



Thursday, October 16, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Pakistan economy put on right track, says finance minister

Detailed News On Page-06

Transgender Nayab gets recognition

Detailed News On Page-08



PPP leader Siraj Durrani passes away

Detailed News On Page-08



On Afghan govt request

Pak announces 48-hour ceasefire with Afghanistan

Taliban's key brigades in Kandahar destroyed in targeted strikes, say security sources

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban have agreed to a temporary 48-hour ceasefire on the request of the Afghan Taliban regime, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mofa) announced on Wednesday. "At the request of the Afghan Taliban regime, and with mutual consent, Pakistan and the Taliban have agreed to a temporary ceasefire for 48 hours, effective from 6pm this evening," the Foreign Office said in a statement. During this period, the FO said, both sides will engage in constructive dialogue aimed at finding a "positive and sustainable resolution" to this issue. The development comes shortly after the Pakistan Army, as per the security sources, carried out precision strikes against key Taliban positions in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, successfully destroying multiple strongholds in response to recent aggression. According to the sources, the operations targeted Taliban Battalion No 4 and Border Brigade No 6, both of which were completely destroyed during the strikes. The attacks resulted in the deaths of dozens of Taliban militants and foreign operatives, the sources confirmed. Meanwhile, Security forces successfully repelled unprovoked attacks launched by Afghan Taliban in the Spin Boldak area of Balochistan, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday. "In the early hours of October 15, Afghan Taliban resorted to cowardly attack at four locations in Spin Boldak area of Balochistan. The attack was effectively repulsed by Pakistani forces," the military's media wing said in a statement. It said the attacks were conducted through divided villages in the Spin Boldak area with no regard for the civil population. The statement further said that the Afghan Taliban also destroyed Pak-Afghan Friendship Gate on their side, a move the ISPR said clearly displays the mindset with

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Lies, propaganda turned Indian military machine into 'laughing stock'

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army has slammed the Indian military leadership for parroting delusional, fabricated and provocative propaganda saying the lies being fed to the Indian public and international audience have turned the "Indian military machine into a laughing stock". "It has been noted with grave concern that five months after Marka-e-Haq, in the run up to elections in Bihar and West Bengal, Indian military leadership has started parroting the same delusional, fabricated and provocative propaganda that they regurgitate before every state elections in India," the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement on Wednesday. The ISPR's statement comes in response to remarks made by Indian military leadership, where its Director General Military Operations (DGMO), Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, as reported by NDTV, claimed that more Pakistan suffered more than 100 military casualties during the May conflict. According to the ISPR, a total of 53 individuals, including 13 personnel of the armed forces and 40 civilians, were martyred in Indian strikes

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ISLAMABAD: Outgoing High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan Amb. Neil Hawkins called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on 15 October 2025. – DNA

Pakistani passport ranks 4th worst in the world

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani passport has ranked the fourth worst for the fifth straight year, according to this year's Henley Passport Index, a ranking of the world's 199 passports based on the number of destinations their owners can access without a prior visa. In the latest global ranking issued on October 7, Pakistan's travel document was placed at 103 in the list – tied with Yemen – and ranked higher than only those of Iraq (104), Syria (105) and Afghanistan (106). Per the ranking, Pakistan and Yemen's passports permit visa-free access to 31 countries only out of 227 travel destinations, Iraq's allows travel to 29, Syria's gives access to 26 destinations,

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PM Shehbaz lauds services of outgoing Australian envoy

The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to expanding collaboration with Australia, particularly in the fields of agriculture, livestock, and the export of high-quality meat

ANSAR M. BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday received Ambassador Neil Hawkins, the outgoing High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan, who paid a farewell call at the Prime Minister's Office. During the meeting, Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated Ambassador Hawkins on the successful completion of his tenure in Pakistan and appreciated his valuable efforts in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Australia. He commended the High Commissioner's proactive role in promoting cooperation across diverse sectors and enhancing people-to-people contacts between the two countries. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to expanding collaboration with Australia, particularly in the fields of agriculture, livestock, and the export of high-quality meat. He emphasized the importance of Australian expertise in modernizing Pakistan's agricultural sector and

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IMF agreement reflects improved indicators: PM

Praises the federal finance minister, minister of state for finance, federal finance secretary, and their entire team for their hard work

SAIFFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed satisfaction over the staff-level agreement with the IMF for \$1 billion, calling it a reflection of Pakistan's improved macroeconomic indicators and confidence in the rapidly improving economic situation. The prime minister, in a statement following the agreement under the Extended Fund Facility and Resilience and Sustainability Facility,

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Trump announces start of 'phase 2' of Gaza deal

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has announced the start of "phase two" of the Gaza ceasefire agreement, Anadolu Agency reports. "All twenty hostages are back and feeling as good as can be expected," Trump wrote on social media platform Truth Social. "A big burden has been lifted, but the job is not done. The dead have not been returned, as promised! Phase Two begins right now!!!" he added. Israel will allow Gaza's key Rafah crossing to reopen today for humanitarian aid to reach the Palestinian territory, AFP reports, citing Israeli public broadcaster Kan.

Another cop guarding polio team killed

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Another security person, guarding polio vaccination workers, was killed in the Nowshera district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Wednesday, police said. Pakistan is one of two countries, along with Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Hundreds of security personnel and health workers were killed by miscreants over the past decade. The policeman was killed in Nowshera on the third day of a nationwide anti-polio campaign targeting 45 million children across the country. "Two armed men targeted a police officer assigned to protect a polio team," police official Bilal Khan told AFP. "He was killed on the spot," Khan added. The polio team remained safe, according to the police.

Field Marshal Asim Munir meets President Zardari

President Zardari expressed full confidence in the strength, valour, capacity, and preparedness of Pakistan's Armed Forces



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr. During the meeting, the Field Marshal briefed the President on the overall internal and external security environment of the country. He also apprised the President of the recent security situation arising from the aggressive and provocative actions of the Afghan Taliban regime, as well as the measured and befitting response by the Armed Forces of Pakistan. President Zardari expressed full confidence in the strength, valour, capacity, and preparedness of Pakistan's Armed Forces. He lauded their vigilance and professionalism in

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PM briefs president on Malaysia, Egypt tours

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr this evening. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar; Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Mr Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary; Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination, Political & Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan; Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control Senator Syed Mohsin Naqvi; Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar; Senator Saleem Mandviwala; Senator Sherry Rehman; and Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari.

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Pakistan to launch first hyperspectral satellite

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's space agency on Wednesday announced the upcoming launch of the country's first hyperspectral satellite (HS-1) from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in China, scheduled for October 19. Hyperspectral imaging is a type of advanced camera technology used in satellites to study the Earth and space, according to a study published in the Journal of Computational Intelligence and Neuroscience. Unlike regular satellite cameras that capture only a few

Continued on Page 06

Imran Khan directs KP CM to collaborate with stakeholders

Calling Afridi his "opening batsman", the PTI founder directed the CM-elect to "play with confidence"



FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has directed newly elected Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders in developing an effective and comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism in the province. "I once again direct the new Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to engage with all stakeholders to formulate

Continued on Page 06

After much drama, Sohail Afridi sworn in as KP CM

Governor Kundi administers oath to CM on PHC directives

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: After much drama over the resignation and election of the provincial chief executive, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed lawmaker Sohail Khan Afridi has finally been sworn in as the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Afridi replaces his party colleague, Ali Amin Gandapur, as the provincial chief executive after the latter was ordered to step down amid reports of worsening law and order and governance issues. Afridi took oath of the office at the KP Governor House, Governor Kundi, who had earlier rejected Gandapur's resignation, was directed by the Peshawar High Court to administer the oath to the chief minister-elect at 4pm today.

Continued on Page 06

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Anti-polio drive achieves over 95pc target on 2nd day

LAHORE: The ongoing anti-polio campaign in Lahore achieved over 95 per cent coverage by its second day, with more than 429,000 children administered polio drops across the district. The campaign is being conducted under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif to ensure a Polio-Free Punjab. A review meeting on the progress of the anti-polio campaign was held here on Wednesday, presided over by Deputy Commissioner Lahore Syed Musa Raza. The meeting was attended by CEO Health Dr. Asif Arbab, Assistant Commissioners, and representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. During the briefing, it was informed that zero refusal cases were reported, while 45,000 children who were initially unavailable at home were successfully vaccinated through follow-up efforts. All 142 previously identified cases were also covered, ensuring full outreach across the city. Observers from WHO and UNICEF lauded the strong coordination and effective field operations of the district administration. They particularly commended the leadership, commitment, and active supervision of Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza, noting that field teams remained fully mobilized and no negligence was reported. —APP

Textile exports increases 5.63% to \$4.774 b

ISLAMABAD: Textile exports witnessed an increase of 5.63 percent during the first quarter the fiscal year (2025-26) as compared to the same quarter of last year (2024-25). The overall textile exports from the country were recorded at \$4.774 billion during July-September 2025-26 against the exports of \$4.520 billion during July-September 2024-25, a latest data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said. The textile commodities that contributed in trade growth included cotton yarn the exports of which increased by 12.22 percent to \$182.447 million during the period under review as compared to the exports of \$162.579 million last year. The other commodities that witnessed growth in trade included yarn other than cotton yarn the exports of which grew by 6.17 percent to \$9.095 million from \$8.566 million whereas the export of knitwear rose by 12.21 percent to \$1423.800 million from \$1268.908 million, it added. —APP

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SHAMA YASEEN JUDGE FAMILY COURT RAWALPINDI

Petition Under Section 25 R/W/S 12 Wajid Hussain Versus Mst. Sidra Hussain etc. Notice to (1) Mst. Sidra Hussain D/o Zamurd Hussain W/o Wajid Hussain (2) Muhammad Wajahat Hussain S/o Wajid Hussain Hussain (Minor Son) Both R/o Pandori Bangial Gujar Khan District Rawalpindi Presently residing at PCO Stop Rawat. The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court personally, through counsel or attorney on 16-10-2025 at 8 am avoid ex-parte proceeding.

Capital Hospital moot to mark breast cancer awareness month

The event featured a panel of distinguished medical experts who delivered insightful presentations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the directives of Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Rhandhawa and under the supervision of Executive Director of Capital Hospital and Head of the Surgery Department Dr. Naeem Taj, Capital Hospital successfully organized an Academic Symposium on Breast Cancer Awareness on Wednesday. The event, held in connection with the international Breast Cancer Awareness Month, aimed to promote vital awareness about early detection, prevention, and modern treatment options for breast cancer among women. The symposium was meticulously organized by Dr. Yasmeen Iqbal, General & Breast Cancer Surgeon at the hospital. The ceremony was graced by special guests Syed Nafasat Raza, Member Engineering, representing the Chairman CDA, and Ms. Rabia Aurangzeb, Commissioner of the Islamabad Employees Social Security Institution (IESSI). Both dignitaries commended Capital Hospital's proactive efforts in raising public health awareness and its dedicated focus on promoting essential women's health initiatives. The event featured a panel of distinguished medical experts who delivered insightful presentations. Renowned guest speakers included Dr. Erum Najeeb (Breast Oncoplastic and Reconstructive Surgeon), Professor Naeem Zia, Pro-



fessor Azam Yusaf, Dr. Professor Rakhshanda Rashid and Dr. Tanseer Asghar. Their talks highlighted the critical importance of timely screening and elaborated on contemporary, effective treatment approaches. Addressing the audience, Dr. Muhammad Naeem Taj, Executive Director of Capital Hospital, emphasized that breast cancer is curable if diagnosed early. He urged all women to undergo regular checkups and not to

ignore the early warning signs. He added that this symposium is a testament to their unwavering commitment to public health education and preventive care. The event concluded with a note of thanks from chief guest Syed Nafasat Raza, who led a collective pledge to continue robust efforts towards early diagnosis and widespread awareness, aiming to significantly reduce the burden of breast cancer in Pakistan.

ignore the early warning signs. He added that this symposium is a testament to their unwavering commitment to public health education and preventive care. The event concluded with a note of thanks from chief guest Syed Nafasat Raza, who led a collective pledge to continue robust efforts towards early diagnosis and widespread awareness, aiming to significantly reduce the burden of breast cancer in Pakistan.

Heritage tourism in South Punjab revived

MULTAN: The Walled City Authority has taken a major step toward promoting heritage tourism across South Punjab through a series of large-scale conservation and cultural revival projects, marking a historic milestone in Pakistan's heritage management efforts. For the first time in the country's history, comprehensive initiatives have been launched in Multan and Bahawalpur to preserve historic landmarks, attract visitors, and generate local employment. In Multan, the Authority is executing the Haram Gate Heritage Trail and the Qila Koha Qasim Bagh Conservation and Renovation Mega Project – both aimed at restoring the city's centuries-old urban fabric and enhancing its tourism potential. Similarly, in Bahawalpur, restoration work is underway at the Wali Muhammad Mosque, the Jain Temple, and the historic Freed Gate, while a new Food Street is being developed to showcase local cuisine, culture, and hospitality. These projects not only seek to revive architectural grandeur but also to position heritage as a driver of sustainable economic growth. Assistant Director of the Walled City Project, Umair Ghazanfar, said that the Authority was also introducing guided tours, arranging cultural events, organizing the annual "Dekh Lo Multan" festival, and hosting photo walks to encourage public engagement. —APP

Sindh to have model aquaculture park

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired the 48th PPP Policy Board meeting and approved the development of a Model Aquaculture Park along the coastal belt, as well as the Nabisar-Vajihar Water Supply Project. The meeting held at CM House was attended by Provincial Home Minister Zia Lanjar, Special Assistant to CM Syed Qasim Naveed, MPA Qasim Soomro, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, SMBR Khalid Hyder Shah, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Chairman SRB Dr Wasif Memon, Secretary Transport/DG PPP Unit Asad Zamin and other Board members. The Board discussed the establishment of the proposed Aquaculture Park, which will be developed by the SEZ Management Company (SEZMC) on transferred land in the Thatta district's coastal area. Planned facilities for the park include earthen ponds, hatcheries, seafood processing units, green energy

solutions, and export linkages to international markets. Expected benefits are increased exports, sustainable and compliant farming, stable domestic production, job creation, rural development, and technology transfer. The Chief Minister emphasized transforming Sindh into an export-oriented aquaculture hub. With global aquaculture reaching 223 million tonnes in 2023 and Pakistan's fish demand forecast to nearly triple by 2030, Sindh's largely untapped sector, with its 350 km coastline and 71 per cent of the country's marine resources, offers immense growth potential. The Board also approved PDF funding to hire advisors for evaluating project feasibility and structuring. The Chief Minister said these initiatives would boost exports, unlock Sindh's blue economy, and empower coastal communities through sustainable aquaculture. Nabisar-Vajihar Water Supply Project: On the Nabisar-Vajihar Water Sup-

ply Project, the Board was briefed on progress under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The scheme aims to provide 45 cusecs of water to Thar Block-I power plants, with construction well underway and expected commercial operation by October 2025. Significant cost savings have been achieved due to stable exchange rates and reduced financing costs, ensuring the project remains on budget. The Board commended Sindh government officials and the project concessionaire for maintaining steady progress and adhering to timelines. To support long-term sustainability, the Chief Minister established a technical committee to explore improved water management solutions for the Hakro River area. The Board also endorsed the updated construction timeline, reaffirming its commitment to delivering reliable water infrastructure critical for Thar's power generation and Sindh's energy security. —APP

PERA teams raze 255 shops built on state land

KHANEWAL: Teams of Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority (PERA) demolished 255 shops built on state land in an operation at Thatha Sadiqabad area in Tahsil Jahanian on Wednesday. The operation was launched after officials came to know the state land that was retrieved earlier was again targeted by land grabbers, officials said adding that 255 shops built on state land from Pul No 14 to Pul No 37 were demolished Wednesday. The operation was conducted by PERA, revenue department officials and tehsil Jahanian administration. Heavy machinery has been deployed under "Suthra Punjab" program to lift and remove debris. Deputy commissioner Khanewal said in a statement that large scale operations would continue to retrieve state land from land grabbers as per orders and vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. No one will be allowed to occupy or reoccupy the state land, she added. —APP

Punaj CM approves new industrial estate in Sialkot

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has given approval in principle for establishment of a new industrial estate in Sialkot. She chaired a special meeting to review the overall performance and future strategy for industrial estates across the province, here on Wednesday. The CM approved the development of the Sialkot Industrial Estate on 400 acres of land near Sialkot International Airport. She also directed that four industrial estates be offered to foreign investors, while the estates in Bhalwal, Vehari, and Bahawalpur would be considered for potential Saudi investment. In a key policy move, the Chuni-an Industrial Estate has been

allocated to the Fisheries Department. During the meeting, audit reports of the Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEDMC) and Punjab Industrial Estates Development & Management Company (PIEDMC) were presented, revealing multiple irregularities and financial discrepancies. The Chief Minister took strong notice of the findings and ordered immediate action against those responsible. It was also decided to amend existing laws and regulations to improve the functioning of industrial estates and enhance transparency. Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed a comprehensive review and restructuring of

policies governing all industrial estates in Punjab. Expressing strong disapproval of past mismanagement, she remarked that "fraud was being committed right under the nose of the previous administration, and no one bothered to intervene." She emphasized that safeguarding every inch of government land was the government's foremost duty. The Chief Minister said that the Punjab government was fully committed to promoting industrial development, ensuring transparency, and fostering responsible governance to strengthen the province's economic infrastructure and attract international investment. — APP

PM taking interest in development of Balochistan: Governor

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel on Wednesday said that Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif is taking special interest in development and progress of Balochistan. He said this while giving an interview to K21 TV Channel's Senior Program Anchor Rida Saifi. The Governor said that according to his vision, he is paying full attention to providing quality education in the province as well as teaching modern skills to the youth. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is keen on providing development projects in the province instead of just providing funds. Governor Mandokhel said that the initiatives of Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan are yielding good results, saying that the youth are also successful in getting employment as soon as they graduate from the youth program, which is welcome. In response to a question, Governor Mandokhel said that the current government is taking concrete steps to develop infrastructure and increase the capacity of the workforce to make all technical and professional institutions of the province more active and efficient. He said that the Prime Minister Youth Program is a comprehensive platform that provides necessary opportunities to talented youth enables them to acquire modern skills, adapt to digital information technology. He said that we are creating necessary opportunities for them instead of finding employment opportunities for others, and make their mark on the international stage for the country and nation. "Our youth are full of creative talents. It is important to provide them with necessary opportunities and facilities so that they can also actively participate in the construction and development of the country and nation", he noted. —APP

18th leadership calls to raise girls' minimum marriage age to 18

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the inaugural plenary of the 18th Rural Women Leadership Training Conference held at Lok Virsa, Islamabad, PODA leader from Khanewal, Bismillah Iram, said: "Despite losing everything in the recent floods, the hopes and dreams of rural women in Pakistan remained unshaken. With resilience, we stood firm to rebuild our lives. We thank PODA for supporting us in this journey. We, the village women, are the unsung heroes—protecting cities at the cost of our own lives and livelihoods." The conference will be concluded on Friday 17 October. Sameena Nazir, Executive Director of PODA, welcomed over 500 women leaders from around 100 districts across Pakistan, including delegates from all four provinces—Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh—as well as from AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. Harroona Jatoi, renowned educationist, and Mumtaz Eskar, members of PODA's Board of Directors, also extended a warm welcome, acknowledging the vital role these women play in promoting community rights, social justice, and grassroots empowerment.

Moazma Yousaf, representing NADRA, emphasized that identity is a vital contract between the state and its citizens, essential for accessing rights and services—especially during crises like floods. She highlighted NADRA's efforts to improve birth registration through hospitals and primary healthcare systems. While NADRA has achieved 98 per cent identity coverage for adults over 18, child birth registration remains a challenge, with current coverage at 46 per cent due to societal barriers. She stressed the importance of increasing registration, particularly for girls, and the critical role organizations like PODA play in this effort. Iza Rajpar conveyed President Asif Ali Zardari's message, reaffirming the PPP's dedication to women's empowerment, as envisioned by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, through initiatives like the Benazir Income Support Programme. In his message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to Pakistan's pioneering women leaders and reaffirmed the government's commitment to empowering rural women through education, healthcare, skills training, and sustainable livelihoods, acknowledging their vital role in national development. Harroona Jatoi, renowned educationist, and Mumtaz Eskar, members of PODA's

Board of Directors, warmly welcomed the women leaders, recognizing their crucial roles in advancing community rights and empowerment. Lok Virsa Executive Director Dr. Muhammad Waqas Saleem expressed his gratitude to the participants and highlighted the essential contributions of women to the country's development and progress, emphasizing their role as drivers of national growth and empowerment. Naheeda Abbasi, social activist, moderated a session on "Promoting the Right to Legal Identity for Women and Girls and Protection from Gender-Based Violence." Speakers included Shandana Humayun Khan (CEO, Rural Support Programmes Network), Saeed Nisa (youth leader and footballer from Kalash, Chitral), Asifa Jamali (Member, Voter Education Committee, Nasirabad), Fazila (transgender representative from Badin), Sidra Hameed (Christian community representative, Eva Welfare Organization, Gujranwala) and Farkhanda Aurangzeb (Member, NCHR, Balochistan). Huma Irshad, wheelchair-user heads Shine Welfare Foundation, Gujranwala stressed on the need to enhance efforts to ensure legal identity of persons-with-disabilities.

**Capital Development Authority**
(E&M) MAINTENANCE DIVISION PARLIAMENT HOUSE



TENDER NOTICE

Tenders on E - PAD on percentage basis are hereby invited from firms having valid PEC License in relevant category with code and valid Electric Inspector License for the following works:-

S#	NAME OF WORK	E - Pad Tender No.	N.I.T Cost	Earnest Money	DATE & TIME OF OPENING OF TENDERS
1	Electrification / Wiring of House No.32 at F-5, Islamabad.	F-251086930	Rs. 1,891,759/-	Rs.56,753/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
2	Electrification / Wiring of House No.22 at F-5, Islamabad.	F-251086950	Rs. 4,833,026/-	Rs.144,991/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
3	Wiring /Electrification of House No.12 at F-5, Islamabad.	F-251086956	Rs. 4,497,201/-	Rs.134,916/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
4	Electrification / Wiring of House No.01 at F-5, Islamabad.	F-251086973	Rs. 7,832,857/-	Rs.234,986/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
5	Electrification / Wiring of House No.13 at F-5, Islamabad.	F-251086982	Rs. 3,940,685/-	Rs.118,221/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
6	Electrification / Wiring of House No.08 at F-5, Islamabad.	F-251086992	Rs. 3,127,709/-	Rs.93,831/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
7	Electrification / Wiring of House No.29 at F-5, Islamabad.	F-251087014	Rs. 4,630,145/-	Rs.138,904/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
8	Electrification / Wiring of House No.11 at F-5, Islamabad.	F-251087025	Rs. 4,853,717/-	Rs.145,612/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
9	Electrification / Wiring of Flat No.6 - B at F-5, Islamabad.	F-251087052	Rs. 4,854,080/-	Rs.145,622/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
10	Electrification / Wiring of Flat No.3 - B at F-5, Islamabad.	F-251087062	Rs. 4,853,155/-	Rs.145,595/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
11	Electrical and Mechanical works in different Houses at F-5, Islamabad. (2025)	F-251087067	Rs. 4,852,380/-	Rs.145,572/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon
12	Year Round Maintenance of AC Units Installed at F-5, Islamabad. 2024-25.	F-251087075	Rs. 4,238,528/-	Rs.127,156/-	30-10-2025 At 12:00 Noon

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR BIDDER

- The Capital developments Authority invites bids, from firms, registered with Pakistan Engineering Council having valid registration certificate in respective codes valid for the Year 2025-26 who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the bidding documents for the above mentioned works.
- Only firms/ contractors registered with PPRA on E-PADS as vendors are eligible to participate in bidding Process who have valid PEC registration certificate with appropriate code and valid Electrical License issued by Electrical Inspector Islamabad renewed for the current Financial Year for Execution of E&M works in Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.
- The prospective bidders are also required to submit their bids ON - Line through E-PADS at <http://eprocure.gov.pk> before opening date in accordance with provision of rule- 36 (a) of public procurements rule 2004 and terms & conditions defined in the bidding documents. Manual bids will not be entertained.
- Tender should be accompanied bid Security /Earnest Money (Refundable) in the form of Pay Order/CDR's in favor of Deputy Director E&M Parliament House. The prospective bidder shall upload Scanned copy of bid security on E-PADS and Original will be Submitted to Office of Deputy Director E&M Parliament House, two Days before Opening of the Tenders.
- The contractor will submit the documents as per clause No.16 of instructions of tender documents along with their tender, otherwise tender will be rejected.
- In case the total bid amount is less than 10% below the NIT amount, the bidder shall submit call deposit as performance security equal to the difference between NIT amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NIT amount. This call deposit shall be in addition to the earnest money for the work and shall be deposited at the time of submission of bids. Bids not carrying the performance security shall be rejected. The performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of the project.
- The bids will be opened by using E-PADS on the same day at 12:00 noon in the presence of Procurement Committee & Bidders/ Authorized representative must be present, General/Special Power of Attorney attested through respective court, who chose to attend the opening session to be held in the Office of Director (Coord) Parliament House, CDA.
- The attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government/ semi Government institute.
- Security clearance of firm is mandatory. The security clearance shall be taken from AIG, Special Branch through Parliament House Authorities that should include security clearance of representative, Engineers and work etc, without security clearance the firm shall not be allowed to participate in the tenders.
- Relative of tendering authority may not be entertained for participation in the tenders.
- Firms with the relevant experience i.e at least two number of similar work in last two financial years are eligible for participation in Tenders.
- Firms who provide an undertaking on stamp paper worth not less Rs.50/- and above that the firms / Contractor are neither involve in any litigation nor black listed by any Government/ Semi Government or Autonomous body in Pakistan and also under-take that if any information or document provided by the firm is found incorrect or fictitious the firm will face legal action under the Law.
- CDA may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of bid or proposal. The CDA shall upon request communicate, to any supplier or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, but is not required to justify those grounds.
- Advertisement is also available on CDA website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.gov.pk and E-PADS Portals.
- In case of any Gazetted / Occasional Holidays the Tender will be opened on the next working day.

Deputy Director (E&M), (PH)CDA, Islamabad. Ph: 051-9022461PID(13124)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

Oct 26/Austria
National Day

Oct 27/Turkmenistan
Independence Day

Oct 28/Czech Republic
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Oct 29/Turkey
Republic Day

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Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

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Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

‘NUML celebrates Int’l week of Italian language

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Armellin commended NUML for its dedicated efforts in promoting Italian language and culture in Pakistan

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The Department of French and Italian, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), organized an event to celebrate the International Week of the Italian Language 2025 under the global theme “Italophony: Language Beyond Borders.” Her Excellency Marilina Armellin, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event was attended by Rector NUML, Maj Gen (R) Shahid Mahmood Kayani, HI(M), Director General NUML, Brig Muhammad Rafiq Khan, Dean Faculty of Languages Dr. Jameel Asghar Jami, Heads of Departments, faculty members, and students. In his opening remarks, Dr. Jameel Asghar Jami highlighted the significance of celebrating the International Week of the Italian Language and welcomed the Italian Ambassador for her gracious presence. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Armellin commended NUML for its dedicated efforts in promoting Italian language and culture in Pakistan. She expressed appreciation for the enthusiasm of Pakistani youth towards learning Italian, noting that it reflects a growing cultural curiosity and mutual respect between the two nations. She further remarked that thousands of Pakistanis are contributing to the development of Italy, underscoring the strong bond of friendship and cooperation between both countries. A presentation titled “Exploring the Richness of Italian Culture” was delivered by Dr. Saira Ahmad, Programme Officer, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Islamabad,



highlighting the depth and diversity of Italy’s artistic and cultural heritage. Speaking on the occasion, Rector NUML Maj Gen (R) Shahid Mahmood Kayani HI(M) emphasized that the celebration was not merely about honoring a language but appreciating a civilization that has profoundly shaped art, thought, and global culture. He noted that language serves as a living custodian of culture, identity, and creativity, and Italian, spoken by nearly 85 million people

worldwide, stands as a language of music, art, poetry, and philosophy. The Rector further highlighted that NUML’s Italian Department, established in 2007, continues to strengthen cross-cultural understanding through its active collaboration with the Embassy of Italy and AICS. He lauded the department’s contributions toward NUML’s mission of “understanding the world through languages.” Addressing students, he remarked, “You are the living proof that ed

ucation transcends books and classrooms—it is a bridge between people, cultures, and nations. Continue to learn languages, engage with the world, and build connections that bring humanity closer together.” The event concluded with expressions of mutual appreciation and commitment to further deepening linguistic and cultural ties between Pakistan and Italy. Military Lands & Cantonments Department Unveils Landmark Reforms

Salik meets 40 member delegation of Pakistani community in Qatar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, held an important meeting in Doha with a 40-member delegation representing over 300,000 overseas Pakistani workers residing in Qatar. The delegation comprised entrepreneurs, senior professionals, and representatives of both skilled and semi-skilled workers Secretary Workers Welfare Fund, Zulfiqar Ahmed, and Pakistan’s Deputy Head of Mission in Doha were also present on the occasion. During the meeting, the Federal Minister attentively listened to the concerns and suggestions of the Pakistani community. He informed the delegation that, following the directions of Prime Minister Muham

mad Shehbaz Sharif, most of the proposals presented during the Overseas Pakistanis Conference held in Islamabad, have already been implemented, while work on the remaining recommendations is progressing rapidly. Chaudhry Salik Hussain instructed the Deputy Head of Mission to initiate an awareness campaign highlighting the various welfare initiatives introduced by the Government of Pakistan for overseas Pakistanis, ensuring that more community members can benefit from these services. He further directed that, in the unfortunate event of the death of any overseas Pakistani, their family must be provided with comprehensive guidance and support in processing insurance claims. The minister emphasized that the

welfare of overseas Pakistani workers remains a top priority for the government. He stressed that the welfare of the overseas Pakistani workers remains the top priority of the government, assuring that they can reach out to him directly at any time for the resolution of their issues. The Pakistani community in Qatar expressed their heartfelt appreciation to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain for their exemplary initiatives and continuous efforts for the welfare of overseas Pakistanis. The delegation also commended the reforms within the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF).—APP

CDA, STZA for Islamabad’s special technology zone

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) have agreed to form a Joint Working Group (JWG) to expedite the establishment of a Special Technology Zone in Islamabad, marking a major step toward transforming the federal capital into a technopolis city. The decision was made during a high-level meeting jointly chaired by Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and Chairman STZA, Azfar Manzoor, at the CDA Headquarters on Wednesday. Under the proposed framework, STZA will act as the regulator, issuing licenses to high-tech firms, while CDA will serve as the development agency, responsible for the zone’s physical planning and in

frastructure. The newly formed Joint Working Group will evaluate multiple proposals, assess financial and operational models, and submit viable recommendations to the Federal Government for approval. Briefing participants, officials informed that the Special Technology Zone will include dedicated areas for technology innovation and high-tech production, designed to attract global entrepreneurs and leading firms. The zone is also expected to offer tax and duty incentives once cleared by the Federal Government. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa reaffirmed that establishing the Special Technology Zone is the topmost priority of CDA,

in partnership with STZA, to make Islamabad a regional technology hub. He emphasized that the project will promote innovation, job creation, and digital transformation, adding that CDA is preparing a financially sustainable and globally competitive model for the initiative. “This collaboration with STZA will pave the way for Islamabad’s evolution into a modern technopolis city,” Randhawa said, reiterating CDA’s commitment to utilize STZA’s expertise to ensure the project’s success after Federal Government approval. The meeting was attended by Member Planning and Design Dr. Khalid Hafiz, Executive Director STZA Aamir Saleem, and other senior officers from both organizations.—DNA

ML&C compiled, submitted its comprehensive reform document

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Military Lands & Cantonments (ML&C) Department has formally compiled and submitted its comprehensive reform document titled “Fixing the system, fueling the future: reforms of ml&c, initiatives and transparency transformation.” These achievements and reforms were led under the vision and direction of Di

rector General Military Lands & Cantonments, Major General Irfan Ahmed Malik, HI(M), whose leadership has been central to driving this transformation agenda and institutionalizing sustainable change. The report was recently presented to Secretary Defence, Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali, HI(M), who appreciated and commended the work wholeheartedly. He acknowledged the outcomes as a roadmap that will steer the future

course of department. This report encapsulates the institutional progress of department, structural reforms, and governance transformation over the past two years. This document consolidates achievements across major domains, including: Digital governance and automation, financial transparency and accountability frameworks, human resource restructuring and performance-based mechanisms, infrastructure modernization and service delivery upgrades.



Expert marks World White Cane Safety day

ISLAMABAD: On World White Cane Safety Day, Dr. Anita Wilson amplifies the voices of the visually impaired, demanding equal opportunity, accessibility and the societal respect they deserve as empowered and capable citizens. Talking to a private news channel, Dr. Anita Wilson a prominent blind rights expert emphasized the urgent need to raise awareness about the daily challenges faced by visually impaired individuals. She stressed that public understanding remains limited, especially when it comes to recognizing the importance of tools like the white cane, which is not only a mobility aid but also a symbol of independence. Dr. Wilson noted that White Cane Safety Day should serve as a national reminder of the dignity, resilience, and rights of those living with visual impairments. Dr. Wilson also highlighted the lack of consistent road safety laws in many countries, including her own, to protect blind pedestrians. She pointed out that while some nations have advanced legal protections such as automatic vehicle stops for cane users or tactile street signals others lag behind, leaving visually impaired citizens vulnerable. “Road infrastructure and traffic systems must reflect the needs of all people, not just the sighted,” she said, urging lawmakers to implement stronger policies modeled after global best practices. She emphasized that true inclusion goes beyond symbolic gestures and must be rooted in tangible change from accessible infrastructure to legally enforced protections. Dr. Wilson called on communities, institutions and policymakers to align with the theme by actively dismantling barriers that prevent the visually impaired from participating fully in society. “We must move from awareness to action,” she stated, “ensuring that accessibility is not a privilege, but a right.” In her closing remarks, Dr. Wilson called for full inclusion and legal recognition of visually impaired individuals as equal citizens.—APP

37 Dengue cases in ICT, 40k sites inspected

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration has intensified its anti-dengue campaign, inspecting more than 40,169 sites across the city to control the spread of the virus, while 37 new cases were confirmed in the last 24 hours – 23 from rural areas and 14 from urban sectors. According to the latest dengue surveillance report, the district teams carried out fogging operations at 2,111 locations and identified dengue larvae at 674 sites, while 20 sites tested negative. In response, 1,468 houses were immediately sprayed with anti-dengue chemicals. The administration has directed all field teams to intensify surveillance and fogging, particularly in high-risk areas. The report highlighted that anti-dengue inspections are being conducted daily in residential, commercial, and open areas. Teams are checking water containers, construction sites, junkyards, nurseries, and stagnant water spots – all identified as potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Officials said that the anti-dengue drive aims to eliminate larvae at the source and ensure public safety through preventive measures. Field workers are also spreading awareness among residents about keeping their surroundings clean, covering water tanks, and reporting suspected larvae sites. The administration emphasized that public cooperation is crucial to make Islamabad dengue-free. Residents have been urged to promptly report any larvae detection or stagnant water to local authorities. The teams can be reached through the helpline or the district administration’s complaint cell. Strict monitoring has been ordered in all union councils, especially in areas where positive larvae have been found repeatedly. Inspectors are tasked with ensuring that dengue prevention standard operating procedures (SOPs) are followed by households, businesses, and institutions. Officials warned that those found violating dengue SOPs – such as failing to cover water containers or neglecting cleanliness – will face strict legal action. Notices are being issued to violators, and follow-up inspections will be conducted to verify compliance. The district health and environment departments are working jointly under the supervision of the deputy commissioner o maintain real-time tracking of cases and high-risk areas. Data from hospitals, laboratories, and field teams is being compiled daily to guide containment strategies. According to the administration, dengue hotspots are continuously monitored, and emergency response teams are dispatched where cases or larvae are detected. Fogging and spray operations are being prioritized in sectors reporting repeated cases. Public awareness drives are also being carried out through loudspeakers, social media, and door-to-door visits to educate residents on preventive steps. —APP

Ehsan Elahi murder case Two suspects killed in encounter

ISLAMABAD: In the jurisdiction of Noon Police Station, Islamabad, two suspects linked to the high-profile murder of CDA Director Land Ehsan Elahi were killed during a police encounter when their own accomplices opened fire during a raid An official told APP on Wednesday that the deceased were identified as Abid Yasin and Abrar Khan, who had earlier confessed to their involvement in the murder of Ehsan Elahi in Blue Area and the attempted murder of Qaiser Ashfaq. Police said the suspects had been arrested during checking in the Noon area, where they also tried to fire at police but were overpowered, and weapons were recovered from them. According to the FIR No. 976/25 registered at Humak Police Station, the suspects admitted during interrogation that their accomplices were also involved in the crime. Acting on this information, the police took them to a location to help identify the other fugitives. As soon as the team reached, their accomplices suddenly attacked the police party with heavy gunfire.—APP

NA Speaker condoles death of Agha Siraj

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday, expressed deep grief and sorrow over the passing of former Speaker of Sindh Assembly, Agha Siraj Durani. In his condolence message to the bereaved family, Ayaz Sadiq extended his heartfelt sympathies, saying that he was deeply saddened to learn about the demise of Agha Siraj Durani. The Speaker said that in this moment of grief, he stands in solidarity with the bereaved family. He paid rich tribute to the late Agha Siraj Durrani for his distinguished political and social services. Describing him as a seasoned and sagacious politician, the Speaker said that Agha Siraj Durrani’s contributions toward the promotion of democratic values and strengthening of democracy in the country will always be remembered in golden words. “The vacuum created by his demise will not be filled for a long time,” the Speaker added. He also prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the departed soul a high place in Jan-nat-ul-Firdous and to bless the bereaved family with patience and strength to bear this irreparable loss.—APP

Residents of G-7 slum area demand electricity, street lighting

ISLAMABAD: Residents of the slum area in Sector G-7 have appealed to the authorities to provide a stable electricity supply and install proper street lighting in their locality. The community has been facing severe difficulties due to frequent power outages and the absence of functional streetlights. The residents said, the area plunges into complete darkness after sunset, creating serious safety and security risks. Families, especially women and children, struggle to move around at night, while students find it difficult to study without electricity. The residents urged the Capital Development Authority, Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO), and the Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation (IMC) to take immediate action to restore power connections and install streetlights in the area to ensure safety, improve living conditions, and uphold the residents’ basic rights.—APP

Briefs

Naqvi
condemns
attack on anti-
polio team in
Nowshera

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday strongly condemned the firing incident targeting an anti-polio team in Nowshera, which resulted in the martyrdom of police constable Maqsood, who was deployed for the security of the health workers. In a statement, Minister Naqvi paid rich tribute to the martyred constable, acknowledging his bravery and devotion to duty. "Police constable Maqsood attained the great status of martyrdom while performing his duty," he said. The minister expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family, assuring them that the sacrifices of the police and security personnel would never be forgotten. Terming the incident a cowardly act, the interior minister said that the attack on a team working for the safe and healthy future of Pakistan's children is utterly intolerable. He emphasized that such incidents will not deter the government's resolve to eradicate polio from the country. Naqvi further directed law enforcement agencies to ensure the immediate arrest of the perpetrators and to enhance the security of polio teams across the region.—APP

Senator Rubina
mourns
Agha Siraj's
passing

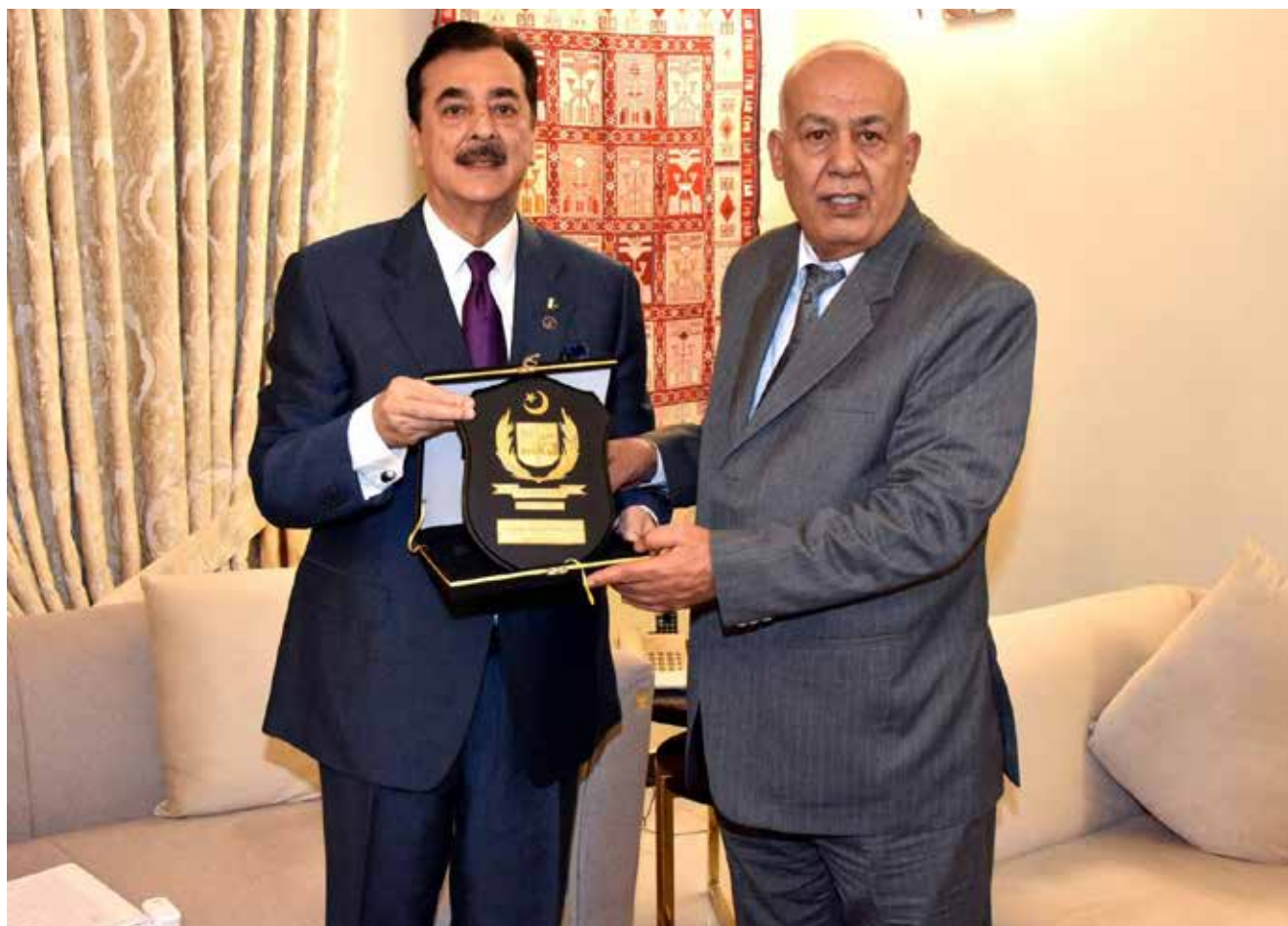
ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, has expressed profound sorrow and grief over the demise of Speaker Sindh Assembly and senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Agha Siraj Durrani. In her condolence message, Senator Rubina Khalid said she was deeply saddened to learn about the passing of Agha Siraj Durrani, terming it an irreparable loss for the Pakistan Peoples Party. She said Agha Siraj Durrani rendered invaluable services and made unparalleled sacrifices for the PPP and for the cause of democracy in the country. His dedication and passion for public service were truly exemplary, she added. Highlighting his political contributions, Senator Rubina Khalid said that as Speaker of the Sindh Assembly, Agha Siraj Durrani demonstrated exceptional leadership and a strong commitment to democratic values and parliamentary traditions. She said her thoughts and prayers were with the bereaved family in this difficult time, praying that Allah Almighty grant them courage and patience to bear this great loss.—APP

Gillani reaffirms Pak support
for Palestinian statehood

This engagement reflects Pakistan's historic solidarity with Palestine and its ongoing role in promoting unity and global dialogue

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan, Dr. Zuhair Mohammad, held an important meeting with Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, His Excellency Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, at the Senate Chairman's residence. During the meeting, Ambassador Zuhair expressed gratitude for Pakistan's consistent and unwavering support for Palestine at all international forums. He praised Pakistan's principled stance and the deep-rooted relationship between the two brotherly nations. Senate Chairman Gillani, a historic figure in Pakistan's political leadership with vast diplomatic experience, reaffirmed Pakistan's firm position on the Palestinian cause. He stated, "Pakistan has always recognized Palestine since it was Palestine — it is, and it will remain. Pakistan carries the cause of Palestine just as it carries all its national responsibilities." He emphasized that support for Palestine is part of Pakistan's moral, political, and diplomatic commitment and will continue unchanged. In a significant gesture of parliamentary collaboration, Chairman Gillani extended an invitation to the Speaker of the Palestinian National Council to participate in a special international conference of Heads of National Councils from various countries. The meeting also included the presentation of the official emblem (slogan) of the Senate of Pakistan to Ambassador Zuhair, symbolizing mutual respect and strengthening bilateral ties. Both sides agreed to enhance parliamentary, dip-



lomatic, and humanitarian cooperation in support of justice and peace in Palestine. This engagement reflects Pakistan's historic solidarity with Palestine and its ongoing role in promoting unity and global dialogue.

Turkmenistan envoy meets
minister for heritage, culture

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, Atadjan Movlamov, called on the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, at his office here today. Welcoming the Ambassador, the Minister said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoy long-standing relations rooted in shared history, religion, and culture. Federal Minister said that the Government of Pakistan has expressed its readiness to sign the Programme on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2024–2026) between the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan and Pakistan's National Heritage and Culture Division, marking a new chapter in cultural collaboration between the two brotherly nations. He emphasized the need to further strengthen people-to-people ties by promoting cultural exchange alongside ongoing cooperation in trade and business sectors. Highlighting the significance of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, the Minister termed it a vital regional initiative and expressed hope for similar collaborations in the fields of culture and heritage. He noted that, with the flight duration between the two countries being less than two hours, both sides should take advantage of direct connectivity to boost tourism and cultural exchange. "Pakistan has a rich civilizational heritage of over 5,000 years, including the Gandhara, Harappa, and Mohenjo-Daro cultures, which are worth exploring," he added. The Minister also proposed organizing joint cultural festivals in both Pakistan and Turkmenistan to showcase the diverse traditions and art forms of the two nations. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi extended an invitation to Turkmenistan to participate in the upcoming Lok Mela 2025, scheduled from November 7 to 16 at the Lok Virsa Complex, Islamabad. The Ambassador accepted the invitation and assured the participation of a Turkmen delegation in the event. The Minister further announced plans to host a special cultural evening at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), featuring performances and exhibits representing Pakistan's rich heritage, and invited the Turkmen Ambassador to attend alongside other diplomatic representatives. Both sides agreed to nominate focal persons from their respective ministries to expedite the finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The Turkmen Ambassador assured full cooperation in strengthening bilateral cultural and tourism ties and emphasized joint efforts to enhance economic development through shared cultural and artistic initiatives. On the occasion, Secretary of the National Heritage and Culture Division, Asad Rehman Gillani, described the forthcoming signing of the cultural cooperation programme as the beginning of a new era of friendship and people-to-people engagement between Pakistan and Turkmenistan. — DNA

Muqam expresses grief over demise
of ex-Speaker Sindh Assembly

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of former Speaker of Sindh Assembly, Agha Siraj Durrani. Expressing heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, Amir Muqam said that Agha Siraj Durrani was a dear brother whose passing has left him deeply saddened. "In this hour of grief, I extend my sincere sympathies to his family," he added. He described Agha Siraj Durrani as a dignified, compassionate and sincere leader who devoted his life to public service. "With his demise, a golden chapter in politics and parliamentary traditions has come to an end," the minister added. The minister said that Agha Siraj Durrani's services and contributions will always be remembered, adding that the nation has lost a devoted and selfless leader. He prayed that Almighty Allah grant patience and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. "Agha Siraj Durrani's memory and his lifelong services will forever remain in our hearts," he said. The minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and for the elevation of his ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous.—APP

Naqvi, Talal visit family of
martyred Lt. Colonel

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Wednesday visited the residence of martyred Lieutenant Colonel Junaid in Rawalpindi to offer condolences to his family. During the visit, the ministers met with the mother,

wife, and children of the martyred officer and expressed deep sympathy and solidarity with the bereaved family. They prayed for the elevation of the martyr's ranks and for patience and strength for his loved ones. Paying rich tribute to the courage and resolve of the martyr's family, Mohsin Naqvi said, "Seeing the strength of a brave mother like you has strengthened our own resolve." He added

that every drop of blood shed by the martyrs is a guarantee of the nation's security, noting that the sacrifices of Pakistan's brave sons have foiled the nefarious designs of terrorists. Minister of State Talal Chaudhry said the martyrs are the pride and honor of the nation, adding that the people of Pakistan will never forget the sacrifices of their heroes. The mother of Shaheed Lt.

Colonel Junaid said her son had been blessed with the great honor of martyrdom and had raised the national flag high. She expressed her firm resolve that both her grandsons would also join the Pakistan Army to serve and defend the homeland. Lt. Colonel Junaid embraced martyrdom a few days ago in Orakzai while bravely fighting against Indian-sponsored terrorists.

Traffic flow
normal across
capital as ITP
maintains strict
regulation

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) announced that traffic across the federal capital is moving normally, with officers actively deployed to ensure smooth flow on all routes. An official told APP on Wednesday that Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Capt (R) Hamzah Humayun is personally supervising duties and monitoring deployments across key locations. He said ITP officers are on ground to regulate flow and assist motorists. The official added that enforcement measures are being taken against lane violations, one-wheeling, wrong-way driving, and fancy number plates, stressing that such action is aimed at protecting lives. Motorcyclists and heavy vehicles have been urged to remain in their designated lanes, while all citizens have been requested to cooperate with traffic wardens. For traffic updates, motorists can call ITP's helpline 1915 or tune in to FM 92.4 for live advisories.—APP

Abbasi
expresses grief
over demise of
former Speaker
Sindh Assembly

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of former Speaker of Sindh Assembly, Agha Siraj Durrani. Expressing heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, Hanif Abbasi said that Agha Siraj Durrani was a dear brother whose passing has left him deeply saddened. "In this hour of grief, I extend my sincere sympathies to his family," he added. He described Agha Siraj Durrani as a dignified, compassionate and sincere leader who devoted his life to public service. "With his demise, a golden chapter in politics and parliamentary traditions has come to an end," the minister added. The minister said that Agha Siraj Durrani's services and contributions will always be remembered, adding that the nation has lost a devoted and selfless leader. He prayed that Almighty Allah grant patience and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. "Agha Siraj Durrani's memory and his lifelong services will forever remain in our hearts," he said. The minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and for the elevation of his ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous.—APP

ISPR warns
swift, resolute
response to Indian
aggression

RAWALPINDI: Expressing grave concern over Indian military leadership's irresponsible statements under immense political pressure, Pakistan Army warned that every act of aggression will be dealt with a swift, resolute and intense response that will be remembered by posterity. The Indian Armed Forces and its political masters must realise that Pakistan's people and its Armed Forces are fully capable and committed to defend every inch of our territory with full resolve, said a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). "It has been noted with grave concern that five months after Maarka e Haq, in the run up to elections in Bihar and West Bengal, Indian military leadership has started parroting the same delusional, fabricated and provocative propaganda that they regurgitate before every state elections in India," it said. "It is saddening to see the military leadership of a nuclear-armed country issuing irresponsible statements under immense political pressure. The lies being fed to the Indian public and international audience have turned Indian military machine into a laughing stock. Any professional soldier would know that unnecessary chest thumping and unwarranted statements might initiate a cycle of jingoism and lead to serious consequences for peace and stability in South Asia," the statement said. The statement further said, "The contradictions in the Indian Army presser are so evident that they should not be dignified with a response. Evidently, the Indian leadership is attempting to mould history to its liking by inventing outlandish, Bollywood-style scripts. It appears that Indian Army and the political leadership has not been able to reconcile with the idea that they have been decisively beaten in Marka-e-Haq, and that their falsehoods have been fully exposed. The world now recognises India as the true face of cross-border terrorism and the epicentre of regional instability, bent upon adventurism and hegemonism to the detriment of its people and its neighbours". —DNA

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Trump–Zelensky meeting schedule

US President Donald Trump hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky are to meet in Washington this weekin what was billed as a critical push toward ending the devastating war in Ukraine. In the last meeting, despite the high-profile gathering, no breakthrough emerged, leaving the future of peace in Eastern Europe as uncertain as ever. The talks followed Trump's earlier summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska, where the U.S. leader had hoped to secure concessions from Moscow. That effort also ended without tangible progress. The Washington meeting, therefore, carried heightened expectations. Yet, once again, road to peace proved far more complicated than Trump's public optimism suggested.

At the heart of the impasse remain two fundamental disputes: Ukraine's refusal to accept Trump's quiet suggestion to "consider vacating" territories occupied by Russian forces since 2022, and Moscow's unwavering stance on retaining control over Crimea, which it annexed in 2014. Zelensky made it clear during the closed-door sessions that Ukraine will not legitimize Russian occupation by ceding sovereign territory. For Kyiv, any proposal involving territorial compromise is tantamount to surrender. On the other side, Russia continues to insist that Crimea is non-negotiable and shows no willingness to withdraw from regions in eastern Ukraine where its troops remain entrenched. These irreconcilable positions once again dashed hopes that Trump could present himself as the dealmaker capable of bridging the divide. Observers note that Trump's sense of urgency in resolving the conflict is tied not only to his political ambitions but also to his personal quest for international recognition. The U.S. president has repeatedly spoken of his desire to win the Nobel Peace Prize, openly declaring that a Ukraine peace deal would make him a strong candidate. Yet, with both Moscow and Kyiv refusing to budge, critics say Trump's strategy appears desperate rather than pragmatic. His trademark bravado — assuring reporters that "a deal will be done, sooner rather than later" — sounded increasingly hollow after two high-profile failures within a month. Still, Trump remains eager to claim progress, framing the meetings as "steps forward" even without tangible results.

Joining Zelensky in Washington were key European leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Their presence was meant to demonstrate transatlantic unity in the search for peace. However, European officials privately expressed



frustration at Trump's approach, which many see as focused more on personal political gain than on sustainable conflict resolution. One EU diplomat noted, "Europe has borne the brunt of this war — millions of refugees, massive energy crises, and security risks. We cannot reduce this to a campaign narrative in Washington."

European leaders also used the opportunity to press Trump on post-war reconstruction commitments, trade ties, and NATO funding — issues that remain sources of tension in transatlantic relations. While Trump emphasized his wish to "end the bloodshed in Europe," his critics argue that his credibility is undermined by glaring inconsistencies in his foreign policy priorities. Perhaps the starkest example of these inconsistencies is Gaza. As Trump spoke passionately about ending the war in Ukraine, European and Middle Eastern commentators pointed out his silence on the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. Despite repeated international appeals, Trump has largely avoided criticizing Israel's military campaign, which has killed tens of thousands of civilians and displaced millions.

This double standard has not gone unnoticed. Analysts argue that Trump's insistence on being a peace broker in Ukraine while ignoring Gaza undermines his moral standing. "When it comes to Gaza, he simply shuts his eyes," a European journalist remarked, "and that makes his claims of wanting to 'stop bloodshed' ring hollow." For Zelensky, the Washington trip was another attempt to keep Ukraine firmly on the global agenda. With war fatigue setting in across Europe and America, and with international aid slowing, Kyiv desperately needs continued political and military support. By standing firm in Washington, Zelensky signaled both to his domestic audience and international partners that Ukraine will not compromise its sovereignty. For Trump, the calculus is different. Yet his repeated inability to secure meaningful concessions from either side raises doubts about whether his approach is more performance than substance.

The failure of both the Alaska summit with Putin and the Washington meeting with Zelensky underscores the complexity of the Ukraine conflict. Peace remains elusive not because leaders are unwilling to talk, but because the fundamental interests of the parties involved are deeply irreconcilable. Trump continues to insist that "progress is being made," but without a shift in Russia's or Ukraine's core positions, any deal remains a distant prospect. Meanwhile, the war grinds on, exacting a devastating human toll and destabilizing global security. As the world watches, Trump's balancing act between personal ambition, political survival, and the harsh realities of international diplomacy grows increasingly precarious. For Zelensky, Macron, Merz, and von der Leyen, the task is to keep Ukraine's plight central while resisting the temptation to reduce peace talks to a stage for political theater.

There was no choice but Surgery

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Regional rivalries and proxy strategies have, at times, transformed local grievances into broader instruments of instability.

External actors have sometimes exploited fragilities inside Afghanistan to press geopolitical advantages, and those manoeuvres have a ripple effect across the borders of all concerned states. The May 2025 episode, marked by a brief yet intense confrontation between India and Pakistan, highlights how swiftly escalation can follow even minor strikes

WHEN a household member catches a mild fever or a common cold, our instinct is modest and sensible: we reach for remedies taught by elders, rest, and avoid heavy medicine unless necessity compels it. If simple measures fail we try the medicines at hand; if the ailment still persists we consult a physician, submit to tests and, when life requires it, accept the surgeon's knife. That sequence — care, counsel, and, as a last resort, decisive intervention — is not merely a matter of health but a prudent moral order. So too should be the conduct of states in the face of threats that arise along their borders.

Pakistan's history of maintaining a neighborly relationship with Afghanistan, marked by patience and tolerance, is long and evident. When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, our country welcomed millions of people fleeing the war. At the peak of this exodus, Pakistan and its international partners recorded around three million Afghan refugees living within its borders, sharing the burden through refugee camps and urban settlements, supported by civic compassion and international aid. This compassionate response became a defining moment in our modern history. Charity and sacrifice neither require nor ensure limitless tolerance for actions that harm the benefactor. For decades, Pakistan has consistently called on various Afghan governments, and more recently the present authorities in Kabul, to prevent their territory from being used as a base for attacks on Pakistani citizens and institutions. These appeals have come in various forms; discreet diplomatic protests, public demonstrations, and frequent calls to curb militancy spreading across the border. In recent years, Pakistani officials and military representatives have often highlighted cross-border attacks

and safe havens as key issues threatening peace along the Durand Line and beyond. States must begin with persuasion and patient diplomacy; that is the prescription of prudence. When persuasion is met by cooperation, peace obtains and the long human ties between our peoples — shared faith, familial links across provinces, trade and cultural exchange — can flourish. But when repeated appeals yield little and violent actors continue to exploit porous frontiers, a sovereign state has an obligation to protect its people. That duty is not a posture of aggression but the exercise of responsibility; to act lawfully, with proportionality, and with the greatest possible concern to spare innocent life while neutralizing those who plot violence. Pakistan's public statements and operational summaries in recent years have emphasised intelligence-based operations and the priority given to distinguishing insurgents from noncombatants as part of that burden of proof.

The wider context matters. Regional rivalries and proxy strategies have, at times, transformed local grievances into broader instruments of instability. External actors have sometimes exploited fragilities inside Afghanistan to press geopolitical advantages, and those manoeuvres have a ripple effect across the borders of all concerned states.

The May 2025 episode, marked by a brief yet intense confrontation between India and Pakistan, highlights how swiftly escalation can follow even minor strikes. It serves as a stark reminder that strength without fairness provokes retaliation, and caution without determination invites further challenges.

The four-day crisis in May showed just how quickly neighborhood tensions can escalate into broader threats, highlighting the importance of keeping diplomatic channels open while ensuring a strong and credible defense.

Practical realism does not foreclose moral leadership. Pakistan's calls for mediation—whether to regional powers, Islamic allies, or international partners—deserve consistent repetition and reinforcement. When responsible neighbors and organizations step in with counsel and oversight, the chances for a lasting settlement increase. On the other hand, silence or hesitation from those who could assist makes it harder for diplomacy to work and limits the options for a state committed to protecting its citizens. The goal shouldn't be punitive action but restoring conditions where commerce, travel, and family connections can resume without fear.

Patriotism requires neither reflexive belligerence nor naive forbearance. It demands clarity about right and wrong, courage to defend the innocent, and the wisdom to seek peace that lasts. Let the surgeon's knife remain a last resort — used only when every other remedy has been tried and found wanting — but let none mistake for weakness the resolve that protects the homeland. A people that gave shelter in an hour of need ask only that memory be honoured by reciprocal commitment to peace. If Afghanistan's rulers and people value the deep ties that bind us, they will recognize that friendship forbids the use of friendship's soil as a theatre for hostility. Above all, this moment calls for statesmanship: leaders who will summon regional partners and Islamic brethren to counsel, diplomats who will keep every avenue of dialogue open, security services that act within law and with discrimination, and citizens who stand united behind measures that preserve life and liberty. If malign actors persist despite counsel and concord, then, with a heavy heart and a steady hand, Pakistan will do what is necessary to secure the safety of its people — always striving to choose the path most likely to lead back to honourable and enduring peace.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination

Ali Haider



The public health impact of widespread and well-implemented HPV vaccination programs has been increasingly evident in recent years, with robust data demonstrating substantial reductions in cervical cancer incidence and precancerous lesions, significant population-level benefits via herd immunity, notable economic savings, and justification for gender-neutral vaccination policies; for example, a modelling study in Kazakhstan showed that introducing nine-valent HPV vaccination...

HUMAN Papillomavirus (HPV) represents one of the most prevalent sexually transmitted infections worldwide, and has gained significant attention due to its strong association with a wide range of benign and malignant diseases. Belonging to the Papillomaviridae family, HPV comprises more than 200 genotypes, of which a subset is categorized as high-risk types because of their established role in the development of cervical cancer, as well as malignancies of the anogenital tract and oropharynx. Low-risk HPV types mainly cause benign conditions such as genital warts, while high-risk strains can lead to cervical cancer by disrupting cell cycle regulation. Cervical cancer remains a major global health issue, particularly in low- and middle-income countries with limited access to vaccination and screening programs. Prophylactic vaccines targeting common high-risk HPV types have shown great success in reducing HPV-related diseases, though challenges in accessibility and awareness persist. In 2020, the WHO launched a global strategy aiming for 90% HPV vaccination coverage in girls by age 15 by 2030. Effective control of cervical cancer requires vaccination, screening, early treatment, and comprehensive care strategies. For individuals aged 9–14 years, two doses are sufficient, while those aged 15–45 years require three doses for complete protection. The HPV vaccine prevents genital warts and significantly reduces the risk of cervical, anal, vaginal, vulvar, penile, and many oropharyngeal cancers. These vaccines are made using recombinant technology to produce purified virus-like particles for each targeted HPV type; they do not contain viral DNA, making them inactive and incapable of causing infection. Currently, three vaccines are widely available: Gardasil 4v (quadrivalent), Gardasil 9v (nonavalent), both produced by Merck & Co. using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and Cervarix 2v (bivalent), produced by GlaxoSmithKline using a baculovirus expression system. Clinical trials and post-marketing surveillance across multiple regions confirm that all three vaccines are safe, although rare adverse effects have been reported, including anaphylaxis in approximately 1.7 cases per million doses. Investigations into post-vaccination syndromes linked to adjuvants, such as autoimmune/inflammatory syndrome induced by adjuvants (ASIA), suggest an incidence of 3.6 cases per 100,000 doses. While a few deaths have been reported after vaccination, a direct causal link to the vaccine or its adjuvants remains uncertain. Overall, HPV vaccines are considered highly safe and represent the most effective preventive measure, though they are not recommended for pregnant women due to limited evidence from clinical trials. Importantly, vaccination does not provide protection against all HPV types, which makes regular cervical cancer screening essential.

Current guidelines recommend Pap smear testing every three years for women aged 21–29 years, while women aged 30–65 years should undergo either HPV testing alone or combined HPV/Pap co-testing every five years. Women over 65 years who have consistently had negative results may discontinue screening, though continued testing is necessary for those with abnormal or uncertain results. Whereas Pap tests detect precancerous and cancerous cellular changes, HPV tests identify the presence of the virus in cervical tissue, thereby complementing early detection strategies.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has established comprehensive recommendations for the prevention and control of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection, with the primary objective of reducing the global burden of cervical cancer and other HPV-related diseases. WHO advises the inclusion of HPV vaccination in national immunization programs as part of a broader cervical cancer elimination strategy, emphasizing early vaccination of both girls and boys between the ages of 9 and 14 years, prior to the onset of sexual activity, as the most effective preventive measure. These recommendations reflect a comprehensive approach that combines immunization, screening, treatment, and health education, aiming not only to reduce morbidity and mortality but also to achieve equitable access to preventive healthcare across different regions of the world.

The public health impact of widespread and well-implemented HPV vaccination programs has been increasingly evident in recent years, with robust data demonstrating substantial reductions in cervical cancer incidence and precancerous lesions, significant population-level benefits via herd immunity, notable economic savings, and justification for gender-neutral vaccination policies; for example, a modelling study in Kazakhstan showed that introducing nine-valent HPV vaccination for both boys and girls aged 11–12 years (80% coverage in girls, 50% in boys) could avert nearly 97,714 cases of HPV-related diseases over 100 years compared with four-valent vaccination in a gender-neutral strategy, with 8,527 deaths prevented and treatment cost savings of about 14.7 million US.

Ethiopia and other low- and middle-income settings show that high HPV vaccine uptake in adolescent girls dramatically lowers rates of high-grade cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN2+) and persistent infections of oncogenic HPV types, leading to anticipated strong declines in invasive cervical cancer many years later. Moreover, in regions where both sexes are vaccinated, indirect protection (herd immunity) has led to measurable decreases in HPV transmission even among the unvaccinated, reducing prevalence of vaccine-type HPV strains in the population, decreasing incidence of genital warts and non-cervical HPV-related can-

cers (anal, penile, oropharyngeal) among men as shown by large cohort studies. China's major metropolitan centers (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou), comparing female-only versus gender-neutral vaccination strategies, show that gender-neutral programs avert more HPV-related cases and deaths, and are cost-effective within reasonable thresholds, given reductions in treatment burden across multiple HPV-associated outcomes. Vaccination is recommended to be administered before sexual debut, generally in the age range of 9 to 14 years, when immunogenicity is highest; some programs also allow catch-up vaccination to older adolescents or young adults depending on national policy. Initiatives such as those supported by Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance) aim to improve this: for example, Gavi support has helped introduce HPV vaccination programmes in many lower-income countries, increasing coverage, providing funding for vaccine purchase, helping adopt simplified dosing schedules (one or two dose regimens where evidence permits), and emphasizing multi-age cohort catch-ups in intro years. Recent research also supports that two doses for younger adolescents are nearly non-inferior in immune response compared to three doses, and that single-dose schedules may hold promise particularly in resource-constrained settings, although longer-term follow-up is ongoing.

In addition, gender-neutral vaccination (including males) is expanding in many countries, which increases herd immunity and offers protection against genital warts and non-cervical HPV-related cancers. Despite these advances, overall vaccine coverage remains well below WHO elimination targets in many settings; inequities persist in both access and uptake, particularly among LMICs, rural areas, and marginalized populations. Despite clear benefits, HPV vaccination programs worldwide face substantial challenges, particularly in overcoming vaccine hesitancy, increasing coverage rates, and implementing sustainable programs in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). For example, in LMICs, lack of knowledge regarding the cancer-preventive role of the HPV vaccine is strongly associated with lower acceptance; sociocultural stigma attached to the idea of a vaccine for a sexually transmitted infection often suppresses parental and community conversations about vaccination. Without addressing these challenges, many LMICs struggle to meet WHO's ambitious targets (such as 90% of girls vaccinated by 15 years), meaning that despite scientific advances, practical, social, and economic obstacles continue to limit the scale and impact of HPV vaccination on reducing cervical cancer and other HPV-related disease burdens globally.

Medical laboratory technology
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Briefs

Pakistan announces 48-hour ceasefire...

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regards to mutual trade and easement rights of the divided tribes. While repulsing the attack, 15-20 Afghan Taliban have been killed and many injured, the ISPR said. "The situation is still developing. There are reports of further build-up in staging points of Fitna Al Khwarij and Afghan Taliban," it added. Islamabad and Kabul are witnessing heightened tensions amid the interim Afghan government's reluctance to act against terrorist groups, operating from Afghan soil, in the backdrop of rising terror attacks in Pakistan. The country has witnessed a surge in cross-border terror incidents since Taliban rulers returned to Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of KP and Balochistan.

Lies, propaganda turned Indian...

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during the May clashes. Separately, India's Western Army commander Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar, speaking during an event, claimed that "Pakistan had no capacity to fight India" while warning of Operation Sindoor 2.0 in response to another Pahalgam-type incident, reported The Times of India. New Delhi has time again blamed Pakistan for the deadly attack in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir (IOJK) which killed a number of tourists, an allegation vehemently denied by Islamabad which has called for a neutral, international investigation into the incident.

Imran Khan directs KP CM...

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an effective and comprehensive strategy against terrorism so that lasting and effective peace can be established in the province, and as a result, the economy can be revived," Imran said in his facilitating message to CM-elect Afridi on X. The jailed PTI founder said that the people of KP have given his party a mandate, adding that they will never go against the interests of the people of Pakistan and the province. The former prime minister added that they are answerable to the people of KP, not to someone else. Calling Afridi his "opening batsman", the PTI founder directed the CM-elect to "play with confidence".

After much drama, Sohail...

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The court ruled that if he failed to do so, KP Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati would perform the duty instead. On October 13, PTI's Afridi was elected as the new chief executive of the province despite the opposition's boycott of the process. Afridi secured 90 votes, whereas Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's (JULF) Maulana Lutfur Rehman, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Sardar Shahjehan Yousaf, and Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) Arbab Zarak Khan got no votes at all as their members staged a walkout from the session.

PM Shehbaz lauds...

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improving productivity and quality standards to meet global demands. Discussing Pakistan's economic trajectory, the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the progress made during the last eighteen months, citing significant structural reforms aimed at ensuring long-term stability. "Deep-rooted economic reforms have been initiated to restore investor confidence and drive sustainable growth," he said, adding that these reforms would continue to be consolidated in the coming months.

Yango Pakistan hosts Pinktober session for female partner drivers

Expressing her views on the occasion, Dr. Maham Javed said, "It brings me great joy to share awareness on such an important issue that women face, without even knowing it at most times until it's late. I appreciate Yango's effort in spreading awareness on this issue to its female partner's drivers"

DNA

LAHORE: Reiterating its commitment to social responsibility, Yango Pakistan participated in the Global Pinktober campaign by hosting an interactive Breast Cancer awareness session for its female partner's drivers and colleagues. The event focused on raising awareness of this life-threatening cancer, the importance of regular self-examinations and early detection, and clinical screenings, which can significantly improve the chances of survival. The session featured senior representatives from Oladoc including Dr. Maham Javed who shared vital information on the early signs, prevention, and treatment of breast cancer. Their interactive discussion encouraged open dialogue on women's health, a topic often overlooked in professional settings. In addition to the awareness session, Miral Sharif, Country Head of Yango Pakistan, led a session on everyday work-life balance and engaged in a feedback discussion with the female driver community, focusing on their experiences and challenges on the road and how Yango can best assist them. At the ceremony, Miral Sharif, Country Head, Yango Pakistan stated: "At Yango, we see partner drivers as part of our extended family. Initiatives like this create awareness, but that's not all. They are about empowerment, wellbeing, and building a stronger support network for women in the mobility sector."



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late. I appreciate Yango's effort in spreading awareness on this issue to its female partner's drivers" Through such initiatives, Yango Pakistan continues to work towards its commitment of sup-

porting the community it operates in by creating inclusive spaces that go beyond mobility to support real people and real impact. especially when it comes to the well-being of its partners.

Saudi boxer Yara Al-Amri's life changed after history-making Asian medal win

RIYADH: The end of 2024 will always hold special memories for Yara Al-Amri. In December last year the young boxer made history by becoming the first Saudi woman to win an Asian medal in boxing — a new milestone for the Kingdom's fast-growing women's sports scene. The 21-year-old fighter earned a bronze medal at the Asian Elite Championships in Bangkok, competing in the 52-kilogram category in her first international appearance. She told Arab News: "It was my first international appearance, which was the toughest part — competing outside my country without my home crowd and coaches." The win was historic not only for Al-Amri, but for Saudi sport. "This changed my life, as I wrote history for Saudi Arabia by winning the first Asian medal

in women's boxing," she said. "It doesn't mean we don't have champions, but the sport is still new in our country. Despite starting later than many nations, we quickly reached their level and proved we can compete and succeed." Based in Riyadh, Al-Amri trains under Ali Al-Ahmari at Al-Shabab Club. Standing 174 cm tall, the right-handed orthodox fighter has built a record of 27 fights, with 23 wins and four losses, and holds seven Saudi national titles. Her path into boxing began unexpectedly. "I first started boxing as a fitness exercise, but soon felt I truly belonged in the sport," she said. "I've always loved challenge and competition, and boxing gave me exactly that. In the ring, it's just me, my mind, and my hands. Boxing completely changed my lifestyle, mak-

ing me more disciplined and committed." Al-Amri describes the sport as a test of focus as much as strength. "You have to be patient, strategic, and intelligent. Every movement matters." Saudi boxer Yara Al-Amri (right) lands a punch during a bout at the Asian Elite Championships in Bangkok, where she made history as the first Saudi woman to win an Asian medal. (SUPPLIED) Outside the ring, Al-Amri is pursuing a university degree, juggling training sessions and academic deadlines. "As a university student, my days are always a challenge," she said. "I train twice a day — morning and evening — while balancing my classes, studies, and daily tasks. My schedule is packed, but I make sure to manage both my academic and athletic commitments."

Her discipline extends beyond boxing. Earlier this year, she completed the Riyadh Half Marathon, describing the 21-kilometer run as "pure challenge and joy." After nearly 30 fights, Al-Amri has learned to embrace both victory and loss. "The biggest lesson I learned from a loss is never leaving the result to the judges," she said. "The fight must be clear — you have to showcase your skills so strongly that there's no doubt. "Injuries and defeats also taught me resilience," she added. "I always say: 'What doesn't kill you makes you stronger.' Before a fight, I've learned to control nerves and pressure. It's natural to feel it, but once I step into the ring, everything switches off — I focus only on my opponent." Al-Amri credits her success to the support around her. — Agencies

Noman, Shaheen spur Pakistan to 93-run victory over South

Brevis was taking the fight to the Pakistan spinners and had reached an aggressive career-best 54, with six fours and two sixes, when Noman bowled him with a sharply turning delivery

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan beat South Africa by 93 runs in the first Test in Lahore on Wednesday to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. South Africa, set a daunting 277-run target for victory, were bowled out for 183 on the fourth day at Gaddafi Stadium. Noman broke a stubborn 73-run stand between Dewald Brevis and Ryan Rickelton to push Pakistan four wickets from victory. Brevis was taking the fight to the Pakistan spinners and had reached an aggressive career-best 54, with six fours and two sixes, when Noman bowled him with a sharply turning delivery. After opener Rickelton's dogged resistance was broken by spinner Sajid Khan just before lunch for a gritty 45, South Africa reached the break teetering at 137-6, still needing 140 more runs for victory. Kyle Verreyne and Senuran Muthusamy were both on three not out. Noman had figures of 4-69. Pakistan struck in the first over of the day through fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi who trapped Tony de Zorzi for 16 without any addition to the overnight total of 51-2. Tristan Stubbs struggled to cope with the sharp turn and was on two when a premeditated reverse sweep off Noman safely landed in Salman Agha's hands. Brevis reached his second Test half-century with a six off Noman before becoming the spinner's fourth victim.

Field Marshal Asim...

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defending the nation's frontiers and in swiftly repelling cross-border attacks along the Afghan border. The President reaffirmed that Pakistan will defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity at all costs.

IMF agreement reflects...

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said that the IMF's satisfaction with the pace of Pakistan's economic growth and institutional reforms was a testament to the confidence in the government's policies. He praised the federal finance minister, minister of state for finance, federal finance secretary, and their entire team for their hard work, which led to the finalization of this agreement with the IMF. "The economy is moving in the right direction. We will take all necessary measures for Pakistan's development and prosperity," the prime minister remarked.

Pakistani passport ranks 4th...

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and Afghanistan's travel document only affords the bearer access to 24 destinations without a visa. Pakistan's passport has been declared the world's fourth worst since at least 2021 on the Henley index, which calculates countries' "visa-free score" — the number of destinations travellers can access without a prior visa, or with a visa on arrival.

Pakistan to launch first..

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colours (like red, green, and blue), hyperspectral cameras capture hundreds of very narrow colour bands. This means they can detect tiny differences in light that the human eye, or even normal satellites, can't see. Because of this, scientists can use hyperspectral images to identify materials, detect changes in vegetation, find minerals, monitor pollution, or even study the atmosphere in much greater detail than before.

PM briefs president...

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During the meeting, the President and the Prime Minister reviewed matters of national significance, including the prevailing political and security situation, and recent regional as well as international developments affecting Pakistan's strategic and economic interests. The Prime Minister apprised the President of his recent visits to Egypt and Malaysia, including his engagements with international leaders and efforts for peace in Gaza.

Jamaica beat Bermuda 4-0 to top World Cup group as Curacao held

Jamaica Tops Group B with 4-0 Win Over Bermuda, Curacao Held by Trinidad; Panama Draws Suriname in Group A Thriller as CONCACAF World Cup Qualifying Race Heats Up

MIAMI: Jamaica beat Bermuda 4-0 on Tuesday to seize the lead in Group B of CONCACAF World Cup qualifying as Curacao slipped to second after a 1-1 home draw against Trinidad and Tobago. Jamaica have nine points with two matches remaining, a point clear of Curacao, while Bermuda are out after four straight defeats. Trinidad and Tobago kept their hopes alive with the draw at Curacao's Ergilio Hato Stadium which put them on five points. CONCACAF's United States, Canada and Mexico have already qualified as co-hosts. The final 12 teams have been drawn into three groups, with the winners of each also qualifying for next year's showpiece. The two second-place teams with the best records will still have a chance to qualify via playoffs with teams from other regions Jamaica took the lead in Kingston in the 24th minute when Bermuda centre-back Dante Leverock deflected a cross into his own net. Two minutes later Bobby De Cordova-Reid added a second and Shamar Nicholson gave the hosts a 3-0 cushion by half-time. Dujwan Richards completed the rout in the 76th minute. In Curacao, Kenji Gorre gave the hosts the lead in the 19th minute with a superb right-foot finish into the top right corner, but Tyrese Spicer equalised in the 58th minute for Trinidad and Tobago. — Agencies

Hungary deny Portugal, Ronaldo early World Cup berth

LISBON: Cristiano Ronaldo set a new record for World Cup qualifying goals but Hungary grabbed a late 2-2 draw to stop Portugal from reaching next summer's tournament with two games to spare. After Attila Szalai netted for the visitors, Ronaldo's first-half brace put Roberto Martinez's side on the verge of qualification for the 2026 World Cup. However, Dominik Szoboszlai struck in stoppage time to make Portugal wait and boost his nation's hopes of making it to the tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada. "We are getting closer to our goal! Let's go, Portugal," said Ronaldo on X after the game. Martinez's side top Group F with 10 points, five clear of Hungary. "We didn't manage the game in the last 10 minutes well enough," admitted Spanish coach Martinez. "If you don't kill the game you need to know how to manage it until the end. — APP

Mikel Merino Nets Brace as Spain Thrash Bulgaria 4-0 in Qualifier

Spain Crush Bulgaria 4-0 to Stay Perfect in World Cup Qualifiers, Extend Unbeaten Run to 29 Matches

VALLADOLID: Spain moved a step closer to qualifying for the 2026 World Cup with a comfortable 4-0 win over Bulgaria on Tuesday. Luis de la Fuente's side were completely dominant and triumphed thanks to Mikel Merino's brace, as well as Atanas Cherven's own goal and a Mikel Oyarzabal penalty. Spain have won all four of their opening matches, scoring 15 times without conceding a single goal to lead Group E by three points ahead of Turkey. Georgia are third with Bulgaria bottom after four defeats. "Scoring) was something I wanted to work on and I'm doing it," Merino told TVE. "The merit belongs to the team for creating so many chances, we control games from start to end, and that's the important thing. "We don't have much further to go to get to the World Cup, but it's not done yet... I hope we keep winning." De la Fuente was without several injured key players including Lamine Yamal, Rodri Hernandez and Nico Williams, but his side made light work of the visitors in Valladolid. Euro 2024 winners Spain attacked relentlessly and came close to taking the lead when Barcelona midfielder Pedri Gonzalez's chip hit the bar. Pedri was involved again when they broke the deadlock, with his lofted ball into the area nodded on by Robin Le Normand for Merino to head home. Bulgaria coach Aleksandar Dimitrov admitted before the game his side were just trying to avoid a thrashing, and they restricted Spain to just one goal in the first half. Borja Iglesias, who replaced Samu Aghehova at half-time, should have extended Spain's lead but headed wide when well-placed. Merino headed home his second of the game a few minutes later from Alejandro Grimaldo's cross as the hosts kept up the pressure. It was Merino's sixth goal in his last four matches for Spain. Cherven bundled substitute Aleix Garcia's cross into his own net for Spain's third goal after 79 minutes. Merino won a penalty in stoppage time as he was clumsily kicked by Martin Georgiev and Oyarzabal dispatched it to seal Spain's triumph. Spain have gone 29 competitive matches without defeat, excluding in a penalty shoot-out, matching a record set between 2010 and 2013 by former coach Vicente del Bosque, encompassing their single World Cup triumph to date. "I have to congratulate the players... the problem is that we want more," said De la Fuente. "We have to keep competing and winning. I'm happy for this milestone but we're not thinking about it." — Agencies

Hockey: NZ stun Pak 3-2, end hopes of gold medal

Observers argue that the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) must draw a clear distinction between its senior and junior national teams. Relying heavily on senior players in the junior squad may bring short-term results but could harm long-term talent development. Once these senior players retire, the gap in experience and exposure may leave Pakistan struggling to rebuild

DNA

JOHOR BAHRU: In a surprising turn of events, New Zealand edged past Pakistan 3-2 in a crucial match of the Sultan of Johor Hockey Cup, effectively knocking Pakistan out of gold medal contention. The result came as a major setback for Pakistan, who entered the tournament as one of the top favorites following impressive early performances. Nobody expected Pakistan to falter against New Zealand, a side ranked lower and traditionally considered less formidable in junior hockey. Despite flashes of brilliance, Pakistan failed to maintain consistency

throughout the match. Defensive lapses and missed opportunities in the circle cost them dearly, allowing New Zealand to capitalize and secure a historic win. Earlier in the tournament, Pakistan had shown great promise. They played an intense 3-3 draw against arch-rivals India in a match that kept the crowd on edge till the final whistle. Before that, Pakistan recorded a commanding 7-2 victory over hosts Malaysia, with penalty-corner specialist Muhammad Sufyan Khan netting a hat-trick. Those performances had raised expectations for a podium finish, but the loss to New Zealand has now derailed Pakistan's campaign. The Sultan of Johor Cup, an annual junior

hockey tournament hosted by Malaysia, serves as an important platform for emerging talent from around the world. For Pakistan, this tournament held particular significance, as many of their players are also part of the senior national setup. Junior team captain Hannan Shahid, along with several others, plays a dual role in both senior and junior squads — a situation that has sparked debate among hockey experts. Observers argue that the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) must draw a clear distinction between its senior and junior national teams. Relying heavily on senior players in the junior squad may bring short-term results but could harm long-term talent development. Once these senior players retire,

the gap in experience and exposure may leave Pakistan struggling to rebuild. In contrast, most other participating teams have fielded purely junior players, allowing younger athletes to gain valuable international experience. Pakistan's mixed composition, while boosting competitiveness, risks stalling the grooming of genuine future stars. As the tournament continues, Pakistan will now aim to finish strongly in classification matches. However, the defeat to New Zealand will remain a wake-up call for PHF to rethink its development strategy and focus on nurturing a new generation of players capable of restoring Pakistan's lost glory in world hockey.

Briefs

PSX maintains bullish momentum, gains 210 points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued its bullish trend on Wednesday, as the benchmark KSE-100 Index gained 210.36 points, showing a positive change of 0.13 percent, closing at 165,686.38 points against 165,476.02 points of the previous trading day. A total of 1,528,361,133 shares were traded during the day compared to 1,179,987,121 shares the previous day, while the total value of shares traded stood at Rs68.604 billion against Rs59.201 billion on the last trading day. As many as 489 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, of which 249 recorded gains and 204 sustained losses, while the share prices of 36 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 383,103,314 shares at Rs7.65 per share, Bank of Punjab with 142,130,321 shares at Rs35.53 per share, and WorldCall Telecom with 116,447,451 shares at Rs1.74 per share. Hoechst Pakistan Limited witnessed the maximum increase of Rs144.26 per share price, closing at Rs4,154.50, followed by Nestle Pakistan Limited with a Rs132.86 rise to close at Rs8,335.00 per share. On the other hand, PIA Holding Company Limited recorded the maximum decrease of Rs89.33 per share, closing at Rs24,550.22, followed by Khyber Textile Mills Limited with Rs70.69 decline to close at Rs1,897.13 per share.—APP

CCP announces crackdown on toxic whitening creams

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has launched a nationwide probe against companies involved in making, marketing, and selling mercury-laden skin whitening creams. The move aims to protect consumers from serious health risks and to ensure fair competition in the cosmetics market. The CCP's Office of Fair Trade and Market Intelligence Unit found that several popular whitening products sold in markets and online contain dangerously high levels of mercury. Many of these products falsely claim to be safe and effective while hiding mercury content from their ingredient lists, said a press release. Mercury is a toxic chemical that can cause kidney damage, neurological disorders, and skin diseases. Its use in cosmetics is banned in most countries. Despite this, many whitening creams in Pakistan continue to use mercury under misleading labels such as "fairness," "glow," and "lightening."—APP

Rupee gains 03 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 03 paise against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.12, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 281.15. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.75 and Rs 282.95, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs 2.29 to close at Rs 327.18 against the last day's closing of Rs 324.89, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paise to close at Rs 1.85, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound increased by Rs 2.38 to close at Rs 375.43, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs373.05. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham the Saudi Riyal came down by 01 paise each and closed at Rs 76.53 and Rs 74.95, respectively.—APP

Sri Lanka eyes closer economic ties with Pakistan: Envoy

Rear Admiral (Retd.) Fred Senevirathne, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan highlighted the country's improving economic indicators, the envoy noted that foreign exchange reserves, the national currency, and tourism have all stabilized



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rear Admiral (Retd.) Fred Senevirathne, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and had a meeting with the business community and members of RCCI. He was accompanied by Mr. Christy Ruban,

Deputy Head of Mission.

In his welcome remarks, RCCI President Usman Shaukat gave a short summary of RCCI activities and added that Pakistan and Sri Lanka have enjoyed strong diplomatic relations since 1948. Both countries are active members of SAARC and the Commonwealth of Nations, yet the full potential of their trade partnership remains largely untapped. "Tourism and pharmaceuticals are key sectors for

cooperation," he noted.

The meeting was attended by RCCI Vice President Fahad Barlas, members of the Executive Committee, and a large number of RCCI members. Rear Admiral (Retd.) Senevirathne in his address highlighted the country's improving economic indicators, the envoy noted that foreign exchange reserves, the national currency, and tourism have all stabilized. "Key ports including Colombo, Hambanto-

ta, Galle, and Trincomalee are among the busiest in the region. Sri Lanka also boasts a skilled workforce and is well-connected globally through robust international transportation networks," he added. The High Commissioner also delivered a detailed presentation on Sri Lanka's economy, key reforms, growth indicators, and priority sectors where enhanced bilateral collaboration could bring mutual benefits.

Pak urges UN to support election roadmap for Libya

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has urged the United Nations Security Council to fully support the political roadmap proposed by UN's top envoy for Libya which aims to guide the divided country toward national elections and unifying its state institutions. "These steps are critical to laying the foundations of durable peace, stability, and prosperity for the Libyan people," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the 15-member Council on Tuesday. Nearly 15 years after the fall of former President Muammar Gaddafi, Libya remains split between two rival administrations: the internationally recognized Government of National Unity, located in the western capital of Tripoli, and the rival Government of National Stability based in Benghazi in the east. Ambassador Jadoon said Pakistan remains steadfast in supporting "brotherly" Libya's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and national unity. The roadmap, outlined by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), Hanna Tetteh, on 21 August 2025, proposed ending the transitional period, progressing the agreement of unified institutions, taking the country to free, fair, transparent, and inclusive presidential and legislative elections in line with Security Council resolution 2755 (2024), within an overall timeframe of 18 months, and, in parallel, convening a structured dialogue with Libyan institutional stakeholders and the people of Libya. In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy stressed the need for establishing clear benchmarks and timelines to measure results and ensure that ongoing efforts translate into tangible outcomes. "Sustained engagement with all political stakeholders and the wider public will also be vital for building consensus and broad-based ownership of the roadmap." In this regard, he reiterated that a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process remains the only viable pathway to lasting peace. Ambassador Jadoon commended the High National Elections Commission for holding the recent elections in 34 Libyan municipalities, saying he looked forward to the early elections in the remaining municipalities where polling could not be held due to security and other constraints. On the security track, he looked forward to efforts by all Libyan stakeholders, supported by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), to sustain a fragile truce in Tripoli. "We encourage further confidence-building through inclusive dialogue and commend the role of the Truce Committee and the Security and Military Arrangement Committee for their efforts to secure lasting peace, in and around Tripoli." The Pakistani envoy also called for an early agreement on a unified national budget. "Equally important," said Ambassador Jadoon, "is safeguarding Libya's frozen assets and ensuring their reinvestment for the benefit of the Libyan people in line with Security Council resolution 2769 (2025)." Noting the Libyan Investment Authority's challenges in engaging with financial institutions holding such assets — and such institutions' seeming lack of clarity regarding the application of relevant provisions of that resolution — he suggested the issuance of an "implementation assistance notice" to "clarify operational modalities and address existing interpretational gaps"—DNA

Riyadh to host 2025 World Fire & Rescue Championship

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia is set to host the World Championship in Fire and Rescue Sport for the first time in the Arab world, marking another milestone in the Kingdom's emergence as a global hub for international sporting and professional events. The tournament, organized by the General Directorate of Civil Defense in partnership with the International Sport Federation of Firefighters and Rescuers (ISFFR), will take place at Prince Faisal bin Fahd Sports City in Riyadh from October 26 to November 1, 2025. The Minister of Interior Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz will officially inaugurate the championship during its opening ceremony on October 28. The event coincides with the centenary of the Civil Defense Directorate's founding, adding symbolic significance to the Kingdom's hosting of the competition. Director General Maj. Gen. Dr. Hamoud bin Sulaiman Al-Faraj commended the interior minister's patronage, emphasizing that the championship reinforces Saudi Arabia's growing reputation as a global destination for major sporting events — an achievement aligned with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030. The Riyadh championship will feature delegations from 22 countries and more than 300 competitors, who will take part in four main events — the 100-meter hurdles, 400-meter relay, ladder tower climb, and combat race. The contests are designed to test physical endurance, teamwork, and technical proficiency through realistic firefighting simulations. Launched in 2002 in Moscow, the World Fire and Rescue Championship has evolved into a leading international competition blending athletic excellence with professional discipline. Over two decades, it has grown to include participants from more than 25 countries across Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America, with both men's and women's categories officially recognized. The Riyadh 2025 edition, representing the 20th men's and 11th women's championships, underscores the Kingdom's recognized capability to host complex, specialized global events. It will also highlight modern firefighting technologies, promote international cooperation among fire and rescue services, and uphold WADA anti-doping standards to ensure sporting integrity. The tournament carries a profound humanitarian message celebrating firefighters' heroism, professionalism, and selfless dedication to saving lives. Riyadh's hosting reflects Saudi Arabia's commitment to advancing safety awareness, enhancing national capabilities, and showcasing its leadership role in organizing high-profile international events. "This championship not only celebrates courage and teamwork," said Maj. Gen. Al-Faraj, "but also reflects the Kingdom's broader vision to promote community safety and international cooperation under the transformative framework of Vision 2030.—APP

ICCI hosts Chinese delegation to promote bilateral trade ties

Establishment of Pak-China industrial cooperation centre in Beijing proposed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of Sinotalent Empowering Industry Development (Beijing, China), led by its President Wei Zhongchao, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) here on Wednesday to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan and further strengthen bilateral trade and industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan. The delegation included Wu Guodong and Fan Yiqun of Sinotalent Empowering Industry Development, Liu Gang of Beijing Lingdan Toxic Biological Engineering Research Institute, and Muhammad Arif Mughal of Sino-Pak Industrial Cooperation and Development. During an interactive session with the ICCI leadership, Wei Zhongchao said that the main objective of their visit was to conduct a comprehensive study of Pakistan's market, engage with potential business partners, and identify areas for mutual cooperation. He added that the delegation was particularly interested in exploring collaboration in energy and chemical industries (including petroleum and catalysts), artificial intelligence and the digital economy, high-end manufacturing and assembly industries, agriculture and food processing, and con-

struction materials and infrastructure development. Highlighting China's commitment to promoting industrial linkages, he said that Sinotalent was eager to work closely with Pakistani partners under the framework of CPEC Phase-II to accelerate industrial growth and technological advancement. He also proposed that ICCI must set up a Pak-China Industrial Cooperation Centre in Beijing to showcase the Pakistani products to enhance its export capacity. In his address, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood emphasized the deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and China and the immense potential of CPEC Phase-II to usher in a new era of economic transformation in Pakistan. He said that the second phase of CPEC focuses on industrial cooperation, special economic zones, technology transfer, agriculture modernization, and digital economy development, which would contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth across various regions of Pakistan. He assured the visiting delegation of ICCI's full support and facilitation for Chinese investors, adding that the Chamber is working closely with government entities to ensure a conducive business environment and ease of doing business. He also highlighted the region's export potential in IT, mines and minerals, gems and jewel-

ry, pharmaceuticals, real estate and construction, and tourism, while underlining the importance of upgrading industrial infrastructure to enhance value addition and export competitiveness. In his closing remarks, ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub said that CPEC Phase-II will serve as a catalyst for Pakistan's export-led growth through sustainable industrialization. He added that we love to have Joint Ventures with Chinese companies and that the doors of ICCI are opened to play its role for the purpose. Both sides agreed to maintain close coordination to explore practical avenues for strengthening industrial, technological, and trade linkages between the two countries and also agreed to ink Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) to give the proposals a practical shape at the earliest possible time. Former Senior Vice President ICCI Faad Waheed who conducted the ceremony in the most efficient way was appointed as the focal person for the purpose. Those present also included ICCI Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, Executive Members Zulqurnain Abbasi, Malik Aqeel, Imran Minhas, Waseem Chaudhry, Mohsin Malik, former executive member Dr. Usman, former Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shahid Mumtaz Bajwa.

Jazz recognised by FBR as top taxpayer

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has been recognised by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) as one of the country's top compliant taxpayers for the fiscal year 2024–25. According to a news release of the company, a high-level delegation from the Large Taxpayers Office (LTO), Islamabad, visited the Jazz Headquarters to present the recognition shield, acknowledging the company's significant contributions to the national economy. The award was presented by Zafar Iqbal Khan, Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, LTO Islamabad, to Farrukh Khan, Chief Financial Officer, Jazz, said, "This recognition by FBR is a proud moment for us and reinforces Jazz's commitment to responsible corporate citizenship. As one of Pakistan's largest taxpayers, we remain dedicated to fulfilling our obligations with transparency and consistency. Beyond compliance, our focus continues to be on driving innovation and delivering digital services that empower millions of Pakistanis, contributing to the nation's socio-economic progress.—APP

Pakistan, UAE vow to strengthen bilateral trade, eco coop

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan, on Wednesday, called on Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Foreign Trade of the United Arab Emirates. During the meeting, both dignitaries reviewed the state of bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and the UAE. Both sides also underscored the importance of further enhancing these longstanding fraternal ties, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce. Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan invited the UAE business community to explore new avenues of collaboration with their Pakistani counterparts. He also extended a special invitation to UAE companies and investors to participate in the 3rd International Food and Agriculture Exhibition (FoodAg 2025), scheduled to be held from November 25–27, which is a flagship event of Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce. Groceries Expressing deep appreciation for the warmth and hospitality extended to him, the Coordinator conveyed his gratitude to the leadership and people of the UAE for their continued support and friendship during his tenure.—APP

Drone attack strikes Sudan capital

PORT SUDAN, SUDAN: A series of drone attacks targeted the Sudanese capital Khartoum for multiple hours on Wednesday, eyewitnesses and an army source told AFP. A military official said the army had shot down "most of the drones," which targeted two army bases in the capital's northwest. Sudan's army has been at war since April 2023 with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, who have regularly attacked army positions using drones. The war has killed tens of thousands of people and created the world's largest hunger and displacement crises. The capital has been mostly calm since the army regained control earlier this year, with fighting for territory now concentrated in the country's south and west. But the RSF has been repeatedly accused of carrying out long-range drone attacks on military and civilian infrastructure. Eyewitnesses in Omdurman, part of greater Khartoum, said they saw drones flying over the city and heard "loud explosions coming from the north" throughout the night on Wednesday. It was the second day in a row drone strikes targeted the capital, according to the Sudan Shield Forces.—APP

Briefs

President Zardari condemns cross-Border attacks

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has strongly condemned the unprovoked cross-border attacks launched from Afghan territory on Pakistan's border posts in the Spin Boldak area of Balochistan and the Kurram sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The President termed the attacks a blatant violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and an unacceptable act of aggression. He commended the professionalism and valour of Pakistan's Armed Forces for effectively repulsing the assaults and defending the country's borders. President Zardari observed that the Afghan Taliban regime remains in constant violation of the Doha Accord by providing safe sanctuaries to terrorist groups that continue to attack regional countries, thereby destabilising the entire region including Pakistan. He further noted that the regime has failed to establish a broad-based and representative government in Afghanistan and continues to monopolise power to the exclusion of other political and ethnic groups. The President called upon the authorities in Kabul to ensure that Afghan soil is not used for acts of terrorism or hostility against Pakistan. He emphasised that such provocations undermine regional peace and the long-standing bonds of brotherhood between the peoples of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The President reaffirmed that Pakistan desires peaceful, cooperative relations with all its neighbours, but any act of aggression will be met with a firm and resolute response.

FBR announces extension in income tax filing deadline

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The FBR on Wednesday notified an extension in the deadline for filing the income tax returns for the 2025 tax year by 16 days. The notification stated that the income tax particulars could be filed till October 31. Prior to this decision, the tax authority announced to extend the deadline two weeks ago, setting October 15 as the last date of submission. The previous extension was approved following requests from various trade bodies, taxpayers, and tax bar associations, the FBR said. The tax body faced a shortfall of Rs1.2 trillion against its original revenue target of Rs12.97 trillion for FY25, despite introducing Rs1.3 trillion in new taxes. The shortfall drew scrutiny from IMF during recent technical-level talks, where Islamabad was asked to explain the under-performance. The News reported. The FBR ultimately collected Rs11.74 trillion after two downward revisions, with officials attributing the gap to unrealised recoveries worth Rs250 billion tied up in pending court cases.

SC's Constitutional Bench can hear 26th Amendment case

Justice Ayesha Malik says eight-member bench can direct JCP to form full court; hearing adjourned till Oct 20

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar on Wednesday said that the constitutional bench can hear 26th Amendment case and that judges from all the constitutional benches can be included if necessary. Justice Mazhar's remarks came as an eight-member bench heard the pleas against the 26th Constitutional Amendment passed by the parliament last year. The Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan-led bench also includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarat Hilali, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan. Around three dozen petitioners, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sunni Ittehad Council

(SIC), Lahore High Court Bar Association, Lahore Bar Association, Karachi Bar Association as well as the former seven presidents of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and various individuals in personal capacity, had challenged the validity of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. During the hearing today, lawyer Abid Zuberi representing former presidents of Pakistan Bar Council, argued that the CJP can issue a direction to form a full court. "There is no restriction on the powers; judicial powers are available under Article 75 [of Constitution]," Zuberi said. To this, Justice Amin-Ud-Din responded that if a judicial order concerning a full court is passed, then it would be outside the jurisdiction of the judges

not part of the constitutional bench. "The CJP can use [his] administrative powers," the lawyer contended, to which Justice Amin-Ud-Din said that the CJP had no administrative powers. Noting that the work of the constitutional bench is limited, lawyer Zuberi said that there is no restriction preventing the matter from being referred to the CJP. "Referring the matter to the CJP is one thing and passing a judicial order is another," Justice Amin-Ud-Din observed. Expanding on the matter, Justice Malik questioned whether Article 191A imposed any restriction on passing a judicial order and whether the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) could be directed to form a full court?

Finance Minister says

Reforms could herald an "East Asia moment"

"Macroeconomic stability and structural reforms must go hand in hand," he said, citing ongoing efforts in taxation, energy, state-owned enterprise restructuring, and public finance as integral to this agenda

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, currently in Washington D.C. to attend the 2025 World Bank Group - IMF Annual Meetings, held an exclusive interview with CNBC to discuss Pakistan's ongoing IMF engagement and the country's emerging export-led growth strategy. During the interview, the Finance Minister underlined the steady progress Pakistan has made toward macroeconomic stability over the past year, emphasizing improvements across key indicators including currency stability, foreign exchange reserves, inflation, and policy rate alignment. He noted that the recent upgrades by all three major global rating agencies validate the country's economic trajectory and reform agenda. Senator Aurangzeb stated that Pakistan's current reform drive is rooted in a balanced approach that links macroeconomic stability with deep structural transformation. "Macroeconomic stability and structural reforms must go hand in hand," he said, citing ongoing efforts in taxation, energy, state-owned enterprise restructuring, and public finance as integral to this agenda. Discussing the next phase of Pakistan's growth journey, the



Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb Highlights Pakistan's Reform Momentum, Export-Led Growth Agenda in CNBC Interview

Finance Minister said the government is determined to break away from the historical cycle of boom-and-bust by shifting from an import-led to an export-led growth model. He highlighted the introduction of an ambitious tariff rationalization regime aimed at enhancing industrial competitiveness, reducing costs of raw materials and intermediate goods, and supporting the export sector. Explaining Pakistan's policy stance in the context of global trade dynamics, Senator Aurangzeb said: "While every country follows its own policy imperatives, Pakistan's focus is on fostering competitiveness rather than protectionism. We cannot continue to shield industries indefinitely - our priority is to enable industries to compete, grow, and export." He acknowledged the strong partnership with the United States and commended the World Bank Group for supporting Pakistan's reform efforts. Drawing a broader perspective, the Finance Minister remarked that Pakistan's reform momentum and economic liberalization could set the stage for an "East Asia moment" - a period of dynamic, export-driven expansion inspired by the experience of high-growth Asian economies such as Singapore. Senator Aurangzeb concluded by reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to sustaining reform implementation, strengthening resilience, and positioning the country on a sustainable, outward-looking growth path.

UNGA elects 14 members to HR Council

The Geneva-based Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the UN system responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world

NEW YORK: The United Nations General Assembly has elected 14 member states to serve in the UN Human Rights Council beginning on 1st January, 2026. The 14 countries elected are Angola, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, India, Iraq, Italy, Mauritius, Pakistan, Slovenia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Vietnam. They will each serve a three-year term on the Human Rights Council. The Geneva-based Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world. About one-third of its 47 members are replaced every year to ensure continuity through staggered three-year terms. Seats of the Human Rights Council are allocated on the basis of regional groups for the sake of geographical representation: 13 each for Africa and the Asia-Pacific; eight for Latin America and the Caribbean; seven for Western Europe and other states; six for Eastern Europe. - APP

Rebuilding war-devastated Gaza to cost \$70 billion: UN

UNITED NATIONS: Around \$70 billion will be needed to reconstruct Gaza and make it safe after two years of Israeli war in the enclave, UN development experts said on Tuesday, while aid agencies reported that far too little aid is getting in to meet the needs of desperate Palestinians. At just 41 kilometres long (25.4 miles) and two to five kilometres wide (1.2 to 3.1 miles), few places in the Gaza Strip had been left unscathed by the constant Israeli bombardment before the latest ceasefire came into effect haltingly last Friday. According to the UN Development Programme Special Representative for the Palestinians, Jaco Cilliers, destruction across the enclave "is now in the region of 84 per cent. In certain parts of Gaza, like in Gaza City, it's even up to 92 per cent." Speaking from Jerusalem, Cilliers highlighted the findings of the latest Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (IRDNA) on Gaza by the UN, the European Union and the World Bank, which estimated the damage at \$70 billion. To kickstart the massive operation, some \$20 billion will be required in the next three years alone, he told journalists in Geneva.

The UN development agency is present in Gaza alongside humanitarian partners to provide immediate support to the enclave's 2.1 million people. This includes providing clean water, emergency employment, medical supplies, solid waste removal and making homes and public spaces safe by clearing rubble potentially hiding unexploded ordnance or the many thousands of missing Palestinians. "We've already removed about 81,000 tonnes. That is about...3,100 truckloads," Cilliers explained. "The majority of the debris removal is to provide access to humanitarian actors so that they can provide the much-needed aid and support to the people in Gaza. But we also help with hospitals and other social services that need to be cleared of debris." The UNDP official pointed to "very good indications" from potential donors in support of reconstruction from Arab States, but also from European nations and the United States "which has also indicated that they are going to be coming in supporting some of the early recovery efforts". Important as reconstruction is for Gaza's long-term future, UN humanitarians once again clamoured for the Israeli authorities

to open all access points into Gaza, after the remaining 20 living Israeli hostages were freed on Monday and Palestinian prisoners were released from Israel. The development followed the signing of a ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel signed on Monday evening in Sharm El-Sheikh by US President Donald Trump, and the leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye. Earlier on Monday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the release of all living hostages from Gaza, two years since they were among some 250 taken during Hamas-led terror attacks in Israel on 7 October 2023. On Tuesday, the focus shifted to the transfer from Gaza of all deceased hostages, an extremely difficult process overseen by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It remains unclear how many deceased hostages will be transferred by Hamas. "When it comes to the living hostages or Palestinian detainees - and believe me that's a big issue for us - we actually don't know, we know that we have to be ready," said ICRC spokesperson Christian Cardon, adding that the complex search is getting underway today. - Agencies

Transgender Nayyab Ali shortlisted for UN role



DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark development, Nayyab Ali, a renowned Pakistani human rights defender and policy expert, has been officially shortlisted by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the position of UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders. Talking to APP here on Wednesday, Nayyab Ali said the recognition affirms the UN's commitment to equality and inclusion. "This acknowledgment is a reminder that the UN stands firm on universality and dignity for all. If appointed, I aim to strengthen protections for human rights defenders, especially from gender-diverse communities, who face violence and exclusion worldwide," she stated. The next stage of selection will be led by the Special Consultative Group - comprising representatives from Malawi, the Republic of Korea, North Macedonia, Guatemala, and Türkiye which will recommend candidates to the President of the Human Rights Council for final appointment during the 61st Session. Nayyab currently serves as Executive Director of Transgender Rights Consultants Pakistan and a Global Human Rights Fellow at Harvard University's Carr Center. She played a pivotal role in drafting the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018, and has received seven international awards, including the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (2020). She added that shortlisting is being hailed as a historic achievement for Pakistan and a milestone for transgender visibility and inclusion within the United Nations system.

Boeing delivers 55 planes in September

SAN FRANCISCO: Boeing said Tuesday that it delivered 55 commercial airplanes of all types in September, surpassing its five-year average of 40 deliveries in the month and marking an increase of 22 deliveries from a year ago. Of the 55 planes delivered in September, 40 were 737 MAXs. In September 2018, before two fatal 737 MAX crashes upended Boeing's production, the company delivered 87 airplanes. Boeing also delivered seven 787 Dreamliners, three 777 freighters, four 767s and one 737 NG. From Jan. 1 through the end of September, Boeing delivered 440 airplanes, compared to 291 for the same time period last year. In the three months between July and September, Boeing delivered 160 planes, up from 116 in the third quarter of 2024. In September, Airbus delivered 73 planes. From January through September, it delivered 507 planes. - APP

NATO looks to strengthen its defences

BRUSSELS: NATO defence ministers will look Wednesday at shoring up the alliance's ability to counter Russian air incursions, as fears grow that Moscow is testing the West in a grey zone between war and peace. Focus will also be on bolstering support for Ukraine as US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth joins his 31 NATO counterparts with his boss, President Donald Trump, mulling the supply of long-range missiles to Kyiv. The gathering in Brussels comes after Moscow rattled NATO with a series of high-profile airspace violations in Poland and Estonia that fuelled fears of conflict spilling over its border. Those were followed up by a spate of mysterious drones that disrupted airports and flew close to military sites in a string of countries. All this has added fuel to concerns that Russia is pushing the boundaries and seeking to probe NATO's reaction. "In more and more ways, we are in a long-term and intensified conflict with Russia," a Western official said. NATO ministers are set to train their sights on efforts to plug gaps in the alliance's eastern flank after it had to use costly missiles to down Russian drones in Poland. "We are doing what we trained for, and it works, but we need to do more," NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said. NATO has launched a new mission and beefed up

its forces in the wake of the incidents, but some countries close to Russia are asking for a more robust response. Diplomats say the alliance is looking to fine tune its rules of engagement for dealing with Russian incursions and iron out different approaches between member states. NATO is at the same time seeking to speed up work on better developing anti-drone capabilities and incorporating the sort of low-cost technology Ukraine is using into its own defences. The EU, which will convene its own meeting of defence ministers on Wednesday evening, has proposed creating a "drone wall" to try to tackle the menace. But there is some scepticism from countries like Germany over the proposal and fears that the 27-nation bloc could be treading on NATO's toes. The drone initiative is one of a number of flagship projects the EU is focusing on as part of a broad push to prepare the bloc for potential conflict with Moscow in the coming years. The EU will present a road map on its plans to ministers and hopes to get sign off on it at a summit of leaders next week. Hegseth, who delivered a blistering jolt to NATO on his first visit in February, is meanwhile expected to tell allies to start making good on a vow to ramp up defence spending. NATO members agreed at their Hague summit in June to reach 3.5 percent of GDP on core military spending by 2035. - Agencies

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