wicket (LBW) decisions that didn't go her way or were not reviewed by India's captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

Sidra Amin and Natalia Pervaiz began the fightback with a partnership of 69 for the fourth wicket coming in 16 overs. The slow start was hurting Pakistan, and when Fatima – in at six – managed only 2 off 14 balls, India's grip on the game tightened. The fall of Amin's wicket in the 40th over proved to be a fatal blow for Pakistan, who were then bowled out in the next three overs.

Pakistan's captain Sana rued the missed run-out opportunities and misfields as she believed her team should have restricted India to a sub-200 total.

"In the start of the powerplay, we gave away a lot of runs," she said after the match. "In the death overs, we also gave away some extra runs."

India's captain Kaur, meanwhile, was full of praise for her bowling attack.

"Kranti [Goud] was outstanding," Kaur said in her post-match comments. "The spinners also helped to get breakthroughs. We created so many chances, but we dropped a few. In the end, we are happy."

India travel back home for the remaining leg of their group matches and face South Africa on Thursday. Pakistan will play their remaining games in Colombo, where they meet defending champions Australia on Wednesday.

Pak-China hospital promotes maternal and child health awareness

ISLAMABAD: The GDA Pak-China Friendship Hospital in Gwadar is taking significant steps to improve maternal and child health by combining quality healthcare with community outreach through social media. As part of its initiative to educate women about safe pregnancy and overall health, the hospital's Obstetrics and Gynecology Department has launched a new awareness segment titled "Gynaec Talks," Gwadar Pro reported.

The program aims to guide women in simple Urdu on how to recognize health issues during pregnancy and adopt healthy practices for both themselves and their babies. Dr. Shabana Rehman, Senior Registrar of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the hospital, hosted Gynaec Talks #2, focusing

on high blood pressure during pregnancy, which she described as a common but preventable risk for mothers. She emphasized the importance of recognizing warning signs such as persistent headaches, nausea, swelling, or shortness of breath, and urged women to seek medical advice promptly. Dr. Rehman also highlighted the importance of regular checkups, which are essential to safeguarding the health of both mother and baby. She encouraged women to eat balanced meals, avoid excessive salt and oily food, and stay active during pregnancy. Earlier, on August 15, Dr. Mah Rukh Aslam, another Senior Registrar, addressed anaemia during pregnancy in Gynaec Talks #1. She discussed the impor-

ance of consuming nutritious foods like meat, vegetables, eggs, beetroot, liver, and dates, and advised expecting mothers to schedule at least three checkups during their pregnancy: in the early, middle, and later stages, to ensure a healthy outcome for both mother and child. According to data shared by the hospital, in September 2025, GDA Pak-China Friendship Hospital treated over 26,000 patients, including 2,590 gynecology and obstetrics cases, and performed 265 deliveries. Additionally, data analyzed by Gwadar Pro revealed that between August 2024 and September 2025, a total of 36,661 women visited the Gynecology and Obstetrics Department, where 2,866 successful childbirths were carried out. – **APP**

Tickets details for Pakistan-Afghanistan AFC Asian Cup Qualifier

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has announced ticket details for Pakistan's upcoming AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifier home fixture against Afghanistan, set to take place on October 9 here at the Jinnah Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex. The match will kick off at 2pm, with stadium gates opening at 12 noon, said a press release. Tickets will be available exclusively through Bookme.pk, with the following categories and prices: Premium Plus: Rs 4,000; Premium: Rs 1,500; First Class: Rs 750. Following the home leg, the Pakistan national team will travel to Kuwait for the away fixture against Afghanistan on October 14. – **Agencies**

Pak-China hospital promotes maternal and child health awareness

DNA

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FO says ex-senator evacuation in 'next...

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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.

Court Issues question-naire...

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questionnaires under section 342, on which a response has been sought at the next hearing. Imran Khan's lawyer Qousin Faisal Mufti completed the examination of the last prosecution witness Mohsin Haroon. The prosecution informed the court in writing about the completion of the testimony. The court gave the questionnaire under 342 to the PTI founder and Bushra Bibi, the questionnaires given to both have 29 questions each. The accused were given a final chance to prove their innocence under Section 342 and the court also allowed the accused to present witnesses in their defense.

Arrest warrants issued...

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the PTI leaders before the court by October 20. "The three leaders did not appear in court even once," remarked the judge as the court rejected Ayub's request for exemption from appearance. The case relates to the former ruling party's rally in Islamabad's Sangjani in September last year seeking the release of its incarcerated founder Imran Khan who has been behind bars since August 5, 2023 in multiple cases ranging from terrorism to corruption.

Stop friendly fire PTI...

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In recent days, the PPP and PML-N – the key ruling parties at the Centre – are engaged in a fierce war of words over flood relief, water resources, and the performance of their respective provincial governments in Sindh and Punjab. "If they [PPP's leadership] are serious, they should bring a no-confidence [motion], and we will support it," says Qaiser. He added: "We will help them topple the [PML-N-led] government [in Centre]. I am offering – bring a no-confidence now and you will have our complete support."

US Open finalist Anisimova wins Beijing title in 'great year'

Anisimova, who will play at the season-ending WTA Finals for the first time, extended her gratitude to her coaches

BEIJING: Amanda Anisimova beat Linda Noskova 6-0, 2-6, 6-2 on Sunday to win the China Open for her second title of a breakthrough year and fourth overall. The third-seeded American survived a second-set wobble to overpower the Czech 26th seed in one hour and 46 minutes in Beijing. She lifted the trophy in the Chinese capital almost exactly one month after reaching the US Open final, where she lost to world number one Aryna Sabalenka. "It's been an incredible few weeks," Anisimova said. "I was riding on a lot of confidence because I've had a great year so far." The 24-year-old is the third American to win the China Open after last year's champion Coco Gauff and 23-time Grand Slam winner Serena Williams. Anisimova collapsed to the hard court in victory, lying on her back and putting her hands over her face. She said she endured ongoing foot and calf pain and considered pulling out before the final. "I'm just really happy that I was able to stick it through and trust myself and my team," she said. Anisimova began ruthlessly, winning the first set in 23 minutes without dropping a game. A defiant Noskova – contesting her first WTA 1000 final – found her feet in the second set, breaking early and powering to a 5-2 lead before closing out. The two went toe-to-



toe in the decider until Anisimova broke for a 4-2 lead, digging deep to reach the finish line with a winner on the first match point. "Amanda is an amazing player. She has been playing just too strong this whole season," Noskova said. "She comes after every point that she possibly can." "She just continues to play as much down the line as possible. Sometimes it's just hard to come up with any plan." It's been a stellar season for Anisimova, the world number four, who was also runner-up at Wimbledon. This time last year she was at world no. 43. Anisimova, who will play at the season-ending WTA Finals for the first time, extended her gratitude to her coaches. "We've had a lot of challenges and despite that we also still have so much fun," she said. "It's crazy that we made it this far and to get the win today has been very special." "I'm excited for a lot more, and hopefully we can keep going." Anisimova dumped out second seed Gauff in the Beijing semi-finals, thrashing the two-time Grand Slam winner 6-1, 6-2 in 58 minutes. Noskova, who started her Beijing run as world no. 27, said: "I definitely wasn't coming here feeling like I was gonna play finals, so nice surprise." The match was only the second WTA 1000 final in which both players were born during the 2000s. – **Agencies**

Briefs

Indian women win global recognition for reviving forgotten crops

NEW DELHI: When Bibi Fatima started learning agriculture in 2018, she became the first woman in her family in rural Karnataka to do so. Little did she know that a few years later, she would be leading a collective that is gaining global recognition for pioneering sustainable farming. Agriculture has been increasingly difficult in the southwestern Indian state due to unpredictable weather patterns. Located some 100 km from the Arabian Sea coast, the region is semi-arid, and crops largely depend on the monsoon, which means that delays caused by the changing climate directly reduce yields. To address these challenges, Bibi Fatima and her 15-member women's self-help group in Teertha village, Dharwad district, reintroduced traditional farming methods and millets. These are drought-tolerant crops, which decades ago were staples in drylands as they require little water, input, and do not degrade the region's already vulnerable soil. —APP

Urea gets 7% cheaper in Pak despite 32% surge in global prices

ISLAMABAD: Fertilizer prices have significantly decreased in the Pakistani market compared to the international market over the last one year. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research told the Senate in a documented reply that Urea and DAP are the main fertilizers in Pakistan, occupying a cumulative 85 percent share in the total fertilizer use, said a document available with Wealth Pakistan. According to the document, a downward trend in the prices of both fertilizers in the domestic market has been observed from July 2024 till August 2025 as compared to the international market. The price of a 50 kg bag of urea came down to Rs 4,365 in July 2025, compared to Rs 4,705 in July 2024, showing a decrease of 7.2 percent. In contrast, there was a 32.6 percent increase in urea prices in the international market during the same timeframe, the document revealed. Similarly, there has been only a 17.1 percent increase in DAP prices in the domestic market for the period between July 2024 and July 2025, compared to a hefty 34.7 percent increase in the international market during the same period. As per the monthly urea price trend in domestic and international markets during 2024-25, prices stood at Rs 4,705 per 50 kg in the domestic market and \$348.5 per tonne in the international market in July 2024. He added that fertilizer review committee meetings are regularly convened to proactively tackle any shortage of fertilizers in the country. Besides, buffer stocks of fertilizers are being maintained to stabilize market prices. He said an uninterrupted gas supply is being ensured to all urea manufacturing plants for maximum production. —APP

Gold price increases by Rs 5,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs5,400 on Monday and was sold at Rs415,278 compared to its sale at Rs409,878 on last trading day, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also rose by Rs4,629 to Rs356,033 from Rs351,404, whereas 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up to Rs326,375 from Rs322,132, showing an increase of Rs4,243. The price of per tola silver increased by Rs53 to Rs4,949, while the price of ten grams of silver rose by Rs45 to Rs4,242. The price of international gold increased by US\$54 to reach US\$3,940, while international silver went up by US\$0.53 to close at US\$48.50. —APP

Pak lauds UNHCR for responding to force displacement across globe

Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam said that the international community must support UNHCR in creating conditions that make return home both desirable and sustainable. "When returnees are welcomed back with meaningful support, they can contribute to the recovery and progress of their societies" he added

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan & SAFRON Engr. Amir Muqam addressed 76th Session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Geneva, on Monday. The Minister said that Pakistan is pleased to participate in this session of the Executive Committee, received a press release from Geneva. He said that Pakistan appreciates UNHCR for its commendable work in responding to force displacement across the globe and in refugees' management in accordance with its mandate. "My delegation also congratulates High Commissioner, Mr. Filippo Grandi, for the remarkable services he has rendered during his tenure", he added. He said that displacement continues to be a serious global challenge, adding that more than 132 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced, including due to conflicts, persecution, violence, and climate-induced disasters. Clearly, most of these humanitarian crises are man-made. He said that on the other hand, resources needed to

respond to the growing needs of forcibly displaced worldwide are shrinking rapidly. Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam said that the international community must support UNHCR in creating conditions that make return home both desirable and sustainable. "When returnees are welcomed back with meaningful support, they can contribute to the recovery and progress of their societies" he added. Engr Amir Muqam said that provision of adequate, predictable, and flexible resources to UNHCR remains critical. He said that for over four decades, Pakistan has generously hosted more than four million Afghan nationals, managing one of the world's largest and most protracted refugee situations. Despite our domestic problems—including economic pressures, security challenges, and overstretched public services—we have upheld humanitarian principles by providing safety, access to education, healthcare, and livelihoods to the extent possible, he added. He said that Pakistan remains one

of the most climate-vulnerable country. Pakistan has endured repeated climate induced calamities, with this year's devastating floods displacing millions, destroying infrastructure, and causing huge economic losses, adding that these events have had far-reaching humanitarian, economic, and social impacts. He said that "Pakistan reiterates its call for urgent start of the UNHCR's Climate Resilient Fund and other financing mechanisms to support countries most affected by climate change". Engr Amir Muqam said that Pakistan continues to combat terrorism, which has severely impacted our people and economy over the years, adding that over 90,000 Pakistanis have lost their lives, and the nation has endured staggering economic losses exceeding 150 billion dollars in this struggle. Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam said that it is now our shared responsibility to facilitate safe and dignified returns of displaced Afghans to their country. However, durable returns

require investments, in countries of refugee origin—for peace, stability, schools, clinics, and livelihoods—to make return viable.

Repeated calls for such support, alongside predictable multi-year funding for host countries like Pakistan, have yet to be fully realized, amid donor fatigue and delayed disbursements. He said that in the context of UN-80 and "humanitarian reset," these initiatives must help the UN respond to humanitarian crises more effectively. He said that Pakistan reiterates its commitment to partnering with the international community to find durable solutions to humanitarian situations. Looking ahead, we urge three imperatives: first, urgent investment in the countries of refugee origin for stability and reintegration; second, timely and predictable international support to offset the burdens on host communities; and third, fast track resettlement in third countries, he concluded.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi chaired a crucial meeting addressing train delays and punctuality issues. (Story on Page-3)

Over a dozen wounded in rare Sydney mass shooting

SYDNEY: A 60-year-old man was in custody in Australia Monday after police said he shot up to 50 bullets into a busy Sydney street, wounding more than a dozen people. Police were called on Sunday evening to the city's Inner West, where the alleged gunman was firing from his property at random at passing cars and police. A large contingent of police swarmed the area and locked down the street, before entering the property above a business and arresting the man. They seized a rifle from the scene. Office worker Joe Azar said he was working across the road when he heard what he thought were fireworks or rocks being thrown at the windows. "Some guy's windshield blew up, then the bus stop glass shattered," Azar told The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper. "The surreal feeling kicked in like, 'Oh, this is what's happening,'" he said. "It was frantic. It all happened so quick, so I couldn't comprehend what was going on," he added. Police had initially said up to a hundred bullets were fired and 20 people were wounded. But on Monday, New South Wales Police Acting Superintendent Stephen Parry revised the number of shots to around 50 and the toll of wounded to 16. "In my 35 years in the police, there's been very few incidents of this nature where somebody is randomly targeting people in the street," he added. The accused shooter was taken to hospital and treated for minor injuries to the area around his eyes sustained during his arrest. No charges have been laid against the alleged gunman yet. A police investigation is ongoing. One man self-presented to hospital with a gunshot wound following the incident, but would likely survive, police said. The remaining people were treated by ambulance staff for minor injuries, including shattered glass as bullets hit their car windows. New South Wales Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon on Monday described the shooting as "serious and terrifying." The gunman's motive was unclear but there were "no known links to terrorism activity or any gang activity," he told local radio station 2GB. —APP

Hospital fire kills at least six patients in India's Jaipur

NEW DELHI: At least six patients were killed after a fire broke out in the trauma center of the main government-run hospital in the northwestern Indian city of Jaipur, officials said on Monday. The blaze, suspected to have been caused by a short circuit, started in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the Sai Man Singh Hospital and quickly spread to a nearby ward at the sprawling medical complex, "releasing toxic gases," hospital official Anurag Dhakad told ANI news agency. "Five patients are still critical," he said, while 13 others have been safely evacuated from the two wards at the largest government-run medical facility in Rajasthan, which serves as a major referral center for patients from across the state. Jaipur Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph said an investigation by the forensic science laboratory would determine the exact cause of the fire. The government of Rajasthan state, where Jaipur is located, has also formed a committee to probe the causes of the fire, ANI reported. The subjects of investigation will include the hospital management's response to the blaze, the firefighting arrangements at the hospital, and the measures in place to prevent the same situation in future. —APP

Govt shutdown threatens food aid program relied on by millions of families

WASHINGTON: A food aid program that helps more than 6 million low-income mothers and young children will run out of federal money within two weeks unless the government shutdown ends, forcing states to use their own money to keep it afloat or risk it shutting down, experts say. The \$8 billion Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, also known as WIC, provides vouchers to buy infant formula as well as fresh fruits and vegetables, low-fat milk and other healthy staples that are often out of financial reach for low-income households. The shutdown, which began Wednesday, coincided with the beginning of a new fiscal year, meaning programs like WIC, which rely on annual infusions from the federal government, are nearly out of money. Currently, the program is being kept afloat by an \$150 million contingency fund, but experts say it could run dry quickly. After that, states could step in to pay for the program and seek reimbursement when a budget finally passes, but not all states say they can afford to do so. "We feel good about one to two weeks," said Ali Hard, policy director for the National WIC Association. "After that, we are very worried." = WIC helps families buy more nutritious food. Taylor Moyer, a mother of three who recently separated from her husband, has been receiving WIC since her first son was born nine years ago. She said the program allowed her to feed her children nutritious food that tends to be pricier than calorie-dense, processed options. It also provided guidance when she struggled to breastfeed

and counseled her on how to handle her son's picky eating stage. "There's been times where I have sat back in my house and really wondered how I was going to feed my family," said Moyer, who works at the LGBT Life Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. "And I went to the store with my WIC card ... I get rice, I got avocados, I got eggs, and I made a balanced meal that was actually good." The shutdown came as Democrats and Republicans failed to pass a new spending plan. Democratic lawmakers want to extend tax credits that make health care cheaper for millions of Americans, and they want to reverse deep cuts to Medicaid that were passed earlier this year. They refused to sign on to any spending plan that did not include those provisions. House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, blamed Democrats for the shutdown and called them hypocritical because failing to fund the federal government endangers so many health programs. The WIC program, which has long had bipartisan support, aids those who are pregnant, mothers and children under age 5. Research has tied it to lower infant mortality, healthier birth weights, higher immunization rates and better academic outcomes for children who participate. Nearly half of those who are eligible don't enroll, often because they believe they don't qualify or they can't reach a WIC office. Some Republican lawmakers want to cut WIC, which is targeted for elimination in Project 2025, the influential policy blueprint authored by the man who's now

President Donald Trump's budget chief. Trump's budget request and the spending plan backed by House Republicans would not fully fund the program. They also want to cut funding for families to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. Some states pledge to plug gaps in food aid. In the event of an extended shutdown, several states have sought to reassure WIC recipients that they will continue to receive benefits. Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, a Democrat, said the state will pick up the tab if federal funding runs out. "I want those young families, those moms, to know that your WIC card will continue to be good for the foreseeable future," Lamont said. "We're making sure that the government does not take that away from you." But in Washington state, where a third of babies receive WIC benefits, officials say they do not have the money to keep the program open. "Washington WIC may be able to sustain benefits for one to two weeks before a federal shutdown would force a full closure of the program," said Raechel Sims, a spokesperson for the state's Department of Health. "If the shutdown lasts longer than that, DOH does not have the ability to backfill WIC funding." Moyer, the mother from Virginia Beach, warned that ending the program could be catastrophic for recipients. "There is going to be infants skipping feeds. There is going to be pregnant women skipping meals so that they can feed their toddlers," she said. "And it means that people are not going to have a balanced and healthy diet." —Agencies

Jordan, Syria carry out first anti-drug operation since Assad regime's collapse

LONDON: The anti-narcotics authorities of Jordan and Syria have foiled several cross-border smuggling attempts and seized large quantities of drugs. The countries announced in a joint statement on Sunday that their forces foiled seven smuggling attempts along the Jordan-Syria border and seized drugs intended for distribution across the Middle East. It is the first major operation by the two countries' authorities since the December 2024 collapse of the Assad regime, which has been accused of profiting from the production and trafficking of drugs, specifically captagon pills. The authorities said the operation was the result of months of field coordination and intelligence sharing, which led to the dismantling of criminal networks that threatened the security of both countries. Several individuals arrested were involved in criminal activities in both Jordan and Syria. The operations disrupted their plans to manufacture and distribute illegal drugs, according to the Petra news agency. Jordan and Syria reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing security and intelligence cooperation to combat drug trafficking across the region. The operation follows a Jordan-Syria agreement in January to establish a security committee aimed at securing their borders and preventing the resurgence of the terror group Daesh. —APP

Kuwait dispatches 16th relief aircraft to help Palestinians in Gaza

LONDON: Kuwait dispatched on Sunday its 16th plane carrying aid and relief supplies bound for the territory of Gaza as the Arab Gulf state continues its humanitarian airlift to support Palestinians. Talal Al-Hindi, representative of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society, said that the Air Force plane, carrying 10 tonnes of food supplies, landed on Sunday at Al-Arish Airport in northern Sinai, Egypt. The aid consisted of 540 food baskets provided by the Kuwaiti charity association Khairat. KRCS organized the aid delivery to Gaza in cooperation with the Kuwaiti ministries of foreign affairs, defense, and social affairs. Al-Hindi added that several Kuwaiti charities contributed to the shipment and that the Kuwaiti Embassy in Egypt, along with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, is supporting and facilitating the delivery of aid to Palestinian families in Gaza. The second phase of Kuwaiti air support has transported over 150 tonnes of essential humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. Israeli authorities detained several Kuwaiti nationals last week who participated in the Global Freedom Flotilla, which aimed to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza, where at least 60,000 Palestinians have been killed since late October 2023. Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said that the government is working to secure the release of its citizens and is monitoring their safety in Israeli detention. —APP

Rupee gains 01 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.25 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.26. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.3 and Rs 282.4, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 2.24 to close at Rs 327.80 against the last day's closing of Rs 330.04, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 08 paisa to close at Rs 1.82, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound decreased by Rs 1.05 to Rs 377.58, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 378.63. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal remained unchanged and closed at Rs 76.57 and Rs 74.99, respectively. —APP

Workshop on Promoting Productivity through digitalization kicks off

ISLAMABAD : The National Productivity Organization (NPO), in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo, on Monday inaugurated the 4-day international workshop on "Promoting Productivity through Digitalization." The four-day event, running from October 6 to 9, brings together experts, policymakers, and practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific region to explore the transformative role of digitalization in driving productivity. The workshop features 19 overseas participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, Vietnam and Pakistan, fostering regional cooperation and shared learning. CEO NPO Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhary welcomed participants and the chief guest, Chairman/Incharge of the FPCCI Capital Office, Karim Aziz Malik. He emphasized the growing importance of digitalization as a driver of productivity while also addressing pressing challenges such as cybersecurity, infrastructure gaps, and environmental sustainability. Alamgir Chaudhary expressed the need for collaborative efforts, enabling policy frameworks, and inclusive innovation to ensure that the benefits of digital transformation are widely shared. The workshop is led by Programme Officer APO Tomoyuki Yamada along with a distinguished panel of international resource persons, including Innovation Provocateur, Alpha Catalyst, Malaysia Dr. Suraya Sulaiman, Partner YCP Vietnam Company Limited Yuichi Ota and Founder & CEO DPL (Pvt) Ltd Syed Ahmad Yamada said that participants will learn practical insights and case studies on leveraging digital tools, including AI, to boost organizational efficiency and productivity. Over the course of the workshop, key themes will include: policies and strategies for digital transformation, emerging digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI), organizational change management, case studies and best practices from various sectors. The objective of the workshop is to introduce the concept and significance of digitalization in enhancing productivity, demonstrate how digital tools and technologies, including AI, can improve efficiency within organizations, and share best practices for planning and implementing digital transformation initiatives. —DNA

Snowstorm traps hundreds of hikers on Mount Everest

BEIJING: Rescuers were helping hundreds of hikers trapped by heavy snow at tourist campsites on a slope of Mount Everest in Tibet, Chinese state media said. About 350 hikers had reached a meeting point in Tingri country and rescuers were in contact with another 200, state broadcaster CCTV said late Sunday. There was no immediate update on rescue efforts on Monday. The hikers were trapped at an elevation of more than 4,900 meters (16,000 feet), according to an earlier report from Jimu News, a Chinese online site. Mount Everest is about 8,850 meters (29,000 feet) tall. A hiker who rushed to descend before snow blocked the way told Jimu News that others still on the mountain told him the snow was 1 meter (3 feet) deep and had crushed tents. Hundreds of rescuers headed up the mountain Sunday to clear paths so that trapped people could come down, the Jimu report said. A video shot by a villager showed a long line of people with horses and oxen moving up a winding path in the snow. The snowstorm struck during a weeklong national holiday in China, when many travel at home and abroad. In another mountainous region in western China, one hiker died of hypothermia and altitude sickness and 137 others were evacuated in the north part of Qinghai province, CCTV said Monday. The search in an area in Menyuan county with an average altitude of more than 4,000 meters (13,100 feet) was complicated by the terrain, unpredictable weather and continuous snowfall, a CCTV online report said. Mount Everest, known as Mount Qomolangma in Chinese, straddles the border between China and Nepal, where recent heavy rains have left more than 40 people dead. Climbers attempt to scale the world's tallest peak from base camps in both countries. The base camp for climbers is separate from the tourist camp where hikers were trapped by the snowfall. A strong earthquake killed at least 126 people in the same area in January. The Chinese side of Everest is in Tibet, a remote western region where the government has cracked down harshly on dissent and poured in funds for economic development including roads and tourism. The Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, fled during a failed uprising in 1959 and lives in India, where some Tibetans have set up a government in exile. —DNA

Briefs

PM hails positive reports on Pakistan economy

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday welcoming Bloomberg's recent positive report on Pakistan's economy said that the notable decrease in the price of Pakistan's CDS reflected a consistent increase in global investors' confidence in the country's economy. According to the report, there has been a significant reduction of 2,200 basis points in the default risk implied in Pakistan's CDS, a press statement issued by the PM Office said. Pakistan is now the second country among emerging economies, following Türkiye, in the global rankings, which is great news for our economy, the prime minister said adding that at the end of the previous government's tenure, the country was on the brink of default. He said today's report was a crucial milestone and a reflection of the government's journey towards progress. "With the relentless efforts of the Government of Pakistan and the cooperation of both the Pakistani and global business communities, the promise of Pakistan's development is now on track," the prime minister said. He stressed that this journey of progress will never halt. — APP

Indonesia school death toll rises to 63

DNA

JAKARTA: The death toll from an Indonesian school collapse rose to 63 on Monday, officials said, as workers pulled more remains from the rubble of the building that collapsed last week. Part of the multi-storey Islamic boarding school on Indonesia's Java island collapsed as more than 150 students gathered for afternoon prayers. Around half a dozen youngsters are still unaccounted for. "We hope we can conclude the recovery today (Monday), and we will return the bodies [to the families]," National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas) operations director Yudhi Bramantyo told a press conference on Monday. The collapse was Indonesia's deadliest disaster so far this year, Budi Irawan, the deputy head of the national disaster agency (BNPB), said. Investigators have been examining the cause of the collapse, but initial indications suggest that sub-standard construction may have contributed to the incident, according to experts. The families of the missing agreed last Thursday for heavy equipment to be used, after the 72-hour "golden period" for the best chance of survival came to an end.

EU envoys discover soul of Peshawar

DNA

PESHAWAR: The ancient city of Peshawar, with its vibrant bazaars, ornate havelis, Gandhara civilization and the scent of history lingering in its narrow alleys, welcomed an extraordinary group of visitors this week. A delegation of ambassadors and dignitaries from the European Union (EU) embarked on a rare cultural journey through the heart of one of South Asia's oldest living cities, which was an experience that turned into a celebration of heritage, hospitality, and human connection. Amid the golden hues of autumn sunlight, the delegation was greeted by senior officials of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Directorate of Archaeology



and Museums, who led them on an immersive tour through the city's treasured historic sites.

The visit, a part of ongoing cultural diplomacy efforts, aimed to highlight Peshawar's centuries-old legacy as a crossroads of civilizations. Their first stop was the iconic Gor Khatri, a site layered with archaeological wonders dating back nearly 3,000 years. Standing on the ancient mound, once a Mughal caravanserai and before that a Buddhist monastery, the ambassadors were visibly moved by the weight of time etched into the weathered stones beneath their feet. Walking the Cultural Heritage Trail, which winds through 500 meters of Peshawar's Old City, the visitors found themselves transported to a different era. The trail, painstakingly restored

by KP's archaeology department, meanders past over 85 restored buildings from the Mughal, Sikh, and British periods. Each structure whispers stories of merchants, poets, and pilgrims who once passed through these streets. At the heart of this journey lies Sethi House, which is a masterpiece of architecture and craftsmanship built in the late 19th century by a wealthy trading family originally from Jhelum. Tucked away in the serene alley of Mohallah Sethian, this majestic haveli stunned the delegation with its fusion of Central Asian, Mughal, and British colonial design elements. From intricately carved wooden balconies to hidden courtyards and water fountains, Sethi House tells a story not only of affluence but of artistic ambition. "This is not just a building," one ambassador remarked, "it is poetry carved in wood."

The visitors marveled at how the house's architectural features such as natural ventilation, airy courtyards, and smart use of space echoed principles of sustainable design long before the modern term existed. Its construction, begun in 1835 by Sethi Karim Bakhsh and completed nearly five decades later, remains a testament to generational craftsmanship and vision. Another highlight was the Peshawar Museum, originally built in 1906 in memory of Queen Victoria. Here, the ambassadors explored the world-renowned Buddha Gallery, where detailed biographical panels trace Lord Buddha's life from birth to enlightenment.

Saudi Arabia allows all visa holders to perform Umrah

Holders of visas of various types can perform Umrah during their stay in the kingdom, says Saudi ministry

DNA

JEDDAH: In a significant development under the framework of Saudi Vision 2030, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has announced that holders of all types of visas will now be permitted to perform Umrah during their stay in the country. The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah confirmed the decision, highlighting it as part of ongoing efforts to enhance accessibility and convenience for Muslims around the world wishing to perform the sacred ritual. According to the Ministry's statement, this new facilitation covers a wide range

of visa categories, including personal and family visit visas, electronic tourist visas, transit or stopover visas, and work permits. Holders of any of these visas will now be able to visit the holy city of Makkah and perform Umrah without the need for a special pilgrimage visa.

The Ministry emphasized that this initiative is aligned with Saudi Arabia's broader goals under Vision 2030, which aims to improve services for pilgrims and promote religious tourism as part of the Kingdom's economic diversification efforts. "This comes as part of the Ministry's efforts to facilitate procedures for the guests of Allah and to expand the number of beneficiaries

of the services provided within the Hajj and Umrah system," the statement said.

To further streamline the process, the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has also introduced the "Nusuk Umrah" digital platform. Through this user-friendly system, pilgrims can select from a variety of service packages, choose suitable timings, and issue Umrah permits electronically. The integrated digital experience ensures flexibility, convenience, and transparency for applicants, making the journey smoother and more organized.

"These facilitative measures reflect the keenness of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz

Al Saud, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman — may Allah protect them — to provide Muslims around the world with an opportunity to visit the Two Holy Mosques and perform their religious duties in a spiritual, comfortable, and secure environment," the Ministry added. Officials further noted that the Kingdom remains dedicated to enriching the overall experience of the "Guests of Allah" through continuous innovation, advanced services, and improved infrastructure. This initiative marks another milestone in Saudi Arabia's journey toward becoming a global center for Islamic tourism and a model of modern hospitality rooted in faith and tradition.

Interior Minister, British MP Lord discuss Pakistan-UK relations

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with British Member of Parliament Lord Shafiq Mohammad. During the meeting, both sides discussed Pakistan-UK relations and issues of mutual interest. While speaking on the occasion, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan holds its long-standing relations with the United Kingdom in high esteem. He added that the Pakistani community in the UK is playing diverse and significant role in the development of both countries. The Interior Minister noted that the community serves as an important bridge between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi further stated that any criminal activity by Pakistanis abroad is condemnable, and Pakistan is committed to taking back those individuals — except those who have already relinquished their Pakistani citizenship. Lord Shafiq Mohammad assured that he would continue to play an active role in further strengthening the ties between the two countries. Federal Secretary Interior Muhammad Khurram Agha, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, and other officials were also present on the occasion.



KUALUMPUR: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and Malaysian information minister exchange documents on the occasion of MoU signing ceremony. — DNA

France's new PM resigns, hours after cabinet unveiled

France's debt-to-GDP ratio is now the European Union's third highest after Greece and Italy, and is close to twice 60 percent permitted under EU rules

PARIS: France's President Emmanuel Macron on Monday accepted Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu's resignation just hours after unveiling his cabinet, the presidency said, plunging the European nation further into political deadlock. France's President Emmanuel Macron named Lecornu, a former defence minister, to the post last month. But the largely unchanged cabinet he unveiled late on Sunday to work with Lecornu sparked fierce criticism across the political spectrum. Lecornu had faced the daunting task of finding approval in a deeply divided parliament for an austerity budget for next year. Lecornu's two immediate predecessors, Francois Bayrou and Michel Barnier, were ousted by the legislative chamber in a standoff over the spending plan. France's public debt has reached a record high, official data showed last week. France's debt-to-GDP ratio is now the European Union's third highest after Greece and Italy, and is close to twice the 60 percent permitted under EU rules. Previous governments had rammed the last three annual budgets through parliament without a vote, a method allowed by the constitution but deeply criticised by the opposition. But Lecornu promised last week to ensure lawmakers were able to vote on the bill. France has been mired in deadlock since Macron gambled on snap parliamentary elections in the middle of last year in the hopes of bolstering his authority. The move backfired, leaving the Macron-friendly bloc in the assembly in a minority. — Agencies

PSX slips as investors take profits after record rally

KSE-100 Index falls to intraday low of 165,997.36, declining 2,992.71 points, or -1.77%

THE equity market opened on a downturn on Monday as investors booked profits after the index's record-breaking rally, amid concerns over fiscal slippages and widening external imbalances.

During intraday trading, the benchmark KSE-100 Index climbed to a high of 169,326.35 points, gaining 336.28 points, or 0.2%, and slipped to a low of 165,997.36 points, reflecting a decline of 2,992.71 points, or -1.77%, from the previous close of 168,990.07 points.

"The market, after a phenomenal run, has now run into some selling pressure and resistance. The major factors leading investors to take profits include the recent miss in the FBR collection, an increasing trade deficit, and, to a lesser extent, rising inflation," said Ahfaz Mustafa, CEO of Ismail Iqbal Securities. "We have not seen any concrete policy actions from the government to address any of these issues yet. This, coupled with excessive leverage and high leverage rates, is also causing people to take profits," he added.

According to data released last week, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) collected Rs2.88 trillion in the first quarter of FY26, falling short of its Rs3.083 trillion target by Rs198 billion.

In September alone, collections stood at Rs1.23 trillion, missing the monthly target by Rs138 billion. Despite a 13% year-on-year rise, the pace remains insufficient to meet annual revenue goals, and the shortfall even missed the IMF's conservative target of Rs3.023 trillion. Meanwhile, the trade deficit widened nearly 46% year-on-year in September 2025 to \$3.34 billion, as imports jumped 14% to \$5.85 billion and exports fell 11.7% to \$2.5 billion, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

For the July-September quarter, the trade gap grew 32.9% to \$9.37 billion, driven by rising imports and declining exports. Economists warned that the trend could pressure the rupee and foreign reserves, complicating debt repayments amid Pakistan's dependence on external financing.

PBS data also showed the services trade deficit expanding 21.9% year-on-year in August to \$437 million, with imports up 13.4% to \$1.11 billion, outpacing the 8.4% growth in exports. Weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), rose 0.56% during the week ended October 2, reflecting renewed price pressures after months of relative stability.

On Friday, the KSE-100 Index had gained 500.44 points, or 0.3%, to close at 168,990.07 points from 168,489.63 points. The highest index of the day remained at 169,988.62 points, while the lowest level was recorded at 168,24 killed after heavy rain triggers landslides in India's West Bengal.

Gilani leads Pakistan's delegation to CPC

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, is leading Pakistan's parliamentary delegation to the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) being held in Barbados. During his visit, the Chairman Senate also made a brief stopover in the United Kingdom in transit. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference brings together Speakers, parliamentarians, and representatives from member states across the globe. The event serves as an important forum for dialogue on strengthening democracy, promoting good governance, enhancing public representation, and fostering inter-parliamentary cooperation, said news release.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani will hold a series of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the conference with parliamentary leaders, law makers, and key global parliamentary figures. Discussions will focus on strengthening bilateral ties, deepening parliamentary partnership, promoting people-to-people linkages, and enhancing regional collaboration.

Gilani is also scheduled to chair one of the key sessions of the CPC, where he will highlight Pakistan's commitment to the promotion of peace, the strengthening of democratic institutions, and the country's active parliamentary role in advancing dialogue and cooperation at regional and global levels.

In his engagements, the Chairman Senate will also draw attention to the humanitarian and environmental challenges arising from recent floods and heavy rains in Pakistan. He will emphasize the urgent need for global climate justice, enhanced international cooperation, and greater support to climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan.

Israel deports 171 flotilla activists

NEWS DESK

TEL AVIV: 171 additional provocateurs from the Hamas-Sumud flotilla, including Greta Thunberg, were deported from Israel to Greece and Slovakia.

The deportees are citizens of Greece, Italy, France, Ireland, Sweden, Poland, Germany, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Austria, Luxembourg, Finland, Denmark, Slovakia, Switzerland, Norway, the UK, Serbia, and the United States.

All the legal rights of the participants in this PR stunt were and will continue to be fully upheld. The lies they are spreading are part of their pre-planned fake news campaign.

The only violent incident came from a Hamas-Sumud provocateur who bit a female medical staff member of Ketsiyot Prison. Don't believe the fake news they are spreading. Attached are photos of Greta and other participants in this PR stunt at the airport before being deported.

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11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-8488394