



Islamabad POST

Friday, October 17, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Pakistan, Uzbekistan
Enjoy excellent ties,
says Attaullah Tarar**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Neil Hawkins
played key
role: Naqvi**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Malaysian
envoy Attends
event in Karachi**

Detailed News On Page-02



Punjab govt moves

TLP to be banned after violent protests

TLP offices 'sealed' in Islamabad

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to approach the Centre to impose a ban on an "extremist party" following the recent wave of violent protests orchestrated by the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). At a high-level meeting on law and order, chaired by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in Lahore, the provincial leadership approved "historic" and "extraordinary" measures. Without naming any party, the statement issued by the provincial government said those involved in inciting violence, spreading hatred and violating the law will be arrested "immediately". It further said that extremist party's leaders and workers responsible for the deaths of law enforcement agencies' personnel and involved in damaging public property will be tried in anti-terrorism courts. The leadership of the party is also expected to be placed on the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act, which places strict limits on their movement and activities. As part of the broader clampdown, the provincial government plans to seize all of the party's properties and assets, which will be handed over to the Auaq Department. It's also moving to ban the group's posters, banners, and advertisements entirely. Their social media accounts will be shut down, and any associated bank accounts frozen. The statement has also signalled that any misuse of loudspeakers, in violation of the Loudspeaker Act, will be met with tough penalties. The move comes as part of a broader crackdown aimed at restoring public order and reinforcing the writ of the state and rule of law after recent unrest across the province. Earlier this week, the law enforcement agencies launched a crackdown on TLP protesters and dismantled their protest camp in

Continued on Page 06

China says it supports Pak-Afghan ceasefire

DNA

BEIJING: China supports countries in exercising restraint and realising a full and lasting ceasefire, its foreign ministry said on Thursday, when asked about Pakistan and Afghanistan agreeing to a 48-hour ceasefire. China stands ready to continue to play a constructive role for continued improvement in the two countries' relations, Lin Jian, a spokesperson for the foreign ministry, told a regular press briefing. On Wednesday, the Foreign Office (FO) announced that a temporary ceasefire had been agreed with Afghanistan for the next 48 hours amid recent border hostilities between the two countries. "A temporary ceasefire has been decided between the Pakistani government and the Afghan Taliban regime, with the mutual consent of both parties, for the next 48 hours from 6pm today, at the request of the Taliban. "During this period, both sides will make sincere efforts to find a positive solution to this complex but solvable issue through constructive dialogue," the FO said. Taliban regime spokesperson Zabullah Mujahid said on X that

Continued on Page 06

Border clashes

Pakistan suspends Afghan cargo transport

FBR suspends trade indefinitely after Quetta, Peshawar stations become incapacitated to accommodate additional containers

DNA

KARACHI: Amin ongoing tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan owing to violent border clashes, Islamabad has suspended cargo transport under the Afghan Transit Trade from Karachi ports, The News reported on Thursday. Following the directives issued by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), all port terminals have begun offloading containers already loaded onto vehicles. The decision to suspend the Afghan Transit Trade, made during a meeting at the Directorate of Transit Trade Headquarters, Customs House Karachi under chairmanship of Afghan Transit Trade Director General (DG) comes amid heightened tensions between the two neighbours. Both countries have been

Continued on Page 06

Around 80 terrorists' neutralised

Several khawarij injured in military action

DNA

PAKISTAN Army has eliminated 45 to 80 militants belonging to Indian proxy "Fitna al-Khawarij" while thwarting an infiltration attempt in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa amid border tensions with Afghanistan, security sources told.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: A PPP delegation led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest and vowed to shun differences. – DNA

PML-N, PPP DÉTENTE

French PM survives no-trust votes

DNA

PARIS: French Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu survived two no-confidence votes in parliament on Thursday, winning crucial backing from the Socialist Party thanks to his pledge to suspend President Emmanuel Macron's contested pension reform. The two motions presented by the hard-left France Unbowed and the far-right National Rally (RN) secured just 271 and 144 votes respectively – well short of the 289 votes needed to bring down Lecornu's days-old government. Lecornu's offer to mothball the pension reform until after the 2027 presidential election helped sway

Continued on Page 06

Death penalty for Hasina Wajid demanded

NEWS DESK

DHAKA: Bangladeshi prosecution lawyers demanded on Thursday that fugitive ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina receive the death penalty in her trial for crimes against humanity. Hasina has defied court orders to return from India, where she fled last year, to face charges of ordering a deadly crackdown in a failed attempt to crush a student-led uprising. Up to 1,400 people were killed in the clashes between

Continued on Page 06

PM assures CM Afridi

Centre ready to work with KP for Pakistan's interests

PTI loyalist Sohail Afridi warned of "confrontational" politics after being elected to top post

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday congratulated Sohail Afridi for being elected as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister and emphasised the centre-province coordination to achieve the national goals. This was the first telephonic conversation between PM Shehbaz and CM Afridi following the latter's election to the top post amid political friction between the federation and the province led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), respectively. "Centre is ready to work with you [KP government] for Pakistan's interests," the premier told the newly-elected chief minister, who took oath a day ago and succeeded Ali Amin Gandapur.

Continued on Page 06

'Ball in Afghan Taliban's court' for permanent ceasefire

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan is ready to hold talks with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan on reasonable terms as both countries observe a 48-hour temporary ceasefire. Addressing the federal cabinet meeting on Pak-Afghan border tensions on Thursday, the premier said that now the ball is in the Taliban regime's

Continued on Page 06

Wants to meet Imran Khan

PHC bars authorities from arresting KP CM

No work will be done without the instructions of PTI founder Imran Khan, says Afridi

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Thursday secured protective bail from the Peshawar High Court (PHC) as the court barred the authorities from arresting him and sought the details of cases registered against him.

Continued on Page 06

Ceasefire a good omen for regional peace

EDITORIAL

ISLAMABAD: After days of deadly border clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan, both sides have agreed to a 48-hour temporary ceasefire a move that many observers are calling a positive development for regional peace and stability. The decision came after a sharp escalation in hostilities, triggered by Pakistan's recent strikes on terrorist hideouts of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) inside Afghan territory. The conflict spiraled when Afghan forces launched retaliatory attacks on Pakistani border posts. The situation worsened on October 15, when Afghanistan once again targeted Pakistani positions, provoking a strong and measured response from Pakistan's security forces. Pakistan's counterattack inflicted significant losses on the Afghan side, prompting Kabul to request an immediate ceasefire. Islamabad, in a statesmanlike move, accepted the Afghan request but made it clear that this 48-hour truce is conditional Afghanistan must refrain from any further "adventurism" or provocations. The gesture demonstrates Pakistan's preference for dialogue and peace over prolonged military confrontation. The temporary ceasefire, though fragile, offers a glimmer of hope for a region that has long been marred by mistrust and intermittent violence. Pakistan and Afghanistan share not only a long and porous border but also deep cultural, religious, and historical ties. Neighbours cannot be changed; they must learn to coexist. Indeed, this episode serves as a reminder that both nations have far more to gain through cooperation than confrontation. Persistent hostilities only serve to destabilize the region and hinder socio-economic development. Both countries must now take this pause in fighting as an opportunity to address the root causes of tension particularly the issue of cross-border militancy.

For years, Pakistan has been urging the Taliban-led Afghan government to take decisive action against the TTP, which continues to orchestrate attacks from Afghan soil. Despite repeated assurances from Kabul, the menace of TTP remains unchecked. Islamabad's recent operation targeting TTP hideouts was aimed at dismantling the terrorist infrastructure that threatens Pakistan's national security. The Afghan government's inaction has only deepened Pakistan's frustration. The Taliban, having once been victims of external aggression themselves, should understand the gravity of allowing militant groups to operate freely. As long as the TTP continues to find safe havens in Afghanistan, mutual trust between the two neighbours will remain elusive. Whenever Pakistan and Afghanistan engage in conflict, it is the regional spoilers who rejoice. Among them, India stands out as the biggest beneficiary of discord between the two Muslim-majority neighbours. New Delhi, still reeling from its recent military humiliation where seven of its aircraft were reportedly shot down in a confrontation with Pakistan – has every incentive to stoke instability along Pakistan's western border. A distracted Pakistan means an advantage for India, which seeks to undermine Islamabad diplomatically and militarily. Although a direct Indian adventure against Pakistan is unlikely in the near future, there is little doubt that India would prefer a prolonged Pakistan-Afghanistan conflict that keeps Islamabad's attention divided. This underscores the need for both Kabul and Islamabad to see beyond immediate grievances and recognize the broader geopolitical game at play. Peace in Afghanistan is not just an Afghan or Pakistani issue – it is a regional necessity. Many crucial energy and connectivity projects, such as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline and CASA-1000 power transmission project, depend on stability in Afghanistan. With-

out peace, these multi-billion-dollar initiatives will remain stalled, depriving the entire region of economic growth and energy security. Afghanistan's internal peace is also vital for Pakistan's border regions, which have suffered immensely from terrorism and the influx of refugees. Sustainable peace in Afghanistan would pave the way for secure borders, enhanced trade, and people-to-people exchanges that could transform South and Central Asia into a hub of economic activity. While Pakistan has every right to defend its sovereignty and respond to aggression, it must continue exercising restraint and strategic patience. The Taliban government does not respond effectively to threats or military might their political and ideological roots are deeply intertwined with decades of conflict and resistance. They do not understand the language of coercion; their mindset has been shaped by war. However, history has shown that engagement and diplomacy can yield results where force fails. Even the world's superpowers from the Soviet Union to the United States – learned that military domination in Afghanistan is futile. Pakistan, therefore, must tread wisely, using dialogue, economic incentives, and religious diplomacy to bring the Taliban leadership toward mutual understanding. Another major sticking point between Islamabad and Kabul is the issue of Afghan refugees. Millions of Afghans have lived in Pakistan for decades, benefiting from its hospitality and generosity. However, their prolonged stay has created economic, social, and security challenges for Pakistan. The government's recent decision to repatriate illegal Afghan refugees has drawn criticism from Kabul and some international quarters. While Pakistan has legitimate concerns about its internal security, the process of repatriation should be carried out humanely and with-

out coercion. The refugees, many of whom were born and raised in Pakistan, should not be made scapegoats for diplomatic failures. A joint mechanism involving both governments and international organizations could ensure an orderly and dignified repatriation process. Pakistan's current predicament is, to some extent, the outcome of its own past policies. Over the years, Islamabad has supported certain factions or groups for strategic purposes only to find them later turning against the state. These short-term tactical moves have often produced long-term instability. The rise of the TTP is a stark reminder of how such groups, once nurtured for geopolitical gains, can evolve into uncontrollable monsters. Moving forward, Pakistan must adopt a consistent, principle-based approach toward Afghanistan one that prioritizes peace, non-interference, and mutual respect. Strategic depth should be replaced with strategic cooperation. The 48-hour ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan may be short, but it carries immense symbolic importance. It demonstrates that even after fierce exchanges, dialogue remains possible. Both countries must now capitalize on this moment to establish communication channels, address mutual grievances, and develop a framework to prevent future escalations. As neighbours bound by faith, culture, and geography, Pakistan and Afghanistan have no choice but to coexist. Continued hostility will only serve the interests of external powers and push both nations toward economic and social decline. It is time for reason to prevail over rhetoric, and for diplomacy to replace the drumbeat of war. If both sides commit sincerely to peace, this temporary truce could become the first step toward lasting stability not just for Pakistan and Afghanistan, but for the entire region.

Briefs

India to cut Russian oil imports

DNA

NEW DELHI: Some Indian refiners are preparing to cut Russian oil imports, with expectations of a gradual reduction, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters, with the US pressuring New Delhi to stop buying Russian crude to help end the war in Ukraine. US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had assured that India will stop buying oil from Russia, India's top source of imported oil. India said on Thursday the country's two main goals were to ensure stable energy prices and secure supply. "It has been our consistent priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario. Our import policies are guided entirely by this objective," the foreign ministry statement said in a statement. The statement did not refer to Trump's comment about India's purchases of Russian oil.

JUI F chief hints at march towards Capital

NEWS DESK

DI KHAN: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, speaking in Dera Ismail Khan, said his party believes in democracy but alleged the 2024 elections were rigged. He urged his workers to be ready to march on Islamabad and promised sustained nationwide protests until the matter is addressed. Fazl said the mobilisation follows recent demonstrations by the TLP and warned supporters to stay organised for action. The development raises tensions with authorities, who have vowed to prevent any unauthorised march on the capital.

Governor KP visits families of police martyrs

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday visited the residences of police personnel who embraced martyrdom in the recent terrorist attack on the Police Training Centre, Dera Ismail Khan. During the visits, the governor met with the families of the martyred policemen in far-flung areas, offered Fateha and expressed heartfelt condolences and prayers with the families of the martyrs. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that the police martyrs were the pride of the nation and their supreme sacrifices for the protection of the motherland would always be remembered with great respect. He added that visiting the homes of these brave sons was his moral and national responsibility, as they had laid down their lives in the line of duty for peace and security. The governor visited the houses of Shaheed Mudassar and Shaheed Ismatullah in Wanda Mudat, Shaheed Daniyal in Wanda Lali, and Shaheed Muhammad Farhan in Shah Khel. He met the bereaved families, relatives, and local residents, expressing solidarity and sharing their grief.—APP

Ombudsman provides Rs 1.5m relief to Mepco consumers

DERA GHAZI KHAN, Oct 16 (APP): The Regional Head of the Federal Ombudsman's Office in Dera Ghazi Khan, Muhammad Sohaib, heard 110 cases related to the Multan Electric Power Company (Mepco) and provided relief worth around Rs1.5 million to complainants. Acting on the directives of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, Muhammad Sohaib personally reviewed complaints during the hearing session held at the DG Khan office, says an official release issued here Thursday. He instructed officials of various federal departments to resolve public grievances promptly and ensure fair relief. In several cases, penalties imposed on consumers under unjustified billing were ordered to be withdrawn. Complainants unable to appear in person, were heard via telephone calls, ensuring that no case remained unattended. Speaking to media representatives, Muhammad Sohaib reaffirmed the Ombudsman's commitment to providing swift and merit-based justice to citizens without fear or influence. People should not hesitate to lodge complaints against any federal department. We are here to ensure justice without delay or discrimination, he added. He emphasized that under the leadership of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, efforts are being intensified to resolve public grievances and deliver justice within 60 days, without any fee or legal representation.—APP

Malaysian envoy engages with English speaking union

The High Commissioner highlighted the longstanding and fraternal relations between Malaysia and Pakistan, tracing them back to 1957, when Pakistan was among the first nations to recognize Malaysia's independence

DNA

KARACHI : In connection with the celebrations of Malaysia's 68th National Day and 62nd Malaysia Day, Dato' Mohamad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, undertook an official visit to Karachi where he delivered a keynote address at an event organized by the English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP). The event, arranged by the Consulate General of Malaysia in Karachi, brought together prominent members of Pakistan's civil society including industrialists, philanthropists, academics, and thought leaders. Established in 1961 and affiliated with the London-based English-Speaking Union, ESUP has long served as a distinguished platform for intellectual and cultural exchange. In his address, the High Commissioner highlighted the longstanding and fraternal relations between Malaysia and Pakistan, tracing them back to 1957, when Pakistan was among the first nations to recognize Malaysia's independence. He also fondly recalled the role of Justice Abdul Hamid of Pakistan, who contributed to the drafting of Malaysia's Constitution — a gesture that continues to symbolize the deep historical and intellectual linkages between the two nations. His Excellency emphasized that Malaysia-Pakistan relations are rooted not merely in diplomacy or trade, but in shared faith, cultural heritage, and mutual respect. "Our friendship is built upon common Islamic values, parallel journeys of nation-building, and a commitment to progress and development," he remarked. He noted that these enduring



bonds laid the groundwork for the Malaysia-Pakistan Strategic Partnership, established on March 22, 2019, which now guides bilateral cooperation in a structured and forward-looking manner. Looking to the future, Dato' Mohamad Azhar Mazlan presented a comprehensive vision for expanding cooperation under the Strategic Partnership framework. He stressed the importance of enhancing people-to-people ties, promoting bilateral trade and investment, and deepening collaboration in education and technology. The High Commissioner underlined Malaysia's readiness to work closely with Pakistan in these areas, noting that such initiatives would not only strengthen economic and politi-

cal cooperation but also nurture lasting cultural and intellectual linkages between the peoples of both nations. The address was warmly received by the audience, who appreciated Malaysia's proactive outreach and reaffirmation of friendship with Pakistan. The event concluded with an engaging discussion session, where participants exchanged views on enhancing Malaysia-Pakistan collaboration in trade, education, and cultural diplomacy. The High Commissioner's visit to Karachi, and his engagement with ESUP, were seen as a reflection of Malaysia's continued commitment to deepening ties with Pakistan at multiple levels — from government and business to academia and civil society.

LCCI president, Turkish envoy discuss ways to expand bilateral trade

LAHORE: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Irfan Neziroglu, Thursday visited Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and met President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol. LCCI Senior Vice President Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh, Vice President Khuram Lodhi, Acting Consul General of Türkiye in Lahore, and Commercial Counselor and Executive Committee members were also present. Welcoming the ambassador, LCCI President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol said that Pakistan and Türkiye share deep-rooted cultural, historical, and strategic ties. He highlighted the strong collaboration between both countries in several sectors, particularly in defence. He noted that Türkiye's geopolitical role in recent global developments has been highly significant. Referring to Pakistan's recently signed defence pact with Saudi Arabia, he stated that it marks an important milestone, and Pakistan now seeks to further expand its relations with Türkiye. The LCCI President stressed the importance of business-to-business (B2B) meetings, trade delegations, and continuous engagement between the private sectors of both nations. He also appreciated Türkiye's steadfast support for Pakistan during the recent tensions with India. LCCI President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol said that a large potential for economic cooperation remains untapped. He noted that according to the State Bank of Pakistan, bilateral trade stood at around USD 908 million in 2024-25, with exports to Türkiye at USD 264 million dollars and imports at USD 643 million. He added that Türkiye's global exports exceeded USD 261 billion while imports were

nearly USD 344 billion in 2024, and Pakistan seeks to increase its share in this trade with Türkiye's support. The LCCI President said Pakistan's exports to Türkiye are mainly textiles, while imports include machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, and plastic products. He emphasized that the Trade in Goods Agreement signed in 2022 offers a solid base to raise the bilateral trade volume to at least USD 5 billion. Ambassador Dr. Neziroglu congratulated the LCCI leadership and lauded the Chamber for its vital role in promoting business and industrial growth. He remarked that whenever he visits Lahore, he makes it a point to visit the LCCI, calling it a "school" that has produced two Prime Ministers, a Foreign Minister, and a Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan. He commended the LCCI as one of the most active and dynamic chambers in the region. Ambassador Dr. Irfan Neziroglu said that Türkiye and Pakistan are actively working to enhance and expand the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two brotherly countries to strengthen economic cooperation and open new avenues of bilateral trade and investment. The ambassador reaffirmed that Pakistan and Türkiye are "brotherly nations" and emphasized the need to move from traditional, room-based approaches to more power-based systems in order to meet the demands of the modern global economy. He expressed Türkiye's strong interest in initiating joint ventures in energy, IT, tourism, education, mining, and other vital sectors. He said that Pakistan has great potential in the livestock sector, but its share in the international halal market remains low and requires more

focused efforts to improve. He also invited the LCCI President to lead a business delegation to Türkiye in November, adding that his government is ready to host Pakistani entrepreneurs during upcoming exhibitions. Dr. Neziroglu said that Türkiye is ready to share its advanced technologies with Pakistan so both countries can learn from each other and build upon existing expertise instead of starting from scratch. He added that while defence cooperation between the two nations remains robust, there is a strong need to diversify trade and expand collaboration in other areas such as electronics, rice, leather, and especially textiles—a common strength of both economies. He further noted that Pakistan's access to certain regional markets and Türkiye's trade linkages can complement each other to create new opportunities for mutual growth. The Consul General of Türkiye also highlighted the potential for learning from each other's experiences to improve business competitiveness and innovation. LCCI Senior Vice President Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh proposed that Türkiye could explore joint ventures with Pakistan in the automobile and other industrial sectors. Vice President Khuram Lodhi thanked the ambassador for his visit and reaffirmed LCCI's full support for strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to enhance economic, technological, and cultural cooperation, and to take concrete steps toward expanding the Preferential Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Türkiye.—DNA

'Youth loan initiative fuels new era entrepreneurship'

ISLAMABAD: In a decisive move to reduce youth unemployment and foster entrepreneurship, the government has further expanded the Prime Minister's Youth Loan Scheme (PMYLS) under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP). The initiative provides interest-free and low-interest business loans to young entrepreneurs and professionals across Pakistan through public-private partnerships with leading commercial banks. The scheme is being implemented nationwide and was relaunched earlier this year to empower youth, promote financial inclusion, and stimulate small business growth. Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan has been at the forefront of these efforts, leading multiple loan distribution events across the country to ensure fair

and transparent delivery of funds. "We are not just issuing cheques we are investing in a future built by our youth," he said in an exclusive interview with APP. "Our mission is to transform dreams into sustainable enterprises that create jobs and drive national growth." In recent weeks, hundreds of loans from PMYLS platform have been distributed to young beneficiaries in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, and Peshawar. Rana Mashhood met with start-up founders, artisans, and skilled graduates. At the Lahore Youth Business Expo, he personally handed over loan certificates to 250 young entrepreneurs, encouraging them to innovate and become role models for others. During a loan disbursement ceremony in Islamabad, he emphasized that the PMYLS represents the

government's firm belief in the creative power of youth. "Every rupee invested in our youth is an investment in Pakistan's economic strength," he noted, while addressing a packed audience of students, small business owners, and media representatives. At another event in Karachi, Rana Mashhood announced the expansion of partnerships with private banks to accelerate processing times and reach underprivileged applicants. "We are taking this scheme to every district from Gwadar to Gilgit so that no young Pakistani is left behind," he stated. Under the PMYLS, financing from PKR 0.5 million to PKR 7.5 million is offered across three tiers, carrying minimal interest rates between 0 and 7 percent.—DNA

Breast cancer awareness session empowers women

DNA

KARACHI—A crucial community session was recently held to educate young students about the vital importance of early detection, self-examination, and awareness regarding breast cancer—a serious condition that affects thousands of women across Pakistan every year. The session was part of a dedicated effort to promote preventive healthcare and health literacy among the youth. The awareness drive was organized by Dr. Salim Ahmed & Co., in collaboration with Dr. Reckeweg Germany, and was hosted at the Taleemghar Duktaran-e-Awam Trust Girls High School, DHA Karachi. This event falls under the company's ongoing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitment to empower communities with essential health knowledge. Expert



Insight Focuses on Life-Saving Habits The interactive session featured Dr. Saima, Senior Medical Officer at the Atomic Energy Medical Centre (Radiation Oncology

Department), as the guest speaker. Dr. Saima provided valuable, practical insights on breast cancer prevention, recognizing initial signs and symptoms, and

the life-saving benefits of early diagnosis. She strongly encouraged the students to adopt proactive health awareness habits that will protect their future and the

health of their families. Ms. Nargis Salim, Partner at Dr. Salim Ahmed & Co., underscored the vital significance of community-based health education.

MONAL

NOW SERVING ON MURREE EXPRESSWAY

30 KM on Islamabad - Murree Expressway

Park Ridge Apartment, Lower Topa

☎ +92 325 0000661-62 📱 monalmurree

National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

Oct 01/China
National Day

Oct 01/Cyprus
National Day

Oct 01/Republic of Korea
Armed Forces Day

Oct 01/Nigeria
Armed Forces Day

Oct 02/Guinea
National Day

Oct 03/Germany
Unification Day

Oct 03/Republic of Korea
National Foundation Day

Oct 05/Indonesia
Armed Forces Day

Oct 06/Egypt
Armed Forces Day

Oct 09/Uganda
Independence Day

Oct 12/Spain
National Day

Oct 23/Hungary
National Day

October 24/United Nations
United Nations Day

Oct/25/Romania
Armed Forces Day

Oct 26/Austria
National Day

Oct 27/Turkmenistan
Independence Day

Oct 28/Czech Republic
National Day

Oct 29/Turkey
Republic Day



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police.....9266044

Motorway Police.9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489

CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Canth Hospital.....9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343



Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Khichi opens Ukrainian Bookshelf at National Library

Highlighting that this year marks the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Ukraine, the Minister said the two countries have maintained a relationship based on mutual respect and goodwill, with collaboration in education, culture, trade, and humanitarian support

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD:Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, on Wednesday inaugurated the “Ukrainian Bookshelf” at the National Library of Pakistan, terming it a symbol of enduring friendship and cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Ukraine. Addressing the ceremony, which was attended by Ambassador of Ukraine to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Markiiian Chuchuk, senior officials, members of the diplomatic community, and scholars, the Minister said the initiative reflects both nations’ shared belief in the power of knowledge, culture, and friendship. Highlighting that this year marks the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Ukraine, the Minister said the two countries have maintained a relationship based on mutual respect and goodwill, with collaboration in education, culture, trade, and humanitarian support. He said Ukraine occupies a respected place in the world community with a proud history, vibrant culture, and remarkable resilience, and has made significant contributions to global literature, science, art, and peace efforts. Mr. Khichi said the establishment of the Ukrainian Bookshelf will enable Pakistani students, researchers, and readers to explore the rich literary and intellectual traditions of Ukraine, thereby strengthening cultural understanding between the two nations. He appreciated the Embassy of Ukraine and Ambassador Markiiian Chuchuk for their generosity and dedication in supporting this cultural initiative, and lauded the National Library of Pakistan for its efforts in facilitating the project with commitment and professionalism. He said that the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture

remains committed to promoting cultural diplomacy and global engagement through knowledge and exchange. “Libraries are not just repositories of books they are bridges between civilizations and gateways to dialogue, tolerance, and peace,” he added. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Khichi said the Ukrainian Bookshelf stands as a testament to the friendship between Pakistan and Ukraine, and a reminder that nations grow closer when they share ideas, art, and understanding. Speaking on the occasion, the Ambassador of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Markiiian Chuchuk, expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan, the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture under the leadership of Federal Minister Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, and the manage-

ment of the National Library for their support in bringing this initiative to life. The collection, featuring dozens of Ukrainian books across various genres, aims to promote mutual understanding and literary exchange between the two countries. The Ambassador highlighted that the Ukrainian Bookshelf Project is part of a global initiative launched under the patronage of Ukraine’s First Lady, Olena Zelenska. So far, similar bookshelves have been established in 59 countries around the world, connecting people through the universal power of literature. He noted that the inauguration in Islamabad holds special significance as both nations celebrate over three decades of diplomatic relations, established in 1992, founded on mutual respect

and cooperation. Emphasizing the shared values of education, family, and resilience, he described the Ukrainian Bookshelf as more than a literary collection, calling it a symbol of endurance, creativity, and hope that connects the people of Pakistan and Ukraine through culture and knowledge. Earlier, Welcoming the participants, officials of the National Library said the event symbolizes three decades of friendship, cooperation, and mutual respect between the two countries. Later, the Ambassador of Ukraine and Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, planted a sapling in the premises of the National Library of Pakistan as a symbol of friendship and growing cultural cooperation between the two countries.

CASS roundtable highlights financial inclusion as key to economic security

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, organised a webinar titled “Financial Inclusion for Economic Security.” The event brought together experts to explore how inclusive financial systems can strengthen Pakistan’s economic resilience, social stability, and national development. Dr Usman W. Chohan, Advisor on Economic Affairs and National Development at CASS, emphasized the economic pillar in Pakistan’s National Security Policy, and offered his thesis that national security is premised on robust and widespread financial inclusion. His core argument was that the people of Pakistan must build a participatory and emancipatory economy, in line with the vision of the Quaid, so that they have a direct and lasting stake in their nation’s development. This would, in turn, create the material basis for national security in which every citizen would rally to the

defense of the nation. He concluded that financial inclusion would make citizens into active stakeholders in the nation’s prosperity, thus reinforcing both economic and social security. Ms Quratulain Chaudhry, Executive Manager at Mobilink Microfinance, emphasized that financial literacy is vital for inclusion and national resilience, as an informed polity is a strong polity. She noted that financial inclusion is also contingent on financial retention, which in turn requires a multidimensional enabling ecosystem that linked finance with other important household needs such as healthcare and education. She gave instances of effective design thinking that catered to public needs, including an emphasis on women, who constitute the nation’s demographic majority and yet do not wield sufficient financial decision-making power. Highlighting the interconnection between national economic sectors, she also observed a steady advancement of progressive thought among the masses and the newer generations’ receptivity towards positive change. Ms

Chaudhry stressed the need for gender-segregated data, women’s digital ownership, and stronger collaboration across sectors to achieve meaningful and sustainable financial inclusion in Pakistan. Ms Eshal Urooj, Research Associate at the Punjab Social Protection Authority, noted that while access to formal financial systems in Pakistan has improved, retention rates are more important as there is an attrition risk after formal financial inscription. She cautioned that formality alone does not ensure safety, with the widespread prevalence of scams and fraudulent activity would invariably pose an acute risk to the general public. Emphasising a preventive rather than reactive approach, she highlighted the importance of grievance redressal and financial literacy to build trust. Ms Urooj accordingly recommended five policy priorities: greater interoperability among systems, stronger data protection, gender-responsive measures, a regulatory sandbox to balance innovation and oversight, and policy coherence across ministries for sustainable financial inclusion.

Gen Mirza reaffirms Pakistan’s commitment to regional peace

RAWALPINDI: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), attended the closing ceremony of the ‘Islamabad Symposium 2025’, as Chief Guest, organised by NIPS, NUST While addressing the audience at the ceremony, Chairman JCSC expressed his gratitude towards all speakers and panelists for their valuable insights and highlighted the evolving global and regional environment. He reaffirmed Pakistan’s active role towards promoting regional peace and stability, in balancing the relationship between Global North and Global South through dialogue, dignity and principled diplomacy. Emphasizing the need to replace confrontation with cooperation, JCSC noted that Pakistan remains guided by a vision of coexistence rooted in mutual respect and international law. The Chairman JCSC reiterated Pakistan’s consistent support for the just and peaceful resolution of disputes, including those of Palestine and Jammu & Kashmir. He said that standing at the crossroads of regions and civilizations, Pakistan continues to uphold restraint and constructive engagement – seeking to bridge divides and foster a balanced global order built on justice, equity and mutual respect. The event was attended by members of the academia, bureaucrats, foreign ambassadors, representatives of the business community, students and faculty from leading universities.—DNA

Women leaders join hands with rural women to advocate for rights

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the second day of the 18th Rural Women Leadership Training Conference at Lok Virsa, over 500 women leaders from more than 100 districts across Pakistan unanimously adopted a resolution to set 18 years as the minimum legal age of girls for marriage. PODA (Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy) is organizing a three-day 18th Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference at Lok Virsa, Islamabad, which will conclude tomorrow with a recognition ceremony honoring rural women leaders for their dedication to the progress and development of their communities

In her address as a keynote speaker, Deputy Attorney General of Pakistan, Advocate Hifza Bukhari, outlined the key features of the ICT Child Marriage Restraint Act 2025, emphasizing the mandatory requirement of identity cards as a critical measure for effective enforcement. She also underscored the importance of establishing a uniform minimum age of marriage across the country. Fauzia Viqar, Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment at the Workplace, chaired the session titled “Solution Strategies Development Session to Reduce Early Marriages to Enhance Gender Equality.” She emphasized the importance of understanding laws that safeguard women’s rights and raising awareness about them, noting that such

knowledge is vital for helping those in urgent need of protection for their fundamental rights. Prof. Brigadier Dr. Mamoon Mushtaq, representing the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Pakistan, gave a detailed presentation on the health complications associated with early marriages. She discussed the root causes and stressed the need for effective implementation of legislation aimed at protecting girls’ rights. A youth group led by footballer Saeed Nisa from Kalash emphasized the important role sports play in empowering girls and developing their leadership skills. The group included Tehzeeb Khan, Tamadun Khan, Muhammad Arbaz, Nazia Shabbir, and Rabia Hameed.

Islamabad IT Park to boost digital growth

ISLAMABAD:The under-construction IT Park in Islamabad is set to facilitate technology transfer through industry-academia linkages, support technology commercialization, connect tertiary education with production, promote research and development, and enhance IT exports and industry competitiveness According to an official of the Ministry of IT, the landmark project is being developed with a \$76.3 million loan from South Korea, secured on highly concessional terms. He said the foundation stone of the IT Park in Chak Shahzad, Islamabad, was laid with South Korean assistance to realize Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s vision of a “Digital Pakistan.” “The Islamabad IT Park will consist of a twelve-story building (including two basements and ten floors) with a total covered area of 66,893 square meters. Initially, it will provide office space for around 120 start-ups and small to medium enterprises, along with facilities such as testing laboratories, classrooms, an industry-academia linkage center, and an auditorium,” he added. Built to international standards, the park will offer state-of-the-art facilities to attract global companies, enhance exports, and strengthen Pakistan’s IT ecosystem. “Both Islamabad and Karachi IT Parks are being funded by South Korea, reflecting growing international confidence in Pakistan’s technology sector,” the official said. Despite initial challenges such as heavy rains, import restrictions, and economic pressures, the Islamabad IT Park has remained within its allocated budget of \$76.3 million, with an additional \$12.5 million provided through the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). Most of the construction work is expected to be completed by December 31, 2025. Once operational, the park will serve as a hub for innovation, investment, and employment—marking a major step forward in Pakistan’s digital transformation journey.—DNA

PRCS gives food packs, cash assistance to vulnerable families

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), and the Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross), organized the distribution of relief assistance among 216 vulnerable families in Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As part of the initiative, each family received food packs supported by the Turkish Red Crescent Society, NorCross-supported hygiene kits along with essential household items in-

cluding buckets, mugs, and jerrycans. The distribution also included IFRC-supported Long Lasting Insecticide-treated Nets (LLINs) and water bottles to help promote better hygiene and prevent disease outbreaks. In addition, PRCS in collaboration with IFRC extended cash assistance to the most deserving families, providing PKR 22,000 each to 40 pregnant women and PKR 45,000 each as multi-purpose cash grants to 350 families.

OCTOBER 2025

Pakistan’s Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pk
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@Postislamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

IslamabadPOST

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

NEW IN ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY (APNS)

CENTRELINELINE

Pakistan’s Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Global Envoy serves
Nobels personally book
to Health Minister

Farewell hockey
match for
Well Barkhins

Dr. Ali Yousaf Behind
the General Practice
Hospital

A pact of faith
and steel

LABOUR THE ULTIMATE DIPLOMAT: MAGAZINE

100 100

ICCI all set to host annual Pink ribbon awareness event

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), continuing its proud tradition of serving society beyond the business realm, is once again taking the lead in its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts by organizing its annual Breast Cancer Awareness Programme (Pink Ribbon) on Saturday, October 18, at the ICCI Auditorium. The event will be graced by Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan as the Chief Guest, while Lt. Gen. (R) Nigar Johar Khan (Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz), Pakistan’s first female three-star general and a symbol of women’s empowerment, will attend as the Special Guest. The high-profile awareness session will also be addressed by Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President ICCI; Tariq Sadiq, Chairman ICCI Founder Group; and Professor Dr. Saeeda Yasmin, eminent General Surgeon and Breast Cancer Specialist.—APP

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Shagufta Sabir, Civil Judge 1st Class Jhelum, Suit For Possession through partition

Case title:

Shadam Hussain vs. Muhammad Parvez etc.
Against: 1- Muhammad Parvez 2- Khadim Hussain Sons 4- Zebnon Akhtar Daughter of Zarkhan Residence Potha Tehsil Dina District Jhelum (Currently residing abroad UK) As there is not possible to call the defendants through Summons in the instant suit so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear in the court on 28.10.2025 at 08:00 AM, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated.

IN THE COURT OF SHAHZADA KAMRAN JUDGE FAMILY COURT RAWALPINDI

Suit for recovery Maintenance Allowance Eman Fatima Versus Muhammad Haroon Notice to Muhammad Haroon S/o Muhammad Sayab R/o R/o House No. 1945, Street No.36 Sector I-10 Islamabad The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court personally, through counsel or attorney on 17-10-2025 at 8 am avoid ex-parte proceeding.

Briefs

Newly appointed envoy vows to serve Pak community in Australia

CANBERRA: The newly appointed Pakistan's High Commissioner to Australia Irfan Shaukat on Thursday appreciating the hard work and contributions of Pakistani expatriates, vowed to provide efficient, transparent, and accessible services to them. The high commissioner, who recently assumed the office, wrote a letter to the members of the Pakistani community in Australia and the Pacific nations, saying that their professionalism and contributions had earned respect and recognition for Pakistan in all these countries. Irfan Shaukat, who also holds concurrent accreditation to Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, said that the Pakistani community served as a living bridge, reflecting the true spirit and values of their homeland. He said that he looked forward to working closely with the Pakistani community to further strengthen these bonds and explore new avenues of cooperation in areas of shared interest. Shaukat said that the high commission and the consulates general remained committed to providing efficient, transparent, and accessible services to the Pakistani diaspora. "It will be our mission to serve as a source of support and facilitation for all members of the Pakistani community. This is very much in accord with the directives of the prime minister and deputy prime minister of Pakistan and consistent with my personal commitment to public service," the high commissioner remarked.—DNA

Food minister reiterates resolve to achieve autarky

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday reiterated the firm resolve of the government to empower farmers with modern technologies, promoting climate-smart and sustainable agriculture, investing in research and innovation through institutions to ensure food security and safety in the country. In his message on the occasion of World Food Day 2024, the minister said that the government was striving to develop high-yield and climate-resilient crop varieties, improve seed quality, conserve water, and strengthen value chains to ensure that the benefits of progress reach every farmer and every household. Today, as the world unites to mark World Food Day 2025, we are reminded that food is more than a basic need, it is the foundation of life, dignity, and progress. This year's theme, "Hand in Hand for Better Food and a Better Future," beautifully captures the essence of our collective duty: to join hands across communities, institutions, and nations to build a world free from hunger and malnutrition, he added. Food security, the minister said, is not just a dream but a shared goal that demands compassion, vision, and action.—APP

UN women designates Hania as national goodwill ambassador

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. We work with governments, civil society, and communities to advance women's rights, influence laws and policies, and create inclusive systems that close the gender gap and build a more equal world

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: UN Women Pakistan is delighted to announce the designation of Hania Aamir, renowned actor, advocate, and public figure, as its National Goodwill Ambassador. In this role, she will use her platform to raise awareness, inspire action, and amplify the voices of women and girls across Pakistan, reflecting her strong commitment to advancing gender equality, women's empowerment, and social justice. Hania Aamir succeeds Muniba Mazari, who held this prestigious role until August 2025 and continues to be a global voice for women's empowerment, inclusion, and social justice. Speaking about her designation, Hania Aamir said, "I am deeply honored to be designated as UN Women National Goodwill Ambassador. This is more than a title — it is a responsibility to represent women and girls whose voices often go unheard. I hope to inspire change, champion equality, and ensure that women and girls have the opportunity, resources, and confidence to shape their own futures." Jamshed M. Kazi, Country Representative of UN Women Pakistan, congratulated Hania Aamir, stating, "Hania's designation marks a significant milestone for UN Women as we celebrate 30 years of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action aimed at advancing women's rights and gender equality globally. Her dedication, courage, and public outreach will be instrumental in advancing gender equality, promoting women's economic empowerment, and amplifying the voices of women and girls across the country. We are excited to partner with her to translate awareness into action and tangible results." As UN Women's National Goodwill Ambassador, Hania Aamir will actively engage



in campaigns and initiatives that promote women's economic empowerment, leadership, digital inclusion, climate action, and the prevention of gender-based violence. She will highlight UN Women's programmes that support young women

and girls in accessing education, digital skills, and safe spaces, while championing policies and reforms that advance gender equality and inclusion in Pakistan. UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the em-

powerment of all women and girls. We work with governments, civil society, and communities to advance women's rights, influence laws and policies, and create inclusive systems that close the gender gap and build a more equal world.

IMCG I-10/4 students council formed

ISLAMABAD: A Student Council is instrumental in providing encouragement to future leaders studying in educational institutions. It works actively with the teachers and the students for the fulfilment of the curricular and co-curricular objectives of the institution. The elections to choose the Student Council of Islamabad model college for girls IMCG I-10/4 for the academic year 2025-26 were held, and all officials of council were elected by democratic process. A solemn and dignified Investiture Ceremony for the newly elected Executive members of the Council and the Class Representatives was held in the College Auditorium. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Ms. Farah Naaz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. She is President Women Wing PLM N in Federal Capital. Principal Prof. Fatima Mobin presided the ceremony. The programme started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Translation by Amna Asif, followed by Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool (s.a.w.w) by Syeda Rida. The host of the ceremony, Ms. Faiza Alvi, welcomed the honourable chief guest on the stage. The stage secretary threw light on the role of the Student Council in organizing Inter-Class and Inter-Collegiate competitions. In the presence of honourable Chief Guest former President handed over the symbolic candle to the newly elected President. Chief Guest distributed medals among the office bearers of the Student Council. Mrs. Farah Naaz Akbar took oath of office from the newly elected President Mahnoor Abbasi, Vice President Aliza Shahid, General Secretary Abeera Ahsan, Treasurer Mahnoor Javed, Head girls from both senior and junior sections, Morning and Evening shifts. Class representatives also took their oath. Where as secretaries of different societies, including Hadiqa Chaudry from English, Areesha Usman from Urdu, Malaika from Islamiat, Haida from computer Ayesha from singing Hamna from Science respectively also took their oath. The Chief Guest, in her speech, commended the smooth transition of power to the new Student Council. She told the young audience not to be deterred by the lack of resources or difficulties in life; rather, they should work hard and persevere with a pure heart to achieve great things in life. Her eloquent speech was well received by the audience. The Principal of the College also gave the insignia of the college to the Chief Guest. The Principal, Professor Fatima Mobin, in her closing remarks, thanked the Chief Guest for her august presence. She also felicitated the In charge Student Council and her team for organizing an outstanding function today. The ceremony ended with the rendition of the National Anthem.—DNA

Pakistan's poverty rate climbs again after steady decline

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's poverty rate has started to climb again after nearly two decades of decline, reflecting profound structural weaknesses in the economy. Poverty, which had fallen from 64.3 percent in 2001 to 21.9 percent in 2018, has risen to about 25.3 percent.

Shahid Rasheed Butt, former President of ICCI, said that the reversal is not only due to COVID-19 and floods but also to a fragile growth model unable to sustain long-term gains. He said poverty reduction relied heavily on informal employment and remittances from overseas workers, providing temporary relief without building resilience. Many households that had escaped poverty slipped back after economic shocks, exposing the weakness of income growth in low-wage sectors. Economic activity remains consumption-driven rather than based on investment or exports, keeping productivity low and volatility high, the World Bank said in its latest report. Human development indicators compound the problem. Nearly 40 percent of children under five suffer from stunting, while one in four prima-

ry-age children is out of school. The report warns that a poorly educated and unhealthy workforce limits future competitiveness. Access to clean water and sanitation also remains inadequate for millions of households, constraining both health and productivity, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt noted that regional disparities remain stark. Rural poverty is more than twice that of urban areas, with Balochistan showing some of the worst deprivation. The Bank notes that poor urban management and weak infrastructure have prevented cities from serving as engines of growth. Fiscal policy has also aggravated inequality; indirect taxes disproportionately burden the poor, while subsidies benefit the wealthy. Despite the challenges, there is hope for change. The report calls for fairer taxation, targeted investments in human capital, and stronger safety nets. It emphasizes that the obstacle is not policy design but rather political will, entrenched elite interests, and weak governance, which can be overcome with concerted efforts. The government must review the World Bank's findings before finalizing its next poverty reduction strategy. The business leader cautions that without transparent implementation and stronger local governance, these measures may again fall short of reversing the current poverty trend.

Railways will not leave an inch of its land to anyone: Abbasi

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Thursday reaffirmed that Pakistan Railways will not leave an inch of its land to anyone, directing authorities concerned to further intensify the anti-encroachment campaign against land grabbers. Chairing a meeting to review the overall performance of the Multan Division, the minister reiterated his policy of zero tolerance against encroachments and emphasized the Railways' unwavering commitment to passenger facilitation. "We will not take an inch of anyone else's land, but we will not leave an inch of railway land to anyone," said the minister. According to the briefing, the train punctuality during the current fiscal year stood at 88 percent, compared



to 86 percent during the same period last year. Despite disruptions caused by recent floods, the division's overall performance remained satisfactory, said Divisional Superintendent (DS) Multan. The division's revenue increased by Rs. 77 million in the

first quarter of the current fiscal year compared to the same period last year. Meanwhile, a vigorous campaign against ticketless travel generated Rs. 13.5 million in additional revenue. The strict measures are also being enforced against theft

and smuggling, in line with the Minister's zero-tolerance directive. So far, 87.5 acres of railway land have been retrieved under the ongoing anti-encroachment drive, which the minister ordered to be pursued with even greater determination. Briefing the meeting, the DS informed that the solarization project in Multan Division is progressing successfully under the Minister's direction. Fourteen stations, including the DS Office Multan, have been completely converted to solar energy, resulting in Rs. 30 million savings in electricity costs during the current fiscal year. The staff rationalization process is also underway to ensure efficient utilization of resources, while pensions to retired employees are being paid timely and without delay. The DS said that monthly open courts (Khuli Kachehris) are being held regularly to address passenger grievances.

China mobile showcases innovation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China Mobile has been hosting the Global Partner Conference since 2013 annually to showcase the latest achievements of the company and its partners in technological innovation and digital-intelligent transformation."

At this year's conference "Global Partner Conference in Guangzhou, China Yang Jie, Chairman China Mobile delivered a keynote titled "Carbon-Silicon Symbiosis: Co-Creating the AI+ Era." Inspired by its parent company, Zong aims to bring the "Chinese Solutions" showcased at the Conference to Pakistan, reinforcing its vision to becoming an Excellent Information Services & Technology Innovation Company, said a news release received here on Thursday.

During its annual conference, China Mobile unveiled four major initiatives spanning Artificial Intelligence (AI), International Branding, Quantum Communications, and Digital-Intelligent Living. The company launched the upgraded "AI+ Action Plan" and the "AI+ Ecological Alliance," reinforcing its role as an AI supplier, aggregator, and operator while working with partners to develop innovative AI business models and applications.

On the global front, China Mobile introduced "CMobile" as its new international brand, marking a significant step in its global strategy. The brand embodies the "4C" strategic direction — Customer, Cooperation, Creation, and Connection — and was launched alongside a comprehensive brand renewal and the establishment of the International Ecological Alliance.

In the field of quantum communications, China Mobile announced the "Light Up 100 Cities" Quantum Test Network and the Quantum Ecological Alliance, aimed at driving industrial collaboration and accelerating the large-scale development of China's quantum communication ecosystem.

The company introduced "China Mobile AiGou" (Mobile Love Shopping) and the Digital-Intelligent Life Mall Ecological Alliance. With connection, application, rights and interests, and hardware as its core, this initiative seeks to build a reliable, one-stop digital-intelligent living platform for over one billion users.

In the past two years, China Mobile has actively accelerated its transformation, continuously consolidating its leading advantages in new information infrastructure such as dual 100Gbps networks and computing power networks.

Call for collective national action against breast cancer

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has emphasized that women's health, dignity, and empowerment are the foundation of national progress. He was addressing a seminar on breast cancer awareness organized jointly by Marriott Hotel and Maroof International Hospital in Islamabad. Highlighting the growing threat of breast cancer in Pakistan, Chairman Senate Gilani said, "A healthy mother is the guarantee of a healthy family. Without a collective national effort, controlling breast cancer will not be possible." He commended Maroof International Hospital for its awareness campaigns and community services, noting that the hospital's initiatives have brought hope and awareness to thousands of families. "The Pink Ribbon month should not remain a symbolic campaign — it is time for concrete action," he remarked, urging the nation to move "beyond the ribbon" with practical steps for prevention, early detection, and treatment. Chairman Senate Gilani expressed deep concern over the social stigma and lack of awareness that hinder timely diagnosis. He underscored the need for equal access to early screening, treatment, and psychological support for all women, regardless of background or income. Referring to the National Institute of Health (Amendment) Act 2025, he announced the establishment of a National Cancer Patient Registry, saying it will enable effective, evidence-based policymaking for cancer control. Gilani also highlighted the importance of mental health support for cancer patients and their families, stating, "Healing the mind is as essential as healing the body.—DNA

General Practice HOSPITAL

We Are OPEN

General Practice Hospital is a state-of-the-art healthcare facility offering comprehensive medical services to the community. Our hospital is equipped with advanced diagnostic and treatment modalities, including specialized OPD clinics, an urgent care unit, a modern radiology unit, well-equipped IPD rooms, operation theatres, an on-site laboratory for precise diagnostics, dialysis services, and comfortable inpatient wards. We are dedicated to providing quality, easily accessible, and patient-centred healthcare in a welcoming and professional environment.

Empathic & Caring for everyone

We know that seeking medical care can be overwhelming, but you're not alone. With empathy at the heart of our care, we listen, understand, and support you every step of the way. In our clean, premium environment, you'll feel safe, valued, and truly cared for. Book your appointment today and experience healthcare with compassion.

FOR APPOINTMENT: +92 33 47 47 40 01

Pakland Tower 2, New Blue Area, Islamabad

 www.generalpractice.com.pk

 generalpracticeislamabad

 +92 51 6160 474 | +92 51 6161 474

Australian High Commissioner a true friend of Pakistani hockey

AS Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins concludes his diplomatic tenure in Pakistan, he leaves behind not only a legacy of diplomatic engagement but also a deep personal connection with Pakistan's national sport hockey. During his time in Islamabad, Mr. Hawkins distinguished himself as a sincere friend of Pakistan and an ardent supporter of reviving the country's once-glorious hockey tradition. Unlike most envoys who limit their engagements to official diplomacy, Neil Hawkins went beyond protocol. He took a keen interest in Pakistan's sporting culture, particularly field hockey a sport that once brought Pakistan global fame through Olympic and World Cup victories. Recognizing the decline of the game in recent years, he made genuine efforts to help Pakistan restore its past glory on the international stage.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Hawkins met with numerous sports officials, hockey administrators, and young players. His aim was not just symbolic he wanted to create real impact by helping Pakistan develop the sport at the grassroots level. Understanding that true revival begins with youth engagement, he sought to channel his country's sporting expertise toward rebuilding Pakistan hockey from the ground up. One of his notable contributions was facilitating equipment support from Hockey Australia, including the distribution of hockey sticks and training kits to young players. These gestures reflected more than diplomatic courtesy they were acts of genuine friendship and encouragement for aspiring Pakistani athletes who often lack basic facilities. He also supported initiatives aimed at fostering school and club-level hockey, encouraging young players to stay connected with the sport. His efforts inspired optimism within the small but passionate community of hockey lovers in Pakistan. Unfortunately, however, the broader institutional support that was needed to sustain such initiatives was missing. Despite the High Commissioner's enthusiasm and sincere intentions, his efforts could not produce the desired results largely due to the indifference and internal disarray of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF). Over the years, the PHF has been marred by administrative infighting, inconsistent policies, and lack of vision, all of which have severely hampered the sport's progress.

A glaring example of this mismanagement can be seen in the ongoing Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia, where Pakistan's junior hockey team failed to qualify for the final. Shockingly, nearly half the players selected for the "junior" team are actually senior players. This flawed approach relying on experienced players in a junior tournament not only undermines the purpose of youth development but also deprives genuine young talent of much-needed exposure. When senior players eventually retire, Pakistan will face an inevitable vacuum of replacements, as the junior structure is not producing new

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 129

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

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



stars. This short-sighted selection policy reflects the chronic issues within the federation a lack of planning, meritocracy, and commitment to nurturing the next generation. Adding to the woes is the growing disconnect between the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and the PHF. The two bodies, instead of working in coordination, often find themselves at odds over financial and administrative matters. This institutional discord has paralyzed many developmental programs and discouraged clubs and academies that once played a vital role in producing players.

The situation in Islamabad is particularly disheartening. The PSB's recent decision to increase ground fees has virtually driven hockey out of the capital. The Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium, once bustling with local clubs and training sessions, now stands largely deserted. Most clubs simply cannot afford the inflated fees, leaving young players without a venue to practice or compete. This single decision has further alienated grassroots hockey and deprived the city's youth of a constructive sporting outlet.

Hockey, once a symbol of national pride, has been in free fall for years. The reasons are many lack of infrastructure, insufficient funding, outdated coaching methods, and internal politics within the PHF. The national team's inability to qualify for major international events like the Olympics and World Cup has further eroded public interest. While other nations have modernized their hockey systems through scientific training, youth academies, and sponsorships, Pakistan continues to rely on outdated structures. Even though the Prime Minister is the Chief Patron of the PHF, there has been little practical involvement from the top leadership. Successive governments have largely ignored the national sport, treating it as a relic of the past rather than a symbol worth reviving.

In this bleak scenario, Neil Hawkins stood out as a rare foreign envoy who truly cared. His engagement with Pakistan's hockey fraternity was driven by genuine affection rather than diplomatic formality. He believed in Pakistan's potential and often expressed confidence that the nation could reclaim its place among hockey's elite provided it reorganizes its domestic structure and restores professionalism. His tenure will also be remembered for promoting people-to-people ties between Pakistan and Australia through sports diplomacy. Hockey served as a bridge reflecting not just athletic cooperation but a shared passion for fair play and teamwork. As he departs Pakistan, Mr. Hawkins carries with him the respect and affection of many Pakistanis athletes, journalists, and ordinary citizens alike. His sincere efforts to promote goodwill and sportsmanship will be remembered long after his departure. However, his story also serves as a reminder and a challenge for Pakistan's sports authorities. If a foreign diplomat can recognize the potential of Pakistan hockey and attempt to revive it, why can't those entrusted with its future show the same dedication?

The decline of hockey is not inevitable it is the result of neglect and misplaced priorities. With serious reforms, transparent governance, and support from the state, the sport can still rise again. Neil Hawkins may be leaving, but his vision for Pakistan hockey a vision rooted in hope, hard work, and friendship must not be allowed to fade. For now, Pakistan bids farewell to a true friend who saw greatness where others saw decline and who believed that the green shirts could, one day, shine again.

Trump's Spotlight on Shahbaz

Qamar Bashir



Bloomberg's endorsement is more than a headline. Between June 2024 and September 2025, Pakistan's sovereign default probability fell by as much as 2,200 basis points. From being ranked among the riskiest economies in the world, Pakistan rose to the second-best performer among emerging markets, behind only Türkiye. The turnaround was achieved through strict fiscal discipline, compliance with IMF conditions, timely debt repayments, and reforms that improved investor confidence. To lenders and investors, the message is clear: Pakistan is no longer a default story...

THE recent summit hosted by President Donald Trump, with Egypt's Prime Minister beside him, carried moments that went beyond protocol. When Trump extended an affectionate greeting to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, it was more than a warm gesture—it symbolized a historic shift in U.S.-Pakistan relations. That moment showed how Islamabad's civilian leadership and its military command under Field Marshal Asim Munir had moved from the margins of suspicion to the heart of Washington's strategic calculus. This closeness did not emerge overnight. It had been cultivated in the months before America's devastating strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, when Pakistan's leadership first engaged with Trump in serious dialogue. Since then, Pakistan has become central in persuading the Muslim world and wealthy Arab capitals to support Trump's ambitious 21-point Gaza Peace Plan.

What followed at the summit underscored the depth of this bond. While European leaders, presidents, and prime ministers from around the globe sat on the sidelines, Shehbaz Sharif was invited by Trump to take the podium and publicly offer praise. No other leader was given such a platform. Trump, clearly pleased, remarked that the true achievement of the summit was not only the signing of the Hamas-Israel agreement but the dawn of a new era of friendship, reconstruction, and hope for Gaza. In a further gesture, Trump mentioned Field Marshal Munir by name, praising his leadership and role in regional stability. It was a recognition that carried consequences far beyond the hall, signaling to the world that Pakistan was no longer merely a participant but an indispensable partner in shaping the future of the Middle East.

The political consequences at home are equally profound. A country that only recently teetered on the brink of economic collapse now finds itself under the protective shield of Washington's goodwill. Trump's personal embrace of Pakistan's leadership, combined with the IMF's readiness to release fresh funds and the global media's acknowledgment of reforms, all but ensures that Shehbaz Sharif's government will complete its five-year term. Bloomberg's recent report, which placed Pakistan as the second most improved emerging economy in terms of sovereign default risk, has become an anchor for this perception of stability. It suggests that regime change, once a lingering fear, is no longer an imminent threat.

For the opposition led by Imran Khan, this represents a near-terminal blow. PTI, once a movement with momen-

tum, now appears fractured, riddled with blame games and leadership rifts. International recognition of government performance compounds the decline of PTI's appeal. The likelihood of Khan's return to power grows slimmer with each passing day, not only in this term but perhaps in the next electoral cycle as well. Continuity, not disruption, now defines the political horizon.

Bloomberg's endorsement is more than a headline. Between June 2024 and September 2025, Pakistan's sovereign default probability fell by as much as 2,200 basis points. From being ranked among the riskiest economies in the world, Pakistan rose to the second-best performer among emerging markets, behind only Türkiye. The turnaround was achieved through strict fiscal discipline, compliance with IMF conditions, timely debt repayments, and reforms that improved investor confidence. To lenders and investors, the message is clear: Pakistan is no longer a default story but a recovery story. To citizens, it signals hope that the worst may be behind them.

Yet beneath this optimism lies a more complex reality. The improvement in sovereign risk is significant but does not tell the whole story. Pakistan's growth for FY25 was revised upward to 3.04% after industrial output rebounded, while third-quarter growth came in at 2.4%. These figures are encouraging but modest, reflecting stabilization rather than a boom. Inflation, which had once spiraled above 30%, cooled dramatically to just 4.1% by late 2024, allowing the State Bank to cut policy rates from a suffocating 22% down to 12%. This drop, however, owes as much to global commodity relief as it does to policy discipline.

Investment has shown some sparkle: the Special Investment Facilitation Council pushed foreign direct investment up by 16% in one month, IT exports rose 32%, and the Karachi Stock Exchange doubled in a single year. Exports rose by 10% to \$30.64 billion in FY2024, though a persistent trade deficit remains, fueled by costly imports of petroleum and machinery. Most recently, a \$1.2 billion IMF agreement reached in October 2025 has shored up liquidity, while the 2025-26 budget ambitiously targets 4.2% growth.

These data points reinforce Bloomberg's narrative to an extent. Inflation is under control, growth is stabilizing, investors are returning, and credit risk has narrowed. Yet deep challenges persist. Job creation remains weak, and official data is thin. Small and medium enterprises, which form the backbone of domestic employment, still face crushing costs from energy tariffs, taxation, and financing constraints. Structural reforms

in governance, energy, and taxation continue to lag. Pakistan's revival, while real, is fragile—dependent on external goodwill and vulnerable to global shocks.

What makes the Bloomberg recognition consequential is its convergence with Trump's embrace. Together, they create a powerful narrative dividend: Pakistan is not only stable, but strategically indispensable. For Washington, Islamabad's role in rallying Muslim and Arab states behind the Gaza framework is invaluable. For Pakistan, the dividend is survival and the chance to thrive under international endorsement. IMF funds flow more smoothly, investors take notice, and international media highlight the recovery rather than the collapse. Confidence breeds confidence, and the government's legitimacy is strengthened at home.

But overreliance on narrative is dangerous. Recognition from Bloomberg or praise from Trump cannot substitute for deep economic transformation. If oil prices spike, if U.S. interest rates rise, or if domestic reforms stall, the narrative could unravel quickly. Investors are patient only as long as reforms continue; corruption or complacency could break the cycle of confidence. Pakistan's future cannot rest solely on symbolic endorsements. It must be built on durable change that translates into jobs, thriving businesses, and improved living standards.

The outlook is both promising and precarious. If Pakistan can maintain fiscal prudence, expand exports, exploit its mineral wealth, and modernize its economy, this Bloomberg moment may be remembered as the beginning of a genuine turnaround. With Washington's backing, the country enjoys a rare window of stability that could last five to ten years, enough time to set the foundation for durable prosperity. But history offers harsh lessons: moments of reprieve squandered, opportunities lost to complacency or discord.

The challenge now is not to mistake recognition for resolution. Trump's embrace and Bloomberg's endorsement are powerful signals of global confidence, but unless they are matched by tangible improvements in jobs, trade, and technology, they will remain fleeting headlines. Pakistan stands at a turning point, its reprieve fragile but full of possibility. Whether this moment becomes a renaissance or a relapse depends not on the applause abroad but on the reforms at home.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister,
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former Press Attaché to Malaysia
Former MD, SRBC
Macomb, Michigan, USA

Even an Enemy must be Dignified

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



This divine commandment lays down the foundation for a moral order in which even enmity does not absolve one of fairness and honour. Yet, when one examines the behaviour of our eastern neighbour, it is clear that the principle of justice has often been replaced by aggression, deceit, and hypocrisy. The events of May 2025 serve as a striking reminder. When tensions escalated into open conflict, India suffered a devastating defeat on the battlefield

HAS anyone ever described more simply the idea that even an enemy should reflect the moral values of a worthy rival? History gives us a lasting example of grace and character in the famous meeting between Alexander the Great and King Porus. After their fierce battle, Alexander asked the defeated Porus how he wanted to be treated. Porus replied, "As a king would treat another king." Impressed by this noble response, Alexander spared his life and returned his kingdom. This moment between two strong and principled leaders reminds us of a truth often overlooked today — that rivalry's value lies not in trickery or deceit, but in the respect and honor with which it is pursued. In our own times, this spirit of chivalry seems lost. We have been unfortunate in our neighborhood, where we face not an honourable rival but one who disregards both the ethics of war and the principles of peaceful coexistence. The Holy Qur'an reminds us: "And do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness." (Surah Al-Ma'idah, 5:8).

This divine commandment lays down the foundation for a moral order in which even enmity does not absolve one of fairness and honour. Yet, when one examines the behaviour of our eastern neighbour, it is clear that the principle of justice has often been replaced by aggression, deceit, and hypocrisy. The events of May 2025 serve as a striking reminder. When tensions escalated into open conflict, India suffered a devastating defeat on the battlefield. Its confidence crumbled in the face of Pakistan's readiness and resilience. As the momentum shifted, the Indians that once flaunted its military dominance found itself appealing to international forums for a ceasefire—a scenario that exposed its vulnerabilities both morally and strategically. The Qur'an states: "Indeed, Allah does not love the treacherous." (Surah Al-Anfal, 8:58).

And it further guides believers that, "If you fear treachery from a people, throw their treaty back at them in a just way. Indeed, Allah does not love the treacherous." Thus, when a neighbour chooses the path of deceit and covert aggression, Islam allows the believer to respond firmly and justly, but never unjustly. After being vanquished in open combat, India turned to its habitual practice of indirect warfare — covert operations, cross-border sabotage, and media manipulation. These are not the methods of a state that values honour; these are the tactics of those who strike from the shadows, fearful of open confrontation. It is said in a Hadith of the Holy Prophet Muhammad: Pakistan, however, remains steadfast in its moral discipline. We neither resort to underhanded methods nor take pride in aggression. Our forbearance should never be mistaken for weakness, for we believe in the principle that peace is not the absence of strength, but the control of it.

Pakistan's response has therefore been firm, measured, and rooted in principle. We are a nation forged in struggle, guided by faith, and tempered by sacrifice. We seek peace because the Qur'an commands: "And if they incline to peace, then incline to it [also] and rely upon Allah." (Surah Al-Anfal, 8:61). But when our patience is mistaken for submission, and our gestures of peace for fear, we are reminded that Islam also enjoins us to defend ourselves with courage: "Permission [to fight] has been given to those who are being wronged, because they have been wronged. And indeed, Allah is competent to give them victory." (Surah Al-Hajj, 22:39).

Thus, Pakistan reserves the right to respond in the language that the aggressor understands — with dignity, decisiveness, and determination. Our armed forces, guided by discipline and devotion, have demonstrat-

ed time and again that we seek neither war nor humiliation of others, but we will never compromise our sovereignty or honour. The wounds of May are still fresh, yet they remind us that our restraint, too, is a form of power. History bears witness that true greatness is not measured merely by victories, but by the values one upholds in conflict. Even in war, the Holy Prophet forbade the killing of non-combatants, the destruction of crops, and the violation of treaties. Such was the ethical code that Islam laid down more than fourteen centuries ago — a code that elevates human conduct even in the harshest of circumstances. Pakistan's struggle for peace and justice in the face of provocation stands within that same moral tradition.

Our message to the world and to our adversary is clear; Pakistan desires peace, but peace founded on justice and mutual respect. We shall neither initiate aggression nor tolerate humiliation. We shall respond, if compelled, with the calm courage that belongs to those who trust in Allah's promise: "Indeed, with hardship comes ease." (Surah Ash-Sharh, 94:6). In the end, let us remember that victory without virtue is fleeting, and power without principle is perilous. The dialogue between Alexander and Porus still echoes through time because it elevates conflict into a contest of character. Let our own struggles be guided by the same spirit — to defend without hatred, to fight without cruelty, and to overcome without arrogance. For as the Prophet said: "The strong man is not the one who can overpower others, but the one who can control himself when angry." (Sahih al-Bukhari).

May our strength remain disciplined, our faith unwavering, and our cause just — so that when history writes of these times, it may record that Pakistan stood firm with honour, restrained in power, and righteous in purpose.

Briefs

TLP to be banned after violent protests

FROM PAGE 01
Muridke, resulting in violent clashes and dozens of arrests. According to the senior police official, one station house officer (SHO) on duty was martyred, and 48 police personnel sustained injuries, 17 of whom were wounded by gunfire during the clashes with TLP protesters. TLP protesters tried marching towards the federal capital despite the ban on public gathering under Section 144, resulting in days of turmoil across the TLP march also left at least 40 government and private vehicles burnt and several shops set ablaze. At least three TLP workers and a passerby died in the violent clashes, while reports showed that at least 30 civilians were also wounded.

Pakistan suspends Afghan...

FROM PAGE 01
engaged in fierce border clashes in recent days first triggered after Pakistani forces acted in self-defence while responding to unprovoked overnight attack by the Taliban forces and India-backed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) alias Fitna al-Khawarij last week. The skirmishes saw Pakistan carrying out "precision fires and strikes, as well as physical raids against Taliban camps and posts, terrorist training facilities and support networks operating from Afghan territory" resulting in the elimination of more than 200 Afghan Taliban and affiliated terrorists. The fighting once again erupted this week, prompting Pakistan to carry out precision strikes against key Taliban positions in Afghanistan's Kandahar province.

Around 80 terrorists' neutralised

FROM PAGE 01
The group of militants were trying to infiltrate Pakistan's border while taking advantage of the ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Several khawarij were injured in the military action conducted under an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Mohmand district, the sources added. Meanwhile, security personnel cordoned off the area and commenced a clearance operation. The exchange of fire between the security forces and militants continued for several hours.

Centre ready to work with...

FROM PAGE 01
In response, CM Afridi expressed gratitude for PM Shehbaz's gesture after the latter congratulated him on assuming the office. Afridi said he informed the premier that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa represents a population of 45 million people and requested permission to meet his party leader. The CM, talking to journalists in Rawalpindi, said that he had written a letter to the federal and Punjab governments, seeking permission to meet the PTI founder at the Adiala jail, but had so far received no response.

'Ball in Afghan...

FROM PAGE 01
court for a permanent ceasefire. The premier said that the Taliban regime carried out the recent attack on Pakistan at India's behest. The attacks came when Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi was on a visit to India. The Taliban forces and India-backed TTP, alias Fitna al-Khawarij, resorted to an unprovoked attack on Pakistan on Sunday. The Pakistan Armed Forces gave a befitting response to the aggression, killing over 200 Afghan Taliban and affiliated militants in a self-defence action. The military's media wing said that 23 soldiers embraced martyrdom in the clashes with the Taliban forces and the terrorists.

Moroccan National team achieves record 16 consecutive victories

The results achieved in recent years by different age categories are only tangible proof of this qualitative leap in Moroccan football, now a reference and an example to follow at the Arab and African levels

DNA

RABAT: The national football team achieved a historic feat by securing a world record 16 consecutive victories by beating Congo (1-0) in the match played Tuesday evening at the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium in Rabat. With this performance, Morocco managed to dethrone Spain and Germany, who held the top spot with 15 consecutive victories, respectively in (2008-2009) and (2010-2011). The Atlas Lions won the match 1-0, extending their winning streak to 16 in a row, across all matches, whether in the African Cup of Nations qualifiers, the 2026 World Cup qualifiers or friendly matches. This world record in terms of the number of consecutive victories achieved by the Atlas Lions confirms the considerable growth that Moroccan football is experiencing, as well as the prestigious place it now occupies on the international scene. Apart from the winning streak, the highlight of the Atlas Lions' exceptional run, under the leadership of national coach Walid Regragui, are the impressive



scores recorded in the various matches. In numbers, the Atlas Lions have scored 50 goals in 16 matches, an average of more than 3 goals per game, while conceding only 4 goals. Goalkeeper Yassine Bounou has kept a clean sheet 12 times, reflecting the team's defensive solidity and rigorous tactical discipline across various lines. The results achieved in recent years by different age categories are only tangible proof of this qualitative leap in Moroccan football, now a reference and an example to follow at the Arab and African levels. This achievement also reflects the national team's consistent levels of tactics, discipline, and the ability of its players to compete with the biggest football schools in different age categories, which explains Morocco's rise in the current FIFA rankings, where it recently reached 11th place in the world, while continuing to dominate the African and Arab rankings. Indeed, this series of victories makes Morocco a formidable opponent for continental and international titles and paves the way for new generations of talents to continue writing the history of Moroccan football.

A 'sweet bond' on Silk Road

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Hami, in eastern part of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, has long been a key hub on the ancient Silk Road and is known as the "gateway to the Western Regions." When Zhang Qian made his first diplomatic mission to the West in the Western Han Dynasty (202 BC-25 AD), Hami was an important stop. The Silk Road he pioneered not only fostered cultural exchanges across regions but also left behind a shared taste memory that has endured for millennia, turning "Hami" into a synonym for sweet melons. Today, Hami's annual Melon Festival celebrates this heritage as a vibrant feast of sweetness. Interestingly, Khiva in Uzbekistan - another ancient Silk Road cultural crossroads - hosts a parallel melon festival. Together, these two transborder events resonate as a symbolic "sweet bond" connecting communities and industries. This summer, in the melon fields of Huayuan township of Hami, workers of the Jiaxiang Fruit Planting Cooperative rushed to harvest, sort, and pack crates of fresh melons ready for shipment. "This year we've already exported 1,880 tons of Hami melons, with peak daily exports exceeding 80 tons," said Liu Ruixiang, head of the cooperative. Hami's temperate continental climate, featuring abundant sunshine

and large day-night temperature differences, gives the melons their exceptional sweetness. Strong photosynthesis during the day allows the fruit to accumulate nutrients, while the cool nights slow sugar consumption. The story of Hami melons is inseparable from the ancient Silk Road. Along this ancient route, grapes, pomegranates, and alfalfa from the West traveled eastward, while Hami melon cultivation techniques spread to Dunhuang in northwest China's Gansu province before reaching central China. Today, Hami melons have become a pillar industry driving local economic growth and improving livelihoods. International exchanges have also spurred advances in breeding. "We've been working with countries such as Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to share melon germplasm resources, advancing genetic improvement and variety development," said Zhang Yongbing, a researcher at the Hami Melon Research Center of the Xinjiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Central Asian countries are also testing thick-skinned varieties developed in China, he added. At the 19th Hami melon festival held recently, 270 varieties spanning ancient and modern times were showcased, drawing crowds of visitors, with popular varieties quickly selling out. Over the past three decades, Hami has transformed its melon from a single agricultural product into a cultural and economic symbol with global appeal. Since it was launched

in 1993, the Hami melon festival has grown into the city's most festive "sweet celebration." Cultural exchanges are adding even more vibrancy to Hami. In July this year, the 7th China Xinjiang International Ethnic Dance Festival set up a sub-venue in Hami, where the State Honored Song and Dance Ensemble of the Republic of Tajikistan "Lola" performed in resplendent traditional dress. "The warm response from the audience in Hami made us truly feel that art knows no borders," said head of the troupe. The integration of culture and tourism continues to generate fruitful results. In the first half of this year, Hami welcomed 9.85 million visitors, up 16.46 percent year on year, with tourism revenue reaching 6.379 billion yuan, a 23.22 percent increase. "The fruits here are just as sweet as those from my hometown," said Asadbek Bobojonov, deputy editor-in-chief of Silk Road News Network in Uzbekistan, who joined journalists from 10 countries including Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan on a field trip in June this year. In a 100-mu (about 667 hectares) melon farm in Huayuan township, he inquired closely about planting techniques and sales channels. In Central Asia, melons are more than a fruit - they embody harvest abundance, traditions of hospitality, and national pride. Uzbekistan has been renowned for its melons since ancient times, and every August the melon festival in Khiva draws crowds of visitors.

Blue Jays bats come alive in 13-4 MLB playoff victory over Mariners

LOS ANGELES: The Toronto Blue Jays belted five home runs in a 13-4 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Wednesday to claw back to 2-1 in their Major League Baseball playoff series. George Springer, Andres Gimenez, Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Alejandro Kirk and Addison Barger homered for the Blue Jays, who were out-scored 13-4 and out-hit 17-8 in dropping the first two games of the best-of-seven American League Championship Series at home. But their offense came alive in Seattle, where a five-run third inning included Gimenez's game-tying two-run home run and a two-run double from Daulton Varsho that put Toronto up 5-2. "We were ready since the first pitch," Gimenez said. "We were aggressive." The Mariners jumped to a 2-0 lead on Julio Rodriguez's two-run homer in the bottom of the first inning. But Toronto turned the tide in the third and their onslaught continued in the fourth as Springer blasted a pitch from Seattle starting pitcher George Kirby over the center field wall for a home run that put Toronto up 6-2. Springer's 22nd career postseason home run moved him into a tie with Bernie Williams for fourth most in the playoffs. Guerrero opened the fifth inning with a 406-foot blast to center field off Kirby. Guerrero's shot was out of the reach of leaping Mariners outfielder Julio Rodriguez and spelled the end of the night for Kirby. "This is a (Blue Jays) team that has swung the bat well all year and they didn't miss much tonight," Mariners manager Dan Wilson said. "They were able to get to (Kirby). Our guys, we get ahead, that's what we do... but you still have to make good-quality pitches and there were some that caught a little bit of the plate." Ernie Clement added a run-scoring single off reliever Carlos Vargas as the Blue Jays pushed the lead to 8-2 and Kirk's three-run homer in the sixth inning swelled Toronto's lead to 12-2. - Agencies

China says it supports Pak-Afghan ceasefire

FROM PAGE 01

Afghan forces were instructed to respect the ceasefire, "unless any aggression takes place". Pakistani officials on the northern and southern border with Afghanistan told that "no violence was reported overnight, and the ceasefire remains in effect".

PHC bars authorities from...

FROM PAGE 01

the media, CM Afridi, who was sworn in as the province's chief executive a day earlier by Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, said that he hasn't received a reply on his request to meet incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail. "The Centre [federal government] should think that the [KP] CM is coming to meet [PTI founder]. No work will be done without the instructions of the PTI founder," Afridi remarked. The CM has left for Islamabad, where he will discuss the formation of the provincial cabinet and other issues with the PTI founder.

French PM survives no-trust votes

FROM PAGE 01

the Socialists, giving the government a lifeline in the deeply fragmented National Assembly. Despite the reprieve, the motions underscored the fragility of Macron's administration midway through his final term. "A majority cobbled together through horse-trading managed today to save their positions, at the expense of the national interest," RN party president Jordan Bardella wrote on X.

Death penalty for Hasina...

FROM PAGE 01

July and August 2024, according to the United Nations. "We demand the highest punishment for her," chief prosecutor Tajul Islam told reporters outside court. "For a single murder, one death penalty is the rule. For 1,400 murders, she should be sentenced 1,400 times - but since that is not humanly possible, we demand at least one." The prosecution alleges that Hasina, 78, was "the nucleus around whom all the crimes committed during the July-August uprising revolved". She is being tried in absentia alongside two former senior officials. Her ex-interior minister, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, is also a fugitive, while former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun is in custody and has pleaded guilty.

McIlroy says remember Ryder Cup for win, not US fan abuse

NEW DELHI: Rory McIlroy on Wednesday said he wanted to "shift the narrative" away from abusive United States Ryder Cup fans and instead focus on his European team's famous victory. The five-time major winner will compete for the first time since at the DP World India Championship starting Thursday at Delhi Golf Club. The field includes Ryder Cup teammates Luke Donald, Tommy Fleetwood and Shane Lowry. Europe, captained by Donald, beat the United States last month at Bethpage Black, where McIlroy in particular was targeted by abusive and rude US fans. "The unfortunate thing is people aren't remembering that (performance) and they are remembering the week for the wrong reason," the Northern Irishman told reporters ahead of his debut in India. "I would like to shift the narrative and focus on how good the European team were and how proud I was to be part of that team to win an away Ryder Cup." Donald on Tuesday said McIlroy "would make a good captain". The 36-year-old said in response: "I would love to be the European team captain at some point. "But that will be beyond my playing days, or at least when my playing days are coming to an end and I'm not good enough to make the team or I make way for the new generation to come along. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar received Secretary Information & Broadcasting, Ms. Ambreen Jan for a farewell call. The DPM/FM appreciated her dedicated service, professionalism & valuable contributions throughout her distinguished career, and conveyed best wishes for her future endeavors. - DNA

World No. 1 Sinner Dominates Six Kings Slam Opener

The Italian — who has already beaten Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz this season — looked sharp throughout, dictating play with precision from the baseline

RIYADH: World No. 1 Jannik Sinner made a powerful start to his Six Kings Slam title defence in Riyadh by defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas in straight sets on the opening day of the tournament. Under the lights of Kingdom Arena on Wednesday, Sinner displayed the control, aggression and composure that have made him the sport's newest standard-bearer. The Italian — who has already beaten Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz this season — looked sharp throughout, dictating play with precision from the baseline. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Sinner reflected on what his wins over tennis' biggest names have revealed about his game. "Two different opponents (Novak and Alcaraz), two different kind of game style sets," he said, answering a question from Arab News. "Every match when you play against them, you need to be at your best, at your peak if you want to win against them — and that's very, very difficult." He added: "I'm happy to be here, happy to measure myself against the best players in the world, and then we'll see what comes out. We all hope for a good match." When asked what drives him most in a tournament without ranking points, Sinner said: "Well, passion." "You measure yourself against the best players in the world. I would lie if there's no motivation for the money — we all know what's on the line." He went on to stress the broader purpose of competing in Riyadh. "We would like to make the sport bigger — that's



it in the best possible way." "To do that, we need the best players in the world to come here and show how good and healthy tennis actually is," he added. Tsitsipas, meanwhile, acknowledged Sinner's dominance and pinpoint execution. "I feel like he was a bit higher than me on certain occasions," he told Arab News. "He was able to come up with winners in moments that I wasn't the first." He added: "He was able to generate a lot more winners and shots that were unreturned, and I wasn't able to do that as well. I kept working harder and more for my points, and he kept economizing and just worked whenever it was necessary." "I did lose a little bit of rhythm at some point, but I was able to start rallies and broke him twice, I believe," Tsitsipas said. "It was just a question of managing my serve better." Reflecting on his performance, he noted: "I really did try hard. I was smacking the ball, sometimes unnecessarily hard, because I felt like the ball wasn't penetrating throughout the court — and that was my biggest issue today." Earlier in the day, Taylor Fritz made a statement of his own, overpowering Alexander Zverev 6-3, 6-4 to book a semifinal showdown with Alcaraz. With the win, Sinner now sets up a blockbuster showdown with Djokovic — a rematch of last year's semifinal, where the Italian edged the 24-time Grand Slam champion in three sets before going on to lift the title. - Agencies

Briefs

Turkish lawmakers press mediation efforts between Afghanistan, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Turkish parliamentarian Ali Şahin, President of the Türkiye-Pakistan Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, held an in-depth discussion with Shabana Ayaz, President of the Pak-Turk Women Forum during his visit to Pakistan for the Third Trilateral Speakers' Conference. In the meeting, Şahin emphasized Türkiye's potential to mediate and promote dialogue to address the ongoing tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He presented five visionary proposals to strengthen Türkiye-Pakistan relations and foster regional peace and stability – later sharing the same proposals on his official X (formerly Twitter) account. Key Proposals by Ali Şahin included establishing an AK Party Office in Islamabad, to promote parliamentary diplomacy, educational exchange, and cultural cooperation within a strategic bloc of over 650 million people across Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. To enhance maritime security in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, aligned with the objectives of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Through joint training programs and defense technology transfers to build effective counter-terrorism models for the Muslim world. Building on 700 years of Turkic influence in the subcontinent and Pakistan's strong support for Azerbaijan during the Karabakh conflict.—DNA

Oman receives prestigious award from Japan's top university

TOKYO: The University of Tokyo has announced that it has awarded the prestigious Shokomon Award to the government of the Sultanate of Oman in recognition of its contribution to supporting scientific research and academic and cultural exchange in the field of Middle Eastern studies. The award was received by Oman's Ambassador to Japan Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Busaidi on behalf of the government of Oman. The award was based on the role played by the Sultan Qaboos Chair for Middle Eastern Studies, which was inaugurated at the university in 2011. It is the highest honor bestowed by the University of Tokyo on individuals and institutions who have made significant and influential contributions to enriching the university's progress and serving its academic goals. Oman is the first Arab government to receive it.—APP

Algeria buys about 400,000 tons durum wheat in tender

HAMBURG: Algeria's state grains agency OAIC is believed to have purchased about 400,000 metric tons of durum wheat in an international tender which closed on Wednesday, European traders said on Thursday. The tender sought a nominal 50,000 metric tons but Algeria frequently purchases more than the volumes initially sought. Initial estimates of the purchase price were around \$324 a ton cost and freight (c&f) included for larger Panamax shipments and around \$334 a ton c&f for smaller Handymax shipments. About 90,000 tons of the purchase was believed to involve US-origin durum with much of the rest believed to involve Canadian-origin of type 3 Canada western amber durum (No.3 CWAD). The tender sought shipment in four periods: November 1-15, November 16-30, December 1-15 and December 16-31. Algeria does not disclose the results of its tenders and results reported are based on trader assessments. More detailed estimates of prices and volume are possible later.—APP

Book New Uzbekistan: The Third Renaissance translated into Urdu

Ambassador Tukhtaev highlighted the importance of the book, describing it as “a reflection of Uzbekistan’s ongoing transformation under the visionary leadership of President Mirziyoyev.”

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has lauded President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan as a “visionary leader whose progressive ideas are transforming not only his own country but the entire Central Asian region.” He added that the Uzbek President is a great friend of Pakistan and is held in high esteem by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Pakistani leadership. The minister also commended Muhammad Abbas, the translator of the Urdu edition, for his meticulous work in making this important publication accessible to Urdu readers. The Minister expressed these views on the occasion of launch of Urdu version of the book New Uzbekistan: The Third Renaissance. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has written the foreword of the book. The minister also talked



about the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Uzbekistan and termed that visit highly productive. The Uzbek embassy in Islamabad formally launched the Urdu version of the book New Uzbekistan: The Third Renaissance at a special ceremony held in

Islamabad. The event was attended by diplomats, scholars, academics, journalists, and members of the Pakistani literary community, who praised the initiative as a milestone in strengthening cultural and intellectual cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

In his remarks, Ambassador Tukhtaev highlighted the importance of the book, describing it as “a reflection of Uzbekistan's ongoing transformation under the visionary leadership of President Mirziyoyev.” He emphasized that translating the book



into Urdu would help Pakistani readers understand Uzbekistan's journey toward modernization, reform, and openness. The envoy added that the Third Renaissance represents not only economic progress but also a cultural and intellectual awakening centered on education, science, and human development. Originally written by Bakhrom Mirkasimov and Richard Pomfret, New Uzbekistan: The Third Renaissance presents a comprehensive analysis of Uzbekistan's far-reaching reforms since 2016.

The book brings together contributions from local and international experts to evaluate the country's progress in economic, political, and social transformation. Covering sectors such as macroeconomic policy, trade and investment, agriculture, health care, education, finance, and governance, the book highlights Uzbekistan's steady movement toward an open market economy and its vision to achieve upper-middle-income status by 2030. It also discusses the challenges of implementation and regional

disparities that remain. The Urdu edition is expected to deepen academic and cultural exchange between the two brotherly nations, giving Pakistani students, policymakers, and researchers a valuable window into Uzbekistan's evolving development model. In conclusion, Ambassador Tukhtaev expressed hope that the translation will “serve as a bridge of understanding between the people of Pakistan and Uzbekistan” and foster collaboration in education, research, and cultural diplomacy.

French PM survives no-confidence votes after making pension concession

PARIS: French Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu survived two no-confidence votes in parliament on Thursday, winning crucial backing from the Socialist Party thanks to his pledge to suspend President Emmanuel Macron's contested pension reform. The two motions presented by the hard-left France Unbowed and the far-right National Rally (RN) secured just 271 and 144 votes respectively – well short of the 289 votes needed to bring down Lecornu's days-old government. Lecornu's offer to mothball the pension reform until after the 2027 presidential election helped sway the Socialists, giving the government a lifeline in the deeply fragmented National Assembly. Despite the reprieve, the motions underscored the fragility of Macron's administration midway through his final term. “A majority cobbled together through horse-trading managed today to save their positions, at the expense of the national interest,” RN party president Jordan Bardella wrote on X. The French bond market remained steady after the back-to-back votes, with the government victory widely expected by investors. By putting the pension reform on the chopping block, Lecornu threatens to kill off one of Macron's main economic legacies at a time when France's public finances are in a perilous state, leaving the president with little in the way of domestic achievements after eight years in office. There are 265 lawmakers in parliament from parties that said they would vote to topple Lecornu, and only a handful of rebels from other groups joined their cause. If Lecornu had lost either vote, he and his ministers would have had to immediately resign, and Macron would have come under huge pressure to call a snap parliamentary election, plunging France deeper into crisis. But despite the outcome of Thursday's votes, Lecornu still faces weeks of arduous negotiations in parliament over passing a slimmed-down 2026 budget during which he could be toppled at any point. “The French need to know that we are doing all this work... to give them a budget, because it is fundamental for the future of our country,” said Yael Braun-Pivet, the president of the National Assembly and an ally of Macron. “I am pleased to see that today there is a majority in the National Assembly that is operating in this spirit: work, the search for compromise, the best possible effort,” she added. After winning the pension concession, the Socialists on Wednesday set their sights on including a tax on billionaires in the 2026 budget, underlining just how weak Lecornu's hand is in the negotiations. POLITICAL KRYPTONITE France is in the midst of its worst political crisis in decades as a succession of minority governments seek to push deficit-reducing budgets through a truculent legislature split into three distinct ideological blocs. Reforming France's generous pension system has been political kryptonite ever since Socialist President Francois Mitterrand cut the retirement age to 60 from 65 in 1982. In France, the average effective retirement age is just 60.7, compared to the OECD average of 64.4. Macron's reform raised the statutory retirement age by two years to 64 by 2030. Although that only brings French policy into line with other European Union member states, it chips away at a cherished social benefit beloved by the left.—DNA

China mobile showcases innovation

ISLAMABAD: China Mobile has been hosting the Global Partner Conference since 2013 annually to showcase the latest achievements of the company and its partners in technological innovation and digital-intelligent transformation. At this year's conference “Global Partner Conference in Guangzhou, China Yang Jie, Chairman China Mobile delivered a keynote titled “Carbon-Silicon Symbiosis: Co-Creating the AI+ Era. Inspired by its parent company, Zong aims to bring the “Chinese Solutions” showcased at the Conference to Pakistan, reinforcing its vision to becoming an Excellent Information Services & Technology Innovation Company, said a news release received here on Thursday. During its annual conference, China Mobile unveiled four major initiatives spanning Artificial Intelligence (AI), International Branding, Quantum Communications, and Digital-Intelligent Living. The company launched the upgraded “AI+ Action Plan” and the “AI+ Ecological Alliance,” reinforcing its role as an AI supplier, aggregator, and operator while working with partners to develop innovative AI business models and applications. On the global front, China Mobile introduced “CMobile” as its new international brand, marking a significant step in its global strategy. The brand embodies the “4C” strategic direction – Customer, Cooperation, Creation, and Connection – and was launched alongside a comprehensive brand renewal and the establishment of the International Ecological Alliance. In the field of quantum communications, China Mobile announced the “Light Up 100 Cities” Quantum Test Network and the Quantum Ecological Alliance, aimed at driving industrial collaboration and accelerating the large-scale development of China's quantum communication ecosystem. The company introduced “China Mobile AiGou” (Mobile Love Shopping) and the Digital-Intelligent Life Mall Ecological Alliance. With connection, application, rights and interests, and hardware as its core, this initiative seeks to build a reliable, one-stop digital-intelligent living platform for over one billion users. In the past two years, China Mobile has actively accelerated its transformation, continuously consolidating its leading advantages in new information infrastructure such as dual 100Gbps networks and computing power networks. It has fully implemented the “China Mobile Aijia” (Mobile Love Home) and “5G Leadership Plan,” while accelerating the promotion of AI+ application services and launching the first batch of “new three categories” products for information consumption. These efforts have laid a solid foundation for participating in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and supporting the high-quality joint development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Looking ahead, as a wholly owned subsidiary of China Mobile, Zong will leverage its parent company's advanced technological capabilities to drive Pakistan's digital transformation.—DNA

Lebanon's minister expects cabinet to sign fiscal gap law soon

WASHINGTON: Lebanon's cabinet is soon expected to approve and send to parliament a long-awaited law needed to restructure its debt burden, the country's economy minister said, adding that policymakers are in touch daily with the International Monetary Fund. Lebanon is struggling to emerge from a severe economic crisis following decades of profligate spending by ruling elites that sent the economy into a tailspin in late 2019, with depositors locked out of accounts as debt-laden banks shut down. Key to the fiscal and economic overhaul is a law on the distribution of financial losses between the state, the central bank, commercial banks and depositors – dubbed the “fiscal gap” law. Asked about progress on the law, Amer Bizat said the government's emphasis was on good legislation rather than speedy progress. “The idea is to present it, discuss in the cabinet, approve in the cabinet, and then send it over to the parliament,” Bizat told Reuters on Tuesday on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank. He added that he expected these things to happen “soon.” “It's more important that we get something right than we get something fast,” he said. RELATIONS WITH BONDHOLDERS POSITIVE, MINISTER SAYS Declining to give details on the numbers being discussed, Bizat said the draft would follow three principles – depositors would get back their money over time with no haircut and that any solution would ensure the banking sector back to health. Furthermore, smaller deposits would get their money back faster than larger depositors, he added Bizat also said he was meeting with the IMF every day. Asked whether he would also meet bondholders on the sidelines of the meetings in Washington, Bizat declined to comment but said relations between authorities and those investors were “good, cordial and positive.” Recent events in the region could bring big positive change for Lebanon, said Bizat, who previously was BlackRock's global head of emerging markets. “That change could potentially be very good, very positive for Lebanon,” he said. “Let's not forget, we're in the middle of a war still ... but there's a possibility that the kind of changes that are happening, if stability, if security, comes back to the region, Lebanon could benefit enormously.” The government is also expecting hundreds of investors to head to Beirut in November for a conference dubbed Beirut One, that Bizat hopes would help rekindle private investor engagement in the country. “There is a strong interest in imagining the day after,” he said. “We know people are very realistic ... everybody knows that challenges are enormous, and the journey is still very, very long, but I really think people are saying it's okay to start imagining how things will be after.”—DNA

UK charity group urges public to donate to 'save lives' in Gaza

LONDON: A group of 15 charities in the UK has appealed for donations from the British public for the people of Gaza to address its “catastrophic levels of need.” A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, announced last week, has seen an increase in aid supplies into the Palestinian enclave, where much of the population faces the threat of famine. However, the 15 charities comprising the Disasters Emergency Committee say more is needed to meet demand. The DEC said it has begun to scale up operations in Gaza, with several of its members – including the British Red Cross and Plan International UK – confirming that aid trucks have reached their destinations. The group, which raised more than £50 million (\$67.19 million) since launching the Middle East Humanitarian Appeal a year ago, has asked for further donations, saying £10 could provide blankets for two people, and £50 could feed five families for a week. “Your support could save lives,” the DEC said on its website, adding that it is providing cash to residents to use as markets return, as well as handing out food, clean water and medical resources.—APP

Egypt sends 400 shipments of aid to Gaza as ceasefire holds

LONDON: The Egyptian Red Crescent sent more than 400 shipments containing about 9,700 tonnes of humanitarian and petroleum aid to Gaza on Wednesday. The convoy carried about 5,700 tonnes of food and flour, 1,400 tonnes of medical supplies, and 2,500 tonnes of petroleum products to support Palestinians in the enclave. The initiative, “Zad El-Ezza: From Egypt to Gaza,” is now in its 50th day and is part of Cairo's efforts to provide relief to Palestinians. It has delivered thousands of tonnes of aid, including flour, baby formula, medical supplies, therapeutic drugs, personal care items and fuel. Egypt has collaborated with several countries, including Kuwait and the UAE, to deliver aid to Gaza. Aid shipments transit from the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing to Karm Abu Salem, located at the southeasternmost point of Gaza. Last week, Egypt, along with Qatar, Turkey and the US, signed on as guarantors of the Gaza ceasefire declaration in the Sinai city of Sharm El-Sheikh. The deal led to Israel and Hamas exchanging hostages and prisoners.—APP

Pak Naval chief strengthens ties with US counterparts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, visited United States of America as part of ongoing efforts to further strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation and defence engagements. During the visit, the Naval Chief called on US Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Vice Admiral Yvette Davids, and Acting Vice Commandant of the US Coast Guard, Vice Admiral Thomas G. Allan Jr. Matters of professional interest, regional security dynamics, and avenues for professional training and maritime cooperation were discussed during these meetings. The Naval Chief also visited the National Defence University (NDU) and met its President, Vice Admiral Peter A. Garvin. At the US State Department, the Admiral met Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, Mr. Stanley L. Brown. The engagements encompassed deliberations on politico-military cooperation, maritime security, capacity-building initiatives, and shared maritime interests. The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, also addressed a gathering of US scholars and think-tank experts. In his talk, the Naval Chief highlighted regional maritime security challenges and Pakistan Navy's contributions towards collaborative maritime efforts. The visit of the Naval Chief reflects the enduring defence ties between Pakistan and the United States, reaffirming the mutual commitment to promoting maritime security in the region and beyond.



Briefs

Consumers
can choose
their own
power
supplier

AGENCIES

KARACHI: Karachi and other parts of the country will be able to choose their own electricity suppliers from January 2026 under the government's plan to introduce a competitive power market. The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Power, chaired by MNA Muhammad Idrees, met to discuss the "Multi-Vendor Electricity Distribution Bill, 2025," tabled by MNA Shahida Rehmani. The committee, however, decided to defer consideration of the bill until February 2026 for further review. During the meeting, Rehmani cited Karachi's long-standing electricity issues, pointing to inefficiency and mounting losses under K-Electric's management. Power Division Secretary Dr Fakhr Alam Irfan said that beginning in January 2026, consumers in Karachi and across Pakistan will have the option to purchase electricity from any power company. He added that around 200 megawatts (MW) of electricity will be made available for bulk purchase in the initial phase. The open-market access will first be extended to consumers using up to one megawatt of power, before expanding to other categories. The committee was briefed that Pakistan's off-grid and net-metered solar capacity has surged to 18,000MW, creating challenges for grid stability as the government monitors the integration of renewable energy with the national grid.

15 killed,
8 injured
as truck
overtakes
on Swat
expressway

DNA

ISLAMABAD: At least 15 people were killed and eight others injured when a truck carrying gypsies overturned in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Malakand Division on Thursday. According to details, rescue officials 1122 said the tragic incident occurred near the third tunnel on the Swat Expressway. The truck, en route from Bahrain and Swat, lost control and flipped over, killing 15 passengers on the spot and injuring several others, a private news channel reported. Rescue 1122 teams and local police responded swiftly, transporting the deceased and injured to the District Headquarters Hospital in Batkhela. Rescue officials reported that the death toll may rise, as four of the injured are in critical condition.

Magnitude
6.5 quake hits
Indonesia's
Papua: USGS

JAKARTA: A magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck the eastern Indonesian province of Papua on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said, but there was no tsunami warning and no immediate reports of damage. The epicentre of the quake, which struck around 2:48 pm local time (0548 GMT), was about 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the city of Jayapura, at a depth of 35 kilometres, the USGS said. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii said there was no threat of a tsunami from the quake. Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) recorded the quake with a magnitude of 6.4 at a depth of 16 kilometres. The agency's earthquake and tsunami director Daryono, who goes by one name, said in a statement no aftershocks had yet been recorded. Indonesia, a vast archipelagic nation, experiences frequent earthquakes due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire". — Agencies

Australian envoy Neil leaves
Pakistan with fond memories

Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday met with the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, who left Pakistan immediately after the meeting

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday met with the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in various sectors. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on expanding collaboration in areas such as coast guards, border management, and combating human trafficking. The Australian High Commissioner expressed deep sorrow over the recent martyrdoms of police and security personnel in terrorist attacks and extended condolences to the families of the victims. Mr. Hawkins also praised the restoration work of Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, describing it as an impressive example of Pakistan's commitment to sports infrastructure. He further lauded Minister Naqvi's leadership, noting that Islamabad has witnessed visible improvement and development through ongoing welfare and urban projects. Reflecting on his tenure in Pakistan, the Australian envoy said he had spent a memorable time in the country, adding that the shrine of Bibi Pak Daman in Lahore was one of his favorite places. He remarked that Pakistan's international stature and reputation have improved significantly in recent years. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, while welcoming the High Commissioner, reiterated Pakistan's commitment to discouraging illegal immigration and



promoting legal migration channels. He warned that those involved in illegal migration would face strict legal consequences upon repatriation, adding that the government was taking firm action

against human smuggling networks. Minister Naqvi appreciated High Commissioner Neil Hawkins' contributions to strengthening Pakistan-Australia relations and extended best wishes for

his future endeavors. Minister of State Talal Chaudhry, Federal Secretary for Interior Khurram Agha, and senior officials from the Australian High Commission were also present at the meeting.

FinMin Aurangzeb briefs
Saudi counterpart on PIA,
airports' privatisation

Finance ministry says meeting between two leaders took place on sidelines of IMF-WB annual meetings

DNA

WASHINGTON: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb met his Saudi counterpart Mohammed Al-Jadaan in Washington, DC and briefed him on the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and key airports, said the finance ministry in a statement on Thursday. The finance ministry said that the meeting between Aurangzeb and his Saudi counterpart took place on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Washington, DC. Pakistan is moving ahead with plans to privatise its heavily indebted national carrier in an effort to raise funds and overhaul loss-making state-owned enterprises under the terms of its \$7 billion programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Officials, in a recent briefing, told the Senate Standing Committee on Privatisation that the sale of PIA is expected to be completed by November 2025. During the meeting today, both sides reviewed the growing trade and investment relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.



bia. The finance czar also underscored the government's commitment to ensuring transparency and efficiency in the privatisation process. "The minister highlighted Pakistan's resolve to attract strategic foreign investment through structural reforms and improved governance in state-owned enterprises," the statement added.

Aurangzeb also sought Saudi support for infrastructure development projects, emphasising Pakistan's commitment to fostering a deeper economic partnership with the kingdom. "The two ministers agreed that institutions such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) could play a vital role in mobilising private sector investments in Pakistan," it added. This week, Aurangzeb also met Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad, CEO of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), and reaffirmed the strategic partnership between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A high-level business delegation from Saudi Arabia had visited Pakistan this month, where it signed multiple MoUs. The delegation, during its Karachi visit, signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs).

One dead, dozens
injured in Peru
anti-crime protests

LIMA: At least one man was killed in violence at a rally in Peru's capital on Wednesday, said President Jose Jeri, whose accession days ago has failed to stamp out angry protests against the country's political class. The Ombudsman's Office said 102 people were injured, including 24 civilians and 78 police, updating earlier tolls. Youth-led demonstrations brought thousands of Peruvians, frustrated by the authorities' failure to resolve a worsening crime crisis, onto the streets in Lima and several other cities. Some protesters tried to breach the security barrier around Congress as night fell, an AFP correspondent said. Others in the crowd also hurled stones and lit fireworks. Police in riot gear responded with tear gas. "I regret the death of 32-year-old citizen Eduardo Ruiz Sanz," Jeri said on social media platform X, without elaborating on the circumstances. The National Human Rights

Coordinator, an NGO, said the man may have been shot by a plainclothes police officer. AFP images showed the blood-covered face of a police officer who had been hit by a stone. Jeri also said the "peaceful demonstration" had been infiltrated by criminals seeking to "cause chaos." The South American country has been rocked by protests for weeks, and lawmakers voted on Friday to impeach then-president Dina Boluarte, who critics blamed for a surge in crime and accused of corruption. "I think there is general discontent because nothing has been done," 49-year-old freelancer Amanda Meza told AFP while marching toward Congress. "There's no security from the state," she said, adding that cases of extortion and contract killings "have grown massively in Peru." Jeri, a right-wing politician who had served as leader of Congress, became interim president until elections in April. Wednesday's protests were called by a youth-led collective, artists' groups and labor unions. Feminist groups also joined the calls to rally against the new president over sexual assault accusations. A complaint was lodged against Jeri last year, but prosecutors closed the case in August due to a lack of evidence. Boluarte's impeachment last week followed protests by bus companies, merchants and students over shakedowns by criminal gangs and attacks on those who refuse to pay protection money. Extortion and contract killings have been a feature of daily life across Peru. — Agencies

UN relief
chief urges
Israel to
open border
crossings

UNITED NATIONS: The UN's top humanitarian official has called on Israel to open more border crossings into Gaza to boost the flow of humanitarian aid for starving Palestinians.

Facilitating access for civilians is a "legal obligation," not a matter of political negotiation, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher said in a statement. He said that two days after world leaders gathered in Sharm el-Sheikh to endorse the US-led peace initiative, "this is a moment of great but precarious hope."

"It is also clear from the public response to the progress, that Palestinians, Israelis and people across the region want this peace to take hold," Fletcher said. "So, we must not fail to see through in full the implementation of the agreements made." He said UN humanitarian operations had finally begun to scale up "after months of frustration and blockages," with some food, medicine, fuel, water, cooking gas and tents delivered to those in need.

However, he warned that renewed setbacks now threatened to undermine that fragile progress. "We are now tested to see whether we can ensure that these do not prevent the progress on which UN President [Donald] Trump, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres and so many leaders have insisted," he said. — APP

Madagascar's
protests
fan anger

ANTANANARIVO: Placards and slogans against France that surfaced in demonstrations against impeached President Andry Rajoelina this week exposed deep resentment against the former colonial power.

"France out", "Rajoelina and Macron out", said banners after French media reported that the president had fled on a French military plane as an army unit threw its weight behind protesters calling for his resignation. "They are still colonising us even though we are supposed to be independent," said Koloina Andrianina Rakotomavonirina, a 26-year-old engineer.

"It's unfair that they intervene in such a matter," she told AFP at a demonstration in central Antananarivo. With the whereabouts of the 51-year-old president unknown, the national assembly impeached him on Tuesday for desertion of duty, paving the way for a military unit called CAPSAT to seize power. Negative perception about France was not surprising considering its history, Paris-based political scientist Christiane Rafidinarivo told media. — APP

Afghan man
on trial in
Germany

ASCHAFFENBURG: An Afghan man accused of a deadly knife attack on a group of toddlers in Germany went on trial Thursday, nine months after an incident that inflamed a heated pre-election debate on immigration. Germany was shocked by the stabbing spree that killed a two-year-old boy and a 41-year-old man who tried to protect the children and left three others wounded in the southern city of Aschaffenburg. Five toddlers were in a kindergarten class were in a public park, accompanied by two teachers, when the assailant attacked them with a kitchen knife. The suspect arrested at the scene of the January 22 attack has been only partially named, in line with usual practice by the German judiciary, as 28-year-old Enamullah O. He has a long history of mental illness and prosecutors said an expert assessment concluded his psychiatric state meant he was not criminally responsible.

The public prosecutor's office has previously said there was no indication the suspect acted out of extremist or terrorist motivation, and they were seeking to have him permanently confined to a psychiatric facility. — Agencies

Pak-Kazak joint exercise to conclude on Oct 24

"Opening Ceremony of the Exercise was conducted on 14 October 2025 at Cherat, Pakistan. The Exercise is aimed at refining professional skills through joint training and harnessing historic military-to-military relations among the friendly countries," it further said

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan-Kazakhstan Joint Exercise Dostarm-V is being conducted between the Armies of Pakistan and Kazakhstan in Counter Terrorism domain from Oct 13-24 at the Special Operations School, Cherat, Pakistan. Special Services Group of Pak Army and the Special Forces of the Kazakhstan Army are participating in the exercise, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). "Opening Ceremony of the Exercise was conducted on 14 October 2025 at Cherat, Pakistan. The Exercise is aimed at refining professional skills through joint training and harnessing historic military-to-military relations among the friendly countries," it further said. Participating troops are looking forward to benefit from mutual expertise/ experience.

