



Islamabad POST

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Detailed News On Page-08

Senator Mushtaq gets a rousing welcome in Pak

Detailed News On Page-08



KSA investors in Pakistan welcomed

Detailed News On Page-02



After two years Israeli aggression

Gaza ceasefire agreement goes into effect

US President Trump says Hamas will release all captives while Israel would pull its troops back to an agreed on line

NEWS DESK

CAIRO: The agreement on the first stage of US President Donald Trump's plan for ending Israel's bombardment in Gaza went into effect on Thursday at 9am GMT (2pm PKT), Egyptian state-affiliated TV al-Qahera news reported. Earlier today, Israel and Hamas agreed to the first phase of a Gaza ceasefire aimed at ending a conflict that has killed tens of thousands, razed the Palestinian territory and unleashed a major humanitarian crisis. The deal includes the release of captives and prisoners as well as a surge of aid into Gaza after more than two years of genocide after Tel Aviv started bombing the Palestinian enclave following Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel. US President Trump says Hamas will release all captives while Israel would pull its troops back to an agreed on line. Source says Hamas will exchange 20 living captives for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. Trump thanks mediators Qatar, Egypt and Türkiye; earlier said he may travel to Middle East this week as a deal was "very close"; says he thinks captives will probably be released on Monday. Palestinian group Hamas would release all captives while Israel would pull its troops back to an agreed on line, US President Donald Trump said after talks in Egypt on his 20-point peace plan resulted in a deal. Qatar said the deal was the "first phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement, which will lead to ending the war, the release of Israeli captives and Palestinian prisoners, and the entry of aid". Hamas will exchange 20 living

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PM calls Gaza peace deal a "historic opportunity"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday calling the Gaza peace agreement between Israel and Hamas a "historic opportunity" for lasting peace in the Middle East, praised the leadership of US President Donald Trump and mediation efforts by leaders of Qatar, Egypt and Türkiye. "The announcement of an agreement that will bring an end to the genocide in Gaza is a historic opportunity to secure lasting peace in the Middle East. President Trump's leadership throughout the process of dialogue and negotiations reflects his unwavering commitment to world peace," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline. He also applauded the "resolute and wise" leaders of Qatar, Egypt and Türkiye for their untiring efforts to negotiate a deal. "Most of all, we must all pay tribute to the Palestinian people—who have suffered in an unprecedented manner, one that should never, ever be repeated," he remarked. Prime Minister Shehbaz also noted with grave concern, and

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting. – DNA

Sindh, Saudi Arabia chart new course

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Prince Mansoor bin Mohammad Al Saud, Chairman of the Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council, on Thursday agreed to deepen economic collaboration between Sindh and Saudi Arabia, paving the way for multi-billion-dollar investments in key growth sectors. The chief minister hosted the visiting Prince Mansoor and his 30-member business delegation at the CM House, where both sides discussed new opportunities for trade, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and tourism. The meeting marked a major step toward strengthening bilateral ties and advancing shared economic goals under Saudi Vision 2030, said a press release issued by the Chief Minister's House.

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German embassy celebrates Unity Day at a limited scale

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany celebrated the 35th German Unity Day with a modest and limited reception in Islamabad on Wednesday. The event, held on a limited scale this year, brought together a distinguished gathering of Pakistani officials, diplomats, and representatives from various sectors. Minister for Information and Broadcasting, MNA Attaullah Tarar, attended the ceremony as the chief guest. In his remarks, he congratulated

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Justice Mandokhel says

Willingly or not, SC judges have accepted 26th Amendment

Justice Hilali opposes inclusion of judges in bench who were promoted after constitutional tweaks

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail on Thursday said whether willingly or not, the apex court's judges have accepted the 26th Constitutional Amendment. Justice Mandokhail's remarks came during the hearing of multiple pleas filed against the contested constitutional tweaks passed by parliament last year in October. The case, live-streamed on the SC YouTube channel, was heard by an eight-member constitutional bench led by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, which also includes Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Naeem Akhter Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan. The bench has commenced the case's hearing after a gap of nine months. Multiple parties, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), as well as various bar associations and former presidents of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), had challenged the

amendment back in October 2024. The tweaks in the constitution, which have since come into effect, require the legislature to pick the chief justice, fixing the top judge's tenure, and forming constitutional benches. During the hearing today, Balochistan High Court Bar Association (BHCA) Munir A Malik adopted LHCBA lawyer Hamid Khan's arguments, presented on Wednesday, and noted that the full court existed even before the amendment. Urging that a bench comprising all SC judges should hear the case, the lawyer said that the constitutional bench possessed the necessary judicial powers and that anyone can issue a judicial order and there's no hurdle preventing it. With Justice Amin-ud-Din noting that the issue of the court's jurisdiction falls within the merits of the case, Justice Ayesha questioned whether a full court could be formed in light of the 26th Amendment. To this, lawyer Malik said that he considered the constitutional bench as one that of

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PM Shehbaz, Bilawal talk over phone

Telephone call comes after ruling allies agree to end public feud following huddle at Zardari House

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif telephoned Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday after top leaders from the ruling alliance agreed to maintain calm in their ranks following weeks of sharp exchanges. This development comes after the ruling PML-N sent a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar to Zardari House, Nawabshah, where they met PPP co-chairman and President Asif Ali Zardari. Both sides agreed to end their public feud in the huddle. In today's telephonic conversation, Shehbaz and Bilawal discussed the prevailing political situation, as well as matters related to the flood and foreign policy, according to a PPP statement.

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Briefs

China expands rare earth restrictions

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: The new curbs come weeks ahead of a scheduled face-to-face meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea. "This helps with increasing leverage for Beijing ahead of the anticipated Trump-Xi summit in (South) Korea later this month," said Tim Zhang, founder of Singapore-based Edge Research. China produces over 90% of the world's processed rare earths and rare earth magnets. The 17 rare earth elements are vital materials in products ranging from electric vehicles to aircraft engines and military radars. Exports of 12 of them are now restricted after the Ministry of Commerce added five—holmium, erbium, thulium, europium and ytterbium—along with related materials.

Workers' remittances rise to 8.7 %

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The inflow of \$9.536 billion was recorded during July-September 2025-26 compared to the inflow of \$8.796 billion during July-September 2024-25, showing a growth of 8.41%. Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, the workers' remittance went up by 11.33% in September 2025 to \$3.183 billion from \$2.859 billion during the same month last year. Remittances inflows during September 2025 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$750.9 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$677.1 million), the UK (\$454.8 million), and the US of America (\$269.0 million). Adviser to Finance Minister Khurram Shehzad, in a statement on X, said that during the last fiscal year, Pakistan received \$38.3 billion in remittances.

After Imran Khan order

PTI to resign from Punjab PA committees

Party Chairman Gohar says PTI holds 14 committees; KP cabinet decisions after CM transition

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has directed party members to immediately resign from all Punjab Assembly standing committees, Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said on Thursday. Speaking to reporters outside Adiala Jail alongside Senator Ali Zafar after meeting Khan, Barrister Gohar confirmed that PTI currently controls 14 standing committees in Punjab, adding that the directive for resignation came directly from the party founder. The move comes as part of the former ruling party's political strategy, which also includes boycotting upcoming by-elections. Last month, PTI lawmakers resigned from the standing committees of the National Assembly and Senate on Khan's order. Barrister Gohar — while speaking to journalists today — said it was his first meeting with the PTI founder in several days, and that the former premier was in good health and high spirits. He added that the trial in the Toshakhana Two case has concluded, with final arguments scheduled for

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PTI-nominated KP CM 'sympathiser' of terrorists: Tarar

"Nation's sacrifices will go in vain if such a person is made chief minister," says Attaullah Tarar

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has strongly criticised the removal of Ali Amin Gandapur as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's chief minister and the nomination of Sohail Khan Afridi as his successor, insisting the move reflects the PTI's soft corner for terrorists. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's firebrand leader Gandapur stepped down as KP chief minister, hours after



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7 khawarij killed, Major embraces martyrdom

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed khawarij

STAFF REPORT / DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces eliminated seven khawarij belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al Khawarij, while a major embraced martyrdom in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the general area Daraban, Dera Ismail Khan District. "During the conduct of operation, due to effective engagement by own troops, seven Indian sponsored khawarij were sent to hell," said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here. However, during the intense fire exchange, Major Sibtain Haider (age: 30 years, resident of District Quetta), a brave officer who was leading his troops from the front, having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat, if further said. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed khawarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the Security Forces and

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President, PM Laud security forces' success in DI Khan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday commended the officers and soldiers of Pakistan's security forces for a successful operation against Fitna-al-Khawarij terrorists in the Daraban area of Dera Ismail Khan, which resulted in the elimination of seven terrorists. In separate statements, the president and the prime minister paid tribute to Major Sibtain Haider, who was martyred after bravely fighting during the operation, thwarting the nefarious designs of the enemy. "Major Sibtain set a great example by sacrificing his life in

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ESEF officially launches Virtual Education Program in KP

PESHAWAR: The Elementary and Secondary Education Foundation (ESEF) has officially launched its Virtual Education Program, marking a significant step toward digital learning in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The inauguration ceremony was held at Government Higher Secondary School, Hayatabad here Thursday, with Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahab Ali Shah as the chief guest. The event was attended by the Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education, senior officials of the department and education experts from across the province. Speaking to the media, Managing Director ESEF, Qaiser Alam, stated that the Virtual School Project is a first-of-its-kind government initiative designed to overcome the shortage of teachers in public middle, high, and higher secondary schools. Through this system, online classes will be

arranged for key subjects including English, Urdu, Science, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, and Chemistry from Grade 6 to Grade 12. He added that all lessons have been developed in accordance with the National Curriculum Policy (NCP) and the provincial syllabus, ensuring equal and quality educational opportunities for all students. During his address, the Secretary of Education shared that initially, data has been collected from 50 schools across various districts, selected based on student population and shortage of teachers. These schools are being provided with computers, LED screens, and internet facilities to enable online classes. He emphasized that the system is cost-effective and highly beneficial, as it eliminates the need for new infrastructure by utilizing existing educational resources. Moreover, an online examination system will also be introduced under

this initiative, and students will have access to recorded lectures by expert teachers, allowing them to learn from home as well. The department is also conducting teacher training to ensure effective implementation. Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah described the project as a milestone achievement, predicting that it will revolutionize the province's education system. He highlighted that the Virtual Teaching Program will ensure equal access to education for both boys and girls, especially in remote areas where teacher availability and school access have long been challenges. He further expressed optimism that after the successful implementation of the Virtual School in selected districts, the initiative would be expanded across the province, helping to boost literacy rates using limited resources within a short timeframe. _APP

Making Pakistan green oasis in region top priority of govt: Governor

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel on Thursday said that making Pakistan a green oasis in the region is the top priority of the incumbent government. He expressed these views while talking to Chief Minister's Adviser on Environment Naseem-ur-Rehman Mulakhel at Governor House Quetta. The Governor said that although global warming is a major global issue that requires collective responsibility, we must play our full part in reducing its effects. He said that we recognize that global warming is actually a global warning as well, climate change actually makes us realize the need for urgent action individually and collectively. Jaffar Khan Mandokhel said that continuously rising temperatures, melting glaciers and extreme weather events are threatening our existence. He said that by adopting sustainable practices, increasing forests, and promoting eco-friendly technologies, we could reduce our carbon footprint and create a healthy environment. The Governor said that it is our moral responsibility to protect the planet for future generations to ensure a habitable world where overall evolution and survival could be protected. Later, Jaffar Khan Mandokhel and Adviser to the Chief Minister Naseem-ur-Rehman planted a tree in front of the Commissioner's Office in Quetta city under the Green Quetta Dream Tree Plantation Campaign and assured Bayazid Kharoti of their full support to turn the dream of making Quetta city a green city into a reality. They said that the religion of Islam has declared tree planting as a continuous charity fourteen hundred years ago. For the sake of Green and Clean Pakistan, national production could be increased by planting more trees in the province. _APP

DC orders intensified anti-dengue operations

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration has stepped up its efforts to control the spread of dengue fever as 25 new cases were reported in the past 24 hours. Out of these, 18 patients were identified in rural areas and 7 in urban localities, said the spokesman of district administration. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon chaired a review meeting to assess ongoing anti-dengue measures and discuss strategies to curb the virus. Senior officers from the district administration and the health department attended the session. The meeting focused on practical proposals and an effective strategy to eliminate dengue larvae and strengthen preventive actions across the capital. During the briefing, officials informed that inspection teams had checked several areas, confirming the presence of larvae at 916 locations, while 12 sites were cleared after follow-up visits. Anti-dengue teams carried out fogging operations at 2,585 sites to prevent mosquito breeding. The meeting was told that strict enforcement actions were also underway against violations of dengue prevention Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). A total of 20 people were taken into custody for negligence in implementing safety measures. The administration said it would continue the crackdown on violators to ensure community health and safety. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad directed concerned departments to speed up fumigation and spraying, particularly in high-risk areas. _APP

Bugti to open tourism festival at Lok Virsa

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister (CM) Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, is set to inaugurate a three-day Balochistan Grand Tourism Festival on Thursday at Lok Virsa, aimed at promoting and showcasing the rich culture of the province to the world. This was announced by the Parliamentary Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Tourism, Nawabzada Mir Muhammad Zarin Khan Magasi, along with Secretary Tourism Balochistan Sohail-ur-Rehman and others, while holding a press conference at the National Press Club, said a press release. Zarin Khan

Magasi said that for the first time in history, the three-day Balochistan Grand Tourism Festival is being organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) at Lok Virsa. He highlighted that Balochistan is a land rich in cultural heritage, adding that folk artists will showcase their talent during the festival, while drama artists will depict the region's traditions through theatre performances. The festival will also feature art exhibitions from Balochistan and panel dis-

cussions with prominent personalities. Following Islamabad, similar festivals are planned in other cities, including Karachi, to offer people across the country a chance to experience Balochistan's vibrant culture. Zarin Magasi emphasized that the government's role was to develop policies and provide facilities, while their primary goal was to project the positive and progressive image of Balochistan globally. Secretary Tourism Balochistan, Sohail-ur-Rehman, noted that this event marks the 39th program organized within the allocated budget. _APP



ISLAMABAD: CDA staffers carrying out an operation against encroachments .

Sherry urges shift to renewables for Pakistan's energy sovereignty

No Pakistani should be left outside the electricity tent," she declared, urging policy-makers to incentivise renewables and ensure reforms are communicated in a clear and understandable way. "We don't need miracles, we just need systems that work."

ISLAMABAD: Senator Sherry Rehman has called for a decisive shift towards renewable energy to ensure Pakistan's energy sovereignty, security, and affordability. Speaking as the chief guest at the Parliamentary Forum on Energy and Economy, themed "Implications of IGCEP 2025: Politics of Energy Generation in Pakistan", she stressed that electricity is a fundamental human right and must be accessible, sustainable, and affordable for all. "Energy represents wealth for a country — it is the

foundation of energy democracy, security, and sovereignty," Senator Rehman said. "Every industry, household, school and farm depends on low-cost, sustainable energy to power growth and development." Highlighting global trends, she noted that renewable energy overtook coal as the leading source of electricity worldwide in the first half of 2025, with solar and wind growth meeting all of the increase in global demand. Pakistan, she said, is making notable progress: "In 2024, 47% of Pakistan's electricity came from low-carbon sources,

and the Ministry of Energy estimates this figure at 55% — well above the global average of 41%." Pakistan now ranks as the sixth largest solar market globally, according to the World Economic Forum. Senator Rehman reaffirmed Pakistan's climate commitments under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): achieving 60% of power generation from renewables by 2030, net-zero emissions by 2050, a 30% transition to electric vehicles by 2030, and a ban on imported coal. She praised the Sindh

government's early solar initiatives, including the Sindh Solar Energy Project (SSEP), which aims to provide affordable solar power to 500,000 low-consumption households, prioritising beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme. However, she criticised government's current energy planning as outdated, arguing that the Integrated Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) 2025 lacked proper provincial consultation and excluded significant renewable projects. "This intervention requires parliamentary consensus

and provincial consultation — not just box-ticking exercises," she said. She also pointed to weaknesses in regulatory frameworks, citing NEPRA's failure to create a predictable environment for investors and concerns over the ongoing debate on privatising distribution companies. Despite a nominal energy surplus, Senator Rehman warned that unannounced power outages and high tariffs still leave millions without reliable access to affordable electricity. "No Pakistani should be left outside the electricity tent," she declared. _APP



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, met with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday.

Kundi discusses political affairs with Ayaz

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, met with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday, where they discussed the country's political and provincial situation, as well as relations between the Federation and the provinces. During the meeting, both

leaders exchanged views on the current political landscape, the need for enhanced parliamentary co-operation, and the importance of building national consensus. They also held consultations on the political situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The two leaders reviewed the dynamics between


their allied political parties and agreed that strengthening the democratic system, promoting parliamentary traditions, and addressing public issues require close co-operation among political parties and improved coordination between the Federation and the provinces. _APP

Murad welcomes KSA for paving way for robust partnership


KARACHI :The economic landscape of Sindh took a major positive stride as Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah hosted Prince Mansoor Bin Mohammad Al Saud, Chairman of the Saudi-Pak Joint Business Council, and a 30-member distinguished business delegation at the CM House on Thursday. The visit underscored the deep-rooted brotherhood and shared economic ambitions between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The chief minister reaffirmed his government's commitment to forging long-term economic cooperation, inviting Saudi investment across key growth sectors, including agriculture, livestock, minerals and mining, infrastructure, energy, and food security. He highlighted Sindh's position as the first province in Pakistan with a robust Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, which has delivered several landmark infrastructure and social-sector projects. CM Shah also emphasized both Government-to-Business (G2B) and Business-to-Business (B2B)

collaborations as drivers of innovation, efficiency, and technology transfer between enterprises from both countries. Both sides agreed to form joint working groups in priority sectors to ensure targeted and sustainable progress toward mutual goals. Prince Mansoor bin Mohammad Al Saud expressed appreciation for the hospitality extended by the Sindh government, acknowledging the promising business environment and vast opportunities available in Karachi and broader Sindh. He announced the establishment of sector-specific sub-committees to target investments, signaling a new era in Saudi-Pakistan economic ties. Prince Mansoor bin Mohammad Al Saud stated, "Our business council is not a new one; we have a longstanding history of bilateral trade." He added that regarding investment, the Prime Minister of Pakistan visited Saudi Arabia and, as part of that process, he brought his investor delegation. The prince said that we would work together to strengthen the economy. "Pakistan serves as the gateway

for trade across the entire region. "Pakistan also holds significant importance from a tourism perspective." "We have brought investors from every sector with us, and they are committed to investing here. Pakistan is undertaking privatisation, and we see this as an opportunity for ourselves," the prince said. Prince Mansoor further reiterated the commitment to enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries, emphasising mutual benefit and the potential for new partnerships in a range of sectors, including energy, infrastructure, and tourism. A detailed presentation to the Saudi delegation showcased Sindh's impressive portfolio of ongoing and future opportunities. Home to nearly 60 million people, Sindh is a key driver of Pakistan's GDP, industry, and tax revenue. Its strengths in energy-with vast coal, solar, wind, and gas resources-agriculture, processed foods, logistics, industrial zones, and eco-tourism were highlighted. Successful PPP projects. _APP



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PLANNING WING
Directorate of Housing Societies

**#HumCDA**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CANCELLATION OF LAYOUT PLAN OF CBR HOUSING SCHEME

It is Notified for the information of General Public & Allottees/Transferees of **CBR Employees Housing Scheme (CBR EHS), Zone-5, Islamabad**, that Islamabad High Court, Islamabad, in its Judgement dated **04-8-2025**, passed in **WP 4043/2024**, titled "Muhammad Anwar Ch. etc. vs CDA", has directed as under:

15. In view of above, the instant writ petition No. 4043 of 2024 is allowed. The impugned Revised Layout Plan dated 21-3-2023, passed by CDA is declared to be illegal, without lawful authority and of no legal effect, and is hereby set aside. The respondents are directed to Restore the Layout Plan of CBR-ECHS Phase-1 to its original form as approved on 24-02-2007. The CDA is further directed to ensure that no amenity plots, green areas or public utility spaces are converted to residential commercial usage in violation of applicable laws and regulations, and that the rights of the residents are safeguarded in future with no order as to costs".

Therefore, in Compliance of IHC Orders, the **Revised & Extended Layout Plan** of CBR EHS Approved by CDA on **21-3-2023**, has been **Cancelled/Withdrawn** with immediate effect and the **Layout Plan of CBR HS (Phase-1) dated 24-02-2007**, is immediately **Restored**.

Further, the Planning & Development on the area in addition to the Approved Layout Plan, dated 24-02-2007, is declared as **Illegal/Without any CDA Approval**. The CBR Society is directed to submit the Layout Plan for the **Extended Area** within **10 days** of issuance of this Notice. In case of failure of do so, CDA will be constrained to take Punitive Legal Action against the Society for said Illegal Extended Scheme Area.

IJAZ AHMAD SHEIKH
DIRECTOR HOUSING SOCIETIES
Phone: 051-9252636, 0334-5223077

PID(1) 2963/25

National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

Oct 01/China
National Day

Oct 01/Cyprus
National Day

Oct 01/Republic of Korea
Armed Forces Day

Oct 01/Nigeria
Armed Forces Day

Oct 02/Guinea
National Day

Oct 03/Germany
Unification Day

Oct 03/Republic of Korea
National Foundation Day

Oct 05/Indonesia
Armed Forces Day

Oct 06/Egypt
Armed Forces Day

Oct 09/Uganda
Independence Day

Oct 12/Spain
National Day

Oct 23/Hungary
National Day

October 24/United Nations
United Nations Day

Oct/25/Romania
Armed Forces Day

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National Day

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Independence Day

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National Day

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Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

ICCI-CDA to form body to address industrial challenges

ICCI, CDA partnership to make Islamabad a model Industrial, business hub: Sardar Tahir

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Director General Planning, Capital Development Authority (CDA), Mohammad Arshad Chohan, along with Deputy Director Industrial Planning, Dr. Beenish Javaid, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to hold an interactive session with ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry, former presidents, executive members, and representatives from various trade and industrial sectors. The purpose of the visit was to gain firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by the business community and explore ways to resolve them for ensuring smooth business operations in the region. Acknowledging the pivotal role of the business community in the development of Islamabad, recognized globally as a well-planned and climate-resilient city, DG Planning revealed that CDA mulls to up grade the infrastructure in the Kahuta Triangle Industrial Area, transforming it into a state-of-the-art industrial estate. He said that the CDA would reclaim encroached land in the vicinity, develop industrial plots, market them, and finance the project on the cross-subsidized basis. He further informed that CDA would encourage initiatives under Public-Private Partnership and promote vertical development in future projects. A modern bus terminal will soon be established in Sector I-11 for the convenience of the citizens and the business community. He urged entrepreneurs to take advantage of the liberal trade policy and regularize their businesses. He emphasized that industrial development is crucial for national economic growth and proposed the formation of a joint committee comprising CDA and ICCI officials to ensure close coordination and effective implementation of agreed initiatives. Addressing other concerns, he said that CDA and ICCI would work jointly to resolve issues related to double basements, parking plazas, and the regularization of Sector H-13, adding that the authority has decided to regularize constructions in that area. Regarding the fruit and vegetable market, he suggested forming a dedicated committee to address the long-pending issues. Earlier, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, in his welcome address, highlighted key issues of the industrial sector. He called for nominal Floor Area Ratio (FAR) charges and permission for constructing multi-story buildings to meet modern requirements. He stressed that CDA should differentiate between industrial and commercial sectors while framing policies and fee structures. He also urged for immediate upgradation of the dilapidated infrastructure in the Kahuta Triangle Industrial Area. Chairman ICCI Founder Group, Tariq Sadiq, noted that despite the CDA Chairman's earlier directives, several issues remain unresolved. He also emphasized double basement permissions and reduction in trade change fees.

PPPP invite applications from party candidates for by-polls

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) has invited applications from party candidates for the upcoming by-elections in NA-1 Chitral and NA-18 Haripur constituencies. According press release issued here on Thursday, the interested candidates have been asked to submit their applications by October 15 to Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, PPPP Secretary General. The applicants are required to attach a bank draft of Rs. 50,000 along with their applications and send them to the following address: House No. 8, Street No. 19, F-8/2, Zardari House, Islamabad.—APP

24 new dengue cases reported in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority (DHA) reported 24 new dengue confirmations across Rawalpindi in the past 24 hours, contributing to a total of 889 cases from 13,190 patients screened by hospitals. According to the latest statistics released by DHA, currently, 58 confirmed cases are admitted in hospitals, with zero death in the year so far. Vector surveillance through 1,361dedicated teams to inspect premises shows over 5.6 houses were inspected, finding 1,77,529 positive, and over 1.5 spots, identified 23,801 spots where 201,330 larvae were destroyed. The data reveals punitive against violations has resulted in 4,477 FIRs, 1,854 sealings, 3,504 challans, and fines totaling Rs 10,906,507. The hotspots with fresh cases in the past include Chaman Zaar Colony, CTR-18, Dhoke Munshi, Chaoantra, CTR-9, Gangal, CTC-6, Dhamial, CTC-9, Dhoke Hassu North, Khayaban-e Sir Syed North, CTR-14, Dhoke Kala Khan, Lakkhan, Shakrial South, Dhoke Khabba, Pindora, and Wah Cantt.—APP

Work accelerated on T-Chowk Flyover Project

ISLAMABAD: Construction work on the T-Chowk Flyover Project has gained significant momentum following special directives from Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, as the Capital Development Authority (CDA) intensifies efforts to complete the project within the stipulated timeline. According to a detailed briefing, the piling work of the project has been completed 100 percent, while 84 percent of the girder casting and 60 percent of the protective wall construction have also been finalized. CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa visited the project site to review ongoing construction activities. During the visit, he expressed satisfaction over the pace and quality of work and emphasized the need to maintain high construction standards throughout the project. To enhance the project's aesthetic appeal, the Chairman directed officials to prepare and submit a comprehensive landscaping and horticulture plan without delay. He further instructed that modern LED lighting be installed permanently along the flyover and surrounding areas to beautify the site and ensure visibility at night. Chairman Randhawa also issued directives to ensure cleanliness and proper maintenance at all completed sections of the development work, underscoring the importance of a clean and welcoming environment for commuters. Highlighting the project's importance, the CDA chief noted that the T-Chowk Flyover will provide signal-free travel not only for residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, but also for commuters arriving from Lahore and other parts of Punjab, significantly improving traffic flow and reducing congestion at one of the busiest entry points of the capital. He urged the consultants and resident engineers to ensure timely completion and uphold the highest quality standards in all construction activities. Officials briefed the Chairman that construction work is continuing round the clock, with teams engaged in 24/7 development operations to meet the project deadline. Senior CDA officials, contractors, consultants, and the project director accompanied the Chairman during the visit.—DNA

Road safety workshop held for students

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) organized a one-day Road Safety Workshop at Beaconhouse School to educate students about traffic laws, road discipline, and safe driving practices. An ITP official told APP on Thursday that Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain (retd) Hamza Humayun attended the session as the chief guest and delivered an interactive awareness talk for students. CTO Hamzah briefed the participants on road safety principles, including the importance of wearing helmets, fastening seat belts, obeying traffic signals, and avoiding the use of mobile phones while driving. He also emphasized that responsible driving and pedestrian awareness are vital to ensuring safety for all road users. The CTO further highlighted that Islamabad Traffic Police regularly conducts awareness sessions in schools, colleges, and universities to promote a culture of responsibility among youth. At the end of the workshop, the school administration presented a souvenir to CTO Hamza in appreciation of ITP's efforts for public education and road safety. The CTO Hamzah appreciated the enthusiasm of students and staff and said that ITP would continue such initiatives to develop safer driving habits and strengthen traffic discipline in the federal capital. Students also participated in a question-and-answer session and pledged to follow traffic rules and help spread awareness about road safety among their peers._APP

Overseas remittances grew 8% in Q1: Khurram

ISLAMABAD:Adviser to Finance Minister Khurram Schezad here on Thursday said that remittances from overseas Pakistanis grew by 8 percent during the first quarter of current fiscal year as compare to the corresponding period of the last year "Pakistan received \$9.5 billion remittances during the period from July-September, 26 as compared to \$8.8 billion of the same period of the last year", he posted on social media site X. Meanwhile, the remittances inflow during the month of September 2025 increased by 11.3 percent and reached to \$3.2 billion as compared to the same month of last fiscal year, he added. He said that during the last fiscal year, Pakistan received \$38.3 billion in remittances, adding that in the current fiscal year, remittances are expected to surpass \$41 billion mark. —APP

‘Overseas Pakistanis country’s ambassadors’

ISLAMABAD :Acting Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan has said that overseas Pakistanis are the country's ambassadors and that the nation greatly values their contributions. During a meeting with a delegation led by M. Siddique Sheikh, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the US-Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce, he said that Pakistan has emerged on the global stage in a new way, which will have a positive impact on local economic activities. This progress will not only generate more employment opportunities but also help attract global trade and investment to Pakistan. The Acting Chairman Senate welcomed the delegation and, while expressing his views, said that the efforts of chambers of commerce and industry, as well as institutions working at the international level to promote trade activities, are highly commendable for the business, industrial, and economic development of Pakistan. The Acting Chairman further said that overseas Pakistanis are our ambassadors, and we highly value their contributions. He added that the global economy is changing rapidly – where new opportunities arise, challenges also exist – but through effective policies and strategies, these challenges can be turned into opportunities. During the discussion, Syedaal Khan mentioned that the government is striving to create an environment where doing business is easy, investments are secure, and exports continue to grow. The

Acting Chairman also appreciated the role of the Pakistani business community based in the United States, noting that their contributions help Pakistan actively participate in global economic activities. On this occasion, the delegation leader M. Siddique Sheikh expressed his gratitude, saying he was delighted to visit Pakistan and that vast opportunities exist for investment in the country. He also extended an invitation to the Acting Chairman Senate to visit the United States. Earlier, Acting Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan met with the newly-elected office bearers of the Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) at the Parliament House, Islamabad. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on parliamentary coverage, the constructive role of media, and the promotion of public awareness. Acting Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan said that the media plays a vital role in strengthening the democratic system. He noted that parliamentary reporting is a highly significant and responsible field of journalism that enhances public understanding by delivering accurate information regarding legislation and policymaking to the people. Syedaal Khan remarked that the media serves as a strong bridge between the public and policymakers, and that transparency and positive reporting foster trust and stability within society. He emphasized that collaboration among the government, private sector, and media is essential for sustainable development. The media, he said, should continue to uphold and strengthen its positive traditions in

promoting national interest, progress, and stability. Congratulating the newly-elected office bearers of the Parliamentary Reporters Association, the Acting Chairman Senate said that those elected through a democratic process truly deserve appreciation. He expressed confidence that the new leadership would continue the association's positive traditions and further promote the highest standards of journalism. Referring to the current situation in the country, Syedaal Khan said that the nation needs unity at this time. He urged that differences must be set aside, and collective efforts are required to overcome the challenges facing the country. He noted that the Upper House represents the federation, with equal representation from all four provinces, providing a crucial platform to formulate a joint strategy on national issues and challenges. The Acting Chairman Senate also mentioned the Prime Minister's visit to the United States, highlighting that the visit included important meetings and exchanges with global leaders, providing Pakistan an opportunity to effectively project its position on international forums. On this occasion, PRA's newly-elected President M.B. Soomro and Secretary General Naveed Akbar also shared their views. They thanked the Acting Chairman Senate for his time and extended congratulations to him on performing Umrah. They also highlighted the issues being faced by media workers and stressed the need for legislation to ensure the protection of their rights.—APP

IRSA releases 100,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 100,900 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 109,500 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 45,700 cusecs and 45,300 cusecs, respectively. River Jhelum at Mangla Dam has also attained its maximum conservation level of 1242 feet, which was 192 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 15,300 cusecs and 7,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 72,000, 71,600, 74,200, and 37,600 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 10,500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 28,600 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala. _APP

IHC halts cases against citizens without driving licenses

Chief Justice Sarfaraz Dogar remarked that in the petition it had been claimed that a new law has been enacted or is being enacted

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday directed the Islamabad Traffic Police (ICT) to avoid registration of cases against citizens for not having driving licenses. The court remarked that "if cases are registered against those citizens who do not have a license, there will be a stigma for them. Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfaraz Dogar heard a citizen's petition against the deadline for arrest and seizure of vehicles for those driving without licenses. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad Captain (retd) Hamza Humayun appeared before the court. The court disposed of the citizen's petition with specific instructions. The Chief Justice directed that no immediate case should be registered against any citizen, and that a fine should be imposed on the citizen for not showing the license. The petitioner citizen said that the Chief Traffic Officer had given a dead-

line after which the vehicle would be seized, cases would be registered and arrests would be made. The instructions to arrest those without a driving license were unconstitutional and illegal, he added. The petitioner said that the implementation of such punishments should be abandoned, without the proper legislation. Chief Justice Sarfaraz Dogar remarked that in the petition it had been claimed that a new law has been enacted or is being enacted. "It has been made clear that a case can be registered for driving due to negligence and carelessness, if someone drives a vehicle without a license, then in case of an accident, 302 is applied." The Chief Justice inquired how long has it been since Pakistan was formed? Pakistan has been formed for more than 70 years and they (Peopled) not even know that they have to have a license, if you have a license and do not have a hard

copy of it, then show its copy." The CTO Islamabad said that "various security features have been introduced in driving license, so far we have not registered any case against any citizen who does not have a license." The Chief Justice remarked that "now the identity card can be verified through the NADRA app; you should also introduce such a system; online verification of all documents is also done through the NADRA app." The CTO Islamabad said that "we will try to make it digital by linking it with NADRA." The court remarked that "if cases are registered against those who do not have a license, there will be a stigma for them." Justice Sardar Sarfraz Dogar remarked that "after the case is registered, it comes with the criminal history; Give a one-time warning and fine; when you fine someone, it will be on the record, the second time you will.—APP

NAB chief lauds KSA for anti-corruption initiative

ISLAMABAD, Oct 09 (APP):National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Chairman Lt Gen (R) Nazir Ahmed Butt, has expressed deep appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (#Nazaha) for organizing a landmark international event focused on combating corruption. In a post shared on social media platform X by #Nazaha, Lt Gen Butt was quoted as calling the establishment of the network "a historic milestone" in advancing global cooperation to fight corruption and recover illicit assets.—APP

Briefs

Workers' remittances increase by 8.41% to \$9.536 inflow

ISLAMABAD: The overseas workers' remittances witnessed an increase of 8.41 per cent during the first quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal year 2025-26, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said on Thursday. The inflow of \$ 9.536 billion was recorded during July-September 2025-26 as compared to the inflow of \$8.796 billion during July-September 2024-25, showing growth of 8.41 per cent. Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, the worker's remittance went up by 11.33 per cent in September 2025 to \$3.183 billion from \$ 2.859 billion during the same month last year. Remittances inflows during September 2025 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$750.9 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$677.1 million), the United Kingdom (\$454.8 million) and the United States of America (\$269.0 million).—APP

Over 12,000 calls received by HRs' Helpline 1099

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Human Rights' Helpline 1099 received a total of 12,435 calls during the month of September 2025, according to a recently issued fact sheet. The helpline, which provides legal advice and referral services to individuals facing human rights violations, continues to serve as a vital mechanism for public assistance and awareness. According to details shared by the Ministry of Human Rights official here on Thursday, the report revealed that the majority of callers were male (73), followed by female callers (56), with 270 calls specifying gender. Among the key issues raised, women's rights topped the list with 83 cases, followed by government and administrative issues with 28 reports. Regionally, the province of Punjab recorded the highest number of calls (74), followed by Islamabad (26) and Sindh (21) Helpline 1099 operates under the Ministry of Human Rights and also works in close coordination with the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Agency (ZARRA) to address cases of missing and abducted children. The service remains a critical channel for citizens to seek support, guidance, and protection against human rights abuses across Pakistan.—APP

Baalkada"-a powerful theatrical reflection on forgotten voices coming to PNCA

ISLAMABAD: A powerful theatrical performance titled "Baalkada" will be staged at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on October 11 which would serve as a treat for the art lovers from across the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The play is written and directed by Arshad Minhas and presented by Dastaan Theatre in collaboration with the Pakistan National Council of the Arts, National Heritage and Culture Division. Baalkada takes on sensitive and deeply human themes, highlighting two of society's most pressing issues — child abduction and the struggles of the transgender community. Through emotional storytelling, the play captures the pain, fear, and resilience of individuals caught in these realities while also addressing the silence and indifference that often surround such subjects. It uses the power of performance to make the audience think, feel, and reflect on what lies beneath the surface of everyday life. The story of Baalkada unfolds with moments of heartbreak and tenderness, laughter and grief, woven together to portray the experiences of people whose lives are often overlooked or misunderstood. The characters bring to life the emotional conflicts of those who exist on the margins of society, compelling the audience to confront their own perceptions.—APP

Ethiopian envoy Jemal meets minister Fahd to discuss strong bilateral ties

Haroon appreciated Dr. Jemal's efforts in fostering mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries during his tenure

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State / Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media, Fahd Haroon, received the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, for a farewell call earlier today in his office. During the meeting, the two dignitaries discussed the strong and growing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia. Haroon appreciated Dr. Jemal's efforts in fostering mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries during his tenure. The conversation also touched upon the evolving role of digital platforms and the significance of digital diplomacy in enhancing people-to-people ties and promoting national narratives on the global stage. Both sides acknowledged the value of sustained collaboration in digital engagement and innovation. Haroon extended his best wishes to Ambassador Dr. Jemal Abdula for his future endeavors and appreciated his contributions toward strengthening Ethiopia-Pakistan relations.



NIC Islamabad hosts annual investors summit 2025

Pakistan's top investors gathered at NIC Islamabad for groundbreaking startup pitches — investing in the future of innovation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top investors and venture capitalists gathered at the National Incubation Center (NIC) Islamabad for the Annual Investors Summit 2025, where NIC's homegrown startups took the stage to present bold, problem-solving innovations shaping the country's future. Organized under the Ministry of IT & Telecom and Ignite — National Technology Fund, the summit featured an exclusive lineup of NIC Islamabad startups, including EZGyser, Pani Express, Chrio, EKKO, EPO, EMR, Carboncap, Your Munshi, and Bio Nano. The event served as a bridge between innovation and investment, connecting visionary founders with the investors driving Pakistan's entrepreneurial growth. Among the standout pitches was EZGyser, a startup tackling one of Pakistan's everyday challenges — access to hot water during winters. With power outages and rising gas prices, households face constant hassle and safety risks from repeatedly relighting geysers. EZGyser's smart, energy-efficient system offers an affordable, safe, and sustainable solution that transforms how families experience comfort at home. Another highlight was Pani Express, solving the problem of unreliable and informal water supply in urban Pakistan. Millions of households depend on inconsistent tanker services with no transparency

or delivery assurance. Pani Express brings order to this chaos through a tech-driven platform that ensures timely, transparent, and reliable access to clean water — a major step toward improving urban living standards.

Meanwhile, Chrio captured investors' attention with its cutting-edge AI solution revolutionizing cricket broadcasting. By automating real-time video analysis and visual rendering, Chrio eliminates the need for expensive broadcast tools and large crews, making professional-level insights accessible for every match and league — a true leap for Pakistan's sports-tech sector. The summit also featured an engaging panel discussion titled "The Deal Room: What Would It Take for Us to Write a Check Today?", where investors shared candid insights into what makes a startup investment-ready. The panel of judges included Abaiz Bin Abdullah (Fatima Gobi), Kamil Aziz (Zayn VC), Sumraiz (Indus VC), Usman Khalid (GroundUp), Moiz Waseem (sAI Ventures), Nayab Baber (PSF), Qamar Malik (Pak Angels), Ms. Janine Rohwer (German Embassy), Kabri Naqvi (Abhi Micro Finance), Quratulain Chaudhary (MMBL), Haris Shah (Abhi Micro Finance), Sikandar Khan (22Ventures), Rohma Labeed and Ayaz Khan (Accelerate Prosperity), among others. Abaiz Bin Abdullah (Fatima Gobi Ventures) shared, "NIC Islamabad continues to produce startups that are not only innovative but deeply relevant to Pakistan's realities. The solutions we've seen today could transform entire industries."

Kitchen gardening becomes household trend among women in Capital

"Tending to plants reduces stress and provides a sense of purpose—something many people found especially valuable during the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic," she remarked

ISLAMABAD: Amid rising concerns over food quality, health awareness, and inflation, kitchen gardening has emerged as a growing household trend among women in the federal capital. From small balconies in apartments to backyard spaces in houses, more women are turning to homegrown vegetables, herbs, and fruits. Kitchen gardening not only helps families reduce grocery expenses but also promotes a healthier lifestyle, emotional well-being, and a deeper connection with nature. Talking to APP, Sajida, a resident of Sector G-6, said she developed the habit of kitchen gardening during the COVID-19 lockdown. "Initially, I planted coriander and mint at home. Today, I grow tomatoes, green chilies, spinach, and even strawberries. It's rewarding to serve fresh, pesticide-free vegetables on the table," she shared. Anaya, a bachelor's student and resident of Sector G-10, said kitchen gardening had been her passion for several years. "I have grown tomatoes, chilies, garlic, bitter gourd, ladyfinger, and lemons. I even have small apple and grape plants," she said, adding that the activity gives her a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. She encouraged

others to adopt the practice for a healthier, stress-free, and productive lifestyle. Experts attribute this growing trend to multiple factors, including rising inflation, increased health consciousness, and the influence of social media. YouTube channels, Facebook groups, and Instagram pages dedicated to home gardening have seen a significant rise in engagement over the past few years. Moreover, NGOs and local agriculture departments have launched several initiatives to promote kitchen gardening among women. Free seed distribution, online tutorials, and training workshops have empowered many first-time gardeners to start growing their own food. Dr. Mehara, an environmental expert and resident of Sector G-8, said that women were playing a vital role in promoting sustainable food practices. "What began as a hobby is now evolving into a movement for food independence and environmental responsibility," she observed. She added that beyond the economic and health benefits, gardening also has therapeutic effects. "Tending to plants reduces stress and provides a sense of purpose—something many people found especially valuable during the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic," she remarked.—APP

Blindness prevalence in Pakistan drops to 0.5%

The lack of trained specialists and unequal distribution of services continue to push low-income households toward expensive private treatment, leading to long-term economic and social impacts such as increased poverty and reduced productivity

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Due to consistent and coordinated efforts by public and private stakeholders, including Al-Shifa Trust (AST), the prevalence of blindness in Pakistan has decreased significantly, from 1.78 per cent in 1990 to 0.5 per cent currently. However, experts warn that urgent policy attention is needed to address new challenges, mainly genetic and lifestyle-related causes of vision loss. This should concern us all and motivate us to act.

Talking to the media men at the World Sight Day, prominent ophthalmologist Prof. Tayyab Afghani highlighted

that genetic diseases are increasingly becoming a significant cause of blindness



in Pakistan. To address this, AST has established the country's first ophthalmic genetics centre, focused on early detection through community health education, qualified genetic counseling, and gene analysis. Prof.

Afghani also cautioned that apart from diabetes, myopia has reached epidemic levels in Pakistan and worldwide. He emphasised the importance of lifestyle changes and limiting screen time for children, which is supported by school vision screening programmes. To date, Al-Shifa has screened over 3 million children for vision-related issues nationwide. He said the trust continues to expand its reach through six hospitals in Rawalpindi, Muzaffarabad, Chakwal, Kohat, Sukkur, and Gilgit. The trust plans to open its Lahore branch by 2027, a sign of hope for the future. The network holds over 150 free eye camps annually, treating more than 900,000 patients and per-

forming 73,000 surgeries each year, including cataract removals. Nearly 80 percent of patients receive free treatment, a testament to the trust's commitment to serving the community. Dr. Afghani urged greater government investment in preventive eye care and infrastructure expansion to rural areas, warning that the rising disease burden could overwhelm public hospitals. The lack of trained specialists and unequal distribution of services continue to push low-income households toward expensive private treatment, leading to long-term economic and social impacts such as increased poverty and reduced productivity.

IST celebrates World Space Week

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Space Technology (IST) has inaugurated World Space Week (WSW) 2025, opening Pakistan's largest annual celebration of space science, technology, and innovation. The event is hosted by the National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA) under the patronage of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and in collaboration with the Pakistan Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO). This year's global theme, "Living in Space," highlights humanity's next great challenge — not just to explore the universe, but also to build sustainable life beyond Earth. The celebrations began with a formal inauguration ceremony graced by Prof. Dr. Syed Wilayat Husain and Prof. Dr. Ihtaz Qamar, both former senior members of Dr. A. Q. Khan Research Laboratories, who jointly declared the event open and praised IST's enduring commitment to advancing space education in Pakistan. For nearly two decades, IST has been the torchbearer of World Space Week in Pakistan, turning its campus each October into a vibrant arena of discovery, creativity, and exploration. The annual event has evolved into the country's oldest and largest platform for public engagement in space science, drawing thousands of visitors, students, and educators from across the nation. Hosted by NCGSA, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and the HEC, WSW 2025 reaffirms IST's vision to cultivate curiosity, inspire innovation, and strengthen Pakistan's role in global space endeavors. Chairman, National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA), Dr. Najam Abbas Naqvi remarked, "World Space Week at IST stands as a living example of Pakistan's scientific spirit. Each year, it transforms knowledge into experience, igniting a passion for discovery among young minds. The theme 'Living in Space' pushes us to imagine humanity's future beyond Earth and, equally, to apply those same technologies to sustain life on our own planet." The heart of World Space Week at IST lies in its interactive student competitions, designed to blend creativity, teamwork, and scientific inquiry. This year's program features over 50 diverse modules, engaging more than 2,000 participants from 50+ schools and colleges across Pakistan. From model satellite building, robotics, and coding challenges to space art, creative writing, and debate contests, every event encourages students to link imagination with real-world applications. Participants are challenged to design sustainable habitats for space, simulate extraterrestrial farming systems, create AI-based space solutions, and demonstrate innovative uses of satellite data for Earth observation. These activities not only foster a spirit of competition but also nurture the problem-solving mindset essential for tomorrow's scientists and engineers. Complementing the competitions are astronomical telescope sessions, research lab visits, and space technology displays. Visitors will tour IST's advanced facilities and witness firsthand the innovations driving Pakistan's emerging space sector. Stargazing, public lectures, and outreach programs will further connect audiences with the wonder of the cosmos.

Political unity restored as PML-N, PPP join forces on security, says Dastgir

ISLAMABAD :A senior PML-N leader Khurram Dastgir Thursday asserted that all political rifts with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have been resolved, and both parties now stand united against terrorism and committed to defending Pakistan's national interests. While speaking in an exclusive conversation with a local news channel, Dastgir revealed that a high-level delegation from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) recently met with PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari. He stated that the political differences between the two parties are nearly resolved, marking a significant step toward greater political understanding. Dastgir emphasized that both the PML-N and PPP are now aligned in their efforts to bring political and economic stability to the country. He further affirmed that the two parties have come together to form a united front against terrorism, reaffirming their commitment to safeguarding national security and upholding the country's broader interests. Responding to a query, Khurram Dastgir made it clear that provincial autonomy is the constitutional right of every province, and this right will be fully respected. He emphasized that respecting the autonomy of all federating units is essential for national unity and democratic stability.—APP

Mangla Dam attains max conservation level 1242 feet

ISLAMABAD: Mangla Dam, the biggest reservoir in terms of water storage in Pakistan on Thursday filled to its maximum conservation level of 1242 feet above mean sea level. As much as 7.277 MAF of useable water is available in the reservoir, said a press release. With this development, all three reservoirs i.e. Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma are filled to their maximum levels with cumulative live storage of 13.316 MAF, which is a good omen for irrigated agriculture and hydel generation. Completed in 1967, Mangla Dam has been significantly contributing for economic stability in the country, as it helps ensure water supply for irrigation, mitigates floods, and provides clean, green and affordable hydel electricity to the National Grid. At the time of its construction, Mangla Dam had a live storage capacity of 5.88 MAF, which gradually decreased to 4.6 MAF by 2004 due to the natural phenomenon of sedimentation. In 2004, WAPDA commenced Mangla Dam Raising Project. On completion of Mangla Raising Project, WAPDA not only regained the lost storage capacity but also enhanced it to 7.5 MAF with an addition of 2.9 MAF, turning Mangla Dam to the biggest water reservoir in Pakistan. Being a multipurpose project, Mangla Dam also had an installed power generation capacity of 1000 MW. In view of the aging factor of the generating equipment and availability of additional water due to the raised Mangla Dam.—APP

Pak launches Rs 90m project

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has announced the launch of a PKR 90 million initiative aimed at protecting sea turtles during shrimp trawling operations, as part of broader efforts to sustain marine biodiversity and ensure the long-term health of ocean resources. The minister in a statement on Thursday said the project includes the distribution and installation of standardized Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) at no cost to fishermen, alongside capacity-building workshops, hands-on training for trawler crews, and data collection to monitor the devices' impact on shrimp catch efficiency and net performance.

A Turtle Excluder Device is a specialized mechanism fitted into shrimp trawl nets that allows sea turtles and other large marine animals to escape while retaining shrimp. The minister emphasized that the introduction of TEDs would help significantly reduce the accidental capture of endangered sea turtles, mitigate concerns from fishermen over shrimp loss and net damage, and pave the way for Pakistan to regain U.S. certification, which is essential for resuming shrimp exports to the American market. He said the project aligns with Pakistan's international commitments on marine sustainability and biodiversity conservation, ensuring compliance with global seafood traceability and sustainability standards. "This initiative will showcase Pakistan's commitment to responsible marine resource management, enhancing its reputation in global seafood trade," Chaudhry added. The minister explained that shrimp trawling often results in the capture of large quantities of non-target marine species. When sea turtles become trapped in nets, they are unable to surface for air and can drown. He urged the Karachi Fisheries Harbour Authority, Sindh Fisheries Department, and Marine Fisheries Department to ensure immediate and full TED compliance, both at sea and at docks. "One hundred percent TED compliance and credible enforcement will be ensured. Continued non-compliance risks further deterioration of Pakistan's seafood exports under international traceability regimes," he warned. Highlighting the economic significance, Chaudhry noted that Pakistan's current shrimp exports stand at around \$100 million annually. Full TED compliance and US recertification could potentially triple export volumes and open access to premium markets such as the European Union and Canada. The US shrimp market alone is valued at over \$6 billion annually, he added. The project is being supported by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Pakistan Fisheries Exporters Association (PAKFEA), Sindh Trawler Owners Fisheries Association (STOFA), Karachi Fish Harbour Authority (KFHA), Sindh Marine Fisheries Department (SFD), and Fishermen's Cooperative Society (FCS).

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Peace in Gaza: relief, reflection, and unanswered questions

AFTER months of devastating violence, Gaza is finally experiencing peace. The shelling has stopped, and for the first time in many months, families are emerging from shelters to rebuild their lives. Children are back on the streets, and a sense of guarded optimism has replaced the fear that had gripped the region. The announcement of the peace accord was met with celebrations not only in Gaza and Israel but across much of the world. In Pakistan, the government, political parties, and civil society welcomed the agreement, calling it a significant step toward stability in the Middle East. Leaders from across the Muslim world congratulated the Palestinian people and expressed hope that this truce would mark the start of lasting peace. U.S. President Donald Trump, who reportedly played a behind-the-scenes role in facilitating the talks, was quick to claim credit. He described the accord as a “real and lasting peace in Gaza” and suggested that he now deserves the Nobel Peace Prize. While his critics dismissed the statement as self-promotion ahead of a possible presidential campaign, his supporters say his unconventional diplomacy contributed to the breakthrough. The road to this peace was long and complex. Mounting civilian casualties and the worsening humanitarian crisis had exhausted both sides and their regional backers. Sustained diplomatic pressure from Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey, along with discreet engagement by the United States and the European Union, helped bring the parties to the negotiating table. Under the agreement, Hamas accepted terms that include a phased withdrawal of Israeli forces, a comprehensive prisoner exchange, and a large-scale reconstruction plan. Israel received security guarantees and assurances against future attacks. Both sides made difficult concessions, recognizing that continuing the conflict was no longer an option. In Gaza, celebrations are tempered by the immense loss. Entire neighborhoods lie in ruins, and thousands of families are mourning. Aid organizations have already begun assessing the damage, while the United Nations is coordinating an international reconstruction plan. Financial pledges have been made by the European Union, Gulf states, China, and others, including a modest con-

tribution from Israel. Pakistan, which has consistently supported the Palestinian cause, welcomed the peace deal as “a step toward justice and stability.” The Foreign Office expressed hope that it would pave the way for a lasting resolution of the Palestinian issue in line with international law and UN resolutions. In Islamabad, prayers for peace were offered in mosques, and vigils were held in memory of those who lost their lives in the conflict. Despite the celebrations, questions remain about the sustainability of the truce. The Middle East has witnessed numerous ceasefires that collapsed within weeks. Analysts warn that mutual mistrust, unresolved political disputes, and extremist factions could still threaten the fragile agreement. For peace to endure, both sides must show restraint and adhere to the commitments they have made. Reconstruction poses another serious challenge. Billions will be needed to rebuild Gaza’s infrastructure — its homes, hospitals, and schools. More importantly, Gaza must be allowed to recover economically. Restrictions on trade, movement, and development have long suffocated the territory. Without addressing these core issues — occupation, displacement, and economic isolation — this peace may prove temporary. The inclusion of Hamas in post-conflict political arrangements also remains contentious. Some regional observers believe it could create new tensions within Palestinian politics, particularly with the Palestinian Authority. Others argue that political inclusion is the only way to create a unified Palestinian leadership capable of negotiating a final settlement. For Israel, the truce offers both relief and responsibility. Hardline factions have already voiced skepticism, warning against trusting Hamas. But many within Israel acknowledge that coexistence is the only sustainable path forward. The international community, particularly the United States and European Union, will have to play an active role in ensuring that both parties uphold their promises. As debate over Trump’s self-declared claim to the Nobel Peace Prize continues, the focus should remain on what truly matters — the people of Gaza. For them, peace is not a political trophy but the chance to live without fear. It means the right to rebuild, to send their children to school, to work, and to dream again. The world has seen many false dawns in the Middle East. This peace offers an opportunity to change that — if the commitment is genuine and consistent. It requires more than diplomatic handshakes or symbolic gestures; it demands accountability, empathy, and vision. The people of Gaza have endured unimaginable suffering. They deserve more than temporary calm. As the region breathes again, the world must ensure that this time, peace is not fleeting but the foundation for a more just and stable future.

The World’s Failure in Yemen

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



A serious strategy would begin with Aden. The port city, blessed with a natural harbor, has been a logistics hub for centuries. The British recognized its value when they established their presence there in the 19th century. Today, it could serve as the anchor for a renewed international commitment to Yemen’s stability. A U.S. joint base in Aden similar to existing ones in Iraq, Qatar, and Turkey would change the dynamics overnight. It would provide a platform for drone operations, intelligence sharing, and naval protection...

THE war in Yemen has become a tragic case study in how international neglect, regional appeasement, and internal divisions can empower an extremist movement. The Houthis not only survived years of conflict but are steadily growing. At the heart of the imbalance is technology. The international community, particularly the United States and its Western allies, has refused to provide anti-Houthi forces with the drones and drone defenses necessary to level the battlefield. Meanwhile, Iran supplies the Houthis with advanced systems. These drones have been used not just against Israel in headline-grabbing attacks but also against Yemeni rivals such as the Southern Transitional Council (STC) arguably the most competent and effective military force resisting the Houthis. The STC governs much of southern Yemen and maintains more legitimacy among locals than Al-Alimi’s Saudi-dependent council. Yet when it comes to military aid, it is starved of the tools it needs. The STC is left buying low-grade commercial drones, none of which can match Houthi systems. To make matters worse, manufacturers often report serial numbers of these purchases to China or the United Nations, creating a paper trail that undermines the very forces fighting on behalf of the “internationally recognized government.” This hypocrisy is glaring. The U.N., in theory, opposes the Houthis. In practice, however, its mechanisms from the Stockholm Agreement to the actions of member states like Iran, China, Russia, and Oman have shielded Houthi supply lines and offered the group international breathing space.

The cost of this neglect is visible on the ground. In Aden, locals whisper that Houthi drones routinely fly over government buildings, conducting surveillance and signaling their ability to strike at will. Even if these flights are not always offensive, they serve as psychological warfare, undermining the already fragile confidence in southern governance. The refusal to provide drone defenses contradicts the rhetoric of Washington, Abu Dhabi, and even Tel Aviv, all of whom regularly declare the Houthis a regional menace. The analogy is simple: doctors warn patients to finish the full course of antibiotics to prevent infection from roaring back stronger. Firefighters know never to extinguish only 90% of a wildfire. Yet when it comes to countering the Houthis, the world seems content to let the flames smolder, ensuring that they flare back more dangerously than before. A serious strategy would begin with Aden. The port city, blessed with a natural harbor, has been a logistics hub for centuries. The British recognized its value when they established their presence there in the 19th century. Today, it could serve as the anchor for a renewed international commitment to Yemen’s stability. A U.S. joint base in Aden similar to existing ones in Iraq, Qatar, and Turkey would change the dynamics overnight. It would provide a platform for drone operations, intelligence sharing, and naval protection in the Bab el-Mandab strait, one of the world’s most critical maritime chokepoints. Just as importantly, it would send an unmistakable message to Saudi Arabia, Oman, and others who continue to play both sides: the Houthis cannot be appeased into moderation. Strengthening the STC’s coast

guard would also pay dividends. It would curb weapons smuggling along the coast and assure local populations that international powers are invested in their security. Unlike other Yemeni factions, the STC has shown openness to cooperation with external partners. Unlike Al-Alimi, it does not derive its legitimacy from Riyadh but from its ability to govern on the ground. What Yemen needs is not another U.N.-sponsored signing ceremony but a concrete shift in how the world addresses the conflict? True peace comes from preparation—strengthening legitimate local forces, cutting off Houthi supply lines, and ensuring that extremist groups cannot use drones to terrorize populations or disrupt shipping lanes. President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth now face a critical test. If they are serious about defeating the Houthis, they must stop treating Yemen as a side issue and begin investing in practical measures: supplying drones, providing drone defense systems, and establishing a permanent U.S. presence in Aden. Anything less is not just negligence but also an invitation for the Houthis and their Iranian backers to expand their reach. The world has ignored Yemen for too long. However, failure to act decisively now will not just doom Yemenis to continued suffering. It will embolden Iran, destabilize the Red Sea, and threaten one of the world’s most strategic waterways. Peace will not be achieved through empty speeches at the United Nations. It will come only through denying the Houthis the oxygen they thrive on and empowering those willing to fight them effectively.

Jinnah’s Unyielding Stand: Why Pakistan Refused to Recognize Israel

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



In 1939, during the Roundtable Conference on Palestine, Muhammad Ali Jinnah sent Chaudhry Khaliquzzaman and Abdur Rehman Siddiqui to support the Palestinians and Grand Mufti Amin Al-Husseini. In July of that year, Jinnah criticized the British White Paper for proposing a single state and restricted Jewish immigration, advocating instead for Arab demands to be addressed

QUAID-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founding father of Pakistan, was a statesman whose decisions were guided not merely by immediate political gain but by moral clarity, foresight, and an unwavering commitment to principle. Among his many momentous choices, one stands out as a beacon of both his vision and his courage; his categorical refusal to recognize the State of Israel. At a time when many nations, swayed by great powers or by promises of strategic advantage, yielded to expediency, Jinnah chose the harder path of aligning Pakistan with justice, the cause of Palestine, and the conscience of the Muslim world. The creation of Israel in May 14, 1948 was the culmination of a long and controversial process that had begun decades earlier. The Balfour Declaration was issued on November 2, 1917 which was a formal letter from British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour to Lord Walter Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community. In this letter, the British government expressed its support for “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people,” laid the groundwork for a massive upheaval in the Arab lands. For the Muslim world, this was not merely a matter of territorial adjustment; it was a question of usurpation and dispossession, where a people who had lived for centuries in their homeland were being systematically deprived of their rights. Quaid-e-Azam, who was acutely aware of the historical forces at play, recognized that the birth of Israel would be accompanied by tragedy for the Palestinians and danger for the wider Muslim ummah. In 1939, during the Roundtable Conference on Palestine, Muhammad Ali Jinnah sent Chaudhry Khaliquzzaman and Abdur Rehman Siddiqui to support the Palestinians and Grand Mufti Amin Al-Husseini. In July of that year, Jinnah criticized the British White Paper for proposing a single state and restricted Jewish immigration, advocating instead for Arab demands to be addressed. He pledged support to the Supreme Arab Council, initiated the Palestine Fund, and reaffirmed his stance at the his-

toric Lahore Session in March 1940. Pakistan itself was still in its infancy when Israel proclaimed its independence. The newly born state faced enormous challenges at home—millions displaced, communal violence fresh in memory, and a fragile economy struggling to survive. Yet Quaid-e-Azam found time to devote his attention to the plight of Palestine. On 26 August 1947, shortly after Pakistan’s birth was being envisioned, the Quaid received a delegation from the Palestine Committee, led by the eminent Palestinian leader Hajj Amin al-Husseini. In that meeting Jinnah gave his firm assurance that Pakistan would stand shoulder to shoulder with the Arabs in their just struggle against the imposition of a foreign-backed state in their midst. His position was neither impulsive nor emotional; it was grounded in principle and conviction. Quaid-e-Azam saw the issue through the prism of justice and international morality. To him, Israel represented a state carved out through the forced displacement of an indigenous people, engineered by colonial manipulation, and sustained by Western powers seeking to dominate the Middle East. For a leader who had fought so hard for the right of Muslims in India to determine their own destiny, the denial of that same right to the Palestinians was unacceptable. That moral conviction found concrete expression in Jinnah’s direct appeals to the great powers of the day. Deeply alarmed by the United Nations’ decision to enforce partition, he addressed a personal and urgent appeal to the President of the United States. In a telegram to President Harry Truman, Jinnah protested the UN measure as not only legally unsound but morally indefensible. He warned that partition, if imposed against the united resistance of the Arabs, would be impossible to enforce and would sow long-term instability. He reminded the American people of their historic commitment to justice and pleaded that the United States use its influence to uphold the rights of the Arab people and avert consequences that would imperil world peace. This direct appeal to American conscience and leadership encapsulated Jinnah’s be-

lief that international law and moral duty must guide statesmanship, not mere expediency. The events of 1947–48 only reinforced Jinnah’s view. When the first Arab–Israeli war erupted after Israel’s declaration of independence, Palestinian villages were razed, hundreds of thousands were driven into exile, and the city of Jerusalem became the scene of fierce contestation. The suffering of the Palestinians was not distant news; it was a living wound felt across the Muslim world. Pakistan, under Jinnah’s guidance, took a clear position. At the United Nations General Assembly in September 1947, Pakistan’s representative, Sir Zafarullah Khan, eloquently opposed the partition plan and warned of its grave consequences. His speech on the international stage reflected the Quaid’s convictions and established Pakistan’s unbending opposition to the establishment of a state created through injustice. Another element of Jinnah’s decision lay in his keen political understanding. He foresaw that recognition of Israel by Pakistan would make the country complicit in an act history might condemn, and that it would risk alienating Pakistan from the broader Muslim world at a time when solidarity was crucial. He recognized that a Western-supported state implanted in the heart of the Arab world risked becoming a wedge for external domination—precisely the opposite of the dignity and self-determination he had championed for Muslims in South Asia. For a man whose life work was the dignity of his people, to endorse such a course would have been a betrayal of the very ideals on which Pakistan had been founded. Quaid-e-Azam’s refusal to accept Israel was not a gesture of hostility toward any people; rather, it was a stand for justice, for the rights of the dispossessed, and for the dignity of the Muslim world. It was rooted in history, tempered by foresight, and ennobled by moral courage. His decision remains a cornerstone of Pakistan’s diplomatic identity—an enduring reminder that true leadership is measured not by short-term gain but by fidelity to principle. In the annals of history, Jinnah’s voice still calls nations to act from conscience; a nation born in the name of justice cannot stand with injustice.

Briefs

Gaza
ceasefire
agreement
goes into...

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captives for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners as part of the first phase of a deal, a source within the group told AFP Thursday. The exchange will take place within 72 hours of the implementation of the agreement, which is expected to be signed on Thursday, the source familiar with the negotiations said. The captives will be released in exchange for 250 Palestinians sentenced to life imprisonment and 1,700 others arrested by Israel since the war began, the source added. The Israeli military said that Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir instructed forces to prepare strong defenses and be ready for any scenario and to prepare to lead the operation for the captives' return with sensitivity and professionalism, following the announcement of the Gaza ceasefire agreement. "I am very proud to announce that Israel and Hamas have both signed off on the first phase of our Peace Plan," Trump said on his Truth Social network.

PM calls
Gaza peace
deal a...

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strongly condemned, the recent provocations at Masjid Al Aqsa. "The world must hold the occupiers and illegal settlers to account and prevent any further actions that undermine the enormous efforts made by President Trump to reduce tensions and pave the way for lasting peace," he added. The prime minister resolved that Pakistan would continue to work with partners, friends and the leaders of brotherly nations to ensure that peace, security and dignity for the Palestinian people were established in accordance with their wishes and UN resolutions.

7 khawarij
killed...

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Law Enforcement Agencies, as well as the killing of innocent civilians. "Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored Khawarij found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian Sponsored Terrorism from the country, and such sacrifices of our brave sons further strengthen our resolve," the news release said.

Willingly
or not, SC...

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the SC itself and contended that the court was not deprived of its jurisdiction via the amendment and that the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) can nominate any judge. "Whether a bench is constitutional or otherwise, the existing one has the [necessary] judicial powers," the counsel remarked, adding that the judicial committee could constitute any bench that it wants. Responding to the lawyer, Justice Hilali inquired how the existing bench could decide on its own jurisdiction. "Judges who were promoted after the 26th Constitutional Amendment should not sit on the bench," Justice Hilali said.

Sindh, Saudi
Arabia...

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During the meeting, CM Murad reaffirmed his government's commitment to fostering long-term cooperation, highlighting Sindh's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model as a proven framework for foreign investment. He said Sindh's portfolio of \$5 billion worth of investable projects reflected the province's potential to serve as a driver of Pakistan's economic growth. "We invite our Saudi brothers to partner with us in Sindh's development journey," CM Shah said, adding that his government was simplifying investment procedures, digitising land records, and ensuring end-to-end facilitation for investors.



ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif taking interest in various Egyptian historical items on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day of Egypt. Egyptian ambassador and the Defence Attache are also present on the occasion. — DNA

Women's World Cup

Australia inflict 107-run
defeat on Pakistan

Garth, Schutt destroy Pakistan's batting order while Gardner ends Amin's resistance

COLOMBO: Pakistan faced its third consecutive defeat during their ICC Women's World Cup 2025 campaign as defending champions Australia inflicted a 107-run defeat on the Green Shirts in the tournament's ninth match at the R Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, on Wednesday. Beth Mooney's gutsy century, followed by a collective bowling effort, led Australia to a resounding victory over bottom-placed Pakistan. Set to chase a 222-run target, Pakistan's batting unit could yield 114 before getting bowled out in 36.3 overs, succumbing to their third consecutive defeat in the eight-team global event. In-form top-order batter Sidra Amin waged a lone battle for the Green Shirts, scoring a fighting 35 off 52 deliveries with the help of five boundaries. Besides her, only Rameen Shamim (15), skipper Fatima Sana and Nashra Sandhu, 11 each, could amass double figures against

a ruthless Australia's bowling attack. Kim Garth led the bowling charge for Australia with three wickets for just 14 runs in her six overs, followed by Megan Schutt and Annabel Sutherland with two each, while Ashleigh Gardner, Alana King and Georgia Wareham chipped in with one scalp apiece. The 107-run victory lifted Australia to the top of the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 standings with five points in three matches, while Pakistan remained at the bottom, having lost all of their first three games. Opting to bat first, Australia finished at 221/9 in their allotted 50 overs, courtesy of a century-plus stand for the ninth wicket. Australia began steadily as openers – skipper Alyssa Healy and Phoebe Litchfield – put together a 30-run partnership. Healy was the first to fall, dismissed for 20 off 23 balls by spinner Sadia Iqbal in the final delivery of the seventh over. In the very

next over, Litchfield was caught and bowled by Fatima Sana for 10, leaving Australia at 30/2. Ellyse Perry and Beth Mooney added 25 runs for the third wicket, but it was not enough to stabilise the innings. Perry was stumped for just five by Nashra Sandhu, who claimed her first wicket of the match. Nashra struck again in the following over to dismiss Annabel Sutherland for one, reducing Australia to 59/4 in 14.3 overs. Beth Mooney tried to anchor the innings, but wickets kept tumbling at the other end. Rameen Shamim accounted for Ashleigh Gardner, who was dismissed for one, while Nashra Sandhu claimed her third wicket by removing Tahliia McGrath, leaving Australia reeling at 75/6 in 20.3 overs. Rameen continued her fine spell, taking two wickets in the next over, including Georgia Wareham, who was out for a duck, giving Australia their seventh blow. Mooney and Kim Garth then added 39 runs

for the eighth wicket, with Mooney bringing up her 20th WODI half-century. However, the partnership was broken when Garth was stumped off Diana Baig's delivery for 11 off 47 balls, leaving Australia at 115/8 in 33.5 overs. Mooney was then joined by bowling all-rounder Alana King in the middle, and the duo batted valiantly to take Australia past the 200-run mark, putting together a 106-run partnership for the ninth wicket. Beth Mooney top-scored for Australia with 109 off 114 deliveries, studded with 11 boundaries. King, on the other hand, remained unbeaten with a brisk half-century, scoring 51 off 49 deliveries with the help of three sixes and as many fours. Sandhu was the standout bowler for Pakistan, taking three wickets for just 37 runs in 10 overs, followed by Rameen Shamim and Fatima Sana with two each, while Sadia Iqbal and Diana Baig made one scalp apiece.

Saudi Arabia in sight of
World Cup finals thanks
to Al-Shamat strike and
Al-Buraikan double

Saudi Arabia came from behind to defeat Indonesia 3-2 on Wednesday and take a giant step toward the 2026 World Cup finals

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia came from behind to defeat Indonesia 3-2 on Wednesday and take a giant step toward the 2026 World Cup finals. Two goals from Firas Al-Buraikan and a fine strike from his Al-Ahli team-mate, Saleh Abu Al-Shamat, at their home ground in Jeddah means a victory over Iraq on Tuesday will ensure Herve Renard's men make their seventh appearance at the World Cup finals, and even a point might be enough to book their tickets to North America. This opening game of the fourth round of the Asian qualifiers began, and would end, as a tense affair. The crowd at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium, which is hosting all three Group B games, was silenced, aside from a small pocket of away fans, when Indonesia took the lead in the 11th minute. After a cross into a crowded area was adjudged to have been handled by Hassan Tambakti, Kevin Diks stepped up to take the spot kick and found the bottom corner of the net despite the best efforts of Nawaf Al-Aqidi. Given that the Saudis scored only seven goals across all 10 games in the third round of qualifiers, there was plenty of apprehension among the home crowd, but just six minutes later the hosts equalized and did so in style. Musab Al-Juwayr flicked a pass to Al-Shamat, who turned inside a defender just outside the area and then fired a left-footed shot into the bottom corner of the goal past the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Maarten Paes. — Agencies

Medvedev to face De Minaur in
Shanghai Masters quarterfinals

Daniil Medvedev hits a return to Learner Tien during their men's singles match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai

SHANGHAI: Daniil Medvedev on Wednesday got his revenge against US teenager Learner Tien, beating him in a nail-biter 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (1/7), 6-4 to proceed to the Shanghai Masters quarterfinals. There he will meet world No. 7 Alex de Minaur, who cruised past Portugal's Nuno Borges 7-5, 6-2 earlier in the day. Victory in Shanghai comes just over a week after the 36th-ranked Tien took the Russian out of the China Open semifinals in Beijing. "He's an unbelievable tennis player," Medvedev said of the 19-year-old. "Outside of the big three, he may be the toughest opponent I've ever faced." Medvedev broke first in the ninth game, but Tien returned the favor immediately. Daniil Medvedev (L) embraces Learner Tien at the end of their men's singles match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai on October 8, 2025. The last two games of the first set saw the two players locked in an epic back-and-forth, their prolonged rallies thrilling the crowd. Both faced breakpoint but managed to hold, with Medvedev smashing a looping lob from Tien to send them to a gripping tiebreak. Medvedev broke early in the second set, but Tien was again unphased – breaking back in the fifth and then seventh games,



before the former world number one leveled in the 10th. Medvedev began limping just before the second-set tiebreak and spoke briefly with a medic before hobbling back onto court. Tien went 3-0 up as the Russian, ten years his senior, tried to stretch out on court, becoming increasingly irate as the match was pushed to a decider. "I should be more calm, but Learner drives me nuts... I lost two very traumatic matches against him – so for sure I was scared to lose again," he said. But a scrappy third set – full of double-faults from both players – was settled when Medvedev broke in the ninth game with a backhand. The Russian said he would need to rest his legs in anticipation of a similarly tough challenge against De Minaur on Friday, smiling wryly: "We're gonna run again." — DNA

IPC Division Launches Hockey Revival Initiative

"This program represents our resolve to provide children with the right platforms, facilities, and mentorship to excel. It's not just about creating players — it's about building a culture of healthy competition and national pride," said Wani

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark move to promote sports and youth development, the Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Division has launched a historic hockey revival initiative, successfully establishing 30 hockey teams within a single district. Each team has been fully equipped with modern sports gear, kits, and training equipment – a significant stride toward strengthening Pakistan's national game at the grassroots level. The initiative, launched under the Federal Government's youth sports development plan, includes both boys' and girls' teams from federal government schools. The program aims to nurture young talent and ensure equal opportunities for all. To support these players, two astroturf pitches and three grass grounds at the Pakistan Sports Complex have been made available for training and coaching, enabling young athletes to develop in a professional environment. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary IPC Mohyuddin Wani reaffirmed the government's commitment to empowering youth through sports and reviving hockey's

golden legacy in Pakistan. "This program represents our resolve to provide children with

the right platforms, facilities, and mentorship to excel. It's not just about creating play-

ers – it's about building a culture of healthy competition and national pride," said Wani.

PM Shehbaz,
Bilawal talk
over phone

FROM PAGE 01
the National Assembly staged walkouts, issued veiled threats of withdrawing from the coalition, and demanded that CM Maryam apologise for her remarks. To de-escalate the situation, President Zardari had tasked Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to facilitate mediation between the coalition partners. Later, PML-N scrambled a delegation led by DPM Dar to Zardari House. National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and Naqvi were also a part of the negotiating team.

President,
PM Laud
security...

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defence of the country," President Zardari said, expressing heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the martyred officer. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the brave officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Armed Forces were working day and night to safeguard the country. "The entire nation, including myself, is proud of the courage and dedication of our armed forces," he said, reaffirming the government's commitment to continue the war until the complete eradication of terrorism from Pakistan. He added that the nation stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the armed forces in their unwavering commitment to defend the homeland.

PTI-
nominated
KP CM...

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the party's Secretary-General Salman Akram Raja confirmed Afridi's nomination for the post a day ago. Raja, in his statement, claimed that his party was preparing to announce a "new policy and a fresh beginning" as the province was hit by an alarming wave of terrorism. He said the KP government had been advised to distance itself from what he called "the federal government's flawed policies," especially those concerning the expulsion of Afghan citizens. Reacting to the top-level change in KP, Tarar, during a press conference alongside PML-N leader Ikhtiyar Wali, claimed that the PTI had previously complained that Gandapur failed to fully facilitate terrorist elements.

German
embassy
celebrates...

FROM PAGE 01
the people and government of Germany on their National Day and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations. The event, featured the participation of senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives from German businesses, foundations, and organisations active in Pakistan. The diverse guest list underscored the depth and breadth of German-Pakistani relations, spanning political, economic, humanitarian, and cultural domains.

PTI to
resign...

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October 13 and a verdict expected by Tuesday or Wednesday next week. He termed it the fifth "bogus" case against the party founder, claiming that all cases were politically motivated to keep him imprisoned. The PTI leader also stated that after the new chief minister assumes office, the PTI founder will finalise cabinet appointments, clarifying that the newly appointed CM was the one nominated by the PTI founder himself. He urged KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi to accept outgoing CM Ali Amin Gandapur's resignation to ensure a smooth political transition, rejecting reports of any forward bloc within the party. Gohar said the PTI founder did not consult him on the CM's replacement, adding that many decisions are taken without wider consultation, but stressed that the change in KP leadership was the founder's own decision, which the party fully accepts.

Briefs

Rupee remains unchanged against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Thursday remained unchanged against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.20. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.8 and Rs 282.9, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 0.66 to close at Rs 326.51 against the last day's closing of Rs 327.17, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paisa to close at Rs 1.83, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound decreased by Rs 1.99 to close at Rs 375.46, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 377.45. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham remained stagnant to close at Rs 76.55 and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paisa each to close at Rs 74.97.—APP

Gold price remains unchanged, silver rises by Rs 82 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of per tola 24 karat gold remained unchanged in the local market on Thursday and was sold at Rs 425,178, according to All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also stayed firm at Rs 364,521, whereas 10 gram 22 karat gold was traded at Rs 334,156. The price of gold in the international market stood steady at \$4,039 per ounce. However, silver prices witnessed an increase, as the rate of per tola 24 karat silver went up by Rs 82 to Rs 5,066, while 10 gram 24 karat silver increased by Rs 71 to Rs 4,343. The international silver price rose by \$0.82 to \$49.62 per ounce. All gold rates were based on the interbank exchange rate, with purity at 999/24k, the association reported.—APP

PSX continues with bearish trend, loses 735 more points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Thursday, as the benchmark KSE-100 index shed 735.94 points, showing a negative change of 0.45 percent, closing at 164,530.81 points against 165,266.75 points on the previous trading day. A total of 1,570,375,438 shares were traded during the day compared to 1,274,692,822 shares in the previous session, while the share value stood at Rs50.52 billion against Rs61.13 billion previously. As many as 481 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; of these, 184 recorded gains, 264 sustained losses, and 33 remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 278,930,151 shares at Rs6.92 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 193,587,358 shares at Rs1.77 per share, and Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) with 119,852,815 shares at Rs35.68 per share. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited recorded the maximum increase of Rs167.64 per share, closing at Rs30,167.64, followed by Supernet Technologies Limited, which rose by Rs152.97 to close at Rs1,682.66. On the other hand, Nestle Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs43.20 per share, closing at Rs8,306.78, followed by Shahmurad Sugar Mills Limited, which declined by Rs37.22 to close at Rs445.32. In the futures market, a total of 330 companies transacted shares, of which 91 recorded gains, 237 sustained losses, and 2 remained unchanged.—APP

Belarusian delegation's visit paves way for electric vehicle partnership

A major outcome of the talks was the establishment of a clear timeline for the next phase of cooperation. Both parties agreed to expedite the finalization of a robust legal framework agreement before the year's end



DNA

ISLAMABAD :A high-level delegation from Belarus's BKM Holding concluded a productive three-day visit to Pakistan this week, marking a significant step forward in a strategic partnership aimed at revolutionizing the country's public transport infrastructure with a focus on electric vehicles.

The visit, which took place from October 6th to 8th, was orchestrated under the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) inked between BKM Holding and My E-Bus & Truck Pvt Ltd, a partner company of Pakistan's Spectrum Group. The meetings served to translate

the initial understanding into actionable plans, with a key agreement to finalize a comprehensive legal framework by the end of this year. The Belarusian contingent was led by Mr. Kazakevich Aliaksandr, Director General of Commercial Affairs at BKM Holding, and included Mr. Alexander Hinko, the Deputy Head of the Mission at the Embassy of Belarus in Islamabad. They engaged in detailed discussions with their Pakistani counterparts, Mr. Khalid Mahmood, CEO of My E-Bus & Truck Pvt Ltd, and Sheikh Husnain, Director of the company, alongside other senior officials. A major outcome of the talks was the establishment of a clear timeline for the next phase of cooperation. Both parties agreed to expedite the finaliza-

tion of a robust legal framework agreement before the year's end. This milestone is strategically planned to coincide with the upcoming state visit of the Prime Minister of Belarus, Mr. Alexander Genrikhovich Turchin, signaling the high-level political and economic importance both nations are placing on this venture. To gain firsthand insight into Islamabad's urban transport needs, the joint delegation accepted an invitation from the Capital Development Authority (CDA). The visit to the CDA headquarters and its operational depot for electric buses provided the Belarusian delegates with a clear understanding of the existing infrastructure and future requirements. During discussions with CDA officials, the focus expanded

beyond buses to include a visionary project for the twin cities. The future public transport requirements of the CDA were addressed, with specific attention on introducing battery-operated rail cars to create a modern, eco-friendly mass transit link connecting Rawalpindi and Islamabad. This collaboration between BKM Holding and My E-Bus & Truck Pvt Ltd, facilitated by the Spectrum Group, represents a significant leap towards sustainable urban mobility in Pakistan's capital. The partnership promises to introduce advanced Belarusian electric vehicle technology to the market, potentially easing traffic congestion and reducing the carbon footprint for millions of residents in the Islamabad-Rawalpindi metropolitan area.

Pak achieves all indicators turning positive: Khurram

KARACHI: Advisor to the Federal Finance Minister, Khurram Shehzad on Thursday said Pakistan's economy had decisively turned a corner and is now firmly on the path to recovery and sustainable growth. Addressing in the Management Association of Pakistan's annual conference titled "Leading Change: From Vision to Excellence", Khurram emphasized that comprehensive reforms and decisive policy actions by the government have started yielding tangible results. He pointed to a sharp decline in inflation, a significant reduction in interest rates, and major improvements in the tax system as key milestones in the country's economic turnaround. He said the government has successfully steered the economy in the right direction. Inflation is down, interest rates are now at 12%, and our tax system is being overhauled to ensure equity and efficiency," he said. Shehzad underscored that high interest rates had previously stifled industrial activity and investment, but the easing of monetary policy is now creating an enabling environment for business expansion and job creation. "Industries now find it easier to invest and access capital. This will not only spur economic activity but also generate employment at a much-needed scale," he stated. Highlighting the government's unwavering commitment to structural reforms, Khurram Shehzad revealed that fiscal discipline is being reinforced through privatization and public sector restructuring. The government is also working to ensure a fairer tax regime, including enhanced efforts to tax the agricultural sector — a move agreed upon by all four provinces, which he hailed as a landmark achievement. He said that the first time, provinces have placed the economy above politics by supporting agricultural income tax reforms. This is a significant breakthrough. He further noted that the debt-to-GDP ratio, a key indicator of fiscal health, has improved considerably — dropping from 77% in FY2020 to under 70% in FY2025. International financial institutions have taken note of Pakistan's progress, with multiple global agencies affirming the country's positive trajectory, he asserted. "All key economic indicators are moving in the right direction — and the world is watching. Confidence is returning, and this is translating into increased interest from foreign investors," Shehzad added. The advisor reaffirmed that the government is resolute in creating a conducive environment for both local and international investment, and reiterated that long-term economic transformation will only be possible through continued structural reforms, fiscal prudence, and transparent governance.—DNA

Italy MPs protect ministers from trial in Libya case

ROME: Italy's parliament Thursday blocked attempts to prosecute two senior ministers and a top official over the controversial release of a Libyan official suspected of committing war crimes. Justice Minister Carlo Nordio, Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi, and Cabinet Undersecretary Alfredo Mantovano — who oversees intelligence matters — have been investigated for their roles in the release and repatriation of Osama Almasri Najim in January. The Tribunal of Ministers — a judicial body tasked with handling cases involving government members — requested parliamentary approval in August to prosecute them. But the lower house of parliament, where Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's right-wing coalition has a comfortable majority, voted Thursday to reject the request.—APP

Canal Istanbul stirs fear and uncertainty in nearby villages

ISTANBUL: In Sazlibosna village, along the planned route of the vast Canal Istanbul project, 68-year-old Yasar Demirkaya fidgets with worn prayer beads as he sips tea at a cafe, uncertain about the future Demirkaya, who sells fruit and vegetables at a local market, fears the controversial government-backed project will threaten his small plot of land, erasing the only life he's ever known. "I inherited a 5,000-square-meter plot from my grandparents," he told AFP. "It could be taken from us. I'm worried, everyone is. Nobody knows what to do," he added. Although Sazlibosna is currently off-limits for development, that could change. The project was first announced in 2011 by then-premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is now president. Its aim is to ease congestion on the Bosphorus Strait by carving a new waterway between the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara. But the canal's 45-kilometer (28-mile) route also includes plans for sprawling commercial and residential zones: the entire project will cover 13,365 hectares (133,640,000 square meters). Opponents warn it could destroy nature reserves and farmland, deplete water resources and destabilize the region's fragile ecosystem. Although a ground-breaking ceremony was held in 2021, work has not started on the canal itself. Property construction along the route has surged however, especially in the last six months. Near Salizdere reservoir, AFP journalists saw tower blocks under construction by the state-run housing agency TOKI. Istanbul's jailed mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, a vocal critic of the canal, has accused the government of accelerating construction after his March arrest following a corruption probe widely seen as politically motivated.—APP

Over 600 Pakistani business firms register in China

ISLAMABAD: More than 600 Pakistani companies have now registered with Chinese authorities across various sectors, marking a significant expansion in Pakistan's market access and trade presence in China.

As many as 25 mango hot water treatment plants, 21 citrus cold treatment plants, and 103 rice companies have been officially registered with China's General Administration of Customs (GACC), Wealth Pakistan reported, quoting official documents.

In addition, 15 rapeseed meal firms, 106 cherry exporters, 175 seafood companies, 185 sesame seed processors, 10 fish meal producers, and seven defatted bone companies have completed registration, with several other categories currently in process.

New export categories — including onions, donkey hides, and dairy products — are also under review for approval, indicating a broadening of Pakistan's agricultural and industrial export base to China.

The Commercial Mission of Pakistan in China has played a crucial role in facilitating these registrations by connecting Pakistani exporters and chambers of commerce with local commerce bureaus and guiding them through the official procedures.

The Mission has supported over 10 Pakistani enterprises in registering on leading Chinese e-commerce platforms such as Douyin and JD.com, enabling online sales of products including jewellery, pink salt, pine nuts, rice, handicrafts, and carpets.—APP

Lebanon arrest 32 people suspected of spying for Israel

BEIRUT: Lebanon has arrested 32 people in recent months on suspicion of providing Israel with information on Hezbollah that facilitated strikes on the Iran-backed militant group, a judicial official told on Thursday. More than a year of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah including two months of open war saw Israel pummel the group's arsenal and commanders, and it has kept up strikes since a November truce. Requesting anonymity, the official said that "at least 32 people have been arrested on suspicion of collaborating with Israel, six of them before the ceasefire."—APP

UN strives to work with new Syrian govt

UNITED NATIONS: The head of a UN body established to determine what happened to potentially hundreds of thousands of people missing in Syria said Wednesday it was essential to find a way to work together with a new Syrian commission. Assistant Secretary-General Karla Quintana said the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in Syria, established in 2023, was only able to enter the country in January, a month after the overthrow of President Bashar Assad, whose family had ruled Syria for more than 50 years. Quintana said the most important challenge now was to coordinate with the Syrian Commission on Missing Persons, established in May by the transitional government. Before Assad's ouster, 130,000 people were estimated to be missing in Syria. But the Syrian commission's head, Mohammed Reda Jalkhi, said in August that estimates ranged from 120,000 to 300,000 and there "could be more." The UN institution is investigating "forcible disappearances" by the Assad regime, missing children placed in orphanages by security services, and disappearances by the Daesh group, Quintana said. "Everyone has someone or knows someone that is missing in Syria," she told UN reporters. She is returning to Damascus next week and hopes to sign a memorandum with the Syrian commission. "I truly believe that in this moment, the question is not if we are going to work together, but how. In practice, this is going to look like," Quintana said. "I am positive that we are going to find a way forward." She said her organization has opened several lines of inquiry, has developed data analysis capabilities and is developing a forensic network. She said developing a registry with detailed information on the missing is crucial for all parties.—APP

Azerbaijan, Pakistan ink deals to boost trade, eco cooperation

Waqar Bakhtawari, in his remarks, gave a detailed briefing on Pakistan's market, stating that Pakistan is a rapidly developing economy offering tremendous opportunities for Azerbaijani investors in industrial, energy, IT, pharmaceutical, and agricultural sectors

DNA

BAKU: A high-level delegation of Pakistan's business community, led by Waqar Bakhtawari, President of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, met with Madam Leila Mammadova, Deputy Chief of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The delegation also included the Chamber's Chairman Zafar Bakhtawari, Abid Bakhtawari, and Haris Bakhtawari. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, during which both sides held detailed discussions on various aspects of promoting trade, economic, and cultural relations between the two brotherly countries. Madam Leila Mammadova expressed deep interest in further strengthening relations with Pakistan, saying that Azerbaijan considers Pakistan a close friend and a reliable partner. She said it was encouraging to see the private sectors of both nations taking practical steps to elevate bilateral cooperation to new heights. Highlighting opportunities, she said there are vast prospects for Pakistani investors in Azerbaijan's energy, tourism, agriculture, and technology sectors. Waqar Bakhtawari, in his remarks, gave a detailed briefing on Pakistan's market, stating that Pakistan is a rapidly developing economy offering tremendous opportunities for Azerbaijani investors in industrial, energy, IT, pharmaceutical, and agricultural sectors. He added that enhancing business-to-business linkages will not only increase bilateral trade but also strengthen regional economic cooperation. He further said that the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber will continue to play an active role in strengthening ties through business delegations, trade exhibitions, and investment conferences. Madam Leila Mammadova appreciated the Chamber's efforts and assured that the Government of

Azerbaijan will extend all possible support to give practical shape to the economic partnership between the two brotherly nations. On this occasion, a commemorative shield of

the Chamber was presented to Madam Mammadova, and both sides expressed their shared commitment to ushering in a new era of Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations.



Briefs

Gandapur's
resignation
can be
returned

DNA

ISLAMAABD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's resignation has not yet been received by his office and may be returned if any constitutional or legal ambiguity is found in it. Kundi said he would review the resignation once he receives it, to determine the reasons behind Gandapur's decision. "If there is any legal or constitutional ambiguity, the resignation can be returned," he added. He said that all procedures would be followed in accordance with the law. Kundi's reaction comes a day after the KP CM stepped down, citing the decision to be based on jailed PTI founder Imran Khan's directives. Gandapur formally submitted his resignation to KP Governor Kundi, saying the chief minister's position was a trust placed in him by Khan. In a post on X, Gandapur — a firebrand PTI leader who also served as a federal minister during Khan's premiership — said he was returning the trust in accordance with the instructions of the party founder, who has been behind bars since August 2023. "In respectful compliance with the orders of my leader, and founding PTI chairman, Imran Khan, it is my honour to tender my resignation from the Office of the Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," he wrote.

Afghan FM
Muttuqi
begins first
India visit

Pakistan to closely watch Taliban leader's trip, made possible after the UNSC granted him travel waiver

DNA

NEW DELHI: Afghanistan's UN-sanctioned foreign minister arrived in India on Thursday, the first visit by a top Taliban leader since they returned to power in 2021 following the withdrawal of US-led forces. Amir Khan Muttuqi's trip — made possible after the UN Security Council granted him a travel waiver — is expected to be closely watched by Pakistan, a neighbour to both India and Afghanistan and arch-rival for the former, as New Delhi deepens its engagement with the Taliban government. "We look forward to engaging discussions with him on bilateral relations and regional issues," Indian foreign ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement, offering Muttuqi a "warm welcome". Muttuqi, who met with India's top career diplomat Vikram Misri in January in Dubai, is set to hold talks with Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar. Neither side has disclosed the agenda, but analysts say trade and security are likely to be at the forefront.

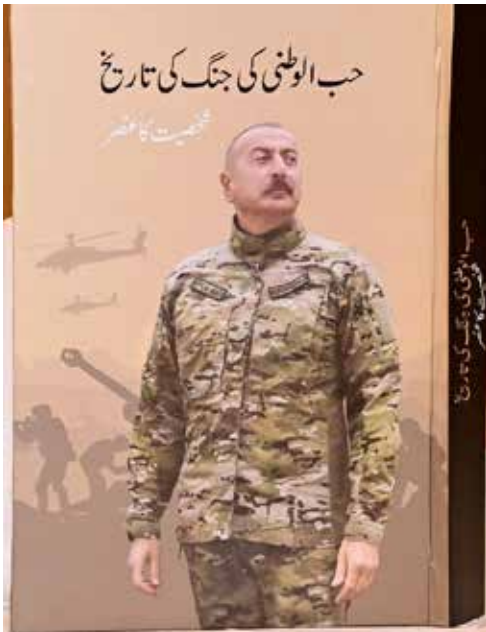
Google
announces
free AI
pro plan

LONDON: Google announced on Thursday that Pakistani students of age 18 and above will be able to gain access to a free one-year subscription to its AI Pro plan. According to a press release by the company, the offer is designed to help students "enhance their learning, research, and creativity through advanced AI tools — at no cost". The Gemini AI Pro Plan allows these students to access Google's most capable AI features. These include the Gemini 2.5 Pro model, which gives higher access to its "most capable model" for features like Deep Research to assist with assignments, research, and creative projects. Gemini is also available in Google Apps, "bringing AI assistance directly into Gmail, Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Meet, helping students summarise emails, create study presentations, and analyse data more efficiently".

E-book soon, says Amb. Khazar

Urdu version of book “History of the Patriotic War launched

Pakistan-Azerbaijan Ties Exemplary, says Deputy Speaker National Assembly; Türkiye ambassador says He said the three nations stand united by love, trust, and shared ideals



ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah has said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy excellent and time-tested relations, built on mutual respect, brotherhood, and shared values. He expressed these views while addressing the launch ceremony of the Urdu version of book "History of the Patriotic War – The Personality Factor", held at the Parliament House, Islamabad. The event was attended by ministers, members of parliament, diplomats, and senior officials. Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah said that the leadership of Pakistan holds the Azerbaijani leadership in the highest esteem, and the friendship between the two brotherly nations continues to strengthen with every passing year. He said the publication of the book in Urdu was a significant step toward promoting better understanding between the peoples of Pakistan and Azerbaijan. "This book will go a long way in further cementing the fraternal ties between our two countries," he noted.

The Deputy Speaker also paid rich tribute to the martyrs of Azerbaijan's Patriotic War, whose courage and sacrifices led to the liberation of the country's occupied territories. "Their bravery and devotion will always be remembered with great respect," he added. Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for Azerbaijan on all international platforms and expressed the hope that cooperation between the two nations will continue to expand in political, economic, and cultural spheres. Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan Dr. Irfan Neziro lu said that Türkiye, Pakistan, and Azerbaijan enjoy a unique bond of brotherhood rooted in mutual respect, shared history, and common aspirations for peace and prosperity. He congratulated the Azerbaijani people on their victory in Karabakh, crediting President Aliyev's visionary leadership. He said the three nations stand united by love, trust, and shared ideals, pledging continued cooperation for regional peace, development, and stability. Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Far-

hadov expressed deep gratitude to Pakistan's leadership, particularly Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, for hosting the launch of the Urdu edition of book "History of the Patriotic War – The Personality Factor" at the Parliament House. He said the publication not only celebrates Azerbaijan's historic victory but also reflects the deep and enduring friendship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. The book chronicles the 44-day Patriotic War, during which Azerbaijan, under President Aliyev's visionary leadership, liberated its occupied territories and restored national sovereignty.

Ambassador Farhadov lauded the efforts of Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, Adil Butt, Dr. Muhammad Saleem, and the Azerbaijan Trade Center for their valuable contributions in translating and publishing the book in Urdu, making it accessible to a wider Pakistani audience. The ambassador concluded by announcing plans to release an e-book version of The History of the Patriotic War to be shared widely on digital and social media platforms, further strengthening cultural and intellectual ties between the two nations.

Govt revises GDP growth
upward to 3.04% for FY25

Economy recorded a robust 5.66% growth in the fourth quarter of last fiscal year

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The government has revised Pakistan's GDP growth rate for the fiscal year (FY25) to 3.04%, up from the earlier provisional estimate of 2.68%. According to updated data, the economy recorded a robust 5.66% growth in the fourth quarter (April-June), which lifted the overall annual rate to 3.04%. The country's economic size now stands at \$407.2 billion, while per capita income has risen to \$1,812. The revised figures were approved during the 114th meeting of the National Accounts Committee (NAC) held in Islamabad on Wednesday. The committee approved the revised quarterly GDP growth rates for Q1, Q2, and Q3 and the fresh growth of Q4 during FY2024-25. Overall GDP witnessed upward revisions in the first three quarters from 1.37% to 1.80% for Q1, from 1.53% to 1.94% for Q2, and from 2.40% to 2.79% for Q3.

Security beefed up
in Rawalpindi amid
TLP's Islamabad
march plan

City admin begins placing containers at Faizabad Interchange; sources say orders issued to vacate hotels along Murree Road

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi police have beefed up security across the city to deal with any untoward situation as Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) announced plans to march towards Islamabad on October 10. City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani chaired a high-level meeting with senior police officers to review the law and order situation.

The police officer warned that no road blockades, disruptions to traffic, or violent activities under the pretext of protest will be tolerated. The CPO made it clear that any acts affecting normal public life, damaging property, or attacking law enforcement agencies will be dealt with strictly under the law. "Those who violate the law will be dealt with strictly," the CPO warned and added, "Attacks on citizens' properties or law enforcement agencies will not be tolerated under any circumstances." Ahead of the protest, the Islamabad administration has shifted shipping containers at the Faizabad Interchange — a site known for previous TLP sit-ins, said sources. Islamabad's entry and exit points could be sealed any time after Thursday evening, the sources said. They added that the red zone will be fully sealed, and entry or exit will only be permitted for authorised individuals via Margalla Road. Authorities are also considering suspending mobile phone services in Islamabad as part of security measures, sources added. Orders have already been issued to vacate hotels along Murree Road and in nearby areas. The Rawalpindi police also initiated a crackdown on TLP workers in different parts of the city, during which several activists have been arrested.

Ex-senator
Mushtaq Ahmad
returns to Pakistan
after release from
Israeli custody

Citizens welcome former lawmaker with rose petals and pro-Palestine slogans

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Former senator Mushtaq Ahmad, who was detained by the Israeli forces in the Gaza aid flotilla interception last week, arrived in Islamabad on Thursday afternoon. A number of citizens, holding Pakistani and Palestinian flags, reached Islamabad International Airport to welcome the former lawmaker. The citizens showered rose petals and raised slogans in favour of the people of Palestine. Ahmad reached Islamabad from Jordan via Bahrain. Earlier, Pakistan's Embassy in Jordan in a posted on X, saying, "Alhamdulillah, Senator Mushtaq Ahmad has safely departed from Pakistan," says. "In accordance with the instructions of the Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Embassy of Pakistan in Amman ensured all necessary arrangements were made for his safe and smooth departure," it added. The former senator was released from Israel's custody and deported to the Pakistan embassy in Amman, Jordan on Tuesday. His release was confirmed by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar. "I am pleased to confirm that former senator Mushtaq has been released and is now safely with the Pakistan Embassy in Amman. He is in good health and high spirits. The Embassy stands ready to facilitate his return to Pakistan, in accordance with his wishes and convenience," the DMP posted on X. In a video message released after his release, Ahmad said he was imprisoned at Ketziot Prison, also known as Ansar III, a high-security facility in Israel's Negev desert. "I was subjected to torture. My eyes were blindfolded, guns were pointed at us," he said. "I went on a hunger strike, and there was no access to air, drinking water, or medication by Israeli forces," the former senator had said, recounting his experience.

UK court
rules against
Adil Raja

DNA

LONDON: A London high court has ruled against YouTuber and former Pakistan Army officer retired Major Adil Farooq Raja in a high-profile defamation case filed by retired Brigadier Rashid Nasir, a former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) officer. The defamation suit was filed in August 2022, but was made public in April after the respondent stirred another controversy in Pakistan over his allegations targeting leading film and TV actresses. On Thursday, the court found Raja's allegations of corruption, electoral interference, and human rights abuses against Nasir to be "false and baseless", ordering him to pay £350,000 in damages and legal costs. Justice Richard Spearman KC delivered the judgment, ordering Raja to pay £50,000 (around Rs20 million) in damages and approximately £300,000 (around Rs110m) in legal costs. The court also directed Raja to publish a summary of the verdict on all his social media platforms, confirming that his claims against Nasir were untrue. In addition, he must apologise and give a written assurance that he will not repeat the allegations. The case was based on nine social media posts and videos in which Raja accused Brig Nasir of corruption, political interference, and misuse of authority. He alleged that Nasir influenced court proceedings, interfered in elections and engaged in political dealings on behalf of senior military officials — claims that the court found to have no factual basis. Justice Spearman noted that Raja failed to provide credible evidence or reliable sources to support his statements. He also observed that the three witnesses presented by Raja — journalist Shaheen Sehba, former PTI leader Shahzad Akbar, and Syed Akbar Hussain — did not provide testimony that substantiated any of the allegations. Following the ruling, Adil Raja expressed his disappointment with the judgment. "Today is a disappointing day," he wrote on X. "The judge was not with us."

UK signs \$468m deal to supply India with missiles

The announcement came as British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was visiting Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in Mumbai, where the pair hailed the potential of the commercial links from their months-old trade deal

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Britain said on Thursday it had signed a £350 million (\$468m) contract to supply the Indian army with UK-manufactured lightweight missiles, as part of a deepening weapons and defence partnership between the two countries. The announcement came as British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was visiting Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in Mumbai, where the pair hailed the potential of the commercial links from their months-old

trade deal. In its statement on the defence deal, the British government said the new contract for Lightweight Multirole Missiles made by Thales in Northern Ireland would secure 700 jobs at a factory which currently makes the same weapons for Ukraine. British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, deliver a statement to the press at Raj Bhavan, in Mumbai, India, on October 9. "The deal paves the way for a broader complex weapons partnership between the UK and India, currently under negotiation between the two governments," it said.

Starmer has, over the last 12 months, thrown his weight behind Britain's defence sector to try to drive higher economic growth, pledging to up spending in line with Nato targets, as well as focusing on winning exports, such as a recent \$13.5 billion frigate contract with Norway. Britain also said on Thursday it reached a new milestone with India on a tie-up for electric-powered engines for naval ships as both countries signed the next phase of a deal, worth an initial £250m. Modi hails Indian dynamism, UK expertise Starmer's visit, accompanied by the

largest-ever business delegation, "reflects the new energy and broad vision" in the partnership, Modi said after talks with the British prime minister. "India's dynamism and the UK's expertise together create a unique synergy," Modi said, speaking in Hindi. "Our partnership is built on trust ... it is a clear reaffirmation of our shared commitment to ... build a brighter future for the people of both our nations." Starmer said the focus of his visit was about doubling down on the potential of the trade deal, expected to take effect within a year.