



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Takaichi becomes Japan's first female PM after winning vote

Detailed News On Page-08

Pakistan acts as global shield against terror

Detailed News On Page-03



Qatar Emir dondemns violations

Detailed News On Page-08



National workshop Balochistan

Balochistan is the pride of Pakistan, says Field Marshal

Field Marshal Asim Munir warned against Indian-sponsored proxies, including Fitna al Hindustan and Fitna al Khawarij, which, he said, are propagating anti-people and anti-development narratives with malicious intent to destabilize the province

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, interacted with participants of the 17th National Workshop Balochistan at the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Tuesday. During the session, the Army Chief described Balochistan as the "pride of Pakistan," acknowledging the province's vibrant, resilient, and patriotic people as its true strength. He highlighted the ongoing development initiatives by the Federal and Provincial governments aimed at uplifting Balochistan's socio-economic landscape through a people-centric approach. The COAS emphasized the need to fully realize Balochistan's immense economic potential for the prosperity of its people. Appreciating the constructive role of civil society, especially in youth engagement and empowerment, he noted their importance in ensuring sustainable development while rejecting divisive political agendas. Field Marshal Asim Munir warned against Indian-sponsored proxies, including Fitna al Hindustan and Fitna al Khawarij, which, he said, are propagating anti-people and anti-development narratives with malicious intent to destabilize the province. He reaffirmed that decisive action is being taken to eliminate these threats and ensure lasting peace in Balochistan. Reiterating Pakistan's desire for regional peace and stability, the COAS made it clear that any violation of the country's territorial integrity, whether direct or indirect, would be met with a firm and resolute response to protect the lives and

Continued on Page 06

Centre, KP lock horns over bulletproof vehicles

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: A dispute has emerged between the PTI-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the Centre over the bulletproof vehicles provided to police in the province. The issue began when KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi directed the authorities to return the vehicles provided by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to the police. Chairing a meeting on law and order, and governance — his first since taking office as CM — on Monday, he said that the vehicles were defective and old, terming them "an insult to the KP police". His remarks, however, did not sit well with Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, who alleged that the KP government returned the vehicles to avoid "fighting terrorism". At a press conference in Islamabad, he asserted that the vehicles provided to KP were fully equipped with bulletproof and bombproof features.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

No fuel shortage in the country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has categorically denied reports suggesting a fuel shortage in the country, affirming that fuel supply operations remain normal nationwide. In an official statement issued on Tuesday, an OGRA spokesperson clarified that while minor clearance delays had been experienced earlier with imported petroleum products, the situation has since been completely normalized. "There is no situation of fuel shortage in the country. Some clearance delays were experienced earlier with imported petroleum products; however, the situation is now fully under control," the spokesperson stated.

Talal slams KP govt for inaction

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Monday criticised newly elected Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, accusing the provincial government of undermining counter-terrorism efforts for political point scoring. The PTI, which has been in power in KP since 2013, opposes military operations, which tribal people also resist as they often lead to displacements. The remarks come a day after the KP CM blamed the federal government's "flawed policy" for the resurgence of terrorism in KP, during his first official high-level meeting since assuming office on October 15, after the former CM Ali Amin Gandapur resigned earlier this month on the directions of party chairman Imran Khan.

Friendship bonds

Pakistan, Morocco reaffirm commitment to strengthen bilateral ties

Senator Ishaq Dar emphasized Pakistan's desire to deepen engagement with Morocco, a key partner in the Islamic world, and appreciated Rabat's continued support in multilateral forums



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar received a telephone call today from the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Nasser Bourita. During the conversation, both leaders recalled their recent meeting held on the sidelines of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. They expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Morocco relations and reiterated their

strong commitment to further enhancing bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, including trade, investment, education, and cultural exchange. Senator Ishaq Dar emphasized Pakistan's desire to deepen engagement with Morocco, a key partner in the Islamic world, and appreciated Rabat's continued support in multilateral forums. He reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to expand collaboration through regular high-level exchanges and institutional linkages. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister also extended a formal invitation to Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita to visit Pakistan, which was graciously accepted. The two leaders agreed to maintain close contact to follow up on ongoing initiatives aimed at broadening and diversifying the bilateral partnership. The discussion reflected the warm and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Morocco, grounded in shared faith, values, and mutual respect.

26th Amendment case

Supreme Court Justice Mazhar cites Indian judiciary's CB

"How can judges who don't have authority to interpret Constitution be included in bench?" questions Justice Amin-Ud-Din

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar has cited an example of Indian judiciary as the top judges debated the powers vested in Constitutional Bench and the apex court. During a hearing of the petitions challenging the 26th Constitutional Amendment, lawyer Shabbir Raza Rizvi contended before the bench that India was the only country where there is Constitutional Bench, while other countries have a Constitutional Court. Justice Mazhar responded by saying: "In India too, the Constitutional Bench has special powers". "India is the only country where there is a Constitutional Bench, other countries have a Constitutional Court," responded lawyer Rizvi, adding that in the neighbouring country, only the chief justice can form the bench. "In India, the CJ has been declared Master of Roster [whereas] in Pakistan two committees have been formed and the CJP is not the Master of the Roster," remarked Justice Mazhar while drawing a comparison between the judicial structure of Islamabad and New Delhi.

Continued on Page 06

SC judges warn new SJC code of conduct threatens 'judicial independence'

Justice Shah and Justice Akhtar express concern over inclusion of IHC CJ in judicial council

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Two members of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Muneeb Akhtar, have raised strong objections to the recent approval of amendments to the judges' code of conduct by a majority of the council's members. In a detailed letter addressed to the SJC, the two judges questioned the process through which the amendments were approved and expressed concern over the inclusion of Islamabad High Court (IHC)

Continued on Page 06

PML-N announces split from AJK govt

Party president Shah Ghulam Qadir rules out joining any new coalition

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has announced its separation from the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government, declaring that it will now sit in the opposition benches. Speaking to the media, PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir said that if the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) brings a no-confidence motion, it would be within its democratic right. However, he made it clear that the PML-N would not become part of any new government formed as a result of such a move. "We will not support any unnatural or forced coalition," Qadir asserted,

Continued on Page 06

India mounts pressure for Asia Cup trophy

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The deadlock over the Asia Cup trophy — which India refused to collect at the closing ceremony last month amid Pakistan-India hostilities — continued on Tuesday as the Board of Control for Cricket India (BCCI) contacted Asian Cricket Council (ACC) head Mohsin Naqvi to hand over the trophy, Indian media reported citing sources.

Continued on Page 06

NATIONAL DAY OF HUNGARY



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest State Minister for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, Zoltan Varga, Ambassador of Hungary and others cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Hungary, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. — DNA

Defence Minister says he is unaware of any TLP ban

Warns certain groups against taking law into their own hands

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday said he was not aware of any formal ban on Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), but warned that the government would not allow any group to take the law into its own hands. "I do not know of any ban on the TLP," he told reporters, adding that "nobody will be allowed to take the law in their hands." Asif emphasised that the state would not tolerate attempts to "blackmail" the government through street agitation or coercion, saying Pakistan "cannot afford such adventures" that threaten public order and national stability. He said organisations resembling the TLP should not be permitted to "play with the law of the land and innocent people," and cautioned that authorities would act decisively to protect citizens and uphold rule of law.

Continued on Page 06

India restores embassy in Kabul

DNA

KABUL: India restored its embassy in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Tuesday following warming ties between the two nations. India had closed its embassy in Kabul after the Taliban seized power following the withdrawal of US-led Nato forces in 2021, but opened a small mission a year later to facilitate trade, medical support, and humanitarian aid. About a dozen countries, including China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey have embassies operating in Kabul, although Russia is the only country to

Continued on Page 06

MURREE SPARKLETT'S
Bottled Drinking Water

WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

330ml, 750ml

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Adeel Butt 03334131756	Qaiser Waheed 03325808422	Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------

KP can become hub of innovation with proper support: Kundi

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has reaffirmed the government's commitment to extending full support and relief to families displaced from Kurram, stressing that assisting affected citizens on humanitarian grounds remains a top priority

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the people of the province have always been known for their creativity, entrepreneurial mindset, and innovation. He emphasized the need to provide young people with opportunities, institutional support, and modern facilities to harness their potential, adding that with proper support, the province could become a hub of economic growth and innovation in Pakistan. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony as the chief guest at the inauguration of the Regional Office of the Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) of Pakistan at the Governor's House Peshawar on Tuesday. The event was attended by former ambassador and IPO Pakistan Chairman Farrukh Amil, Director General IPO Pakistan Nauman Aslam Sheikh, President of Industrialists Association Peshawar Ayub Zakori, President of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce Junaid Altaf, members of the business community, young innovators, academicians, and other distinguished guests. Governor Kundi formally inaugurated the new IPO Pakistan Regional Office in Peshawar, terming its establishment a timely and commendable initiative that would enable inventors, researchers, and entrepreneurs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to register and protect their intellectual property rights locally. Meanwhile, a three-member

delegation led by former Punjab Assembly member Saira Iftikhar called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor's House. The delegation included Engro Pakistan's Head of Government Relations and Corporate Affairs (South) Hussain Ali Kalwar and Manager Government Affairs (North) Muhammad Ali Hamza. The meeting focused on malnutrition among newborns and food deficiency-related health issues among mothers in underprivileged areas of the country. Governor Kundi said that the slogan "Bhukh Mitao" (End Hunger) introduced by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is a key part of the Pakistan Peoples Party's manifesto and appreciated the President's special interest in the cause. He lauded the Benazir Income Support Programme for its transparent and effective initiatives in improving nutrition nationwide. The Governor also highlighted the shortage of qualified teachers and irregular staff attendance in many Khyber Pakhtunkhwa universities, stressing that sustainable progress in health and education can only be achieved through joint efforts of the government and private sector. Meanwhile, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has reaffirmed the government's commitment to extending full support and relief to families displaced from Kurram, stressing that assisting affected citizens on humanitarian grounds remains a top priority. He said this while speaking to a delegation

led by Dr Ehsanullah, Chairman of the Central Kurram Committee, which called on him at the Governor's House Peshawar on Tuesday. Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent (PRCS) for merged districts, Imran Khan Wazir Advocate, was also present on the occasion. The delegation briefed the governor about the prevailing situation in the affected areas of Kurram and the difficulties faced by displaced families. They urged that temporary camps for the displaced persons be established in Hangu, as many affected families were unable to relocate to distant areas. The meeting also emphasized the need to expand the scope of the Pakistan Red Crescent's relief operations and ensure timely assistance to the affected people. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi assured the delegation that the government would extend all possible support to the displaced families. He said that helping the victims on humanitarian grounds was the government's top priority and that all concerned departments would be directed to expedite relief activities. Commending the services of the Pakistan Red Crescent, the Governor said the organization had always stood by the people in difficult times, and the government would continue to support and strengthen its efforts for greater efficiency. The delegation expressed gratitude to the governor for his sympathetic attitude and concern for the people of Kurram.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador For The Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference Ms. Misbah Khar meeting with Anton Berniakovich Head Of Political Section Of The Embassy Of Russian Federation in connection with the preparation for the upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference to be held in Pakistan.

LG deptt intensifies anti-smog operations

LAHORE: The Punjab Local Government Department has accelerated its province-wide anti-smog campaign, launching strict actions against those involved in burning waste, establishing encroachments and contributing to environmental pollution. According to the department, fines exceeding Rs. 114.2 million have been imposed on individuals found burning solid waste, tires and rubber. Legal cases have also been registered against 49 violators involved in waste burning. Similarly, more than 25,532 encroachers have been fined over Rs. 325.8 million, while legal action has been taken against 2,000 individuals for cutting down trees. Daily water sprinkling on small and major roads is being carried out across Punjab to reduce dust and smog levels "Special measures are being implemented at the local government level to combat smog effectively," said Secretary Local Government Shaheel Ahmad Mian, emphasizing that zero-tolerance policy has been adopted against environmental pollution. He added that actions are also being taken against sand and soil transporters who bring uncovered trolleys onto the roads, contributing to dust pollution. "All local governments are actively participating in the field under the directions of the department," he noted, urging citizens to refrain from burning garbage and to properly dispose of tires, rubber, and plastic waste through waste management staff. "With public cooperation, the Air Quality Index (AQI) can improve significantly in a short time," the secretary added.—APP

KU, Bayer Pak signs MoU to enhance agri productivity

KARACHI: The University of Karachi and the Bayer Pakistan private limited signed the memorandum of understanding to initiate the cooperation between the KU and Bayer Pakistan to promote agricultural development and to introduce high quality seeds, biotech traits and crop protection products. The MoU documents were inked at the VC Secretariat on Tuesday. The KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and Managing Director, CEO, Bayer Pakistan Pvt Ltd Ahmed Ali signed the MoU documents. On this occasion, Ahmed Ali informed the audience that with effective support from the KU, Bayer's biotech traits in different crops for use as food, feed, and processing and cultivation to tremendously improve agricultural productivity, food

security as well as deliver benefits to farmers and the general public in Pakistan. He mentioned that Bayer is a leading global provider of technology-based tools and agricultural products that improve farm productivity and food quality, and would like to avail the expertise of the KU which is a premium public academic institution in every field including agriscience, cultural and other sciences. According to him, this MoU will help in evaluating, developing and implementing practical solutions to enhance agricultural productivity in Pakistan, including joint research projects. Ahmed Ali said that with this MoU, both parties will be able to enhance overall acceptance of products of modern biotechnology, nematology, pesticides and bio-pesticides in Pakistan, to the benefit of Pakistan's

agricultural producers, consumers, and others. The KU's Director of Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization Dr Syeda Hoor ul Ain shared that this MoU will surely establish a framework for collaborative research between the Institute of Environmental Studies, Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management, Department of Botany, and National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC) of the University of Karachi, and Bayer Pakistan Private Limited. She mentioned that the collaboration aims to promote interdisciplinary research, innovation, and knowledge exchange in the fields of sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, plant sciences, and nematology.—APP

CM opens Punjab's first mobile police station

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday inaugurated Punjab's first-ever Mobile Police Station and Licensing Unit Project aimed at delivering essential policing and licensing services directly to the public, particularly in remote and underserved areas. Under the initiative, mobile units will facilitate citizens with on-site registration of FIRs, issuance and renewal of learner, regular and international driving licenses, and women-specific licensing services. The mobile stations will also extend assistance to girls' education centers and working women, ensuring improved access to essential public services. During the inauguration ceremony, the chief minister inspected the mobile police station, handed over its keys to the relevant officers, and interacted with the deputized staff. She directed them to maintain a compassionate and public-friendly approach while performing their duties. Officials briefed the CM that a total of 33 Mobile Police Stations and Licensing Units will be deployed across Punjab to expand service outreach. Among them, seven "Pink" Mobile Police Stations, staffed entirely by female officers, will exclusively cater to women, ensuring a comfortable and secure environment. The authorities further informed that a detailed schedule for the movement of these mobile units will be issued, enabling the public to be informed in advance about their arrival in specific areas.—APP

KSrelief launches livestock project to empower vulnerable families

DNA

PESHAWAR: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief), in collaboration with the Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department (RRSD) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), and its implementation partner, Peace and Development Organization (PADO), officially launched the "Economic Empowerment of Vulnerable Households in Pakistan through Livestock Provision" project. The ceremony was graced by respected Mr. Noor ul Amin, Additional Secretary, Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department, as Chief Guest, and His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Al-Baqami, Di-

rector, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief), Pakistan. The event was attended by representatives from government institutions, UN agencies, partner organizations, and members of the media. This initiative aims to strengthen livelihoods, improve food security, and promote self-reliance among vulnerable households in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through the provision of livestock, poultry, and practical training. Under this project, 1,000 families from Lower Chitral, Upper Chitral, Lower Dir and Upper Dir will receive two female goats each, along with silage and training on livestock management, provided by the Livestock Department. 1,000 families from Swat, Swabi, Haripur, and

Mansehra will receive 25 poultry birds per household, a complete poultry kit, and training on poultry care and small-scale income generation, conducted by the Livestock Department. 500 families from Charsadda, Mardan, and Nowshera will receive cattle along with silage and with hands-on training in animal care and dairy production, facilitated by the Livestock Department. Speaking at the event, Mr. Abdullah Al-Baqami, Director of KSrelief Pakistan, stated that the project reflects the strong brotherly ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and demonstrates KSrelief's ongoing commitment to empowering vulnerable communities and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

ADB delegation, Aleem vow to deepen coop in transport sector

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Mission led by Director General Hideaki Iwasaki, called on Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan here on Tuesday. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on ongoing and proposed development projects in Pakistan's Communications Sector, said a press release. Minister Abdul Aleem Khan stated that projects of public interest particularly the construction and expansion of Highways and Motorways are among the Government's top priorities. He noted that over the past one year, the National Highway Authority (NHA) has achieved a historic increase in revenue putting the organization on the path towards financial self-sufficiency. The minister added that upon completion of the Lahore-Sialkot-Kharan-Rawalpindi Motorway, travel distance between the regions will be reduced by up to 100 kilometers, saving both time and fuel. He said this new route will serve as an alternate corridor to the existing Lahore-Islamabad Motorway (M-2). Abdul Aleem Khan further said that strict enforcement of speed limits being ensured to make highways safer. Emergency Rescue Services and Air Ambulance System are also being introduced on Motorways to enhance road safety and response efficiency. Highlighting progress in Pakistan, Abdul Aleem Khan said that the construction of the Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway will commence from Karachi Port, aimed at improving the country's freight transport network. He also appreciated the ADB's valuable support in the CAREC (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation) project, emphasizing that the NHA is working professionally to ensure timely completion of all developmental schemes. Talking on the occasion, ADB Director General Hideaki Iwasaki reaffirmed the longstanding and strong partnership between Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank. He commended Pakistan's ongoing infrastructure and transport development initiatives. Hideaki Iwasaki also appreciated the decision to host the Regional Transport Ministers' Conference 2025 in Islamabad in which the ADB Mission will also participate. The meeting was attended by the Federal Secretary for Communications and the Chairman of the NHA who were directed by Minister Abdul Aleem Khan to maintain close coordination with ADB to ensure the timely completion of all projects.—DNA

CM Afridi's confrontational approach likely to plunge KP into governance turmoil: Experts

PESHAWAR: As Khyber Pakhtunkhwa grapples with serious challenges, including terrorism, illiteracy, unemployment and the aftermath of devastating floods, many observers warned that Chief Minister (CM) Sohail Afridi's confrontational stance towards the federation could plunge the province into deeper governance and security turmoil. In a recent statement, CM Sohail Afridi announced his decision to return bulletproof vehicles, provided by the Interior Ministry, back to the federal government, sparking widespread criticism in KP. Many experts argued that such an irrational move may undermine the morale and operational capacity of the provincial police and counter terrorism department at a time of rising terrorist threats, especially in southern and tribal districts. "The decision of CM Afridi to return bulletproof vehicles amid a surge in terror incidents in southern and merged tribal districts is not only ir-

rational but dangerous from a security point of view," said Wajid Ali Khan, former provincial minister for Forests and Environment, while speaking to APP. He emphasized the sacrifices made by the police in KP, including high-profile martyrs like FC Commandant Sifat Ghayur and DIG Malik Saad. "These vehicles, provided to protect our frontline officers, are vital in combating terrorism. The federal government's support in this regard was highly commendable, and rejecting it would send a negative message," he added. Wajid Khan, a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), pointed out that many district-level police officers remain without secure transport in KP despite facing repeated attacks. He accused the PTI-led provincial government of failing to equip police and civil armed forces adequately during its previous tenure, despite receiving over Rs600 billion in federal funds allocated for counter-ter-

rorism efforts in KP. He questioned where these huge anti-terror funds were utilized in KP, criticizing CM Afridi for acting more like a party figure than the chief executive of the province. "As CM, Sohail Afridi must build bridges with the centre, not burn them. The people of KP expect good governance and health relations with centre, not confrontation," Wajid Khan stressed. Professor Dr A.H Hilali, former chairman of the Political Science Department at the University of Peshawar, raised similar concerns, saying the Chief Minister's decision to boycott official meetings and challenge the federal government's decisions would serve nothing but add to KP problems. "With terrorism resurging in the wake of Fitnaul Khwarai attacks and governance already strained in KP, CM Afridi must choose whether to focus on public welfare or continue his

confrontational path that may lead to Governor Rule." Dr Hilali said that the real test for CM Afridi will be how he handles pressing issues ranging from law and order to restoring cooperation with Islamabad, combating corruption, terrorism, illiteracy, unemployment and improving public service delivery. "His ability to bring transparency, counter corruption, and work across political divides will determine the success of his tenure," he said. He also emphasized the importance of addressing issues in the tribal belt, warning that Afridi's approach could derail much-needed development efforts there. "Following Pakistan's recent successful strikes on banned TTP hideouts in Afghanistan and the clear message from the military leadership that terrorism will not be tolerated, it is crucial that the provincial leadership aligns its strategy with national security priorities.—APP

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
Phones: +92-52-3259000 / 3255798
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

ASHRAF

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 Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals	
CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	561116
Cantt 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

Pakistan acts as a global shield against terror: Tarar

He emphasized the need for a balanced strategy combining kinetic and non-kinetic measures to counter the evolving and multidimensional nature of terrorism in the region

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, organized a high-level seminar titled “The Persistence of Terrorism in Pakistan: Challenges and the Way Forward.” The event brought together senior military officials, strategic analysts, policymakers, and academics to deliberate on the evolving dynamics of terrorism and Pakistan’s counter-terrorism strategies. Speaking on the occasion Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan’s unwavering commitment to eradicating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. He emphasized that Pakistan’s sacrifices in the global fight against terrorism stand unparalleled and reflect the nation’s collective resolve to safeguard peace, stability, and progress. He praised the armed forces for their sacrifices and reaffirmed the government’s unity and resolve to eliminate terrorism. Citing external support from India and Afghanistan to militant groups, he said Pakistan remains a steadfast against terrorism in all its forms. The minister stressed the need for a cohesive, nationwide implementation of the National Action Plan to ensure lasting peace. Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, noted that terrorism in Pakistan remains a serious threat, with hundreds of attacks reported this year. He attributed this majorly to external proxies and expressed concern over the Taliban’s failure to uphold counterterrorism commitments. He noted that Pakistan was pursuing active diplomacy alongside kinetic operations , and expressed cautious optimism in the wake of Doha ceasefire and ahead of the Istanbul dialogue, stressing that Afghanistan must choose between supporting



terrorism and becoming falling prey to Indian machinations and fostering peaceful and cooperative relations with Pakistan, which would be a sine qua non for its stability and prosperity. Lt. Gen. Khalid Rabbani (Retd.), former Corps Commander Peshawar, emphasized that a whole-of-nation approach is imperative for the success of any counterterrorism or counterinsurgency operation. He stressed that the fight against terrorism cannot be won by the security forces alone and requires collective resolve, political consensus, and societal resilience. Lt. Gen. Rabbani further underscored that Pakistan and Afghanistan must realize the interdependence of their security,

as instability in one directly undermines peace and stability in the other. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Inam Ul Haq noted a sharp rise in cross-border terrorism, with 585 Afghan-backed attacks reported up to October 2025, compared to 521 in 2024 and 306 in 2023. He said that during October 11–15, IEA forces, aided by the TTP and other militants, launched unprovoked attacks along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, reflecting active collusion between the Taliban regime and anti-Pakistan networks. Dr. Muhammad Feyyaz noted that terrorism remains under-studied in Pakistan due to limited awareness of its long-term societal and state impacts. He stressed the need to build academic un-

derstanding of terrorism’s persistence and to strengthen linkages between academia and policymakers for more informed, policy-relevant research. Abdul Basit, Senior Associate Fellow at RSIS, Singapore, observed that terrorism in Pakistan persists due to regional geopolitics, ideological factors, and governance issues in Afghanistan. He urged Pakistan to revamp its counterterrorism framework to address emerging extremist threats, noting that current non-kinetic responses lag behind. He emphasized the need for a balanced strategy combining kinetic and non-kinetic measures to counter the evolving and multidimensional nature of terrorism in the region.

PRCS reaffirms commitment to mental well-being in crises

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) celebrated World Mental Health Week on Tuesday at its National Headquarters in Islamabad under this year’s theme, “Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies,” highlighting the urgent need to strengthen mental health support during crises and disasters. The event was graced by Chairperson PRCS Mrs. Farzana Naek and attended by Secretary General Mr. Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, Head of Delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Pakistan Mr. Farid Abdulqadir, Head of Delegation Turkish Red Crescent Ms. Beyza Taner, representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Norwegian Red Cross, German Red Cross, PRCS staff and volunteers, and people from different walks of life. In her remarks, Chairperson PRCS Mrs. Farzana Naek emphasized the importance of prioritizing

mental health, especially for communities and frontline responders exposed to emergencies. She said mental health is not a secondary concern but a fundamental part of humanitarian response. As disasters and crises continue to test human resilience, psychological care and emotional well-being must be integrated into every relief effort. She added that the Pakistan Red Crescent Society is committed to fostering compassion, empathy, and mental strength within communities and among its teams. Secretary General Mr. Muhammad Abaidullah Khan said that mental health care is lifesaving care and caring for others begins with caring for ourselves. He reaffirmed PRCS’s commitment to promoting mental health and psychosocial support through stress management exercises, peer support, and safe spaces for reflection. Head of Delegation IFRC in Pakistan Mr. Farid Abdulqadir highlighted the significance of mental health and psychological wellness for both relief workers and affected communities, stressing that frontline responders must have the

emotional tools and institutional support to manage the stress and trauma they face in humanitarian operations. Representatives from ICRC, Norwegian Red Cross, and German Red Cross appreciated the initiative and stressed the importance of such awareness activities for the mental and emotional well-being of humanitarian staff and volunteers. During the event, the Restoring Family Links (RFL) team conducted interactive sessions on “Promoting Mental Well-being in Emergencies: Awareness, Reactions, and Support for Care Providers.” Participants took part in stress management exercises, including deep breathing and muscle relaxation, followed by an “Empathy Circle” activity that encouraged staff to understand the emotional experiences of others. The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony attended by Chairperson PRCS Mrs. Farzana Naek and representatives from IFRC, ICRC, Norwegian Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, and German Red Cross, symbolizing unity and shared commitment to promoting mental well-being within the humanitarian network.

Investiture ceremony held at IMCG, Humak

ISLAMABAD: IMCG, Humak proudly hold an Investiture Ceremony for the newly elected students council of college to mark the induction of Office bearers for various extra-curricular activities. The Chief Guest was Wajiha Qamar state minister for Education & Professional Training. Principal Dr. Humera Jabeen, presided over the ceremony. Area Education Officer sihala Nisar Ali Soomro was guest of honor. Chief guest took oath from the newly elected President Dua Fatima, Vice President Mishal Rabbani. Next, it was the turn of Class representatives, who took their oath. Afterwards, secretaries of different societies, including Rubab Azeem from English, Sadia Eman from H.Economics, Alishba for Urdu Debates and Kainat for Computer Science, took charge of their responsibilities. The worthy Chief Guest, in her speech, praised the smooth transition of power to the new Student Council. She told the young audience to always believe in themselves and show perseverance while facing lack of resources or difficulties in life. Her speech was also interspersed with personal experiences. Her eloquent speech was greatly applauded by the audience. The ceremony ended with the rendition of the National Anthem. —APP

CDA chief inspects newly upgraded Gardenia Hub

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa visited the CDA Model Nursery located on Park Road on Tuesday accompanied by Member Environment Esfandiyar Baloch, Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza, DG Environment and other relevant officers. During the visit Chairman CDA inspected various sections of the Model Nursery. On this occasion Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa was given a detailed briefing regarding the upgradation, restoration, and transformation of the CDA Model Nursery into the “Gardenia Hub.” He was briefed that the transformation work of the CDA Model Nursery into “Gardenia Hub” has been completed. The nursery now named “Gardenia Hub,” spans over

50 acres of land. During the briefing, Chairman CDA was apprised that Islamabad’s “Gardenia Hub” will be among the largest nurseries in Asia. It was also highlighted that over one million plants have been cultivated at the model nursery. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa was briefed that approximately 25 state-of-the-arts controlled-ventilated greenhouses have been constructed at the Islamabad Model Nursery. These controlled greenhouses will provide an ideal environment for plant growth and will also support research and innovation. He was further briefed that the Model Nursery will maintain a large stock of plants to meet Islamabad’s future needs for beautification, tree plantation and forest conservation. The nursery will also include flower shops for public convenience. In addition, Chairman CDA was informed that a special mobile application will

soon be launched to facilitate citizens in purchasing plants directly. A training and research center is also being established at the nursery where new plant varieties will be developed using modern propagation techniques. Furthermore, a dedicated area has been allocated for the display of colorful flowers. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa remarked that the Model Nursery has been developed as a state-of-the-art facility meeting international standards. He added that CDA Environment Wing employees will receive special training for plant care and protection. He emphasized that the primary objective of upgrading the CDA Nursery is to establish Islamabad as a key center for horticulture. The transformation of the Model Nursery into the “Gardenia Hub,” he added, is a significant step toward making Islamabad greener, more vibrant, and more beautiful.

SECP approves amendments to PSX rulebook

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Tuesday approved amendments to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) regulations, making it mandatory for listed companies to hold Corporate Briefing Sessions (CBS) on their annual audited financial accounts. The reforms are designed to enhance the overall conduct of these sessions by improving investor engagement, reducing information asymmetry, and ensuring the timely dissemination of information, said the SECP press release issued here. Under the new framework, listed companies must hold a CBS for their annual audited financial statements within 30 days of their Annual General Meeting. Both the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, who are well-versed in company affairs, are required to be present at these sessions. To support this initiative, PSX will maintain a dedicated CBS calendar on its website, featuring notices and presentations for upcoming sessions. Additionally, PSX will launch a video channel to host recordings of CBS sessions conducted by listed companies, providing investors with a centralized facility to access comprehensive information. Investors and analysts will benefit from the timely availability of information, as session presentations will be published in advance of each CBS. Video recordings will be uploaded to the PSX channel shortly after each session concludes. To further encourage engagement, a mechanism will be introduced allowing participants to submit questions in advance, with adequate time reserved during the sessions to address these queries. Collectively, these reforms contribute to a more transparent and inclusive capital market environment, helping to build investor confidence and strengthen the relationship between listed companies and their stakeholders. —APP

PIDE, Xinjiang varsity sign MoU to boost research, innovation

ÜRÜMQI: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and Xinjiang University held a symposium and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Ürümqi, China, to strengthen academic and research collaboration. The event marks an important milestone in fostering institutional cooperation, research partnerships, and people-to-people linkages between Pakistan and China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a news release said on Tuesday. The symposium was chaired by Dr. Liu Zhengjiang, Vice President of Xinjiang University, who also served as the Master of Ceremony. The session began with the introduction of attendees, followed by the screening of a promotional video highlighting Xinjiang University’s academic achievements and international outreach. Dr. Ma Xinbin, President of Xinjiang University, delivered the welcome remarks, emphasizing the historic friendship between Pakistan and China and reaffirming both institutions’ commitment to advancing cooperation in research, education, and cultural exchange. In his address, Dr. Muhammad Nadeem Javaid, Vice Chancellor of PIDE, emphasized the pivotal role of academic collaboration in promoting regional economic integration, innovation, and sustainable development. He noted that partnerships such as the one between PIDE and Xinjiang University are vital for generating research-driven policy insights that align with the broader vision of CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative. Following the speeches, both sides engaged in productive bilateral cooperation talks, exploring opportunities for joint research, faculty and student exchanges, capacity-building programs, and policy dialogue on regional economic development. The ceremony concluded with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, symbolizing a shared commitment to fostering academic exchange, collaborative research, and knowledge-sharing initiatives between the two institutions. A group photograph marked the conclusion of the event, capturing the spirit of friendship and cooperation between the two academic communities. Key attendees from PIDE included Dr. Muhammad Nadeem Javaid, Vice Chancellor, PIDE and Member Planning Commission of Pakistan and Dr. Muhammad Muzammil Zia, Executive Director (CPEC). From Xinjiang University, participants included Dr. Ma Xinbin, President; Dr. Liu Zhengjiang, Vice President; Naikereman • Yibulayin, Director of International Cooperation and Exchanges; Dr. Li Pu, Dean, School of International Cultural Exchange; Dr. Zeng Yan, Vice Dean, School of Economics and Management; Dr. Xu Jun, Associate Professor, School of Economics and Management; and Dr. Ma Lijuan, Associate Professor, School of Foreign Languages and Interpreter. Also present was Liu Lei, Board Member of the Xinjiang Diplomacy Association, who expressed the association’s continued support for academic initiatives linking scholars, researchers, and policymakers from both countries.

Business community pays the most taxes: RCCI President

RAWALPINDI: President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), Usman Shaukat, has said that the business community pays the highest amount of taxes, while our tax system depends almost 60% on indirect tax collections. Referring to a news report published by some media outlets claiming that during the first quarter, the salaried class paid more taxes than exporters, wholesalers, and retailers, he said this report is misleading, based on insufficient information, and creates a false impression that traders are not contributing to the tax net. He stated that a large portion of the salaried class is linked with the private sector, and that exporters, wholesalers, and retailers pay the salaries of their employees from their own profits. Presenting salaried individuals separately in tax statistics and suggesting that they pay more taxes than others reflects a lack of understanding of the real facts and the structure of the tax collection system. The Rawalpindi Chamber has always advocated for reducing taxes, including on the salaried class. Lower taxes will encourage business growth, and as business activity expands, tax revenues will also increase. President Usman Shaukat further stated that in the last fiscal year, over Rs. 12 trillion in taxes were collected, of which only Rs. 600 billion came from the salaried class. —APP

FCCI lauds admin's speedy road repair efforts

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Farooq Yousaf Sheikh lauded the efforts of Commissioner Raja Jahangir Anwar and Deputy Commissioner Nadeem Nasir for initiating citywide road repair and rehabilitation work. In a statement here, he said that the ongoing repair work on Canal Road, which is one of the city’s most vital thoroughfares, is a challenging task particularly while maintaining smooth flow of traffic. However, he expressed full confidence in the capabilities of both divisional and district administrations to complete the project rapidly and ensure its long-term durability. Farooq Yousaf Sheikh said that Yousaf Road repairs, new surveillance cameras should be installed on Canal Road under Safe City Project to strengthen monitoring and curb criminal activities through effective surveillance. He urged Regional Police Officer (RPO) Zeeshan Ashgar and City Police Officer (CPO) Sahibzada Bilal Umar to integrate private CCTV networks into Safe City system. —APP

Briefs

Polio frontline workers honoured

RAWALPINDI: In connection with World Polio Day, a ceremony was held in Rawalpindi to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of frontline health workers engaged in the Polio Eradication Programme. The event was organized under the Punjab Polio Eradication Initiative and attended by representatives of the district administration, health department, UNICEF, WHO, and partner organizations. Speaking on the occasion, Uzma Kardar, the Chief Minister's Focal Person for Polio, said World Polio Day is a reminder that while we have made great progress, challenges still remain adding that these challenges can only be overcome through unity, trust, and continuous hard work. She added that the dedication of frontline health workers is a promise towards building a healthy and polio-free Pakistan. Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, Hassan Waqar Cheema, in his remarks, emphasized teamwork as the key to polio eradication. From health workers to administrative teams, everyone has played their role with discipline and commitment," he said. "With public cooperation and team dedication, Rawalpindi will continue to stand as a model district in the fight against polio. District Health Officer (DHO) Rawalpindi, Dr. Muhammad Jawad, described the frontline workers as the backbone of the programme. It is their commitment and compassion that ensure we reach every child," he stated. "On World Polio Day, we must renew our pledge to eliminate polio once and for all." Member of the National Assembly, Tahira Aurangzeb, paid special tribute to female health workers, calling them the pride of the nation. Our lady health workers are our true heroes. Despite challenges, they go door to door ensuring that every child receives the polio drops," she said. "The community's trust in them is our greatest strength. At the conclusion of the ceremony, certificates and shields were distributed among high-performing workers and members of the District Health Management Team. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to eradicating polio and praised the joint efforts of the Punjab government and international partners.—APP

FinVolution applauds Daira's Pakistan success with PKR 1B loans

ISLAMABAD: FinVolution Group's Pakistan-based mobile lending platform Daira has completed its first year of operations with impressive growth, surpassing one million registered users and disbursing more than PKR 1 billion in loans to over 200,000 customers across the country. The milestone was highlighted during a meeting between Minister for Board of Investment (BoI) Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh and a delegation from FinVolution Group China in Islamabad, according to a Gwadar Pro's report. The delegation was co-led by Li Tiezheng, CEO of FinVolution China, and Sheikh Omer Nasim, CEO of FinVolution Pakistan and Daira, according to BOI statement issued on Tuesday. Launched in 2023, Daira is a mobile-first nano-lending application developed by Finleap Financial Services (Private) Limited — a licensed Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) under License No. SECP/LRD/150/FFSPL/2024. As an approved nano-lending platform, Daira offers fast, secure, and fully paperless micro-loans to individuals across Pakistan, providing an accessible solution for daily wage earners, small vendors, and first-time borrowers who often lack access to traditional banking channels. Through its simple mobile interface, Daira enables users to apply for loans instantly without paperwork, bank visits, or hidden fees. The platform's focus on speed, transparency, and inclusivity has made it one of Pakistan's leading instant loan apps, helping bridge the financial gap for underserved communities. The company also announced that Daira has recently acquired a Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) license, allowing it to expand its services to digital installment-based purchasing as well as further supporting customers in managing everyday financial needs conveniently and responsibly.—APP

Quick justice: SC launches new public facilitation portal

This digital step ensures that justice is not only delivered but also visible, understandable, and reachable, reflecting a judiciary truly centered on the people it serves

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a major step toward bringing justice closer to the people, the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan has launched a new Public Facilitation Portal, developed on the special directions of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. The portal is now live on the Court's official website under the link "Public Portal," serving as a one-stop, interactive online gateway designed to bridge the gap between citizens and the judiciary. Under the Cases Information section, users can conveniently access a range of services designed to make the judicial process easier to navigate. Citizens can search for case details by name, case number, or type of petition, enabling immediate access to information that once required multiple in-person visits. The Help-

line 1818 offers a direct communication channel with the Supreme Court, allowing individuals to seek guidance, resolve procedural queries, or receive technical support in real time. In addition, a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section explains various judicial terms, filing procedures, and hearing protocols in plain, understandable language, bridging the gap between legal complexity and public understanding. This feature particularly benefits individuals who may not have legal representation, empowering them to interact with the justice system independently and with confidence. The Applications Status section provides a seamless digital mechanism for real-time monitoring of key applications, including Early Hearing Requests, General Adjourments, and Video Link Petitions. Each application can be tracked from submission to decision, ensuring trans-

parency at every stage. Users instantly receive updated information regarding the current status, next steps, or outcomes of their requests. This innovation substantially reduces the need for follow-up visits and written correspondence, cutting down administrative delays. Most importantly, it ensures that litigants from far-flung regions or overseas Pakistanis remain fully connected with the progress of their cases without physical presence. This achievement resonates strongly with the Court's vision of justice without barriers. The Complaints and Inquiries module has been developed as a cornerstone of institutional accountability and citizen participation. Through this section, users can submit feedback, register grievances, or share suggestions for system improvement via the Feedback Portal. The Overseas Litigants Portal extends judicial facilitation to Pakistani nationals living abroad, enabling them

to communicate with the Court, monitor their cases, and lodge requests through a secure online interface. Furthermore, the Anti-Corruption Reporting mechanism offers a safe and confidential means for the public to report unethical practices, thereby reinforcing the Supreme Court's zero-tolerance stance against misconduct. Collectively, these tools exemplify a responsive, transparent, and people-driven judiciary, ensuring that the voice of every citizen is heard and respected within the framework of justice. The Public Facilitation Portal marks a new era of openness and accessibility in Pakistan's justice system. By bringing court services to every citizen's fingertips, it transforms the Supreme Court from a distant institution into an active public partner—transparent, inclusive, and responsive. This digital step ensures that justice is not only delivered but also visible, understandable, and reachable, reflecting a judiciary truly centered on the people it serves.

China tops Pakistan's FDI Chart in Q1 FY2026

ISLAMABAD: China emerged as the leading source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026, with net inflows of \$188.6 million, accounting for 33.15% of the country's total net FDI of \$568.8 million, Gwadar Pro reported quoting the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of China followed with an additional \$96 million, consolidating the overall Chinese footprint as the dominant foreign investor group during the July–September period. Other major contributors included Switzerland (\$55.2 million), the United Kingdom (\$53.9 million), the UAE (\$50.1 million), and Canada (\$38.2 million). In September 2025, China once again led the monthly inflows with \$68.2 million, followed by Hong Kong (\$35.9 million) and the United Kingdom (\$30 million). Total net FDI for the month stood at \$185.6 million. Sector-wise data highlights that electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply attracted the highest net FDI at \$255.2 million during Q1 FY2026, nearly half of Pakistan's total FDI inflows in the quarter.—APP

Ombudsman's Inspection Team visits Islamabad Airport

ISLAMABAD: Taking notice of numerous complaints regarding Islamabad International Airport, Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi dispatched an inspection team headed by Advisor Major General (R) Haroon Sikandar Pasha. The team included the Commissioner for Overseas Pakistanis Complaints, Dr. Inam-ul-Haq Javed, and Consultant Pervaiz Haleem Rajput, said in Press Release issued here on Tuesday. The inspection team visited various sections of the airport, including the national and international lounges, luggage area, the "One-Window Facilitation Desk" established by the Federal Ombudsman, immigration counters, and other departments to assess the situation and address public grievances directly and issued on-the-spot directives to airport management for their redressal. The team reviewed implementation on recommendations made by previously dispatched inspection teams and noted improvements in several areas.—APP

Olive sector new milestone for Pakistan's economy: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain said here on Tuesday that the olive sector could become a new milestone for Pakistan's economy by ensuring self-sufficiency, boosting exports, and strengthening the rural economy. Addressing the 'Pakistan Olive Summit 2.0', the minister said that Pakistan possessed vast potential to achieve self-sufficiency in olive production, adding that olive cultivation would empower rural communities and create new employment opportunities. He said that olive oil could become Pakistan's strong export brand, which would not only earn foreign exchange but also promote sustainable agriculture practices across the country. Rana Tanveer said that farmers would be trained in modern olive cultivation techniques to enhance productivity, while the private sector's participation in the olive industry was a welcome step toward growth. He emphasized that sustainable agriculture and food safety were among the government's top national priorities, adding that there were vast opportunities for investment in the olive sector. The minister noted that through modern research and advanced technology, olive production could be increased manifold, while public-private partnerships would accelerate the development of the industry. He said that safe and sustainable food was the guarantee of Pakistan's future, and the olive industry would open new avenues of prosperity for the country. "We will make olive the identity of Pakistan," he added, expressing confidence that the sector's development would help Pakistan secure a prominent position in the region. Rana Tanveer said that effective policies and collaboration would further strengthen the olive industry, while young farmers could play a key role in promoting olive cultivation nationwide.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Parliamentary Secretary, Information & Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry speaking to the media at the launch of the book "Jammu and Kashmir - The Forgotten Narrative." Former President AJK Masood Khan was also present.

Junaid unveils green plan to revive steel

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, has unveiled an ambitious plan to revive the dormant Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) through advanced technology and a new maritime-industrial partnership with the Ministry of Industries and Production. During a high-level meeting with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, who called on the maritime minister at his office, Junaid Chaudhry, presented a detailed proposal to establish Pakistan's first "Sea to Steel Green Maritime Industrial Corridor" at Port Qasim. Minister Chaudhry said the initiative could reshape Pakistan's industrial and maritime sectors by integrating ship recycling, steel manufacturing, and sustainable industrial practices into one ecosystem. Pakistan currently imports around \$6 billion worth of steel annually, with demand expected to grow by nearly 6% each year through 2035, according to a World Bank report. The minister noted that the proposed project could reduce steel imports by up to 20%, potentially saving the country over \$13 billion in the next decade. The meeting was attended by senior officials from both ministries, along with representatives from leading Chi-

nese maritime companies. At the heart of the proposal is the revival of the long-ide Iron Ore and Coal Berth (IOCB) at Port Qasim, inactive since 2015. The plan envisions converting the facility into a modern ship recycling and repair complex featuring a large floating dock capable of servicing Aframax-class vessels. Junaid Chaudhry explained that steel recovered from dismantled ships would either be supplied to Pakistan Steel Mills or reprocessed at a new facility near Port Qasim into high-grade industrial steel. This approach, he said, would reduce dependence on imported raw materials, conserve foreign exchange, and support the country's domestic steel and shipbuilding industries. The minister added that the same dock could cater to the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), which currently relies on foreign shipyards for maintenance. Developing local repair capacity, he said, would help cut operational costs and strengthen maritime infrastructure. Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar Khan welcomed the proposal, emphasizing the need for inter-ministerial cooperation. "We must work together for Pakistan's economic growth and the welfare of our people," he said, expressing confidence in the project's transformative potential.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed EU Ambassador to Pakistan Raimundas Karoblis called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Pakistan's seafood exports to China surge

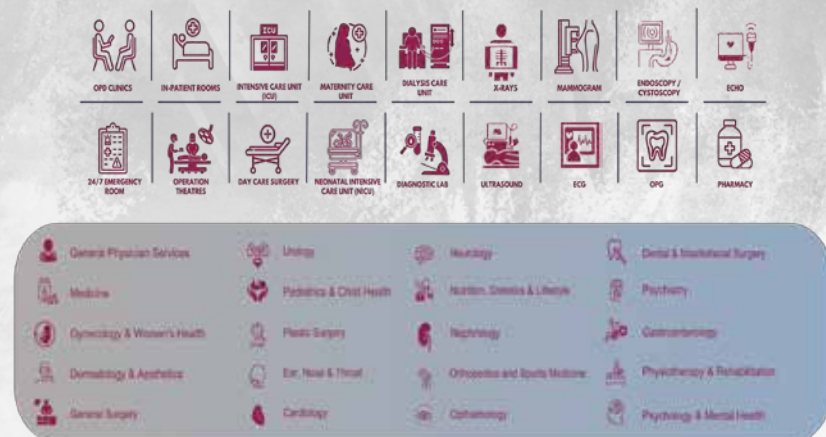
The efficient "green channel" clearance for ice-seafood at Chinese airports, which allows products to reach consumers within 48 hours of arrival, has been crucial in maintaining product quality and value

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's seafood exports to China surged in the first three quarters of 2025, reaching over \$153 million, up from \$121.93 million in the same period last year, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday quoting data from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). The steady growth reflects the deepening agricultural and fisheries cooperation between the two countries under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as well as Pakistan's expanding access to the Chinese market through improved cold chain logistics and certification systems. Among major export categories, frozen fish (commodity code 03038990) led the growth with exports worth \$40.10 million, compared to \$30.19 million last year, totaling 21.83 million kilograms in volume in 2025. Exports of fresh or chilled crabs (03063399) reached \$25.68 million (3.53 million kilograms), up from \$22.65 million in the same period of 2024. Similarly, frozen cuttlefish (03074310) exports climbed to \$20.29 million, amounting to 8.04 million kilograms, up from \$19.83 million last year. Notably, frozen sardines, sardinella, brisling, or sprats (03035300) recorded remarkable growth, soaring to \$11.24 million (18.39 million kilograms) from just over \$3 million a year earlier. In this category, Pakistan emerged as China's top exporter, surpassing Russia and Indonesia, which exported seafood worth \$8.39 million and \$1.33 million, respectively. Trade officials believe that this sustained quarterly surge underscores the growing diversification and competitiveness of Pakistani products in the Chinese market. The efficient "green channel" clearance for ice-seafood at Chinese airports, which allows products to reach consumers within 48 hours of arrival, has been crucial in maintaining product quality and value.—DNA



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 47 401

Pokland Tower 2, New Blue Area, Islamabad www.generalpractice.com.pk f@generalpracticeislamabad +92 51 6160 474 | +92 51 6161 474

Beware the spoilers of the Gaza peace plan

DR. ABDEL AZIZ ALUWAISEH

FIVE days passed without incident following the Sharm El-Sheikh summit on Oct. 13. But on the sixth day, Sunday, Israel accused Hamas of violating the ceasefire and responded harshly by launching scores of strikes, causing massive casualties. Hamas denied responsibility for the violation, but verifying the facts is difficult as the independent ceasefire observers envisioned in the plan do not appear to have started their task yet.

There have been expectations from Day 1 that Israel would stop implementing the deal once it got its hostages back. That speculation was based on many Israeli officials openly calling for continuing the war. However, the fact that the US has guaranteed this deal and President Donald Trump has personally staked his reputation on its success may make it difficult for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to go along with his extremist partners.

The Oct. 13 summit was the brainchild of Trump. Thirty countries attended the summit, including some of the largest and most important Arab, Muslim and European countries, such as Indonesia and Pakistan, as well as Jordan, Iraq and all six Gulf Cooperation Council countries. India and Japan attended from Asia and, from Europe, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain and the UK. Four countries – Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and the US – were the guarantors.

There have been expectations from Day 1 that Israel would stop implementing the deal once it got its hostages back. A main point of the conference was for the leaders of these 30 countries to bear witness to the agreement and ensure its faithful implementation, including a ceasefire, prisoner exchange, the resumption of aid, an Israeli withdrawal, Palestinian governance of the Strip without Hamas, and reconstruction of Gaza with international support.

Until Sunday's events, there had been a significant lull in Israel's attacks, several exchanges of hostages and a trickle of aid, thanks to continued engagement and prodding by the guarantors. But once Israel got its hostages back, hard-line pressure started to mount to resume the war against Gaza, with extremists fantasizing of ethnically cleansing the Strip and sending Israeli settlers to occupy it. Right-wing members of the Israeli government were thumbing their noses at the Gaza deal. On Tuesday, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir called on Netanyahu to "order the (Israeli army) to fully resume combat in the Gaza Strip with maximum force." He added: "Now that we have received the hostages, we must return to war and open the gates of hell upon Gaza."

Other ministers from the extreme right said similar things before Sunday's attack. Netanyahu himself disagreed publicly with Trump over the key issues of the West Bank and Palestinian statehood.

According to the plan, Gaza will be demilitarized and all "military, terror and offensive infrastructure" destroyed. A multinational force overseen by the US

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

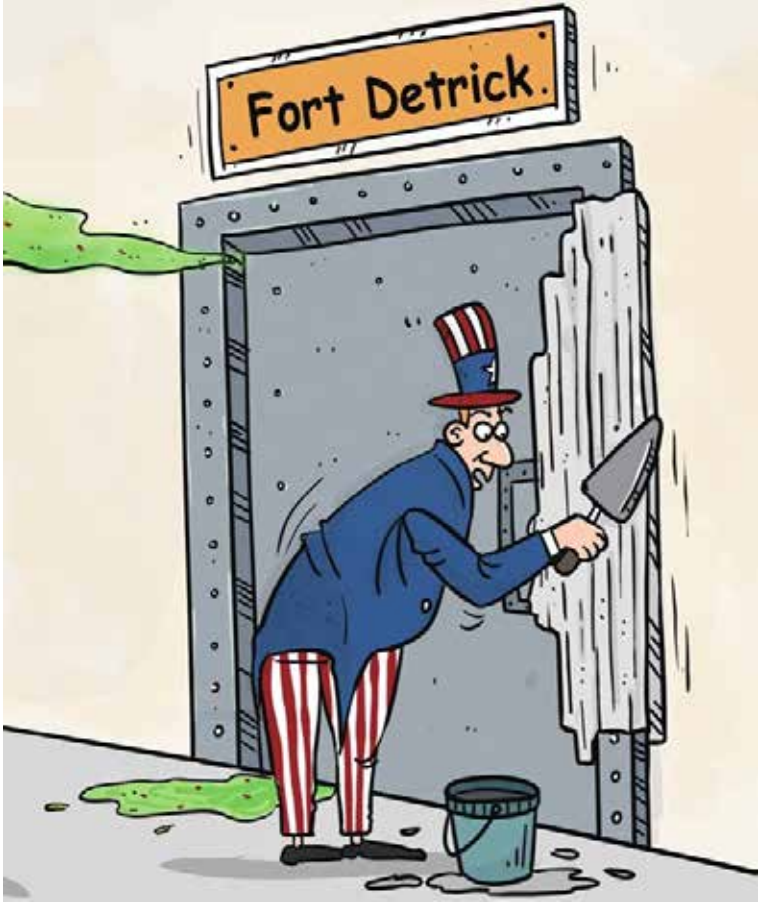
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 131

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394

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



military will monitor the ceasefire but it does not appear that this force has commenced operations. The plan also says Gaza will be initially governed by a temporary transitional committee of Palestinian technocrats – supervised by a "Board of Peace" chaired by Trump himself.

Hamas – which seized control of Gaza in 2007 by ousting its rivals a year after winning legislative elections – would play no future role in its governance, directly or indirectly, according to the Trump plan. It is a historic irony that Hamas was able to keep its hold over Gaza through Israeli support. Netanyahu thought of Hamas as a counterbalance to the Palestinian Authority, which he saw as a precursor to the idea of an independent Palestinian state that he so loathed.

However, governance of the Strip, according to Trump's plan, will eventually be handed over to the PA – which administers the West Bank – once it has undergone reforms. But these provisions are yet to happen, leading Gazans to wonder whether any of it will happen any time soon, especially as Israeli officials keep casting doubts over the possibility of implementing the plan.

Hard-liners in Israel and Hamas are not the only spoilers. Israel has groomed a new generation of shady collaborators in Gaza.

Hard-liners in Israel and Hamas are not the only spoilers. Israel has groomed a new generation of shady collaborators in Gaza, who have been accused of committing serious crimes, including killings and stealing aid supplies. Because of the security vacuum in Gaza, Hamas is taking the law into its own hands and going after these gangs, using their presence to justify keeping its weapons to "defend the civilians" of Gaza. It has said that it will disband and hand over its weapons only to a genuine Palestinian force.

Islamic Jihad, a close ally of Iran and the second-largest armed faction in Gaza after Hamas, can also play the spoiler role, depending on where Tehran stands on the Gaza deal. Its leader, Ziyad Al-Nakhalah, has rejected it as a "surrender plan." The Iranian position has been ambiguous, giving the plan a cautious "yes" officially, but hard-liners there have not hidden their disdain for obvious reasons. If the deal goes according to plan, pro-Iranian Palestinian factions would be disarmed and possibly banished from Gaza, depriving Tehran of an important foothold. Iran has little use for the PA and in the past has rejected the two-state solution. On these two points, hard-liners in Iran and Israel agree.

Since the start of the Iranian revolution 46 years ago, support for Palestinian hard-liners has been a rallying cry for Iran, confirming its revolutionary pedigree and claim for leadership in the Muslim world. Giving up that foothold will be difficult for Iran's radicals, especially after losing Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Assad regime in Syria. For the Trump plan to succeed, and to prevent any repeat of Sunday's clashes, constant engagement is needed by senior administration officials to ensure that all of its steps are being implemented according to schedule. The sooner the nonpartisan Palestinian security force trained by Egypt starts playing its role, the more likely it is that Hamas will lay down its arms. Similarly, the multinational observer and peacekeeping force and the Board of Peace need to make their presence felt. Otherwise, the spoilers will reverse the limited progress that has been made since Sharm El-Sheikh.

Trump's Triple Failure: China, His People, and His Congress

Qamar Bashir



China's leverage extends far beyond minerals. It holds over \$775 billion in U.S. Treasury securities, the largest foreign holder after Japan, and can disrupt the global currency balance by offloading them. It has built infrastructure and currency swap agreements across the Belt and Road Initiative, encompassing more than 150 countries and covering two-thirds of the world's population, allowing trade in national currencies that bypass the dollar altogether. It possesses the capacity to redirect exports to other markets: in 2024, ASEAN overtook the US as China's largest trading partner...

FOR decades, presidents of the United States have believed they could shape the world by interfering in other nations' affairs—installing leaders of their choice, propping up allies who served their interests, and sidelining or imprisoning nationalist figures who threatened American designs. This pattern, repeated from Latin America to the Middle East, has been central to Washington's projection of power. But under President Donald Trump, the limits of that model are becoming clear. Despite America's military reach and financial muscle, there now stand two forces beyond Trump's control: China, which has matured into an economic giant strong enough to resist U.S. leverage, and the American people themselves, who are openly challenging what they see as his king-like behavior. To this must be added a third failure closer to home—his inability to bring Congress into agreement, leaving the federal government paralyzed in a costly shutdown. Together, these three fronts expose the fragility of Trump's leadership and the strain on America's global standing.

For decades, Washington relied on leverage to bend others to its will. Yet China, over years of patient strategy, has taken its fate into its own hands. It has grown economically, financially, and industrially so strong that America can no longer dictate terms. Any attempt to coerce Beijing now risks countermeasures with devastating consequences for U.S. industry and commerce. The clearest example lies in rare earth minerals and magnets, critical to modern technology, where China holds near total dominance. Nearly 70% of global rare earth mining and over 85% of refining is controlled by Beijing, a chokehold over the materials that power smartphones, electric cars, wind turbines, and advanced weapons systems. When Beijing tightened its grip on exports, the United States was brought to its knees.

Without these inputs, the American defense and tech industries risk collapse. Trump's response has been to consider imposing another one-hundred percent tariff on Chinese goods—on top of the \$361 billion in Chinese imports already tariffed since 2018—but Beijing has already diversified away from dependency on the American market. What once was a weapon of leverage for Washington is now a hollow threat.

China's leverage extends far beyond minerals. It holds over \$775 billion in U.S. Treasury securities, the largest foreign holder after Japan, and can disrupt the global currency balance by offloading them. It has built infrastructure and currency swap agreements across the Belt and Road Initiative, encompassing more than 150 countries and covering two-thirds of the world's population, allowing trade in national currencies that bypass the dollar altogether. It possesses the capacity to redirect exports to other markets: in 2024, ASEAN overtook the U.S. as China's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade worth more than \$950 billion, compared to

just \$575 billion with the United States. By contrast, U.S. options look weak. Threatening to halt sales of civilian aircraft parts may wound Boeing more than Beijing, since over 25% of Boeing's orders in the last decade came from China, worth nearly \$150 billion. Proclaiming America as the ultimate consumer market rings hollow when China has been cultivating alternative demand across Asia, Africa, and Europe. Trump's bluster of tariffs and ultimatums may play well to his base, but it cannot mask the reality that the United States has lost the upper hand. Only negotiation, not confrontation, offers a way forward, but the White House seems unwilling to admit it.

If China represents Trump's international failure, the American people have emerged as his domestic challenge. Unlike Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, or Syria, where U.S. power crushed resistance, Trump now faces opposition at home that cannot be bombed into silence or destabilized through covert tricks. Across states and cities, nearly two million Americans have taken to the streets, protesting what they describe as Trump's king-like conduct. They oppose his deployment of federal immigration forces and even National Guard units into states under circumstances that many legal scholars argue violate the Constitution. The Guard is meant to be mobilized for extraordinary threats, typically from foreign enemies, not to police civilians in peacetime.

To many, Trump's orders resemble the occupation of foreign lands rather than the governance of a democracy. Protesters chant that they do not want a king; they want liberty, dignity, and democracy respected. So far, their defiance has been largely peaceful, but if Trump continues his path of executive overreach, anger could boil over into violence, with consequences that would plunge the nation into crisis.

Trump has dismissed these accusations with irritation, insisting he is no monarch but a servant working day and night to restore America's dignity and power. Yet perception matters, and his tone has only fueled resistance. Unlike pliant foreign regimes, the American people are vocal, organized, and fully aware of their rights. They are not easily subdued. If Trump cannot win their trust, his authority will be weakened from within, regardless of what strength he projects abroad. For a president who promised to put America first, alienating America itself is a damning irony.

Perhaps he should take inspiration from his so-called "favorite" Field Marshal Asim Munir of Pakistan—a man who has managed to bend under his thumb not only the National Assembly, Senate, Judiciary, and Government, but also an entire population of 250 million. If Trump truly yearns to rule unchecked, maybe a mentoring session with Munir could teach him the dark arts of silencing institutions and crushing dissent. It would be a masterclass in authoritarian success, but one that destroys democracy in the process.

On a third front, Trump has stumbled in the political heart of Washington: the relationship with Congress. It is now

the twenty-second day of a government shutdown, with no bipartisan agreement in sight to reopen the federal apparatus. The impasse revolves around social spending, especially healthcare and Social Security benefits for seniors, retirees, and the disabled. Democrats insist these programs be preserved at their previous levels; Trump threatens to cut them unless his budget priorities are met. In retaliation, he has warned that Democratic initiatives and projects will be frozen entirely if they refuse to yield. This standoff has left more than 800,000 federal workers unpaid, public services crippled, and international confidence in U.S. governance shaken. The economic cost has been staggering: independent estimates suggest the shutdown has already drained nearly \$3 billion per week from the U.S. economy, with projections of as much as \$24 billion in losses if it lasts two months, shaving 0.2% off quarterly GDP growth. Small businesses relying on federal contracts are collapsing, loan approvals are frozen, and families living paycheck to paycheck are being forced into debt. The possibility that the shutdown could extend for months looms over the nation like a shadow, underlining not only a breakdown of negotiation but a collapse of leadership. The president, ultimately responsible for ensuring the functioning of government, has instead become the architect of its paralysis.

The damage reverberates abroad. Allies and rivals alike are watching, noting that America cannot manage its own house, let alone dictate terms to others. Each passing day without resolution chips away at U.S. credibility. For Trump, the stakes are immense. His ability to govern effectively is being judged not only by his opponents but by history itself. To fail simultaneously in managing China, his own people, and his own legislature would mark not just a troubled presidency but a broken model of leadership. Yet so far, he has responded with threats and defiance rather than compromise and wisdom.

The way forward is clear, though whether Trump will take it is uncertain. He must abandon the illusion of unilateral control and return to democratic norms. He must negotiate in good faith with Congress to restore government operations, even if it means conceding ground. He must respect the constitutional limits on deploying federal forces in states, reassuring the public that their freedoms are safe. And he must recognize that with China, confrontation is a dead end; dialogue is the only path that preserves America's interests without triggering global economic disruption. Every war, whether military, trade, or political, ends at the negotiating table. Sooner is always better than later, for the longer conflict drags on, the greater the damage to all sides.

Trump has prided himself on being a deal-maker, but at this crossroads he has become a breaker of deals, a divider of people, and a trigger of crises. His legacy will not be judged by the force of his threats but by his capacity to resolve conflicts constructively. If he fails to change course, his presidency may be remembered not for making America great again, but for revealing just how fragile its greatness had become.

Pakistan-Afghan cross-border terrorism

Syed Tajammul Abbas

The Afghan government, instead of investing in militancy, must guarantee the protection of human rights and educational freedom for women. It is fact that only civilians become victims in any conflict, yet accusing Pakistan for the death of Afghans undermines its right to self-defense. Pakistan holds the right to protect its citizens from terrorism, as every sovereign state does. Dialogue, trade, peace treaties and, cooperation are the pillars of peacebuilding

THE recent cross-border terrorist operations in Pakistan are an alarming stage to the security and stability in South Asia. Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2019, terrorist attacks have increased across the border, showing a growing threat of joint militant operations between Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Afghan Taliban. This nexus has increased the ability of militant regrouping to carry out operations freely in Pakistan. This case required a decisive and firm response as Pakistan Army has done recently. It is now significant for Pakistan to adopt zero-tolerance policy against Afghan Taliban and TTP. Some significant measures are necessary to take to completely eliminate terrorism through destroying TTP hideouts, capturing insurgents, eliminating combatants, and expanding the security in the Durand Line, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Baluchistan. Pakistan must not provide shelters again to Afghan refugees, but maintain diplomatic efforts through only legal trade to develop cross-border relations with Afghanistan.

Since the Taliban seized the power in 2019, their government has provided shelters and financed the TTP. These cooperative measures have benefited the TTP with the provided necessary arms and protection to increase terror operations in Pakistan. Across the Afghan border, the safe havens have made the game easier for the TTP militants to regroup and execute the terror attacks without being concerned about the repercussions. The intelligence agencies reported that the TTP chief, Noor Wali Mehsud and his faction are receiving financial and operational assistance directly from Afghan government. Their support challenges Pakistan

sovereignty and transgresses international law. The Taliban government must be held accountable for permitting free use of its territory for violence against their neighboring state. This time Pakistan needs to take aggressive actions to completely eliminate TTP networks with pressuring Kabul to act diplomatically and pushing them to restrict facilitations for terrorism.

Pakistan's national and regional security has been affected significantly due to this novel wave of terrorism. This situation has a resemblance to Operation Sindoor, as Afghan-backed militants continuously target security forces and civilians inside Pakistan. India's overt support for Taliban has further complicated the threat. The indirect intervention of India reinforces the TTP's position and destabilizes western frontiers of Pakistan. This explicit support is a goal to drag Pakistan into isolation and foster prolonged regional instability. Pakistan should hence escalate intelligence collaboration, border control and national defense. An organized and powerful plan is needed to prevent infiltration and protect stability in the region.

Moreover, long-term stability in the region relies on state sovereignty and civil liberties. The continued assistance of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) groups by the Afghan Taliban is a definite violation of international law. Their financial support to the activities of TTP and shielding of Noor Wali Mehsud have promoted cross-border terrorism hence destabilizing Pakistan and hindering the process of peace and development of Afghanistan. The Taliban government should realize that encouraging terrorism undermines its legitimacy and its governance. Only in the case when the two

states put dialogue in the first place, implement law-enforcement cooperation, and maintain mutual respect, stability can be attained.

The Afghan government, instead of investing in militancy, must guarantee the protection of human rights and educational freedom for women. It is fact that only civilians become victims in any conflict, yet accusing Pakistan for the death of Afghans undermines its right to self-defense. Pakistan holds the right to protect its citizens from terrorism, as every sovereign state does. Dialogue, trade, peace treaties and, cooperation are the pillars of peacebuilding. This is the way to ensure the social protection and human dignity. The peace agreement has been signed last day by both Pakistan and Afghan defense ministers in Doha, a much-needed peace deal for the security of the region. However, its prolonged success depends on the Afghan government's willingness to avoid financial support to terrorist factions and restrict support to cross-border terrorism.

The new waves of cross-border terrorism operated by TTP and Afghan Taliban have jeopardized Pakistan's security and regional peace. India's intervention and Afghan government's support for TTP networks have created chaos and instability in the region. Pakistan must act decisively by implementing strong counterterrorism measures, doubling the border security, and keeping the diplomatic front open to avoid any future conflict. Kabul should also respect international law, human rights and stop sponsoring the terrorism. Mutual respect, open trade, cooperation, and countering extremism are the only ways to secure long-lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

Briefs

Balochistan is the pride of Pakistan, says Field Marshal

FROM PAGE 01
well-being of the nation's citizens. The workshop concluded with an interactive Q&A session, providing participants an opportunity to engage in candid discussions with the Army Chief on national and provincial issues.

Centre, KP lock horns over bulletproof vehicles

FROM PAGE 01
The minister maintained that the vehicles were previously used by the interior minister and also the former KP chief minister. Chaudhry expressed dismay over CM Afridi's directives, saying that the vehicles were provided to fight against terrorism. Cross-border terror incidents have increased in Pakistan, particularly in the bordering provinces of KP and Balochistan, since the Afghan Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in 2021.

Supreme Court Justice Mazhar...

FROM PAGE 01
The remarks came during the hearing of multiple pleas filed against the 26th Amendment, by an eight-member bench led by Justice Amin-U-Din Khan. The bench also includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarat Hilali, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan. Around three dozen petitioners, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), Lahore High Court Bar Association, Lahore Bar Association, Karachi Bar Association as well as the former seven presidents of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and various individuals in personal capacity, had challenged the validity of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. Presenting his arguments today, counsel Rizvi said that under the amendment, the SC retained its constitutional powers under a proviso. "The 26th Amendment has transferred the power of constitutional interpretation to the SC to the Constitutional Bench," Justice Mazhar replied. Justice Hilali said that the Constitution had already been amended and a CB had been formed accordingly and asked, "Are you [Rizvi] asking that we will have to suspend the 26th Constitutional Amendment first?"

SC judges warn new SJC code...

FROM PAGE 01
Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar in the council, noting that his transfer to the IHC is currently under challenge before the Supreme Court. Advertisement The development came after the SJC meeting revised the code of conduct for judges, prohibiting them from speaking to the media or taking part in any public debate on political issues. Chief Justice of Pakistan and SJC Chairman Justice Yahya Afridi chaired the meeting at the Supreme Court of Pakistan on October 18. The meeting was virtually attended by Justice Shah and Justice Akhtar through video link, while Justice Aalia Neelum, Chief Justice, Lahore High Court and Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar, Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court, attended in-person. According to an amended code of conduct, "[Judges] shall not have any interaction with the media, especially in relation to issues which may give rise to public debate or adversely affect institutional collegiality and discipline," read the statement issued last week. In the letter, the two judges warned that the proposed changes could weaken judicial independence.

Lion Cubs' U20 World Cup Win Crowns Royal Vision

U20 World Cup: The Lion Cubs' victory, the crowning achievement of the visionary sports policy led by HM the King

DNA

MOROCCO: The remarkable victory of Morocco's U20 national football team is not a matter of chance but the outcome of the visionary and structured sports policy championed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI over several years. Indeed, this historic feat is the consecration of a far-sighted Royal Vision aimed at giving a strong boost to sport in general and to football in particular, as a lever for human, social and territorial development. The Sovereign has consistently shown great concern for the sports sector, in all disciplines. In his message to the National Sports Conference in 2008, His Majesty the King stated: "We have full confidence in the great potential of Moroccan sport. We will therefore spare no effort to support all good initiatives dedicated to the supreme objective we have set for ourselves, namely to make Moroccan sport an exemplary model and a factor of social cohesion and strengthening our regional and international influence." A melting pot of excellence, the Mohammed VI Football Academy is one of the embodiments of this Royal Vision for a sport that provides training and professional coaching. Several players from this team that won the World Cup in Chile, including Yassir Zabiri, Fouad Zahouani, Houssam Essadak, and Yassine Khalifi, are graduates of this prestigious Academy, a symbol of the rise of the Moroccan training model. Inaugurated in 2009 and strengthened after 2013, the Academy, which came into being thanks to the far-sighted leadership of His Majesty the King, has established itself today as a benchmark in terms of training, enabling



young talent to be unearthed, their skills to be forged and their prospects to be propelled towards broad horizons. In addition to being a model for training and a breeding ground for budding young players, the Academy is a Royal project that aims to promote national football and develop its level. Covering an area of approximately 18 hectares, this prestigious, world-renowned sports facility, which has mobilized investments of around 140 million dirhams, illustrates the High Benevolence with which His Majesty the King continues to surround national sport. Under the Royal leadership, Morocco has also increased the number of local sports grounds, regional training centers and modern facilities,

allowing its youth to access sports in all regions. Activewear "Our ultimate goal is to revitalize the practice of sport in our towns, villages and neighborhoods, especially working-class ones, which constitute an inexhaustible reservoir of athletes for our country," the Sovereign emphasized in his message to the National Sports Conference. This democratization of sport across the country has shaped a new generation that is talented, disciplined and confident in its potential. From now on, the Mohammed VI Football Academy has established itself, in everyone's opinion, as a center of excellence contributing to the success of national teams on the continental and

international stages, by promoting the emergence of a new generation of talented players, some of whom today form the backbone of the national team "A". Capitalizing on the unprecedented feat achieved during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar by the "A" team, the graduates of the Mohammed VI Academy distinguished themselves once again during the U20 World Cup in Chile alongside their teammates. The performances achieved by the national football teams, all categories combined, on the continental and world stages, the latest of which is this coronation of the Lionceaux, clearly reflect the inclusive dimension of the Royal Vision in the sporting field.

Chimaev's Rise Mirrors Abu Dhabi's MMA Global Ascent

ABU DHABI: When the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi signed its long-term partnership with the UFC in 2019, it did so with a vision to establish the city as the world capital for combat sports. Since then, DCT Abu Dhabi has staged more than 20 UFC events, introduced the world to Fight Island during the COVID-19 pandemic, and delivered some of the organization's most memorable nights. UFC President Dana White once described Abu Dhabi as the "fight capital of the world," and six years later that statement rings truer than ever. Abu Dhabi's ambition extends well beyond hosting blockbuster events. Its strategy is about legacy: creating opportunities for local and regional athletes, fostering young talent, and ensuring mixed martial arts has a long-term home in the Middle East. The commitment runs through state-of-the-art facilities, grassroots initiatives, and world-class fights that bring

the sport closer to fans while inspiring the next generation of athletes. Khamzat Chimaev's story is one such example of this strategy in action. He first stepped into the Octagon in Abu Dhabi in July 2020 at "UFC Fight Night: Katter vs. Ice," and submitted John Phillips. Just 10 days later, he returned for "UFC Fight Night: Whittaker vs. Till," stopping Rhys McKee in the first round and making history with the fastest turnaround in the company's history. He was back in Abu Dhabi in October 2021 for "UFC 267: Blachowicz vs. Teixeira," where he overwhelmed Li Jingliang with a first-round submission. Four years later, having fought five of his eight UFC bouts in Abu Dhabi and under the UAE flag, he took his undefeated record to 15-0 at UFC 319 when he beat Driscus Du Plessis in Chicago to capture the middleweight title. Chimaev's success as one of the sport's most established athletes is a

testament to the capital's mission to foster homegrown talent. Commenting on Abu Dhabi's global MMA vision, Saleh Al-Geziry, director-general for tourism at DCT Abu Dhabi, said recently: "Abu Dhabi has become a global stage where athletes showcase their talents and fans witness unforgettable sporting moments. "Our long-standing partnership with UFC supports our vision to position the emirate as the international home of martial arts and a destination for world-class sports. "By hosting iconic events, inspiring new audiences, and creating opportunities for athletes at every level, we are continuing to grow Abu Dhabi's role as a global hub for sport, culture, and tourism." In 2023, DCT Abu Dhabi and the UFC extended their partnership, reflecting the success of the joint venture and a strategic vision for the growth of MMA in the emirate. – Agencies

Brentford cruise to victory at hapless West Ham

Igor Thiago and Mathias Jensen scored as Brentford secured a 2-0 Premier League victory over West Ham United on Monday

LONDON: Igor Thiago and Mathias Jensen scored as Brentford secured a 2-0 Premier League victory over West Ham United on Monday, inflicting a club record fourth successive home league loss at the start of the season on their hosts. Brentford moved up to 13th in the table with 10 points from eight games, while West Ham, booed off by their fans, are 19th with four points. New West Ham manager Nuno Espirito Santo will have seen the size of the job at hand as his side were second to everything and only the woodwork and wasteful Brentford finishing prevented a rout. "It's very nice to get the three points and get away from the relegation zone," Brentford midfielder Mikkel Damsgaard said. "We missed a lot of chances, on set-pieces we could have had more (goals), but we are happy with the three points. We are finding a rhythm as a team and connecting a bit more." There were empty seats at kickoff as what seemed like several thousand West Ham fans staged a stay-away in protest against chairman David Sullivan and vice-chair Karen Brady. "It was 2-0 but probably could have been more to them," West Ham captain Jarrod Bowen said. – Agencies

Nepal's 'hidden' mountains draw new wave of climbers

KATHMANDU: Nepal's mountains including Everest have long drawn climbers from across the world, but a growing community is exploring hidden summits promising solitude and the chance to be first to the top. The Himalayan nation is home to eight of the world's 10 highest peaks and welcomes hundreds of climbers every year, making mountaineering a lucrative business. While commercial expeditions dominate on Everest and other 8,000-metre (26,246-foot) giants, a new generation of adventurers is looking sideways rather than upward – towards the countless 6,000- and 7,000m summits studding Nepal. The country has 462 peaks open for climbing and around a hundred have never been summited. "If you are only interested in the height of the peak then there are limited mountains to climb," French alpinist and veteran expedition leader Paulo Grobel told AFP. "But if you open your interest to 7,900 metres there is a lot of potential. If you go to 6,900 metres you have many more peaks waiting." This autumn Nepal has issued 1,323 climbing permits. While most climbers are part of large commercial expeditions on popular peaks, small, independent teams are dispersed across remote and lesser-known mountains. Many of these expeditions, including French, Japanese and Swiss teams, are tackling summits in true alpine style: minimal support, no supplementary oxygen, no fixed ropes and carrying all their own gear. – APP

China-Pakistan partnership expands to boost regional disaster resilience

BEIJING: In a significant move to enhance infrastructure resilience against natural disasters, China and Pakistan have officially established five new joint research sub-centers across Pakistan. This expansion is a key outcome of the recent high-level visit by the China-Pakistan Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Smart Disaster Prevention of Major Infrastructures, according to a Gwadar Pro's report on Tuesday. The week-long visit, concluding on October 9, 2025, focused on operationalizing sub-centers at Pakistan's leading engineering universities: the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore (UET, Lahore), NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi (NEDUET, Karachi), Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, Quetta (BUIITEMS, Quetta), and University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar (UET, Peshawar). These hubs will serve as regional nerve centers for collaborative research, technology development, and talent cultivation in critical areas such as earthquake engineering, flood control, structural health monitoring, and climate-resilient infrastructure. The five sub-centers of the Joint Lab will play a significant role in enhancing the disaster resilience of Pakistan's infrastructure through scientific and technological approaches. Both parties will undertake initiatives for joint disaster

prevention capacity building, academic research, and exchange programs for students and experts. The seven-person delegation, led by Professor Chen Zhongfan from Southeast University, who also serves as the Executive Deputy Director of the Joint Lab, engaged with senior Pakistani officials, including Shahid Iqbal Baloch, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology, and Inam Haider Malik, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority. Both parties pledged strong support for the lab's mission, emphasizing its role in safeguarding the strategic China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and other vital infrastructure. Unveiling ceremony of the Joint Lab-UET Peshawar Sub Center (Photo provided by Southeast University) Key moments of the visit included the unveiling ceremonies of the sub-centers at NUST and UET Peshawar. The latter was held during the 3rd International Conference on Climate Resilience Infrastructure and Disaster Management, where Chinese and Pakistani researchers shared the latest advancements in the field. The joint laboratory, approved by China's Ministry of Science and Technology, is a flagship initiative under the Belt and Road Innovation Cooperation framework. Its expansion underscores a shared commitment to transforming scientific collaboration into tangible benefits, enhancing regional disaster preparedness and promoting sustainable development. – DNA

Chamari Athapaththu conjures miracle as Sri Lanka snatch victory over Bangladesh

Bangladesh score one run and lose four wickets in final over

MUMBAI: Sri Lanka snatched victory from the jaws of defeat to record their first win of the Women's Cricket World Cup, edging out Bangladesh by seven runs in a nerve jangling finish in Navi Mumbai on Monday. With Bangladesh cruising and only nine needed off the final over with five wickets in hand, having mustered just three runs off the penultimate over, skipper Chamari Athapaththu took the ball herself and turned the game on its head. Four wickets tumbled in four balls as Bangladesh collapsed, losing five wickets for just two runs. Athapaththu, calm amid the storm, finished with career-best figures of 4-42. The drama began with Rabeya Khan trapped leg-before off the first ball, followed by a run-out next delivery. Then, Bangladesh's hopes sank when their captain Nigar Sultana danced down the track only to find long-off lurking. When Marufa Akter was adjudged lbw next ball, Athapaththu had conjured the

unthinkable, defending nine with a single run conceded in the over. "We handled the pressure well. We knew that if we took the game deep, teams could crumble," Athapaththu said.



"It wasn't perfect, batting collapses and dropped catches hurt us, but luck smiled at us today." For once, fortune favoured Sri Lanka, whose campaign

had been marred by rain, missed chances and misfiring batters. Hasini Perera, who struck her maiden ODI half-century, made 85 off 99 balls, peppered with 13 fours and a six. She was the backbone of Sri Lanka's 202 all out as she reached the milestone of 1,000 runs in ODIs. A 74-run partnership with Nilakshika de Silva gave Sri Lanka a solid launch pad, before another collapse saw six wickets fall for 28 runs. Even so, the Sri Lankans held their nerve in the death overs to seal the win and climb to sixth in the standings. With four points, they are level with New Zealand and India, although will need results to go in their favour to grab the last semi-final spot. Australia, South Africa and England have already booked their places in the last four. "We kept losing wickets at crucial times," admitted Bangladesh skipper Sultana, whose fighting 77 was in vain as her side were eliminated. "I tried to take the pressure off with a boundary, but it just didn't come off."

India restores embassy in Kabul

FROM PAGE 01
have formally recognised the Taliban administration. "In keeping with the decision announced during the recent visit of the Afghan FM to India, the government is restoring the status of the technical mission of India in Kabul to that of embassy of India in Afghanistan with immediate effect," said a press release issued today by India's Ministry of External Affairs. It added the decision underscored India's resolve to deepen its bilateral engagement with the Afghan side in all spheres of mutual interest. The MEA elaborated that the embassy will "further augment India's contribution to Afghanistan's comprehensive development, humanitarian assistance and capacity-building initiatives, in keeping with the priorities and aspirations of Afghan society".

PML-N announces split from...

FROM PAGE 01
adding that his party's role from now on would be that of a constructive opposition. He also warned that any party member who defied the official policy would face disciplinary action. "The PML-N will remain active for the welfare of refugees and overseas Kashmiris," he added. The AJK PML-N president maintained that a stable and strong government in the region could only be established through transparent general elections. "We will run a vigorous election campaign under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif," Qadir said. He further noted that the party would continue to play a positive role in resolving AJK's constitutional and political crisis. Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq – a former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) member – is leading the AJK government. He took oath in April 2023, after Sardar Tanveer Ilyas was disqualified from being elected or being the member of the Legislative Assembly for two years for contempt. Haq, who had been serving as the assembly speaker since August 2021, was elected unopposed as leader of the house after forming a 12-member 'forward bloc' in the PTI, and forging an alliance with the combined opposition, comprising PPP and PML-N lawmakers.

Defence Minister says he is...

FROM PAGE 01
The remarks came amid heightened tensions after deadly clashes and nationwide protests linked to hard-line groups, prompting provincial authorities to consider measures against organisations accused of staging violent demonstrations. Punjab authorities have in recent days moved to declare extremist elements and recommended federal measures amid a broader crackdown on violent protests. Government officials, while stressing respect for lawful political activity, have repeatedly warned that violent agitation and attempts to coerce the state would be met with legal action. Analysts say Islamabad is seeking to balance maintaining public order with avoiding a wider security escalation, as authorities face pressure to prevent future unrest and protect innocent civilians.

India mounts pressure for Asia Cup...

FROM PAGE 01
Naqvi, who is also the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, told reporters in Karachi on Tuesday that the ACC has informed the BCCI that a formal ceremony will be held in Dubai on December 10 to present India with the trophy. Dawn.com understands that Naqvi, as ACC chief, is keen on handing over the trophy himself following the farcical scenes that followed after last month's final between Pakistan and India. Defending champions India edged Pakistan by five-wickets in a last-over thriller to win the Asia Cup title at the Dubai International Stadium last month.

Briefs

PSX gains 1,103 points to close at 167,346

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 1,103.93 points, a positive change of 0.66 per cent, closing at 167,346.83 points against 166,242.90 points on the last working day. A total of 486 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 216 recorded gains, 229 sustained losses, and 41 remained unchanged. The total trading volume was 1,819.32 million shares compared to 1,478.59 million shares the previous day, while the traded value increased to Rs56.82 billion from Rs51.87 billion. The market capitalization rose to Rs19.27 trillion from Rs19.20 trillion. K-Electric Ltd. led the volume chart with 547.32 million shares, followed by WorldCall Telecom with 260.92 million shares and Bank of Punjab with 128.92 million shares. The top advancers were PIA Holding Company Limited, which increased by Rs350.35 to close at Rs24,660.45, and Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited, which gained Rs266 to close at Rs29,900. Supernet Technologies Limited and Gillette Pakistan Limited were among the major losers, declining by Rs83.20 and Rs32.81 to close at Rs1,713.03 and Rs530.18, respectively. In the futures market, 321 companies participated, with 151 advancing, 169 declining, and one remaining unchanged.—APP

Rupee slightly gains against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.06 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 281.07. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 282.55 and Rs 282.75, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 0.99 to close at Rs 326.82 against the last day's closing of Rs 327.81, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen lost 01 paisa to close at Rs 1.85, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound decreased by Rs 0.67 to close at Rs 376.41 compared to the previous day's Rs 377.08. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal remained stagnant and closed at Rs 76.52 and Rs 74.94, respectively.—APP

IRA bomb victims in UK should be compensated with Qaddafi asset money: Report

LONDON: Victims of IRA bombings should receive compensation from tax on assets seized from the regime of the late Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, according to a report by former Charity Commission Chairman William Shawcross. The report suggests that the funds on offer will not go far enough to compensate all victims adequately, but should still be set aside for the purpose by the Treasury. The IRA used Semtex, a plastic explosive, supplied by Libya to conduct bombings in the 1980s and 1990s. Qaddafi's assets were frozen after the fall of his regime in 2011, with victims saying they have grown in value from £9 billion (\$12 billion) to £17 billion, earning the Exchequer around £5 million annually in tax. Shawcross wrote in his report: "Funding could be obtained from the tax accrued on the frozen Libyan assets but will probably be insufficient, depending on the solution chosen. Other sources of government funding will probably be required." He added that it is "not possible to identify the number of people affected" by IRA bombings backed by Qaddafi, and that the number may continue to rise. The Treasury, he said, should make up any shortfall owed to them and strike a deal with the current Libyan authorities over unfreezing assets, but this "may not transpire." He added: "It is time to draw a line. The pain and suffering of the victims is real and harrowing."—APP

US, Australia sign rare earths deal as Trump promises submarines

The Australian premier has touted his country's abundant critical minerals as a way to loosen China's grip over global supplies of rare earths, which are vital for tech products

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump signed a deal on rare earth minerals Monday with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and said Washington's key ally would get its coveted nuclear-powered attack submarines. The two leaders met at the White House to concentrate on a pair of areas – defense and critical minerals – in which Washington and Canberra are cooperating against what they view as an increasingly assertive China. Albanese said the rare earths deal would lead to \$8.5 billion in critical minerals projects in Australia and take relations to the "next level." The Australian premier has touted his country's abundant critical minerals as a way to loosen China's grip over global supplies of rare earths, which are vital for tech products. Australia sits on deposits of lithium, cobalt and manganese as well as rare earth metals used in technologies from semiconductors to defense hardware, electric

cars and wind turbines. The Australian government said it and the US government would each invest more than \$1 billion over the next six months, while the White House put the figure at \$3 billion between the two countries. Albanese had also been pushing for progress on the stalled 2021 AUKUS submarine deal between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Washington said earlier this year it was reviewing the deal for at least three Virginia-class nuclear attack subs signed under previous president Joe Biden, but Trump promised Australia would get them. "The submarines that we're starting to build for Australia are really moving along," Trump told reporters as he sat alongside Albanese in the cabinet room of the White House. "We've worked on this long and hard, and we're starting that process right now. And it's really moving along very rapidly, very well."

The AUKUS deal could cost Canberra up to US\$235 billion over the next 30 years. It also includes the technology to build its own vessels in the future. Australia also had a major bust-up with France after it canceled a multi-billion-dollar deal to buy a fleet of diesel-powered submarines from Paris and go with the AUKUS program instead. The nuclear-powered vessels lie at the heart of Australia's strategy of improving its long-range strike capabilities in the Pacific, particularly against China. But the Trump administration said in June it had put AUKUS under review to ensure it aligned with his "America First agenda," saying it needed to ensure the United States had enough of the subs. Albanese meanwhile managed to ride out an awkward confrontation between Trump and Australia's ambassador to Washington – former prime minister Kevin Rudd. Rudd deleted a series of critical social media posts about Trump

following the Republican's election victory last year. "I don't like you either. I don't. And I probably never will," Trump said to Rudd when a reporter pointed out that the ex-premier was in the room and asked the US president whether he minded the comments. Australians have a mostly unfavorable view of the Trump administration, polling shows, though the country relies on the United States to balance China's expanding military clout in the Pacific region. China loomed large over both of the key issues in the talks. Australia has touted itself as a key US ally against China's territorial assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region, from Taiwan to the South China Sea. On China, Australia announced plans for a strategic reserve of critical minerals to provide to "key partners" such as Washington to help relax Beijing's chokehold. Trump this month accused China of pressuring trade partners with new rare export curbs and threatened 100-percent tariffs in response.—Agencies

Jam, EU envoy discuss GSP-Plus, future trade collaboration

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday met with European Union (EU) Ambassador to Pakistan Raimundas Karoblis and discussed ongoing cooperation under the GSP-Plus framework, as well as new avenues to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment relations between Pakistan and the European Union. Welcoming the ambassador, who called on him, the minister appreciated the EU's continued support and constructive engagement with Pakistan under the GSP-Plus scheme, which has significantly contributed to Pakistan's export growth and compliance with international conventions. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to upholding human rights, labor standards, and good governance in line with the United Nations core conventions linked to the GSP Plus arrangement. Both sides also discussed potential avenues for enhancing economic cooperation, investment, and the forthcoming EU-Pakistan Business Forum. They also reaffirmed their resolve to continue close engagement and collaboration for mutual economic growth and sustainable development.—DNA



Syria gives banks six months to absorb losses from Lebanese crisis

DAMASCUS: Syria's central bank has ordered commercial lenders to fully provision for losses tied to Lebanon's financial collapse and submit credible restructuring plans within six months, a move that could reshape the country's battered banking sector. The directive issued on September 22 requires banks to recognize 100 percent of their exposure to Lebanon's financial system, where Syrian lenders parked funds during the country's civil war. Syrian officials say the decision is part of a wider effort to clean up a banking sector crushed by 14 years of war and Western sanctions and help address a liquidity crisis that has stifled economic activity. The order has prompted some banks to seek new investors or explore foreign acquisitions, three Syrian bankers told Reuters. "They will need to provide us with a credible plan for restructuring, and now the countdown has started," Syrian Central Bank governor Abdelkader Husriyeh told Reuters. "They can find various ways to do this, including via their sister banks in Lebanon or by partnering with other international institutions," he said. Syrian commercial banks have more than \$1.6 billion in exposure to Lebanon, Husriyeh said. That represents a significant proportion of the \$4.9 billion in total deposits in the Syrian commercial banking sector, according to a Reuters calculation based on the 2024 financial reports of all 14 commercial banks in Syria, published by the Damascus Stock Exchange. The banks most affected include Bank Al-Sharq, Fransabank, Bank of Syria and Overseas, and Banque Bemo Saudi Faransi, Shahba Bank and Ahli Trust Bank, all originally Lebanese banks that opened branches in Syria in the 2000s. None of the banks immediately responded to requests for comment. Bankers say they turned to Lebanon during Syria's civil war, with few other options due to Western sanctions that have gradually been rolled back since former leader Bashar Assad was ousted last year. But those deposits were trapped when Lebanon's banking system imploded in 2019, following years of fiscal mismanagement and political paralysis.—APP

WB estimates \$216b needed to rebuild Syria after civil war

DAMASCUS: Rebuilding Syria after over a decade of civil war is expected to cost about \$216 billion, the World Bank said in an assessment published Tuesday. The cost is almost ten times Syria's 2024 gross domestic product. Syria's civil war began in 2011 when mass protests against the government of then-President Bashar Assad were met with a brutal crackdown and spiraled into armed conflict. Assad was ousted in December in a lightning rebel offensive. The conflict destroyed large swaths of the country and battered critical infrastructure, including its electrical grid. The World Bank says the rebuilding may cost between \$140 billion and \$345 billion, but their "conservative best estimate" is \$216 billion. The World Bank estimates that rebuilding infrastructure will cost \$82 billion. It estimated the cost of damages for residential buildings at \$75 billion and \$59 billion for non-residential structures. The province of Aleppo and the Damascus countryside, where fierce battles took place, will require the most investment, according to the assessment. "The challenges ahead are immense, but the World Bank stands ready to work alongside the Syrian people and the international community to support recovery and reconstruction," World Bank Middle East Director Jean-Christophe Carret said in a statement. Despite reestablishing diplomatic relations with the West and signing investment deals worth billions of dollars with Gulf countries since Assad was ousted, the country is still struggling financially. While the United States and Europe have lifted many of the sanctions imposed during the rule of the Assad dynasty, the impact on the ground has so far been limited. Cuts to international aid have worsened living conditions for many. The United Nations estimates that 90 percent of Syria's population lives in poverty.—APP

Philippines launches 'Muslim Travelogue' in halal tourism push

MANILA: The Philippine tourism secretary launched on Tuesday the government's "Muslim-Friendly Travelogue" amid a rise in arrivals from Muslim-majority countries. Tourism is a key sector for the Philippines, which since the COVID-19 pandemic has been trying to attract more visitors by creating Muslim-friendly destinations and ensuring that tourists have access to halal products and services. The "Muslim-Friendly Travelogue," the Philippines' official guide for tourists planning their trips to the country, covers its Islamic history and heritage, recommendations for destinations, and halal culinary products available in all parts of the archipelago. "Our target is really to be able to communicate that the Philippines is open and ready, and that it's not just certain destinations, but Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao are open for Muslim travelers," Tourism Secretary Cristina Frasco told reporters during the guide's launch in Makati City.—APP

Palestinian woman hospitalized after Israeli settler attack

LONDON: A Palestinian woman in the occupied West Bank has been hospitalized after being clubbed on the head by a Jewish settler while picking olives, the BBC reported. The unprovoked attack on Afaf Abu Alia, 55, was filmed by American journalist Jasper Nathaniel in the Palestinian village of Turmus Ayya. Nathaniel said the settler knocked Abu Alia unconscious with a club before hitting her as she lay on the ground. The Israel Defense Forces claimed that its personnel ended the confrontation after arriving at the scene, and that it "strongly condemns" settler violence. However, Nathaniel said: "No Israeli forces showed up to the attack at any point." He added that Israeli soldiers were in the area before the attack and had "lured" him and others into an "ambush," before speeding off ahead of the settler attack. He said of the video footage: "It's the most vivid image that's ever been seared in my mind. He swings it (the club) one time and I saw her body go completely limp. And then he stood over her and hit her twice more." Abu Alia was seen bleeding as she was carried into a vehicle to be taken to hospital. She was first admitted to intensive care but is now in a stable condition, doctors said. The attack was part of a wider assault by 15 masked Jewish settlers on local Palestinians picking olives, part of the harvest season that began on Oct. 9. The group was seen throwing stones at the Palestinians and activists who had arrived to support them, including Nathaniel. At least 80 percent of Turmus Ayya residents hold US citizenship or residency, according to Israeli media reports. Nathaniel contacted a US Embassy official about the incident, but was told that the diplomatic body could not offer protection to him or other American citizens in the area. The age-old Palestinian cultural ritual of the olive harvest has come under growing Israeli pressure in recent years. Farmers in the West Bank regularly face organized assaults by Jewish settlers, as well as arbitrary roadblocks and land access bans by Israeli forces. The UN's humanitarian office documented 71 settler attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank from Oct. 7-13, with at least half related to the olive harvest. Human rights groups say the assaults are designed to intimidate Palestinians into leaving their ancestral lands so that settlers can seize new areas. From 2005 to 2023, just 3 percent of official Israeli investigations into settler violence resulted in a conviction, according to Israeli civil rights group Yesh Din.—Agencies

S&P Global recognized with multiple awards

"These recognitions are a reflection of our unwavering commitment to building future-ready teams while staying true to our core values of discovery, partnership, and integrity," said Mujeeb Zahur, Managing Director, S&P Global Pakistan.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: S&P Global Pakistan has achieved remarkable recognition at the Best Place to Work Awards for 2025, securing its position among Pakistan's top five 'Best of the Best Companies'. In addition, S&P Global Pakistan won the 'Best Place to Work in Large Company' category and the 'Best in Industry Award' for the IT Services Industry. "These recognitions are a reflection of our unwavering commitment to building future-ready teams while staying true to our core values of discovery, partnership, and integrity," said Mujeeb Zahur, Managing Director, S&P Global Pakistan. "These

achievements validate our work towards creating an environment where talent thrives as we continue to unlock value for our customers through our valuable data, insights benchmarks and more." As S&P Global Pakistan completes 20 years of operations in the country, its workforce of over 1,400 skilled professionals continues to push boundaries in data, research, and analytics. Commenting on this achievement, Atta Rehman, Senior Regional People Advisor, S&P Global Pakistan, said, "Our workplace culture is built on the foundation of 'People Forward' - a philosophy that prioritizes investment in our people to accelerate their careers by equipping them with the necessary tools, skills, and opportunities to excel in a dynamic world."



Azerbaijan lifts curbs on cargo transit to Armenia

BAKU: Azerbaijan has removed all restrictions on cargo transit to Armenia, President Ilham Aliyev said on Tuesday, in a sign of warming ties between the former foes following nearly four decades of conflict. Aliyev told Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at a meeting in Astana that a shipment of Kazakh grain via Azerbaijan to Armenia marked the first such consignment since transit was halted in the final years of the Soviet Union, when war initially broke out between the two neighbors. "I think this is also a good indicator that peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia is no longer on paper, but in practice," Aliyev was quoted by Azerbaijani state media as saying. Hikmet Hajiyev, Aliyev's foreign policy aide, told Reuters that the cargo shipments would travel to Armenia via Georgia, calling the transit "an economic benefit of peace.—APP

Austria departs Afghan, a first since 2021

VIENNA: Austria – one of the European Union members pushing for deportations of Afghans and Syrians – on Tuesday deported an Afghan man, the first such removal since 2021. The Alpine nation is one of 20 EU member states which have urged the European Commission to take action to enable both voluntary and forced returns of Afghans with no legal right to stay. In July, it also became the first EU country in recent years to deport a Syrian. It has since sent two other Syrians back to their home country, where long-time strongman Bashar Assad was ousted in December. A 31-year-old Afghan, who served four years in jail over a sexual offense and causing grievous bodily harm, was deported from Vienna via Istanbul to Kabul, Austria's interior ministry said. This was the first such deportation since summer 2021, it said, adding that more deportations of criminal convicts were being prepared. Austria's conservative-led government received Taliban government representatives in Vienna in September, drawing criticism from rights group and the opposition Greens. The Taliban have been largely isolated on the global stage since they imposed a strict version of Islamic law after they returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, following the withdrawal of US-led forces. Lawyers for the Afghan, who came to Austria as an unaccompanied minor, failed to obtain a court order to stop his deportation on the grounds that he suffered "severe psychological impairment," according to rights group Asylkoordination Austria.—APP

Russia downplays swift meeting to prepare for Trump-Putin summit

MOSCOW: Moscow on Tuesday doused hopes of a swift meeting of the Russian and US foreign ministers to prepare for a speedy summit between their leaders over the Ukraine war. Following a phone call last week, the Russian and US leaders Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump announced they would meet in Budapest for talks on resolving the war in Ukraine, triggered by Moscow's February 2022 all-out offensive. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US counterpart Marco Rubio spoke on Monday to discuss preparations for the summit, and are expected to meet in person to finalize details. Trump said the meeting with Putin could take place within two weeks, though that timeline appears to be slipping away. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Tuesday it was "premature to talk about the schedule" of the preparatory Lavrov-Rubio meeting. "Neither before the phone call nor during yesterday's call was the meeting specifically raised," Ryabkov was quoted as saying by Russian state news agencies. "Any such significant contact should be properly prepared," Ryabkov said, adding that "a homework" phase "must be first completed.—APP

Briefs

Azerbaijan,
Iran explore
current state
of bilateral
relations

BAKU: Khalaf Khalafov, Representative of the Azerbaijani President on special assignments met with Seyed Abbas Aragchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Kazem Gharibabadi, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, and Mehdi Sanayei, Iranian Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs, as part of his visit to the country. The meetings explored the current state of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Iran, highlighting Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's visits to Azerbaijan, as well as prospects for development of the relations of friendship and good neighborliness in line with the new level of relations achieved during the crucial agreements reached between the two countries' leaders during those meetings. The officials also reviewed the issues arising from Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). – APP

US appeals
court says
Trump can
deploy soldiers
in Portland

LOS ANGELES: A US appeals court said Monday that President Donald Trump can send National Guard troops to Portland, despite objections from Oregon's governor. The ruling is the latest step in a battle pitting the White House against liberal states who have pushed back against what they characterize as Trump's authoritarian overreach and a creeping militarization of US society.

"After considering the record at this preliminary stage, we conclude that it is likely that the President lawfully exercised his statutory authority" when he federalized the state's National Guard, the Ninth Circuit of the US Court of Appeals said. The ruling clears the way for 200 National Guard personnel to be deployed to protect federal buildings, where authorities say protestors – many dressed in animal costumes – are impeding immigration enforcement. Portland, along with Chicago, became the latest flashpoints in the Trump administration's rollout of raids, following the deployment of troops to Los Angeles, Washington and Memphis. In such raids, groups of masked, armed men in unmarked cars or armored vehicles target residential neighborhoods and businesses. – APP

Qatar's emir
condemns
'continued
violation' of
Gaza ceasefire

DNA

DOHA: The ruler of Qatar, a key mediator for the ongoing Gaza truce, accused Israel of violating the 11-day-old ceasefire after a series of deadly strikes on Hamas positions. "We reiterate our condemnation of all Israeli violations and practices in Palestine, particularly the transformation of the Gaza Strip an area unfit for human life [and] the continued violation of the ceasefire," Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said in an annual address to the Shura Council legislative body. US President Donald Trump threatened to "eradicate" Hamas if it breached its ceasefire deal with Israel, as Vice President JD Vance travelled to the region Tuesday to bolster the fragile Gaza truce. The Trump administration has redoubled its efforts to cement the fragile Gaza peace agreement it helped to broker, after Israel accused Hamas of stalling the hand-over of hostages' bodies and deadly violence flared up in the territory over the weekend. "We made a deal with Hamas that they're going to be very good, they're going to behave, they're going to be nice".

Nationwide fuel shortage looms
as petroleum cargoes held

Oil supply chain on brink of collapse as recovery could take over two weeks if cargoes not cleared now: Oil Companies Advisory Council

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is facing the risk of a nationwide fuel shortage as several petroleum cargoes remain stuck at ports following the Sindh government's decision to reinstate a 100% bank guarantee requirement under the Sindh Infrastructure Development Cess (IDC). Oil industry have warned that the move could disrupt the country's fuel supply chain within days if the issue is not resolved promptly. The Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC), in its letter written on Monday to the chief minister of Sindh and federal

authorities, said that at least five major petroleum shipments, including vessels carrying petrol and diesel for PSO, HPL, PGL and Parco, are currently awaiting customs clearance at Karachi ports. With Motor Spirit (petrol) stocks at Keamari rapidly depleting, the industry has warned of severe nationwide disruptions, particularly during the ongoing agricultural season, if immediate action is not taken. "The oil supply chain is on the brink of collapse. Recovery could take over two weeks if cargoes are not cleared now," the OCAC added. The dispute centred on the 1.8% IDC levied by the Sindh and Balochistan governments on POL imports.

While the Supreme Court is still hearing the case, the Sindh Excise Department has abruptly withdrawn an interim arrangement, previously allowing undertakings instead of bank guarantees, and is now demanding billions of rupees in guarantees per vessel, a financial burden the industry says it simply cannot bear. With regulated pricing, tight credit lines and razor-thin margins, the OCAC estimates that IDC adds over Rs3 per litre to the cost of fuel, a burden that cannot be passed on to consumers under current pricing mechanisms.

The council is urging the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Pakistan Customs to

immediately clear all petroleum cargoes without bank guarantees, and is calling for a policy-level resolution, including i) formal recognition that petroleum pricing is a federal subject; ii) inclusion of IDC in fuel pricing mechanisms and iii) a framework to recover past IDC dues. The OCAC also pointed out that Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have already exempted POL products from IDC, aligning with federal jurisdiction over petroleum pricing. Unless swift action is taken, Pakistan could face fuel station dry-outs, disrupted transport and logistics, and serious delays in the agricultural sector, potentially triggering broader economic consequences, the council added.

Indonesia to
repatriate
British
woman on
death row

JAKARTA: Indonesia will sign an agreement on Tuesday to repatriate two British nationals, including a grandmother, languishing on death row for drug-related crimes, an Indonesian government source told AFP. "The practical arrangement will be signed today. The transfer will be done immediately after the technical side of the transfer is agreed," the source said, identifying 68-year-old Lindsay Sandiford and 35-year-old Shahab Shahabadi as the people being transferred. Sandiford, a grandmother, was sentenced to death on the island of Bali in 2013 after she was convicted of trafficking drugs. Customs officers found cocaine worth an estimated \$2.14 million hidden in a false bottom in Sandiford's suitcase when she arrived in Bali on a flight from Thailand in 2012.

ECP issues
list of bye
election
candidates

PESHAWAR: The Election Commission on Tuesday announced the list of candidates contesting the upcoming Senate bye-election 2025 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the General seat. The candidates include Taj Mohammad Afridi, son of Sakhi Gul Afridi, from Kyber will contest as an independent. Khurram Zeeshan, son of Nasir Khan from Kohat, and Abid Khan Yousafzai, son of Jamshid Khan from Mardan, are also running as independents. Irfan Saleem, son of Saleem Ullah from Peshawar, has entered the race as an independent as well. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif launches Inspire, an Initiative by Ministry of Information Technology to nurture Semiconductor professionals for industry research and education. Islamabad, 21 October 2025. – DNA

Pakistan's 2025
polio tally reaches
30 as fresh case
surfaces in KP

KP leads count with 19 of the 30 cases, followed by Sindh with nine cases reported

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: A new case of wild poliovirus (WPV1) has been confirmed in district Torgar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Islamabad, taking Pakistan's total polio cases in 2025 to 30. The virus was detected in a 12-month-old boy from Union Council Ghari, Torgar, marking the second case from the district. The breakdown by provinces includes 19 cases from KP, nine from Sindh, and one each from Punjab and Gilgit Baltistan. Environmental surveillance continued in September 2025, with the Pakistan Polio Programme collecting 127 sewage samples from 87 districts nationwide. Of these, 81 returned negative and 44 tested positive for poliovirus, while two samples are still being processed. Province-wise, Balochistan recorded 21 negative and two positive samples. Punjab had 22 negative, eight positive and one under process, and KP reported 24 negative and 10 positive. Sindh reported seven negative, 21 positive and one under process; Islamabad had four negative and one positive; Azad Jammu and Kashmir returned three negative, while and Gilgit-Baltistan reported one negative and one positive. Officials say overall positive detections have declined, reflecting the impact of recent high-quality vaccination campaigns, but virus circulation persists in specific high-risk areas, underscoring the need for sustained, targeted efforts to interrupt transmission. Polio is highly contagious and incurable, with the potential to cause lifelong paralysis. Effective protection depends on repeated doses of OPV for every child under five during each campaign, alongside the timely completion of all routine immunisations.

Nepra slashes
KE base tariff

DNA

KARACHI: Dealing a blow to K-Electric's financials, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has slashed the utility's multi-year base tariff from Rs39.97 per unit to Rs32 per unit after reviewing the government's petition on its earlier determination, The News reported on Tuesday. However, the power regulator upheld its earlier stance on key issues, rejecting the petition's request to disallow K-Electric's Rs50 billion write-off claims. Nepra noted that it had already approved the write-off in an earlier decision and saw no reason to reverse that determination. "The Petitioners have failed to convince the Authority to bring desired alteration or review; thus, the review motions are accordingly dismissed," Nepra said in its decision. The tariff revision marks a sharp reversal from Nepra's May 27, 2025 determination, which had raised KE's average base tariff by Rs6.15 per unit – an 18.18% increase – to Rs39.97 per unit for FY2023-24. The July 18, 2025 notification had formalised the long-delayed multi-year tariff for supply, distribution, and transmission operations through FY2030. The Power Division had challenged these decisions, and had filed a review petition before Nepra which recently held closed-door hearings on the petitions. Despite these approvals, K-Electric's financial outlook remains bleak. The company's bill recovery rate fell to 91.5% in FY2023-24 and is projected to drop further to 90.5% next year – potentially resulting in under-recoveries of nearly Rs97 billion over two years. Nepra has already warned that KE's allowed Rs21.6 billion return on distribution operations could be wiped out without government support or tariff adjustments. As per the latest decision, the regulator also set new efficiency benchmarks for the seven-year control period, approving a transmission loss target of 0.75% annually – down from 0.86% in FY2023-24 – with an upper ceiling of 1%. Tariff adjustments will reflect annual performance, rewarding improved efficiency. For distribution, Nepra approved a total loss target of 9% – comprising 8% technical losses and 1% allowance for law and order issues, based on the PITCO Fitchner study. This is expected to decline gradually to 8.03% by FY2029-30, with technical losses shrinking to 7.03%.

Sanae Takaichi becomes
Japan's first female PM

DNA

TOKYO: Hardline conservative Sanae Takaichi was set to become Japan's first female prime minister on Tuesday after winning a critical vote in parliament's lower house. An acolyte of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and an admirer of Britain's Margaret Thatcher, Takaichi received 237 votes in the lower house election to choose the next premier, topping the majority of the 465-seat chamber. Her victory shatters the glass ceiling in a country where men still hold close US ally, on a comes after her has governed tory, agreed to a Japan Innovation likely be approved and sworn in evening to succeed last

PM Shehbaz
greet's New
Japanese OM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has extended heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected Prime Minister of Japan on his assumption of office. In his message, Prime Minister Shehbaz said Pakistan greatly values its long-standing friendship and multifaceted partnership with Japan. He expressed confidence that under the new leadership, bilateral relations will further strengthen in areas of trade, investment, technology, and human resource development. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening cooperation with Japan for mutual prosperity and regional stability, and conveyed best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the Japanese people.

freeline MOVERS
The Smooth Moving Connection
PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING

Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

Head Office
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92 51) 2825132, 2274227.
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Branch Offices:

Rawalpindi	Lahore	Peshawar	Kabul
House No. 14 A/15, 3rd Floor, Kalkaji Road, Main Targ Road, 17/1 (Block-2, P.E.C.H.S.)	P-4, Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore	Office No. C-4, 2nd Floor, Zuhra Plaza, Left Road, Ring Road, Peshawar	House #4, Street #4, Chahat Anwar Road, Shahr-e-Nasr, Kabul - Afghanistan
Mob: (+92 31) 3433088, 34310478	Tel: (+92 42) 3579581, 35791085	Tel: (+92 91) 2502770	Tel: (+93 7902) 373, 33 77595108, 33 77596133
Fax: (+92 31) 34331762	Fax: (+92 42) 35791482	Fax: (+92 91) 2502800	E-mail: info@freelinemovers.com
E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com	E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com	E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com	E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com