



Thursday, October 30, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Pakistan pushes for end to cuba curbs, says Asim

Detailed News On Page-08

Lebanon envoy calls on the CDA chairman

Detailed News On Page-03



Iran open to diplomacy, says Iranian envoy

Detailed News On Page-08



After talks collapse

Asif issues stern warning to Taliban

Defence minister warns any terrorist attack or suicide bombing inside Pakistan to give Taliban rulers "bitter taste"

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Wednesday issued a stern warning to the Afghan Taliban regime after days of talks in Istanbul between Pakistani and Afghan delegations ended without a breakthrough. In a post on X, the defence minister said that Pakistan had engaged in talks at the request of brotherly countries in an effort to give peace a chance, but "venomous statements" by certain Afghan officials clearly reflect the devious and splintered mindset of the Taliban regime. "We have borne your treachery and mockery for too long, but no more. Any terrorist attack or any suicide bombing inside Pakistan shall give you the bitter taste of such misadventures. Be assured and test our resolve and capabilities, if you wish so, at your own peril and doom," the defence czar posted on X. Asif further added: "Let me assure them that Pakistan does not require to employ even a fraction of its full arsenal to completely obliterate the Taliban regime and push them back to the caves for hiding. If they wish so, the repeat of the scenes of their rout at Tora Bora with their tails between the legs would surely be a spectacle to watch for the people of the region." Defence czar's statement comes hours after Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar confirmed early Wednesday morning that the four-day talks in Istanbul with the Afghan Taliban had ended without a breakthrough, despite Pakistan repeatedly presenting evidence-backed counterterrorism demands. "The dialogue thus failed to bring about any workable solution," Tarar said in an X post after the four-day session ended. He further said Pakistan had long sought cooperation from Kabul against militants targeting the country. Tarar thanked Qatar, Türkiye, and other friendly nations "for their support and sincere efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to the problem of terrorism." The defence minister further accused the Taliban regime of blindly pushing Afghanistan into yet another conflict, just to retain its usurped rule and maintain the war economy that sustains them. "Despite fully knowing their inherent limitations and the hollowness of their war cries, they are beating the war drums to maintain their crumbling facade."

Continued on Page 06

Afghan Taliban-TTP nexus causes failure of Istanbul talks: Experts

CENTRELINE REPORT/DNA

PESHAWAR: Experts have attributed the failure of the recent Pakistan-Afghanistan peace talks in Istanbul to the close nexus between the Afghan Taliban regime and the banned Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Former Inspector General of Police and Home Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, told APP on Wednesday that the strong nexus between the Afghan Taliban region and the TTP-backed Fitna-ul-Khawarij were the main reason behind the breakdown of the latest round of peace negotiations held in Türkiye's Istanbul. He said that under the Doha Peace Agreement, the Afghan Taliban had committed in writing that Afghan soil would not be used against any foreign country. However, he claimed that the Taliban later retracted from their commitment and facilitated cross-border infiltration of Fitna-ul-Khawarij militants to carry out attacks inside Pakistan. Akhtar Ali Shah reiterated that Pakistan had repeatedly engaged with the Afghan Taliban government over persistent cross-border terrorism orchestrated by Indian-backed terror groups such as Fitna-ul-Khawarij and Fitna-ul-Hindustan, but Kabul had failed to act against terrorist outfits operating from its soil. He said that after days of border clashes and strikes on Gul Bahadur terror camps inside Afghanistan, Islamabad and Kabul had initiated dialogue in Doha Qatar, which resulted in a temporary ceasefire and an agreement to meet again in Istanbul to develop mechanisms for sustainable peace.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Lahore again tops global pollution rankings

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: As a thick layer of smog continues to blanket parts of South Asia, Lahore has once again topped the list of the world's most polluted major cities, according to Swiss air quality monitor IQAir. At around 10:30am, Lahore recorded an AQI of 563, placing it in the "Hazardous" category — far beyond the levels considered safe for breathing. City's main pollutant, PM2.5, stood at 357 µg/m³, which is 71.4 times higher than WHO annual guideline value. Elsewhere in the region, New Delhi recorded an AQI of 247, and Beijing reached 215, both falling under the "Very Unhealthy" category. Karachi registered 154, placing it in the "Unhealthy" range, showing that high pollution levels are affecting multiple major cities across South Asia and East Asia.

Six soldiers martyred

DNA

RAWALPINDI: On 29 October 2025, Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Dogar, Kurram District, on reported presence of Khwarij belonging to Indian Proxy, Fitna al Khwarij. During the conduct of operation, seven Indian sponsored khwarij were sent to hell due to effective engagement by own troops. However, during the intense fire exchange, Captain Noman Saleem (age: 24 years, resident of District Mianwali) a brave young Medical officer who besides performing the duties of medical care also fought gallantly and embraced Shahadat along with his five men. The five soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice include Havildar Amjad Ali (age: 39 years, resident of District Swabi), Naik Waqas Ahmad,

JUI-F backs PTI's nominee Achakzai for NA opposition leader

Both parties discuss Pakistan's political landscape and regional situation during meeting

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) has extended its support to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) nominee, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, for the position of opposition leader in the National Assembly, following a high-level meeting between leaders of both parties on Wednesday. A PTI delegation led by former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser, and comprising KP President Junaid Akbar and Shahram Tarakai, called on JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence in Islamabad, according to a statement issued by the religio-political party. From JUI-F, Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi, Jalaudin Advocate, and Maulana Asjad Mahmood attended the meeting, which discussed the country's political situation and regional developments, the JUI-F statement said. The PTI delegation briefed Maulana Fazl on the nomination of Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai as their joint candidate for opposition leader — a proposal the JUI-F endorsed. The meeting comes days after the Imran Khan-founded party formally requested the appointment of

Continued on Page 06

PPP, PML-N sign no-trust motion against AJK PM Ch. Yasin to be the next AJK prime minister

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) have formally signed a no-confidence motion against Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, marking an end to the political deadlock, PPP AJK Secretary-General Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said on Wednesday. Rathore said that the no-confidence motion had been signed by both parties, with PML-N's Raja Farooq Haider putting his signature on behalf of his party. "We currently have the open support of 37 members," he said, adding that five additional assembly members have assured their backing for the motion.

Continued on Page 06

Mohsin Naqvi meets Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian

Mohsin Naqvi met separately with the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Ali Ardeshtir Larjani, and his Iranian counterpart, Eskandar Momeni

DNA

TEHRAN: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with President of Iran Dr.



Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran. During the meeting, both sides discussed Pakistan-Iran relations and matters of mutual cooperation. The Interior Minister briefed the Iranian President on

the situation at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. President Pezeshkian offered to play a brotherly role in helping to defuse tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mohsin Naqvi conveyed Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's message of goodwill to President Pezeshkian. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stated that "Iran and Pakistan are partners in promoting regional peace and stability." President Pezeshkian said that "Iran attaches special importance to its relations with Pakistan and can never forget the boundless support of its brotherly neighbor." Iranian President also expressed satisfaction over the current state of bilateral relations, adding that both countries possess vast potential to enhance cooperation in various fields.

Continued on Page 06

102ND REPUBLIC DAY OF TÜRKİYE



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Khawaja Asif, Attaullah Tarar, Aleem Khan, Hanif Abbasi, Governor KP, Shaza Fatima, Ambassador of Türkiye Dr Irfan Neziroğlu and others cutting cake to celebrate the 102nd Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye. – DNA

PM greatly indented to Türkiye leadership for whole-hearted support

Lauds visionary leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdogan; declares Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan as Ambassador of Pakistan also; Pakistan fully supports Türkiye stand on TRNC

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid glowing tribute to Türkiye's founding father, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, and lauded President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's visionary leadership, calling him "a leading light of progress, development and resilience" during his address at the 102nd Republic Day celebrations of Türkiye. Ambassador of Türkiye, Dr. Irfan Neziroğlu, also addressed the gathering and commended Pakistan's leadership for its continued role in strengthening the historic bonds between the two brotherly nations. He emphasized that the friendship between Pakistan and Türkiye stands as a model of mutual respect, trust, and cooperation that continues to grow stronger with each passing year. The event was graced by a distinguished audience, including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Attaullah Tarar, Aleem Khan, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal

Karim Kundi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and seasoned diplomat Tariq Fatemi. Hundreds of guests from diverse walks of life including parliamentarians, diplomats, academics, media representatives, and members of the business community also attended the grand celebration, reflecting the deep and enduring friendship between Pakistan and Türkiye. In his speech, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the deep-rooted historical, cultural, and emotional bonds between Pakistan and Türkiye, emphasizing that the friendship between the two nations predates Pakistan's independence. "Our relations do not start from 1947. They go back centuries rooted in the spirit of the Khilafat Movement, when people across the subcontinent sold their jewelry and donated generously to support the Turkish independence struggle," he said. The Prime Minister noted that the sacrifices of that era have blossomed into a timeless brotherhood, with Türkiye standing firmly beside Pakistan

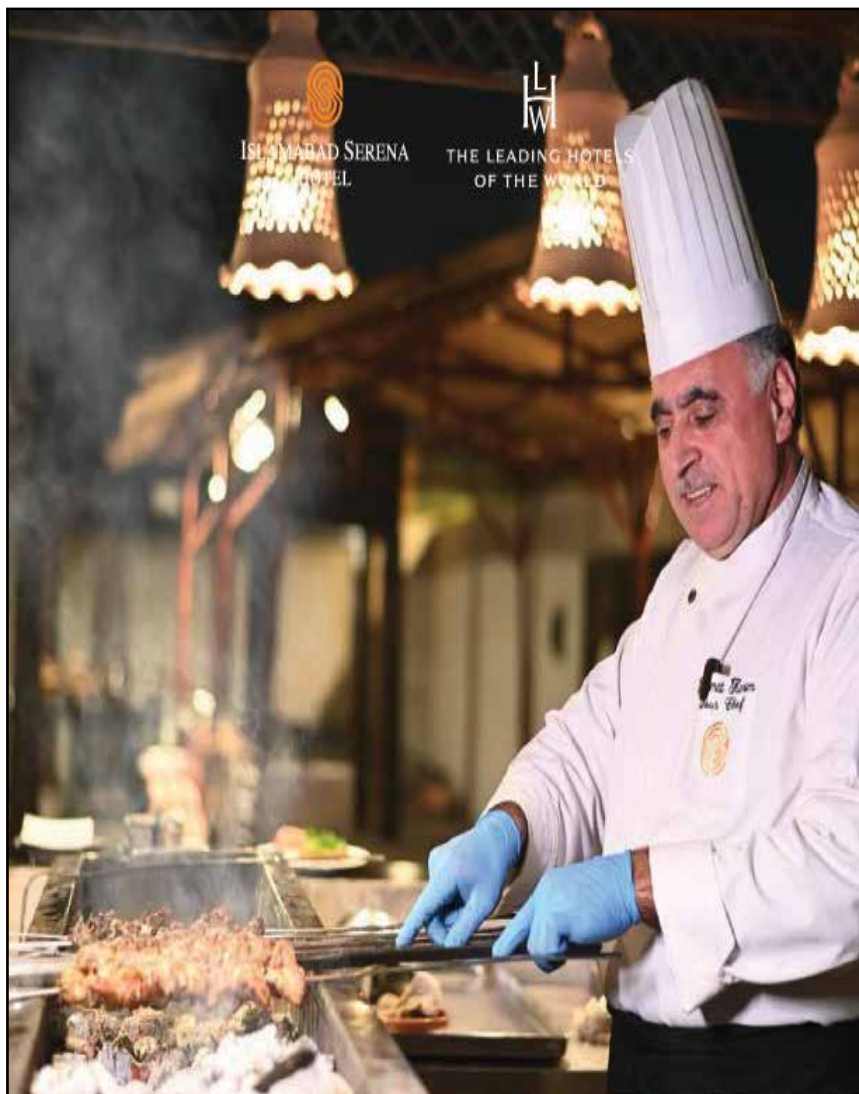
Continued on Page 06

Tarar blames Taliban for talks fiasco

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said the latest round of talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Türkiye failed to bring about any workable solution. In a post on his X handle, he regretted that the Afghan Taliban resorted to blame game, deflection and ruses instead of accepting any responsibility. The Information Minister said the Afghan Taliban delegation repeatedly agreed to Pakistan's logical and

Continued on Page 06



A REFINED BBQ EXPERIENCE

Inspired by authentic flavours, Baradari serves BBQ that transforms tradition into an unforgettable dining experience.

7:30 pm till 11:00 pm

For reservations, please call: 051 111 133 133

SDPI, Energy Update sign MoU to boost SDC 2025 awareness

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Energy Update, Pakistan's leading energy publication, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance public outreach and awareness for the upcoming 28th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC 2025). The MoU aims to amplify outreach on SDC 2025's theme, "Sustainable Development in the Emerging World: Dis|Order," through Energy Update's platforms, including its website (www.energyupdate.com.pk), social media, and print editions, said a press release issued here on Wednesday. This partnership will foster greater stakeholder engagement on critical issues like climate action, green energy transitions, and equitable growth, drawing over 1,000 participants to the event from November 4-7 at Alama Iqbal Open University (AIU). On behalf of SDPI, Dr. Zainab Naeem, Research Fellow, and Halima Khan, Head of Sustainability and Corporate Affairs, signed the MoU. Representing Energy Update were Managing Editor Mohammad Naeem Qureshi, Chief Marketing Officer Engr. Nadeem Ashraf, and Saira Adnaan, who witnessed the signing ceremony. Dr. Zainab Naeem stated, "This collaboration with Energy Update will enhance knowledge-sharing and drive meaningful dialogues on sustainability challenges facing Pakistan and the Global South." Mohammad Naeem Qureshi added, "As a strategic partner, Energy Update is committed to spotlighting SDC 2025's innovations in energy and environmental policy." The MoU builds on prior joint efforts, such as Energy Update's coverage of SDPI initiatives like Solar Pakistan events, and aligns with SDPI's mission to influence national policies on climate resilience and SDGs. _APP

IT ministry drives national innovation through flagship technology programs

ISLAMABAD: The Ignite Board, under the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT), has approved a series of flagship technology and innovation programs aimed at accelerating Pakistan's digital transformation, strengthening its skills pipeline, and advancing the creative technology sectors. Among the key initiatives approved is the Prime Minister's Cloud Program for Startups, which will enable emerging startups to leverage global cloud infrastructure through a structured cloud credit support framework, said a news release. This program will help reduce technology barriers, enhance scalability, and empower entrepreneurs to compete in global markets. The Code4AI Program will train 7,500 individuals through hands-on learning in Python, JavaScript, and Java, emphasizing AI application development using leading frameworks. It will also cover blockchain (Ethereum, Solidity, Hyperledger) and quantum computing fundamentals, along with prompt engineering. _APP

Chinese Consul General visits Farooq Riaz museum in Gujrat



RIMSHA FIAZ

GUJRAT: A historic and culturally rich exhibition was held at the Farooq Riaz Museum in Gujrat, marking a significant moment as the Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shirin and his delegation visited the city for the first time. The event, organized under the guidance of Mian Imran Masood, celebrated Pakistan's vibrant heritage and fostered a spirit of friendship and mutual understanding between Pakistan and China. The exhibition displayed an impressive array of historical artifacts, including ancient utensils, traditional household items, and historic weapons once used in wars. These rare and valuable pieces from Farooq Riaz's extensive collection offered visitors a window into the daily life, artistry, and traditions of past



generations — reflecting Pakistan's rich cultural identity. The Chinese delegation's discipline, humility, and genuine interest deeply impressed attendees. Their respectful engagement and curiosity toward Pakistani heritage highlighted the growing cultural bond between the two nations. Visitors noted how the delegation listened attentively to explanations, interacted warmly, and expressed admiration for the exhibits, turning the event into a true exchange of cultures based on mutual respect and understanding. Speaking about the exhibition, students and visitors appreciated Mian Imran

Masood's leadership and vision, crediting his consistent efforts to promote education, cultural awareness, and Pakistan's positive image internationally. Reflecting on the experience, the writer emphasized the importance of organizing such cultural events more frequently to preserve heritage, strengthen cross-cultural ties, and project Pakistan's soft image globally. The Farooq Riaz Museum, through such initiatives, continues to play a vital role in celebrating Pakistan's historical legacy and connecting it with the wider world — one exhibition at a time

PCJCCI, Precision Development (HK) Limited ink MoU

LAHORE: Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) and Precision Development (HK) Limited here Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance trade, investment, and technological cooperation between Pakistan and China. The event was attended by Jiang Yi, Director of All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC), China; Hiu David Chu, CEO of Precision Development (HK) Limited; and He He Amanda, Director of Precision Development (HK) Limited. PCJCCI President Nazir Hussain presided over the ceremony, while Brig. (Retd) Mansoor Saeed Sheikh (Retd) Senior Vice President PCJCCI, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General, and executive committee members were also present. Nazir Hussain stated that the MoU represents a landmark

step in our mission to deepen economic cooperation between Pakistan and China. Establishing PCJCCI's base in Shenzhen will serve as a bridge for greater connectivity between the private sectors of both countries. "We are opening doors for Pakistani businesses to directly engage with Chinese industries and attract investment in sectors such as technology, renewable energy, and manufacturing," he added. Brig. (Retd.) Mansoor Saeed Sheikh said that China's success in industrial innovation offers Pakistan a model for sustainable economic development. "Through this collaboration, we will exchange expertise, attract foreign investment, and create new opportunities for growth under the spirit of 'shared prosperity,'" he remarked. PCJCCI remains committed to serving as a reliable conduit for bilateral cooperation and mutual progress.

Jiang Yi, representing the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC), stated that the collaboration between PCJCCI and Precision Development (HK) Limited reflects the deep trust and shared goals of China and Pakistan. Shenzhen, being a hub of innovation, is an ideal place for PCJCCI to establish its presence and strengthen connections with Chinese industries. This step will enhance industrial cooperation, promote investment flow, and facilitate the exchange of advanced technologies, he observed. Hiu David Chu, CEO, Precision Development (HK) Limited added that Precision Development (HK) Limited views Pakistan as a promising destination for industrial cooperation, renewable energy initiatives, and manufacturing partnerships, which will further solidify the foundation of bilateral economic relations. _APP

Efforts afoot to empower youth: minister

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Syed Imran Ahmad Shah has said that attempts to push Pakistan into default have failed and pledged that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the country will be transformed into an Asian Tiger'. Talking to the media after visiting the regional office of Pakistan Baitul Mal here on Wednesday, he said the government had not only averted the risk of default but, through sustained efforts, also revitalised and strengthened Pakistan's relations with friendly nations, which experienced strain in the past. Imran Ahmad Shah stressed that the government was determined to lift people above the poverty line and place Pakistan among developed nations. He praised Punjab Regional Director Muhammad Zaher and his team for their efforts, particularly in women's empowerment, calling their work commendable. The minister said his ministry, in coordination with the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), will provide market-oriented training and certification so that boys and girls become productive members of society. He said the government would also facilitate employment opportunities by signing memoranda of understanding (MOUs) both domestically and with foreign countries to ensure trained youth could find work at home and abroad. About social protection, the minister said the Benazir Income Support Programme continues to provide substantial assistance to vulnerable families and added that the programme was running successfully. He said his mission was to transform welfare into empowerment by enabling people to earn their livelihood through skills instead of relying on assistance. _APP

Bangladeshi delegation visits FTO Secretariat

He elaborated on the FTO Ordinance 2000, including Section 2, which defined its jurisdiction, and Section 9(1), which authorizes complaints to be filed by any person, by reference, or on the Ombudsman's own motion

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

A delegation of Bangladesh has visited the Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Secretariat to study Pakistan's Ombudsman model and explore avenues of cooperation in establishing a similar institution in Bangladesh. The visit marked an important milestone in strengthening regional collaboration on governance, accountability, and taxpayer facilitation, a news release said on Wednesday. Upon arrival, the delegation was received by Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah along with FTO Registrar Khalid Javed, and Advisor (Legal) to the FTO and Executive Secretary OIC Ombudsman Association (OICOA) Almas Ali Jovindah. The visiting delegation included Bangladesh's State

Minister for Finance (Special Assistant) Dr Anisuzzaman Chowdhury and High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan Iqbal Hussain Khan. Dr Asif highlighted the pivotal role of the FTO in promoting taxpayer confidence and ensuring administrative justice in Pakistan. He outlined the FTO's achievements, emphasizing its contribution to transparency, fair taxation, and citizen facilitation. He stated that the FTO has facilitated recoveries exceeding Rs 23 billion for taxpayers, with most complaints resolved within 34 days, reflecting efficiency and credibility. Jovindah delivered a detailed presentation on the evolution, jurisdiction, and operational framework of the Ombudsman system, explaining that access to justice has increasingly be-

come a privilege, and that Ombudsman remains a blessing for citizens seeking cost-free, swift, and impartial redress. The FTO briefed the delegation on the historical foundations of the Ombudsman institution, tracing its roots to the era of Hazrat Umar (RA), when public officials were held accountable to the people. The concept was later refined during the Ottoman Empire, institutionalized in Sweden, and endorsed through a United Nations resolution in 2014, which led to the establishment of Ombudsman offices in more than 140 countries. He elaborated on the FTO Ordinance 2000, including Section 2, which defined its jurisdiction, and Section 9(1), which authorizes complaints to be filed by any person, by reference, or on the Ombudsman's own motion.

Flour mill owners seek DC's help over challenges

Delegation of Flour Mills Owners led by ICCI acting President meet Deputy Commissioner Irfan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Flour Mill Owners from Islamabad, led by the Acting President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Tahir Ayub, held a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, here on Wednesday. The purpose of the meeting was to apprise the Deputy Commissioner of different challenges confronting the flour mills owners in the region as to seek their prompt redress. During the meeting, the Acting President ICCI, Tahir Ayub, highlighted the issues being faced by flour mill owners due to certain policy constraints. He emphasized the importance of addressing these concerns on an urgent basis to ensure smooth supply of flour and

maintain price stability in the local market. In his remarks, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, lauded the vital role of the business community in the economic growth and development of the federal capital. He assured the delegation that the Administration is fully committed to resolving their problems on a priority basis, as it is the duty of the government to facilitate both citizens and the business sector for the collective prosperity of the region. Both sides agreed to maintain close coordination to promote a business-friendly environment in Islamabad. Others members of the delegation included Sanaullah Khan, Ch. Mukhtar, Sheikh Imran and Shaukat Ali. Raja Abdul Majeed Chairman Administration Committee at ICCI was also present on the occasion.

UNDP, KPSCSW launch empowerment initiative in KP

DNA

PESHAWAR: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women (KPSCSW), organized a "Training and Sensitization Session of the Women Advisory Group (WAG)" here at a local hotel, under the project Rights-Based Community Stabilization in District Khyber. The session aimed to enhance women's participation in peace building, social cohesion, and community resilience. It provided orientation to newly formed WAG members on their roles, responsibilities, and the project's broader objectives focused on inclusion, stability, and gender equality. In her opening remarks, Rukhshanda Naz, Former Provincial Ombudsperson KP and Co-Chairperson of the Women Advisory Group, emphasized that women's meaningful engagement is essential for sustainable peace and inclusive governance. She announced plans to convene a Women

Aman Jirga in District Khyber to promote dialogue, inclusion, and women's leadership at the community level. The Women Advisory Group includes members from diverse fields such as politics, social activism, education, law, and digital media, along with representatives from organizations providing legal aid, psychosocial support, and economic opportunities. The WAG will play a key role in strengthening the Gender Desk established by UNDP and KPSCSW in District Khyber. Uzma Mehboob, Youth and Community Engagement Consultant, encouraged active collaboration among WAG members to ensure women's representation in community decision-making. Ejaz Khan, Project Officer, UNDP Rights-Based Community Stabilization Project, shared updates on the new phase Khyber-II, which integrates mental health support, vocational training, and gender mainstreaming to build community stability and resilience. The training featured sessions on women's rights, access to justice, psychosocial well-being, and women's role in peace building.

Amna Durrani, Director Programmes at KPSCSW, discussed the challenges women face in accessing justice, while Rabia Fayaz from the University of Peshawar highlighted the link between psychosocial support and conflict prevention. Participants developed an Engagement Plan outlining how WAG members will contribute to project implementation, community outreach, and monitoring of future interventions. In her closing remarks, Sumera Shams, Chairperson of KPSCSW and WAG, commended the participants' active involvement and reaffirmed UNDP's commitment to strengthening women-led structures for peace and resilience. She noted that WAG serves as a vital platform for promoting dialogue, gender equality, and community development while bridging communities, stakeholders, and government institutions. The session marked a renewal of change, advancing equality, stability, and community well-being in District Khyber.

Asian Wok
by MONAL

LUNCH: BGWLS, THE ASIAN WOK WAY!

DELIGHT IN OUR HEARTY CHICKEN, BEEF, OR SEAFOOD GRAVIES, SERVED WITH YOUR CHOICE OF RICE OR CHOW MEIN AND COMPLIMENTARY MINT MARGARITA AND FISH CRACKERS.

Starting at just Rs. 1195 +tax
Available daily from 12 PM to 6 PM

Lower Ground Floor, Mosaic District, 1-8 Markaz
0300-5845530 | 051-8840526 | 051-8840527

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
Canntt 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

Pak–Greece friendship group meets to strengthen bilateral ties

Ambassador Eleni Pourichi reaffirmed Greece’s commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation with Pakistan and expressed appreciation for the constructive dialogue held during the meeting



ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan–Greece Parliamentary Friendship Group, chaired by Senator Rubina Qaim Khani, met today at the Parliament House. H.E. Ms. Eleni Pourichi, Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan; Senator Fawzia Arshad; and senior officials from the Senate Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the meeting, among others. The session began with a warm exchange between both sides, reaffirming the long-standing bonds of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Greece. Senator Rubina Qaim Khani extended a cordial welcome to the Ambassador, expressing appreciation for Greece’s continued engagement in strengthening bilateral relations. Senator Rubina Qaim Khani emphasized the importance of enhanced parliamentary exchanges between the two countries, noting that such interactions are vital for building mutual understanding and collab-

oration. She expressed Pakistan’s interest in reviving high-level parliamentary visits, recalling that the last such exchange took place in 2006. She also highlighted the constructive role of the Pakistani diaspora in Greece, whose remittances and positive contributions continue to serve as a bridge between the two nations. Senator Rubina Qaim Khani noted the shared challenge of irregular migration and underscored the need for a cooperative approach to ensure legal, safe, and regulated avenues for employment. She appreciated Greece’s efforts to integrate Pakistani workers and recognized the importance of working together on migration-related issues within a humane and rules-based framework. Ambassador Eleni Pourichi reaffirmed Greece’s commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation with Pakistan and expressed appreciation for the constructive dialogue held during the meeting. She outlined Greece’s adherence to international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes, emphasizing cooperation in areas such as

national security, migration management, climate change, and education. The Ambassador also informed participants about Greece’s efforts to streamline visa procedures, promote student exchanges, and explore new opportunities in technical collaboration and skilled migration. Senator Fawzia Arshad appreciated the constructive discussion and proposed enhanced cooperation in agriculture, digital innovation, and education. She drew attention to the potential for collaboration in olive cultivation and related agricultural industries in Pakistan’s Potohar region, where the climate and soil conditions are well suited for such initiatives. She also highlighted the importance of continued dialogue on humanitarian and regional issues, including the peaceful resolution of long-standing disputes such as Kashmir, in accordance with international principles. Senator Fawzia further underlined the value of cooperation on climate resilience and disaster management. Ambassador Pourichi also highlighted the potential for expanding trade and investment,

particularly in sectors such as agriculture, food processing, and olive cultivation, and encouraged greater engagement between the business communities of both countries. Senator Rubina Qaim Khani reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to dialogue and the peaceful settlement of regional matters in line with international norms and reaffirmed the country’s desire to deepen its partnership with Greece across diverse fields. She also extended an invitation to Ambassador Pourichi to visit her home province of Sindh, noting the warm hospitality and cultural richness of the region. Both sides expressed their resolve to maintain close engagement through parliamentary and institutional channels and to explore practical avenues of cooperation in education, trade, migration management, and people-to-people exchanges. The discussions reflected a shared desire to transform the longstanding goodwill between Pakistan and Greece into tangible partnerships and mutually beneficial initiatives.

Seminar held to create awareness on breast cancer

ISLAMABAD: A Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar was held at Saeed International Hospital here to promote timely diagnosis and preventive healthcare among women. The event was attended by doctors, academicians, students, and political representatives, including Shifa Tameer-e-Milat University, Sarhad University, PHR Institute, and East West Institute. Prof Dr Rooh ul Ameen and Dr Numan Khattak led sessions, practical demonstrations, and interactive discussions focusing on early symptoms, risk factors, and preventive strategies related to breast cancer. Superintendent of Police, Islamabad, Ms. Pari Gul Tareen, attended as chief guest. “Breast cancer is a serious yet treatable disease. Early screening and proper guidance can save countless lives,” she said. Dr. Muhammad Noman Saeed Khattak, Chief Executive Officer of Saeed International Hospital said that the hospital is offering free checkups and discounted mammography to encourage early diagnosis. APP

China calls peaceful use, sustainable development of the deep sea: CEN

ISLAMABAD: China shared leading deep-sea techs with developing countries during the “International Training Program on Deep-sea Ecology & Sustainability”, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. The program was hosted by the Department of International Cooperation of China’s Ministry of Science and Technology is underway in Hangzhou. It has brought together 23 professionals from 13 developing countries—including Pakistan, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, India—for a 15-day program to learn China’s leading science and technologies in deep-sea conservation and sustainable development. Jointly undertaken by Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the BRICS Deep-sea Resources International Research Center, etc., the program focuses on various cutting-edge fields such as deep-sea ecosystem conservation, sustainable utilization of deep-sea resources, marine negative emissions, blue food systems, international ocean drilling and polar science. Its content covers physical oceanography, marine chemistry, marine carbon cycle, remote sensing monitoring, and marine conservation and governance. Furthermore, the training program integrates expert lectures, experimental operations and academic conferences. It fully showcases China’s latest progress in deep-sea and marine sustainable development research, laying a solid foundation for broader international cooperation in the future.—APP

33 new dengue cases reported in ICT

DNA

ISLAMABAD :The Islamabad district administration has intensified its daily anti-dengue operations as 33 new dengue cases were reported across the capital in the past 24 hours According to the latest surveillance report, field teams carried out spray operations in 1,140 houses and conducted fogging in 1,550 high-risk areas to control the spread of the virus. Out of the total new cases, 14 were confirmed from rural zones while 19 emerged from urban sectors. The report added that 55 dengue patients were currently under treatment in different hospitals of the city. During inspections, dengue larvae were found positive at 230 locations and negative at 5 sites. The administration stated that its teams were carrying out intensive operations in areas declared as high-risk zones to eliminate breeding sites of dengue mosquitoes. A spokesman for the district administration said that all field staff have been directed to maintain continuous surveillance

and ensure that every suspected site is inspected and treated. Anti-dengue operations are being conducted in coordination with the health department and local bodies to cover both residential and commercial areas. He said that special attention was being given to open water tanks, construction sites, and stagnant water pools, where larvae are commonly found. The administration teams are also visiting schools, markets, and public parks to check possible breeding spots. According to the report, the campaign includes door-to-door inspections, larvicide application, and community awareness sessions. The staff was also collecting data daily to identify emerging hotspots based on case trends and environmental factors. The administration emphasized that strict action would be taken against individuals or institutions violating dengue prevention Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). It said no leniency would be shown to those neglecting preventive measures such as water drainage, proper waste disposal, and cleanliness. Meanwhile, Deputy

Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon instructed the assistant commissioners and health inspectors to personally supervise anti-dengue activities in their respective areas. They have been tasked to ensure that every complaint received through the dengue control helpline is promptly addressed. The administration urged residents to support the field teams during inspections and spraying activities. Citizens have been advised to keep their surroundings clean, cover water containers, and avoid storing stagnant water in open spaces. Public announcements and awareness drives were also being conducted to encourage community participation. The administration believed that co-operation between residents and government teams was vital for controlling the spread of dengue in the capital. The ongoing surveillance was part of the district’s broader strategy to curb the seasonal rise in dengue cases. Health experts have warned that the risk remains high due to weather conditions conducive to mosquito breeding.

Naqvi greets Türkiye

DNA

ISLAMABAD:Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi extended heartfelt felicitations to the people of Türkiye and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the occasion of Türkiye’s Republic Day, celebrating the nation’s spirit of independence, resilience, and sacrifice. “Republic Day reminds us of Türkiye’s unwavering resolve, self-reliance, and the great sacrifices that built the modern Turkish nation,” said Mohsin Naqvi in his message. He remarked that the journey initiated by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk’s vision continues to reach new heights under the dynamic and wise leadership of President Erdogan. “President Erdogan’s statesmanlike leadership has guided Türkiye toward progress, prosperity, and global recognition,” the minister noted. Naqvi emphasized the deep-rooted brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye, saying, “The hearts of the people of Pakistan and Türkiye beat together beyond any geographical boundaries.” He recalled how Türkiye has always stood by Pakistan in difficult times – whether during earthquakes, floods, or times of conflict. “Türkiye’s principled stance on the Kashmir issue remains deeply appreciated and alive in the hearts of the Pakistani people,” he added. Highlighting the strengthening bilateral relationship, Naqvi stated that Pakistan and Türkiye have now entered a new era of economic, defense, and cultural cooperation. “The people of Pakistan take pride in Türkiye’s remarkable development and the visionary leadership of President Erdogan,” he said. Concluding his message, the minister said, “Pakistan–Türkiye friendship represents two hearts, one spirit, and one shared destiny – peace, progress, and brotherhood.”

Lebanese ambassador meets CDA chairman

The meeting also reaffirmed the commitment to enhance cooperation in other areas of mutual interest and to further strengthen city level and cultural relations

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, met with the Ambassador of Lebanon, H.E. Abdullaziz Issa, at the CDA Headquarters on Wednesday. Matters of mutual interest were discussed in the meeting, along with strengthening bilateral relations. On this occasion, both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthen urban-level relations and cooperation between Islamabad and Beirut. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that Pakistan holds its brotherly country Lebanon in high esteem and respect. He expressed the desire to further solidify the sister city relationship between Islamabad and Beirut. The Ambassador of Lebanon, H.E. Abdullaziz Issa, appreciated the measures taken by CDA for the beauty and development of Islamabad, stating that Islamabad is an extraordinarily green and naturally beautiful city. He remarked that the beauty, greenery and cleanliness of Islamabad are surprisingly and unexpectedly remarkable. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that efforts are ongoing to make Islamabad an even more beautiful and greener city. He mentioned that the Margalla Hills further enhance the natural beauty of Islamabad. Chairman CDA said that the Capital City Islamabad is a modern gridlock city established in 1960 under a master plan. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa informed that a plan is under consideration to relocate all diplomatic missions to the Diplomatic Enclave. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, while informing about the beautification and upgradation of the Diplomatic Enclave, further said that recreational and sports facilities are being increased alongside the beautification of the Diplomatic Enclave. The meeting also reaffirmed the commitment to enhance cooperation in other areas of mutual interest and to further strengthen city level and cultural relations.



Briefs

Physical well-being of persons with disabilities

ISLAMABAD: Human Rights activist Ayub Malik has urged the government and civil society to intensify efforts to improve the Physical and Mental Well-being of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Talking to state run news agency on Wednesday, he said that PWDs encounter numerous social and structural barriers that are often unrelated to their actual disabilities. He emphasized that social stigma remains one of the leading causes of mental health challenges among individuals with disabilities. He appreciated the government's recent initiatives, including the introduction of special identification cards for PWDs and the ban on derogatory terminology in official documents, terming them significant steps toward promoting inclusivity and human dignity.—APP

Federal govt appoints Khurram Ali as DG NCCIA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has appointed BS-21 Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) officer Syed Khurram Ali as Director General of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) under the Interior and Narcotics Control Division, with immediate effect. An official notification issued by the Establishment Division stated that Syed Khurram Ali, who was serving under the Government of Punjab, has been transferred and posted to lead the NCCIA in terms of Section 29(3) of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016, amended through the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Act 2025, and Section 10 of the Civil Servants Act 1973. The notification further mentioned that the current DG, Waqar Uddin Syed a BS-20 PSP officer has been relieved of his responsibilities and directed to report back to the Establishment Division until further orders.—APP

Gwadar varsity, CATI to launch joint academic program

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCTVI), University of Gwadar, and Civil Aviation Training Institute (CATI) have recently agreed to jointly launch academic and professional training programmes to enhance students' practical skills and technical expertise. The initiative will include hands-on training courses led by instructors from CATI, PCTVI, and the Gwadar Institute of Technology (GIT). Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. The decision was made at a meeting held at PCTVI, chaired by Professor Manzoor Ahmed, pro-vice chancellor of the University of Gwadar. Participants discussed curriculum design, faculty collaboration, infrastructure readiness, and resource sharing to ensure the smooth implementation of the planned programmes. Following the meeting, delegates visited various facilities at PCTVI to assess resources and explore further opportunities for academic and technical co-operation among the partner institutions.—APP

NUML, Düzce varsity jointly organize int'l symposium



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Faculty of Social Sciences, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, in collaboration with Düzce University, Türkiye, organized an International Symposium on "Women and Family Empowerment". Held under the guidance of Rector NUML, Maj Gen (R) Shahid Mahmood Kayani, HI(M), the event was led by the Dean Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS), along with Heads of Departments and faculty members from

the Departments of Applied Psychology, Educational Sciences, and Islamic Thought & Culture. The opening session of the symposium was attended online from NUML's Video Conference Room by Pro-Rector (Research & Strategic Initiatives) (as Chair), Deans, HoDs, and faculty members. On behalf of Rector NUML, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Riaz Shad, Dean FSS, delivered a speech highlighting the university's commitment to advancing academic collaboration and gender inclusivity. As part of the joint collaboration, the Faculty of Social Sciences organized

three thematic parallel sessions, "Women in Education and Science," organized by the Department of Educational Sciences, explored women's achievements, challenges, and opportunities in education and research, "Women in Society and Profession," organized by the Department of Applied Psychology, discussed psychological well-being and empowerment of women in their social and professional roles, and "Women and Family from Religious Perspectives," organized by the Department of Islamic Thought & Culture, emphasized the guiding principles

of balance in women's familial and professional responsibilities. Scholars and researchers from NUML Islamabad, Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) Rawalpindi, Düzce University (Türkiye), and INTI International University (Malaysia) presented papers and shared insights during the symposium. The event underscored NUML's continued commitment to fostering international academic linkages and promoting dialogue on social development and women empowerment across diverse cultural and academic contexts.

Pak marks Türkiye National Day with flag-hoisting ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan celebrated Türkiye's National Day with a flag-raising ceremony at the Pakistan Monument on Wednesday, highlighting the longstanding friendship and strategic partnership between the two countries. The event was attended by Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, and Türkiye's Ambassador to Pakistan, Irfan Neziroglu, who jointly hoisted the Türkiye national flag. Both nations' anthems were played, and floral wreaths were laid to honour the memory of fallen heroes. Students from Pak-Türk schools, diplomats, and other dignitaries were also present. The event was in connection with Pakistan-Türkiye Friendship Week and the Turkish National Day celebrations. Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan described the occasion as a celebration of "a day of progress and development" and emphasised the decades-long bond between Pakistan and Türkiye. "Pakistanis' hearts have always beat in unison with our Türkiye brothers, from the days of the Khilafat Movement to the present," he said. "Türkiye has stood by Pakistan through every challenge. Under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Türkiye has consistently offered support during critical times." Rana Mashhood also appreciated Türkiye's support to Pakistan against blatant Indian aggression and Pakistan's success in Marka-e-Haq. He further praised Ambassador Neziroglu for his role in strengthening bilateral ties, noting that "Pakistan-Türkiye friendship is reaching new heights." The event is part of a series of programmes organised across Pakistan, including at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), with celebrations concluding at Jinnah Convention Centre on 31 October, marking a week declared as Pak-Türk Friendship Week by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Ambassador Irfan Neziroglu said: "This is a day that marks the rebirth of a nation and the triumph of people's faith against imperialism. Thanks to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's initiative, this year's celebrations carry an even deeper meaning. Flags are symbols of our eternal brotherhood, and I look forward to many more days of shared celebration." He highlighted the breadth of Pakistan-Türkiye cooperation, citing strategic-level council talks, and initiatives in trade, energy, defence, education, and tourism. "Türkiye will always stand by Pakistan, just as Pakistan has stood by Türkiye. Together, we honour the legacies of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and Muhammad Ali Jinnah and aim to pass this unshakable brotherhood to future generations," the ambassador concluded. DNA

\$250m approved for glacial melt adaptation plan

ISLAMABAD: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved \$250 million for Glaciers to Farms—a flagship adaptation program led by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to build resilient water and agriculture systems for vulnerable communities in glacier-dependent regions of Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and Pakistan. GCF's funding will be provided mostly as grants and invested alongside \$3.25 billion from ADB over the next decade in a series of projects identified by the countries covered by the program, according to ADB press statement received here on Wednesday. By investing in efficient irrigation, water storage, and watershed management, the projects will help improve agricultural productivity even as accelerated glacial melt increases the frequency of droughts or floods. "Rapid glacial retreat is one of the most complex development challenges faced by our region," said ADB Director for Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Yasmin Siddiqi. "We need practical, scalable, and science-based solutions to help communities adapt. With catalytic support from GCF, Glaciers to Farms will help move the region beyond fragmented projects and towards systemic, long-term resilience that protects lives and livelihoods now and for future generations," Siddiqi added. Glaciers to Farms covers nine ADB developing member countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—which all rely on glacier and snow-fed rivers for agriculture, domestic water, and electricity generation.

Accelerated glacial melt threatens these ecosystem services and livelihoods, presenting a serious challenge in these countries where about one in four jobs are in

agriculture. The program will focus on four glacier-fed river basins—the Naryn and Pyanj in Central Asia, the Kura in the South Caucasus, and the Swat in Pakistan—covering roughly 27 million hectares. About 13 million people, including farmers and vulnerable populations in fragile mountain regions, will benefit directly from the program. It will support climate and glacier assessments that will inform national development plans and investment pipelines. The program will also strengthen monitoring and early warning systems to help communities manage the impacts of hazards such as glacial lake outburst floods and prolonged droughts. In addition to agricultural systems, Glaciers to Farms will also support adaptive social protection schemes and health services for vulnerable communities affected by water shortages and extreme heat stress. The program will also strengthen local banks' capacity to support agricultural businesses, especially those led by women. "The Glaciers to Farms program is the kind of large-scale, innovative, and collaborative effort that will help countries in Central and West Asia strengthen adaptation planning and cooperation to manage climate impacts on glacier-fed water systems," said GCF Director of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East Region Department Thomas Eriksson. "This program sets a transformative benchmark by improving data, coordination, and financing readiness for long-term resilience in the region's water and food systems," Eriksson added. GCF, the world's largest climate fund, approved its concessional funding for Glaciers to Farms at its 43rd Board Meeting on 29 October. In 2024, GCF-funded glacier risk assessments helped to form the scientific and technical basis for the program.—APP

Science, Technology driving sustainable food futures

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at the International Conference and Training Workshop on "Food Systems Transformation for Climate Actions" (ICTW-FSTCA 2025) emphasized that science and technology play a vital role in ensuring food security, tackling climate change, and achieving sustainable development. The three-day event was inaugurated today at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, under the COMSTEC Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration (CFEER). The conference is jointly organized by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (OIC-COMSTEC), the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), and Makerere University, with in-kind support from the Islamic University in Uganda. The distinguished guests attending the inaugural session included Muhammad Hassan Wazir, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Uganda; Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor of Makerere University; Dr. Rosie Agoi, Secretary General of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO/ICESCO; and Dr. M. Sharif, Advisor for Science and Technology at ICESCO. In his keynote address, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTEC, welcomed participants from across the OIC region and beyond, appreciating Makerere University for hosting the event. He noted that representatives from more than twenty-seven OIC member and observer states, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and several others are attending the workshop to strengthen knowledge exchange and collaboration on sustainable food systems, climate action, and agricultural innovation. Prof. Choudhary highlighted that the training program focuses on important thematic areas such as bioministry and eco-literacy, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable food systems, energy in agriculture, and nutrition and health. He underlined that science, technology, and innovation are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially those related to food security, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience.—DNA

Pak-China parliamentary friendship group holds inaugural session

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural session of the Pakistan-China Parliamentary Friendship Group was held at Parliament House, with Senator Sherry Rehman, convener of the group, welcoming Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and members of his delegation, according to Gwadar Pro. Rehman reaffirmed Pakistan's "all-weather, ironclad partnership" with China, describing it as a relationship that "has stood the test of time and continues to deepen through every challenge and opportunity." The group was established to strengthen inter-parliamentary exchanges, enhance understanding between lawmakers, and promote dialogue on political, economic and social co-operation. A large number of senators attended the session, which discussed collaboration under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), poverty alleviation, agricultural innovation, climate resilience and sustainable growth. Sherry Rehman said Pakistan could learn from China's success in lifting more than 800 million people out of poverty to strengthen its rural economy, boost food security and develop climate-smart agriculture. She added that CPEC remains the cornerstone of Pakistan-China co-operation, transforming connectivity and investment, and expressed optimism for its next phase focused on green energy, industrial development and digital innovation. The dialogue also underscored shared commitments to peace, stability and multilateral co-operation in addressing global challenges, including climate change, poverty and regional water management. "The Pakistan-China friendship continues to be a pillar of regional stability and mutual progress—one of the most enduring and trusted partnerships in the world," Rehman said.—Pak-China parliamentary friendship. DNA

Meta, Pakistan discuss digital transformation and AI collaboration

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Meta, led by Mr. Rafael Frankel, Director for Public Policy (South Asia), called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan at the Ministry of Commerce in Islamabad to discuss co-operation in digital trade, e-commerce, and artificial intelligence (AI). Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Rana Ihsaan Afzal, was also present in the meeting. Welcoming the delegation, Jam Kamal Khan appreciated Meta's partnership in supporting Pakistan's digital transformation, said a release issued here on Wednesday. He highlighted that Pakistan's digital economy is among the fastest-growing in South Asia, powered by a youthful population, growing connectivity, and a strong IT talent base producing over

75,000 graduates annually. The Minister informed the delegation on the Ministry's initiatives to strengthen e-commerce, promote IT exports, and integrate AI into the national economy. He said that Pakistan's IT and ITeS exports rose by 18 percent in FY2025 to \$3.8 billion, while in the first quarter of FY2026, exports reached \$1.06 billion, marking a 21 percent year-on-year increase. He shared that the National E-Commerce Policy 2.0 (2025–2030) is being finalized to expand Pakistan's e-commerce market to \$20 billion by 2030, with a focus on MSME digitization, logistics improvement, and cross-border trade facilitation. The Minister also discussed Pakistan's leadership in regional trade forums such as the SCO E-Commerce Coop-

eration Program and MPCE-PA, where digital trade and secure data flows are key agenda items. He invited Meta to collaborate through the Ministry's IT Sectoral Council on areas such as AI ethics, digital safety, and e-commerce standards. Jam Kamal Khan further underlined Pakistan's recent advancements in AI policy and governance, including the National AI Policy 2025, the Uraan Pakistan initiative, and the Digital National Pakistan (DNP) Act 2025, which together aim to promote ethical, transparent, and inclusive AI adoption to support SMEs and exports. He invited Meta to partner with Pakistan in AI skill programs targeting youth, and to explore a Meta-Pakistan E-Commerce Accelerator Pilot to strengthen digital entrepreneurship.

Mr. Rafael Frankel commended Pakistan's progress in digital transformation and expressed Meta's keen interest in expanding collaboration in AI-driven digital innovation, skills development, and SME support. He reiterated Meta's commitment to empowering Pakistani entrepreneurs and small businesses through programs such as Meta Boost, focusing on digital skills, responsible marketing, and online safety. Both sides agreed to continue working closely to promote innovation, safe online practices, and economic empowerment through technology. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of mutual commitment to a long-term partnership advancing Pakistan's digital economy.—APP

OCTOBER 2025

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk

www.dnanews.com.pl

www.islamabadpost.com.pk



@Postislamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

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

Handicraft training for students with disabilities launched

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Special Education has initiated a training program aimed at equipping students with disabilities with practical handicraft skills to promote their self-reliance and economic empowerment. According to a spokesperson, the programme will be conducted at various special education centers across the province. It focuses on enhancing vocational abilities and encouraging creativity among special students through training in embroidery, stitching, pottery, and other traditional crafts. Officials said that the initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to integrate persons with disabilities into mainstream economic activities by providing them with marketable skills and professional training opportunities. The department has also announced plans to organize exhibitions to showcase the handicraft work of these students and connect them with potential buyers and entrepreneurs.—APP

APHC

commends

Pak's

commitment to Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Pakistan chapter, has expressed heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the government of Pakistan and the people for organizing widespread protests, seminars, and rallies across the country on October 27 (Kashmir Black Day). This day, recognized as Kashmir Black Day, was observed to condemn India's ongoing military occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement issued here, APHC Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi said the people of Pakistan had once again demonstrated their unwavering solidarity with the people of Kashmir in their struggle against India's illegal occupation, oppression, and injustice. He said October 27, 1947, remains a dark chapter in history when India, in violation of international principles, commitments, and the Partition Plan, forcibly occupied the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Safi emphasized that Pakistan is the only country that has consistently raised the Kashmir issue at every international forum for the past 78 years and has steadfastly supported Kashmiris' fundamental and inalienable right to self-determination.—APP

The Durand Line and its deadly legacy

SADAF NOREEN AWAN

SINCE the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the border shared with Afghanistan, known as the Durand Line, has been one of the most contentious frontiers in South Asia. The two nations have long been divided not just by geography, but by politics, ethnicity, and historical mistrust. Afghanistan was the only country to oppose Pakistan's admission to the United Nations, arguing that the Durand Line, drawn during British rule in 1893, unfairly divided the Pashtun tribes. This dispute laid the foundation for decades of tension and sporadic conflict that continue to shape relations between the two neighbours today. In the decades following independence, Pakistan's western border remained porous and largely ungoverned. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 changed everything. Millions of Afghan refugees fled into Pakistan, and Islamabad became a key staging ground for the anti-Soviet jihad. During this time, Pakistan supported Afghan mujahideen groups, hoping to maintain influence over its western neighbour. When the Soviet Union withdrew, Islamabad's strategic calculus shifted again, and it sought a friendly government in Kabul that would prevent India from gaining a foothold there. This led to Islamabad's backing of the Taliban movement in the 1990s, a relationship that would later come back to haunt both countries.

After the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, Pakistan became a key ally in the "war on terror," even as militant groups began using the rugged tribal regions as bases to attack both U.S. and Pakistani forces. Many Taliban fighters retreated into Pakistan's borderlands, while splinter groups such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) emerged and began attacking Pakistani targets, accusing Islamabad of betraying Islam by siding with the West. From 2007 onward, the TTP carried out bombings, assassinations, and ambushes that killed thousands of Pakistanis. Pakistan responded with large-scale military operations, such as Zarb-e-Azb (2014) and Radd-ul-Fasaad (2017) which drove many militants across the border into Afghanistan.

After the Taliban returned to power in Kabul in August 2021, Pakistan initially hoped for improved security cooperation. It expected that the new Taliban government would curb the TTP, which shares ideological and tribal ties with Afghan Taliban fighters. However, those hopes quickly faded. The TTP not only found refuge inside Afghanistan but also intensified attacks inside Pakistan, launching deadly cross-border assaults on military posts and convoys. Afghan border guards, too, occasionally exchanged fire with Pakistani forces over fencing disputes and territorial patrols. Throughout 2023 and 2024, the border saw repeated skirmishes. Afghan forces fired on Pakistani troops, constructing new fences; Pakistan retaliated with artillery strikes. Each side accused the other of aggression, but both stopped short of full-scale confrontation. By mid-2025, however, violence had reached alarming levels. Afghan-based militants carried

IslamabadPOST

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 140

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394

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



out coordinated raids into North Waziristan, Bajaur, and Orakzai, killing dozens of Pakistani soldiers. Islamabad warned Kabul that if it failed to rein in the TTP, Pakistan would act unilaterally. The breaking point appears to have come in early October 2025. Following an ambush that left eleven Pakistani soldiers embraced Shadat near the Afghan border, Islamabad reportedly launched a series of retaliatory airstrikes. On the night of October 9–10, explosions shook Kabul. Regional media and intelligence sources claimed Pakistan had targeted senior TTP figures, possibly including the group's leader, Noor Wali Mehsud. While Islamabad has not officially confirmed the operation, most analysts believe it was a calculated strike aimed at sending a clear message to the Taliban: Pakistan will no longer tolerate militants using Afghan soil as a sanctuary.

The incident is significant not only for its scale but also for its symbolism. Never before has Pakistan been accused of striking targets in the Afghan capital itself. It signals a profound shift in strategy from border containment to direct intervention. Diplomatically, for Afghanistan, the situation is equally perilous. Any escalation with Pakistan could isolate Kabul diplomatically at a time when it desperately seeks international recognition and economic support. Border violence could also strengthen hardline elements within the Taliban who favour a more confrontational stance toward Pakistan, weakening moderate voices that advocate cooperation. Moreover, if cross-border strikes become routine, Afghanistan could face further destabilization, as rival factions use the conflict to expand their influence. Regionally, the growing hostility threatens to undo efforts by neighbouring countries such as China, Iran, and the Gulf states to promote trade and stability in South and Central Asia. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan are critical to major infrastructure projects, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and various energy pipelines. Continued violence along their border could jeopardize these projects, discourage investment, and push the region toward renewed instability.

At a press briefing following the incident, Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR), Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, clarified Pakistan's position on the reported strikes and the broader security situation. He reiterated that Pakistan "has no aggressive designs" against Afghanistan and views it as a "brotherly, Islamic neighbor." However, he warned that Islamabad "cannot and will not allow any terrorist group to use Afghan soil against Pakistan." The DG ISPR said that Pakistan had repeatedly provided evidence to the Afghan interim government about the presence of TTP sanctuaries inside Afghanistan and that Islamabad had exercised "maximum restraint" despite continuous provocations. He emphasized that any measures taken by Pakistan were purely in self-defense, intended to safeguard its citizens and protect its territorial integrity. "Our patience should not be mistaken for weakness," he added, underscoring that Pakistan's security forces would respond firmly to any threat emanating from across the border. To conclude, Pakistan's recent actions and the firm statements from the DG ISPR reflect a decisive shift in Islamabad's security policy toward Afghanistan. As he reaffirmed, in the press conference, that while Pakistan continues to view Afghanistan as a brotherly nation, it cannot compromise on its sovereignty or security. The general underscored that Pakistan has repeatedly shared concrete evidence with Kabul about the presence and movement of terrorist groups operating from Afghan soil, warning that tolerance has limits.

Afghanistan's Water Gamble Could Backfire

F. Z. Khan

Any attempt to stop the Kabul River flows may not only harm Pakistan's crops, but also choke Afghanistan's own food supply and trade lifelines. Unfortunately, no formal water-sharing agreement exists between Pakistan and Afghanistan, despite more than two decades of sporadic dialogue. One reason has been the international community's non-recognition of the Taliban-led interim government, making formal treaty negotiations diplomatically complex. However, this should not prevent informal, technical, and confidence-building mechanisms from taking shape. Shared hydrology requires shared management, not unilateral decisions. The Kabul River should be treated as a shared ecological asset, and not a political tool. A joint commission, scientific data exchange, and seasonal...

THE Kabul River is more than just a geographical feature; it is a lifeline that sustains millions of lives on both sides of the Durand Line. From the green valleys of Kunar and Nangarhar to the fertile plains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, and down to Sindh and parts of Balochistan, this river represents centuries of ecological interdependence and human connectivity. Today, this vital artery risks becoming a source of friction rather than friendship, as Afghan Taliban's so called interim government plans dams and water projects in a deeply nefarious collaboration with Pakistan's arch-rival India, who has already unleashed water hostility since May this year, threaten to disrupt the natural balance that underpins livelihoods in both countries.

Recent reports of Afghanistan's intent to construct major reservoirs on the Kabul and Kunar rivers have raised serious concerns in Islamabad. Experts warn that such projects could reduce Pakistan's annual inflow by nearly 3 million acre-feet (MAF) — a 16 percent drop in an already water-stressed system. This shortfall would come at the most critical juncture of the agricultural calendar, the early Kharif season, when Tarbela Dam reaches its dead level and crops in Sindh and southern Punjab await sowing. But the consequences of this reduction would not stop at Pakistan's borders. Afghanistan itself stands to suffer, perhaps even more deeply. Nearly 80 percent of Afghanistan's essential food imports including wheat, flour, rice, pulses, and vegetables originate from Pakistan. Any disruption to Pakistan's agricultural output would inevitably drive up prices and reduce supplies flowing to Afghan markets. In other words, every drop withheld upstream risks becoming a meal lost downstream, on both sides.

No one disputes Afghanistan's sovereign right to develop and manage its natural resources. However, the notion that damming the Kabul River will grant Afghanistan economic independence is a dangerous illusion. Large-scale hydropower and irrigation projects require vast sums of money, technical expertise, and long-term maintenance — capacities that remain limited under the current interim setup. Experts doubt whether such projects can materialize in the near future without massive external support.

That external support, unfortunately, is coming from a problematic direction. India's recent pledge of one billion dollars in "assistance" to Afghanistan, supposedly for infrastructure and water projects, carries political undertones. History shows that New Delhi has long weaponized water diplomacy, manipulating the Jhelum and Chenab flows in violation of the Indus Waters Treaty. To imagine that its interest in Afghan dam-building is purely benevolent would be naïve. Rather, it fits into a broader strategy of encircling Pakistan and sowing discord in the region. Afghanistan must ask itself: will it allow itself to become a pawn in someone else's hydro political game?

Pakistan has consistently respected Afghanistan's legitimate riparian rights on the Chitral-Kunar system. It has never unilaterally diverted upstream flows, even though technically it could have explored such measures within its territory. This restraint stems from a recognition that water disputes must never override the bonds of culture, faith, and fraternity that link the two nations.

Unfortunately, no formal water-sharing agreement exists between Pakistan and Afghanistan, despite more than two decades of sporadic dialogue. One reason has been the international community's non-recognition of the Taliban-led interim government, making formal treaty negotiations diplomatically complex. However, this should not prevent informal, technical, and confidence-building mechanisms from taking shape. Shared hydrology requires shared management, not unilateral decisions. The Kabul River should be treated as a shared ecological asset, and not a political tool. A joint commission, scientific data exchange, and seasonal coordination could prevent misunderstandings and ensure equitable use. This is not about one country's domination over another; it is about survival in an era of accelerating climate stress.

Afghanistan's growing population and its need for irrigation are genuine. So too are Pakistan's concerns about food security. But regional peace cannot survive without environmental peace. When rivers become weapons, they bring neither prosperity nor power, only drought, distrust, and displacement. Consider

what happens if Pakistan's early Kharif crops fail because of reduced Kabul River inflows. Wheat and cotton yields would plummet, flour mills would slow down, and prices in Peshawar and Quetta which are considered the gateways for Afghan trade, would skyrocket. Obviously, truck convoys carrying food to Jalalabad and Kabul would thin out. For ordinary Afghan families, already burdened by poverty and inflation, this would mean less bread on the table and higher costs of survival.

Thus, harming Pakistan's water security is not just an unfriendly act, it is self-defeating. The people of Afghanistan, who have always shared Pakistan's soil, markets, hospitals, and hearts, would be the first to feel the ripple effect of water aggression. So, Pakistan's approach remains clear: dialogue over dispute, and construction of trust over confrontation. It is already investing in massive domestic storage projects such as Diamer-Bhasha and Dasu dams to reduce dependence on transboundary flows. But no dam can store goodwill, that must be built through mutual understanding and respect. The Taliban leadership must realize that stability does not come from concrete and cement, but from cooperation and compassion. Water can be a weapon or a bridge, the choice is theirs. By engaging constructively with Pakistan, Afghanistan can ensure that the Kabul River remains what it has always been: a symbol of life, not leverage.

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan are bound by geography, faith, and fate. The Kabul River does not recognize borders; it rather recognizes only gravity. Its flow teaches a profound lesson: when one side blocks the current, both banks suffer. So, it is time for wisdom to prevail over resentment, and for diplomacy to replace hostility. The interim Taliban government should not let Indian influence drag it into a water war that benefits no one.

The shared rivers of our region must continue to flow not just with water, but with goodwill, trust, and hope for a peaceful, interdependent future. Let the rivers flow, and, at the same time, let the brotherhood and friendship grow. Eschew the path of hostility either on ground, or involving the water.

— The writer is a freelance columnist. He can be reached at fzkhann@yahoo.com

The Search for Trust Across the Durand Line

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Pakistani delegates presented time-stamped evidence of cross-border militant movement, including sanctuaries and command links. Instead of addressing the evidence, Afghan representatives resorted to procedural diversions, legalistic excuses, and repeated consultations with Kabul that stalled progress. Even when a draft agreement...

HISTORY bears undeniable testimony that Pakistan has stood by Afghanistan through every trial—be it war or peace, turmoil or transition. The bond between the two nations, tied by geography, faith, and centuries of shared heritage, has endured countless tests. Yet, among the many lessons history offers, one truth remains constant; while Pakistan has repeatedly extended its hand in friendship and fraternity, Afghanistan's internal discord has too often undermined the path to lasting stability. When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 24 December 1979, it was Pakistan that became the frontline state defending not only its own sovereignty but also the freedom of its Muslim neighbour. Pakistan opened its borders to nearly four million Afghan refugees, offering them shelter, education, and dignity—an unprecedented act of generosity in modern times. Despite its own economic hardships, Pakistan bore this burden with patience and brotherhood, driven by Islamic compassion rather than political gain. The UNHCR has repeatedly described this as one of the largest and longest-running humanitarian operations in history.

Even after the Soviet completed his withdrawal in 15 February 1989, when the world abandoned Afghanistan, Pakistan remained steadfast. It continued to support the Afghan people in rebuilding their war-torn land, facilitating dialogue among rival factions and hosting successive rounds of peace talks. Pakistan's role was not driven by ambition but by a sincere desire for regional peace—because an unstable Afghanistan has always meant an insecure Pakistan. Afghanistan's greatest tragedy, however, lies not only in external aggression but in internal division. During the 1990s, when Afghanistan was consumed by civil war, Pakistan made tireless efforts to bring the warring Afghan factions together. In a symbolic gesture of reconciliation, Pakistan facilitated a meeting of Afghan leaders in Makah, where they vowed before Allah to end hostilities and restore peace in their homeland. Yet, upon returning home, many of those solemn commitments were broken, and the nation once again slipped into strife. This failure to uphold even agreements made in the holiest of places remains a reflection of Afghanistan's chronic

disunity, where tribal interests and personal ambitions have too often overshadowed the collective good. The tragic pattern has persisted into the present. Decades later, after the U.S. invasion and the subsequent withdrawal of foreign forces, Pakistan once again demonstrated its commitment to peace by facilitating the Doha Agreement between the Taliban and the United States in 29 February 2020—a landmark accord that paved the way for an end to two decades of bloodshed. Pakistan's constructive diplomacy was acknowledged globally, including by Washington itself.

Yet despite these efforts, the spirit of cooperation remains elusive. The recent round of Pakistan-Afghanistan talks held in Istanbul, following earlier sessions in Qatar, once again highlighted the stark gap between goodwill and ground realities. Media reports confirm that the Istanbul negotiations ended without a definitive outcome.

This has been revealed through media reports that the discussions—spread over three grueling days and nearly fifty hours—were marked by clear obstruction and a defensive posture from the Afghan side. Mediators from Qatar and Turkey, who had invested considerable diplomatic capital to bridge differences, were visibly taken aback by the Afghan delegation's uncooperative attitude. On several occasions, members of the Afghan delegation reportedly used provocative language, avoided direct answers, and withdrew from commitments at the last moment.

Pakistani delegates presented time-stamped evidence of cross-border militant movement, including sanctuaries and command links. Instead of addressing the evidence, Afghan representatives resorted to procedural diversions, legalistic excuses, and repeated consultations with Kabul that stalled progress. Even when a draft agreement was finalised thrice during the final session, and the Pakistani delegation pressed the Afghan side to confirm their consent—reminding them that in Islam a commitment made three times is binding—they initially agreed, only to renege after consulting Kabul by phone. The mediators, both Qatari and Turkish, were reportedly shocked, one exclaiming, "May Allah help and forgive these people."

There is no other opinion on this matter that Indian

agents, allegedly operating under the guise of advisors within Kabul's circles, influenced or pressured Afghan interlocutors to withdraw from commitments reached in Istanbul. Such claims—if true—would suggest a deeper and more troubling dimension to the impasse; that certain external actors are intent upon perpetuating discord between Islamabad and Kabul for their own strategic ends. These accusations, voiced strongly in Pakistani quarters, led many in Islamabad to conclude that elements within the Afghan leadership are being steered by interests inimical to regional stability.

Whether this allegation will be substantiated publicly or remain part of the private diplomatic ledger, its effect has been to deepen mistrust. Yet even amid these grave suspicions, Pakistan's official posture has been measured. Islamabad has reiterated that it will continue to seek an amicable resolution through dialogue and diplomacy; at the same time, the leadership has made plain that all options remain under consideration if Afghan soil continues to be used as a launchpad for attacks against Pakistani citizens and security forces.

At the same time, Pakistan remains committed to a peaceful, negotiated resolution. Islamabad's approach is guided not by hostility but by the belief that Afghanistan's prosperity is intertwined with its own. Both nations share deep ethnic, cultural, and linguistic bonds that transcend political boundaries. From trade routes to water resources, their destinies are inseparable. The lesson of that Makkah meeting decades ago—and of the recent Istanbul talks—is the same; peace cannot be built upon empty promises or rhetorical gestures. It demands sincerity, unity, and honouring one's word. Pakistan, despite suffering over \$150 billion in economic losses and more than 80,000 lives to terrorism, continues to demonstrate patience, goodwill, and faith in dialogue.

As history once again tests this brotherly relationship, one prayer continues to echo across Pakistan; may Allah bless Afghanistan with wisdom and unity, and may He reward Pakistan for its steadfastness. For peace between these two nations is not merely a regional necessity—it is a sacred obligation rooted in shared faith and destiny.

Briefs

PM greatly indented to Türkiye...

FROM PAGE 01
“through wars, earthquakes, and devastating floods.” Recalling Türkiye’s humanitarian support during the 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods, he expressed gratitude for President Erdoğan’s personal involvement in relief efforts and the generosity of the Turkish people. “Whatever Turkey has is for Pakistan, and whatever Pakistan has is for our Turkish brothers and sisters,” Sharif declared, reaffirming the two countries’ commitment to deepening cooperation in economic, defense, and strategic sectors. He also appreciated Türkiye’s consistent support for the people of Kashmir and Gaza, assuring Pakistan’s backing of the Turkish stance on Northern Cyprus. “We are brothers and friends forever. Long live Pakistan–Turkey friendship,” the Prime Minister concluded.

Asif issues stern warning...

FROM PAGE 01
If the Afghan Taliban regime is madly hellbent upon ruining Afghanistan and its innocent people once again, then so be it,” he added. The defence minister further warned that the Taliban regime, “who have vested interests in the continuation of instability in the region, should know that they have probably misread [Pakistan’s] resolve and courage.” “If the Taliban regime wants to fight us, the world will INSHAALLAH see that their threats are only a performative circus,” Asif added. The two neighbouring nations are witnessing heightened tensions amid the Afghan Taliban regime’s reluctance to act against terrorist groups operating from its soil, in the backdrop of rising terror attacks in Pakistan. The tensions were escalated when the Taliban forces and India-backed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), alias Fitna al-Khawarij, resorted to an unprovoked attack on Pakistan on October 12. The Pakistan Armed Forces gave a befitting response to the aggression, killing over 200 Afghan Taliban and affiliated militants in a self-defence action. The Ministry’s media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said that 23 soldiers embraced martyrdom in the clashes with the Taliban forces and the terrorists. Furthermore, the security forces also conducted “precision strikes” in Afghanistan’s Kandahar province and the capital Kabul, as well as in the border areas of North and South Waziristan districts, successfully destroying multiple strongholds in response to the aggression.

Afghan Taliban–TTP nexus...

FROM PAGE 01
“Unfortunately, the second round of talks in Istanbul failed due to the Taliban–TTP nexus and non serious attitude of Afghan Taliban delegation,” he added. The former IGP stressed that Pakistan’s serious and consistent diplomatic efforts for regional peace and stability had proved futile because of the Afghan Taliban’s continued support to anti-Pakistan terrorist groups. He claimed that Afghan Taliban regime was using terrorism as weapon of obtaining foreign funding. “Since the Taliban regime bears no responsibility towards the Afghan people and thrives on a terror economy, it seeks to drag the Afghan nation into unnecessary conflict,” he said, adding that Kabul’s refusal to provide written assurance against cross-border attacks effectively gave a “free licence” to terrorists and foreign terror proxies to target Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Former Ambassador Manzoorul Haq also condemned the Afghan Taliban’s “stubborn and non-serious” attitude during the Istanbul talks. He said it was in Afghanistan’s own interest to adopt a rational approach and resume meaningful dialogue with Pakistan, as terrorism posed a grave threat to regional peace and stability.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in work at the Melody Food Park with a view to repair all damaged roads. – DNA

SA inflict 55-run defeat on Pak in T20I series opener

Saim top-scored for Pakistan with 37; Babar went for duck after returning to T20Is

RAWALPINDI: Reeza Hendricks’ half-century and Corbin Bosch’s four-wicket haul handed South Africa a 55-run victory over Pakistan in the first match of the T20I series at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. Chasing a daunting 195-run target, the home side’s batting unit could yield 139 before being bowled out in 18.1 overs. Pakistan got off to a cautious start to the pursuit, with Sahibzada Farhan and Saim Ayub putting together 31 runs before the former, who dominated the opening stand, was cleaned up by Lizaad Williams in the fifth over after scoring 24 off 19 with the help of four fours. The Green Shirts then suffered another massive blow as returning star batter Babar Azam fell for a two-ball duck off Corbin Bosch, who struck again in his next to remove Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha (two), bringing the total down to 43/3 in 7.2 overs. Following the back-to-back setbacks,

Ayub looked to launch a counterattack on the South Africa bowlers by switching gears, but George Linde drew curtains on his grit, dismissing him in the 11th over. The left-handed opener remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with a brisk 37 off 28 deliveries, featuring four sixes and a four. Ayub’s dismissal proved decisive as Pakistan lost their remaining six wickets for just 54 runs and were thus booked on a modest total despite Mohammad Nawaz’s grit at the backend. The all-rounder offered significant resistance with a 20-ball 36, comprising four fours and two sixes, until eventually falling victim to Williams. Bosch led the bowling charge for South Africa with a four-wicket haul, followed by Linde with three, while Williams bagged two. Put into bat first, the Proteas accumulated 194/9 in their allotted 20 overs despite a strong start. The Proteas got off to a flying start to their innings, with returning

Quinton de Kock and Hendricks putting together 44 runs inside four overs. Ayub eventually broke the opening stand on the penultimate delivery by getting rid of de Kock, giving Pakistan a much-needed breakthrough. The left-handed opener scored a 13-ball 23, laced with five fours. Hendricks was then joined by debutant Tony de Zorzi in the middle, and the duo ensured maintaining South Africa’s momentum with a 49-run partnership for the second wicket, which culminated with the latter’s dismissal off Mohammad Nawaz in the eighth over. The left-handed batter made a notable contribution to South Africa’s total on debut with a blistering 33 off just 16 deliveries, comprising five fours and a six. Following his dismissal, the visitors lost two more wickets in quick succession as Dewald Brevis (nine) and Matthew Breetzke (one) fell victim to Nawaz and Ayub, respective-

ly. Hendricks was then involved in a brief 27-run partnership for the fifth wicket with captain Donovan Ferreira (10), followed by a 39-run stand, dominated by George Linde, until eventually being cleaned up by Abrar Ahmed in the 18th over. The right-handed opener remained the top-scorer for South Africa with 60 off 40 deliveries, featuring five fours and a six. Linde, on the other hand, followed suit in the next over, falling victim to Naseem Shah, after scoring a quickfire 22-ball 36, laced with four fours and a six. Ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi further derailed South Africa’s march towards a big total by dismissing bowling all-rounder Corbin Bosch in the final over, in which he gave away just six runs. Nawaz led Pakistan’s bowling charge with three wickets for just 26 runs in his four overs, followed by Ayub with two, while Abrar, Naseem and Shaheen chipped in with one apiece. – APP

Putellas-inspired Spain to defend Nations League title against Germany

PARIS: Two-time Ballon D’Or winner Alexia Putellas scored again Tuesday to ensure Spain will defend their women’s UEFA Nations League title against Germany. After putting four goals past Sweden in the first leg of the last-four draw, world champions Spain came away with a 1-0 victory in Gothenburg to advance with a 5-0 aggregate. Germany drew the second leg of their semi-final 2-2 with France in the northern French city of Caen and progressed 3-2 on aggregate. The two-legged final will be held on November 28 and December 2, with the second leg to be played at Atletico Madrid’s Estadio Metropolitano. “We’ve never had the opportunity to play at the Metropolitano,” Putellas said. “Hopefully the fans will be the 12th player and we can win another title.” Putellas, who bagged two goals in the first leg, scored in the 74th minute from only Spain’s second strike on target despite dominating possession. She calmly slotted into the top corner with a classy first-time finish after Claudia Pina, teed up by Aitana Bonmati, played a clever pass. France were quickly on the scoreboard in Caen through a Melvine Malard header. Nicole Anyomi pulled one back for Germany in the 12th minute after pivoting past Maelle Lakrar and fizzing a shot into the top-left corner. Germany made it two on the night with a 50th minute goal from winger Klara Buehl, who powered a left-footed shot into the roof of the net from a tight angle after driving into the box. Clara Mateo gave France hope with a late header off a Kadidiatou Diani cross to draw the match level. – Agencies

NUST wins Table Tennis C’ship

MANSEHRA: The 46th All Pakistan Inter-University Table Tennis Championship, organized under the auspices of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), concluded successfully at Hazara University Mansehra. Teams from universities across all four provinces of Pakistan participated in the event, showcasing remarkable sportsmanship and competitive spirit. In the singles category, NUST Islamabad clinched the first position, while Iqra University Karachi secured both second and third places. In the doubles category, Iqra University Karachi took the first position, followed by IBA Karachi in second place. A grand closing ceremony was held at Hazara University, where Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ikramullah Khan distributed trophies and cash prizes among the winning teams. – Agencies

World number one Alcaraz stunned in Paris Masters opener by Britain’s Norrie

Six-time Grand Slam champion never won Paris Masters in five attempts

PARIS: World number one Carlos Alcaraz was stunned in his opening match at the Paris Masters on Tuesday as he went down to 31st-ranked Briton Cameron Norrie 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. The six-time Grand Slam champion has never won the Paris Masters in five attempts and now faces losing his place atop the rankings should rival Jannik Sinner win the tournament in the French capital. Returning from three weeks out of official competition due to an ankle issue, Alcaraz claimed the opening set as he displayed his usual combination of fire and flair. However, much like his ultimately successful run at the French Open this spring, the Spaniard’s level dropped off a cliff mid-match. This time, he was made to pay. “I’m really disappointed about my level today,” Alcaraz told reporters after the loss. “I had all the ideas clear, all the goals clear, but today, even in the first set, which I won, I felt I could do a lot more than I actually did. “I have to give credit to Cam... He played really well today, a solid match, and I think that was the key.” The mercurial Norrie, who drew his fair share of admiring gasps from the 17,500-capacity centre court at the La Defense Arena, capitalised on his opponent’s errors by breaking him twice at crucial times in the second and third sets. The 30-year-old said the win was “maybe the number one” of his career. “I’ve been working really hard this year, so it’s nice to get a win like this to make it worth it,” added the former world number eight. During the interval before the decider, Alcaraz had an animated discussion with his coach, Juan Carlos Ferrero. It was to no avail, however, as the El Palmar native continued to be wayward with his first serve and backhand. Alcaraz saved break points on consecutive games before it was third time lucky for Norrie as the Briton finally broke at 3-3 to close in on victory. Alcaraz made him serve it out, and a first match point went begging as a groundstroke by Norrie bobbed twice on the net cord before agonisingly falling on his side of the net. – DNA

Govt Gifts Modern Sports Courts to Islamabad Colleges

The initiative is part of the Ministry’s ongoing efforts to enhance sports infrastructure in educational institutions and foster a culture of fitness, teamwork, and healthy recreation among the youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step toward promoting sports and physical activity among students, the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) has gifted panel tennis and futsal courts to two government boys’ colleges in Islamabad. The initiative is part of the Ministry’s ongoing efforts to enhance sports infrastructure in educational institutions and foster a culture of fitness, teamwork, and healthy recreation among the youth. The new, state-of-the-art facilities which established at Islamabad Model College for Boys I-8/3 and Islamabad College for Boys H-8 were inaugurated by Federal Secretary Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Mohyuddin Wani, who reiterated the Ministry’s commitment to encouraging physical activity and the holistic development of students. “Sports and physical education play a vital role in shaping confident, healthy, and disciplined individuals. The Ministry will continue its efforts to provide modern facilities and opportunities that help our youth excel both academically and athletically,” said Mohyuddin Wani. These new courts will benefit thousands of students, offering them the opportunity to polish their sporting skills and engage in regular physical exercise. Through such initiatives, the Federal Government aims to nurture a generation that values fitness, teamwork, and excellence – both on and off the field.



JUI-F backs PTI’s nominee...

FROM PAGE 01

Achakzai as Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly. PTI was forced to name new opposition leaders in both houses after Omar Ayub, Leader of Opposition in NA, and Shibli Faraz, opposition leader in the Senate, were removed from the top parliamentary positions on August 9, following their convictions in the May 9 cases. Several PTI leaders, including Ayub, Faraz, and Zartaj Gul, were sentenced to 10 years in prison each on July 31, in connection with a case registered in the aftermath of May 9, 2023. During today’s meeting, the PTI delegation also consulted the JUI-F chief on its proposal to hold a national jirga in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, aimed at political reconciliation and dialogue across parties.

Mohsin Naqvi meets Iranian...

FROM PAGE 01

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Meets Secretary of Supreme National Security Council Ali Ardeshtir Larjani and Iranian Counterpart Eskandar Momeni Separately. Meanwhile, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met separately with the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Ali Ardeshtir Larjani, and his Iranian counterpart, Eskandar Momeni. Upon his arrival at the office of the Supreme National Security Council, Secretary Larjani warmly welcomed Mohsin Naqvi. During the meeting, the two sides held detailed discussions on strengthening Pakistan–Iran relations and security cooperation. They exchanged views on counterterrorism, counter-narcotics, and border management and emphasized the importance of enhancing joint mechanisms for collaboration. Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan wishes to expand cooperation with Iran in the fields of security and counter-narcotics. Secretary Larjani termed the positive progress in bilateral ties as a welcome development.

PPP, PML-N sign no-trust...

FROM PAGE 01

He said the party leadership would announce the name of the new prime minister within the next two days. Earlier, it was reported that the deadlock between the PPP and PML-N over the no-confidence motion had finally ended. Sources said the PML-N agreed to support the move on the condition that early elections would be held in the region. According to the sources, the new AJK prime minister would prioritise filling pending constitutional appointments before paving the way for general elections. The PML-N sources added that its ministers would resign after the motion is submitted and that the party would sit on the opposition benches following the vote. The no-confidence motion requires the backing of 27 lawmakers for a simple majority, but with PML-N’s support, the PPP claimed to have secured 36 members initially, a number that has since risen to 37, according to sources.

Tarar blames Taliban...

FROM PAGE 01

legitimate demand for credible and decisive action against terrorist organizations. He said sufficient and irrefutable evidence was provided by Pakistan which was acknowledged by Afghan Taliban and the hosts, however, regrettably, the Afghan side gave no assurances. The Afghan side kept deviating from the core issue, evading the key point upon which the dialogue process was initiated. The Information Minister recalled that Pakistan repeatedly engaged with the Afghan Taliban Regime regarding persistent cross border terrorism by Indian-abetted Fitna al Khwarizj (TTP) and Indian proxy, Fitna al Hindustan (BLA). The Afghan Taliban Regime has been asked time and again to fulfill their written commitments to Pakistan and to the international community in Doha Agreement.

Briefs

PSX sheds 1,636 points to close at 158,465.06

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 1,635.97 points, showing a negative change of 1.02 percent, closing at 158,465.06 points against 160,101.03 points on the previous trading day.

As many as 478 companies transacted shares in the ready market; 123 recorded gains, 314 sustained losses, while 41 remained unchanged.

The overall trading volume in the ready market stood at 951.84 million shares compared to 1,018.74 million shares a day earlier, while the traded value increased to Rs41.31 billion from Rs36.94 billion. Market capitalization declined to Rs18.27 trillion from Rs18.46 trillion.

K-Electric Ltd topped the volume chart with 92.99 million shares, followed by Hascol Petroleum with 53.91 million shares and WorldCall Telecom with 51.08 million shares.

Among the top gainers, PIA Holding Company Limited B increased by Rs299.99 per share to close at Rs24,300.00, while S.S. Oil Mills Limited rose by Rs38.30 to settle at Rs421.28. On the other hand, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited lost Rs420.91, closing at Rs28,930.89, whereas Khyber Textile Mills Limited declined by Rs138.49 to close at Rs1,709.22. In the futures market, 328 companies participated; 75 recorded gains, 251 witnessed declines, while two remained unchanged.

K-Electric (NOV) led the futures trading with 26.92 million shares, followed by K-Electric (OCT) with 23.34 million shares and Bank of Punjab (NOV) with 15.89 million shares.—APP

Gold price surges by Rs 3,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD :The price of per tola 24 karat gold increased by Rs3,500 on Wednesday to reach Rs419,862 compared to the previous day's rate of Rs416,362. Similarly, the price of 10-gram 24 karat gold rose by Rs3,000 to Rs359,963 against Tuesday's Rs356,963, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. The price of 10-gram 22 karat gold was recorded at Rs329,978 after an increase of Rs2,751, up from yesterday's Rs327,227. At the international market, gold was traded at \$3,975 per ounce, reflecting a gain of \$35 from the previous rate of \$3,940. Likewise, silver also registered an increase as the per tola 24 karat silver price increased by Rs110 to Rs5,034 from Rs4,924 a day earlier. The 10-gram silver rate rose by Rs94 to Rs4,315 against the previous Rs4,221. The international silver price reached \$47.72 per ounce, up by \$1.10 from \$46.62.—APP

Rupee gains 02 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 02 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 280.95 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 280.97. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 282.65 and Rs 282.75, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 72 paisa to close at Rs 326.71 against the last day's closing of Rs 327.43, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.84, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of Rs 3.29 and closed at Rs 371.17 compared to the previous day's Rs 374.46. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal remained unchanged to close at Rs 76.49 and Rs 74.92, respectively.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister For Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh attended Film Premiere organised by China Media Group (CMG), in collaboration with Embassy of the People's Republic of China in NUST University.

PIDE unveils roadmap to avert looming water challenges

He said groundwater governance must be treated not merely as an environmental concern but as a pillar of national stability and security

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Planning Commission's RASTA initiative, Wednesday organized a seminar titled "Pakistan's Groundwater Crisis: Policy Lessons and a Framework for Sustainable Resource Use", unveiling a comprehensive roadmap to address the country's mounting groundwater challenges.

The seminar featured Nazam Maqbool, Social Scientist and Project Manager at RASTA, as the keynote speaker, while Dr Muhammad Faisal Ali, Research Fellow at PIDE, moderated the session, a news release said. Opening the discussion, Dr Faisal highlighted Pakistan's alarming transition from a water-stressed to a water-scarce nation, noting that per-capita water availability had declined from over 5,000 cu-

bic meters in 1947 to less than 1,000 cubic meters at present. He stressed that while surface water scarcity and climate change dominate public discourse, the depletion of groundwater – the country's silent lifeline – remains dangerously neglected.

In his presentation, Nazam Maqbool said Pakistan, one of the most arid countries in the world, receives an average annual rainfall of only 494 millimeters. The Indus River system, he added, contributes about 96 percent of the country's total water supply, with nearly 78 percent originating outside Pakistan's borders. Pakistan, he said, possesses the world's fourth-largest aquifer and ranks fourth globally in groundwater use, extracting around 65 cubic kilometers annually against a recharge rate of only 55 cubic kilometers. He revealed that around 70 percent of Pakistan's urban population and over 80 percent of its rural population de-

pend on unsafe drinking water sources, with about 60 million people exposed to arsenic contamination.

Over 4.5 million hectares of land have been affected by waterlogging and salinity, while cities such as Lahore are losing up to three feet of groundwater annually. Nazam Maqbool identified the absence of a binding national groundwater law, overlapping institutional responsibilities, and weak inter-provincial coordination as major governance challenges. Electricity subsidies, he noted, have encouraged over-pumping, while tariff recovery covers only 24 percent of operational costs. Punjab's average water tariff of US\$0.12 per cubic meter, he said, remains far below the global average of US\$2.36.

To tackle these issues, Nazam Maqbool proposed a seven-pillar framework for sustainable groundwater management. The plan includes the establishment of a National Groundwater Council, provin-

cial licensing and metering reforms, comprehensive aquifer mapping, real-time data systems, and integrated water management strategies.

He further called for shifting from water-intensive crops like sugarcane and rice to less water-demanding, high-yield alternatives such as pulses and oilseeds, alongside promoting drip and sprinkler irrigation. Citing global practices, he said Israel now meets 25 percent of its water demand through reuse of 90 percent of treated wastewater, while several U.S. cities have successfully halved urban water consumption through efficiency reforms. Concluding the session, Dr Faisal Ali emphasized that Pakistan's groundwater challenge could not be solved in isolation but required systemic reforms in governance, technology, and behavioral change. He said groundwater governance must be treated not merely as an environmental concern but as a pillar of national stability and security.

Germany urges Israel to show 'restraint' in Gaza

BERLIN: German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul on Wednesday expressed "deep concern" after the deadliest night of bombing in Gaza since a US-brokered truce went into effect earlier this month. Gaza's civil defense agency said the strikes had killed more than 100 people, including at least 35 children, a toll confirmed by an AFP tally of medical sources at five hospitals in Gaza. "We appeal to Israel to exercise military restraint in order to prevent further suffering," Wadephul said in a ministry statement released ahead of a planned trip to the region. Israel carried out strikes on dozens of Hamas targets overnight to Wednesday following the death of a soldier. After the strikes, the Israeli military said it had begun "renewed enforcement of the ceasefire," though explosions could still be seen on an AFP live video feed of the Gaza skyline after the statement was issued. US President Donald Trump, who helped to broker the nearly three-week-old truce, had earlier said that nothing would be allowed to jeopardize it. But he also endorsed Israel's right to "hit back" if attacked. Wadephul also called on Hamas to "fulfil its part of the agreement... to lay down its arms and finally hand over all the remains of the deceased hostages. "Following the agreement between Israel and Hamas on a ceasefire, there is hope for lasting peace, which we must continue to work toward," he added. Wadephul will first visit Jordan before heading to Lebanon and Bahrain, according to his ministry. "During my trip to the Middle East, I intend to discuss with our partners where and how Germany can specifically accompany and support the next steps," he said.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Senate, Syed Husnain Haider meeting with Commodore Khurram Rashid SI (M) Deputy Commandant Pakistan Navy War College at Parliament House.

Sudan govt accuses RSF of attacking civilians in mosques

But those talks have reached an impasse, an official close to the negotiations said, adding that their proposals are facing "continued obstructionism" from the army-aligned government

PORT SUDAN: Sudan's army-aligned government accused paramilitaries on Wednesday of attacking civilians in mosques during their recent takeover of the western city of El-Fasher, where satellite images show evidence of "continuing mass killing," Yale researchers say. The capture of El-Fasher on Sunday after an 18-month siege marked by starvation and bombardment has solidified the Rapid Support Forces' (RSF) control over Darfur, sparking fears of ethnically motivated violence reminiscent of the region's darkest days. El-Fasher was the last of Darfur's five state capitals to fall to the paramilitaries, led by General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, who have been at war with the regular army for more than two years. "More than 2,000 civilians were killed during the militia's invasion of El-Fasher, targeting volunteers in mosques and the Red Crescent," Mona Nour Al-Daem, humanitarian aid officer for the army-aligned government, said Wednesday at a press conference in Port Sudan. She added that the Adre border pass between Sudan and Chad has been "used to introduce weapons and equipment for the militias." An analysis of satellite images by Yale's Humanitarian Research Lab released Tuesday night "corroborates evidence of continuing mass killing in the past 48 hours since RSF took control." "These mass killing events include corroboration of al-

leged executions around Saudi Hospital and a previously unreported potential mass killing at an RSF detention site at the former Children's Hospital in eastern El-Fasher," the group said, adding there was also ongoing "systematic killing" at one location outside the city. El-Fasher had been the last holdout in Darfur of army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan's forces, and its fall has left the paramilitaries in control of a vast region covering a third of Sudan, with fighting now concentrated in the Kordofan region. Since the city was captured by the RSF – descended from the Janjaweed militias accused of genocide in Darfur two decades ago – the group has again been accused of carrying out atrocities against civilians, with brutal videos circulating on social media. The United Nations has warned of "ethnically motivated violations and atrocities" while the African Union condemned "escalating violence" and "alleged war crimes." "Civilians being targeted based on their ethnicity underscore the brutality of the Rapid Support Force," the EU's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said in a statement Wednesday. Since Sunday, more than 33,000 people have fled El-Fasher for the town of Tawila, about 70 kilometers (40 miles) to the west, which has already welcomed more than 650,000 displaced people, the UN says. Around 177,000 people remain in El-Fasher, which had a popula-

tion of more than one million before the war, according to the latest figures from the world body. Satellite-based communications with El-Fasher remain cut off – though not for the RSF, which controls the Starlink network there – as access routes to the city despite calls for humanitarian corridors. AFP images from Tawila showed displaced people, some of them with bandages, carrying their belongings and setting up temporary shelters.

Sudan's long-running war has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced millions and triggered the world's largest displacement and hunger crisis, with both sides accused of widespread atrocities. The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) said Wednesday that its two top staff in Sudan had been "designated as persona non grata" and given three days to leave the country by the foreign ministry. WFP and senior UN officials were engaging with Sudanese authorities to protest the decision, which came "at a pivotal time," it said, noting humanitarian needs "have never been greater." The so-called Quad group – comprising the United States, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia – has held talks over several months toward securing a truce. But those talks have reached an impasse, an official close to the negotiations said, adding that their proposals are facing "continued obstructionism" from the army-aligned government.—Agencies

Pakistan Customs foils major silver smuggling attempts

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Customs has foiled major silver smuggling attempts across multiple regions to curtail the illegal trade.

In a series of coordinated enforcement operations under the Chief Collectorate of Customs (Enforcement), Islamabad, field formations in Quetta, Karachi, and Gadani have successfully intercepted and seized large quantities of smuggled silver and vehicles being used for illegal transport, said a release issued here on Wednesday. Acting on credible intelligence, the Collectorate of Customs (Enforcement) Quetta intercepted a Toyota Axio (Reg. No. AWQ-240) in Yaroo area, recovering: 40 Fine (999.9) Silver Bricks of 39,996 grams (approx. 40 kg), 36 Silver Biscuits (999 purity) of 9,000 grams (9 kg), Vehicle (Toyota Axio) valued at PKR 6 million. The total tentative value of the seizure stands at PKR 26.76 million. The goods and vehicle have been taken into custody, and further investigation is underway. In two separate but consecutive intelligence-based operations, the Collectorate of Customs (Enforcement) Karachi successfully foiled major smuggling attempts at Mochko Check Post, RCD Highway- recovering a total of 45 kilograms of smuggled silver valued at over PKR 21 million.—APP.

CDNS achieves Rs 350b savings inflows

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved a target of Rs 350 billion in savings inflows of the annual target for the current fiscal year, from July 1 to October 27, 2025-26, 2025.

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set a savings inflows target of Rs 1.3 trillion for the current Fiscal Year, 2025-26. Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 50 billion in investments in Islamic Investment for the Current Fiscal Year 2025-26, which will lead to the growth of the Islamic economy in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP on Wednesday. The senior official of CDNS said that the National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the country's saving culture. Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs170 billion in investments in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to the growth of this sector.

Replying to a question, he said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 per cent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30 National Savings has set an annual target of Rs1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year, "We surpassed 100 per cent of the annual target.—APP

Red Cross says five volunteers killed in Sudan's Kordofan

GENEVA: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said Tuesday it was "horrificed" after five Sudanese Red Crescent volunteers were killed while on duty in Bara, North Kordofan state. Three other volunteers are missing following Monday's attack, the IFRC said. The oil-rich Kordofan region has been a major battleground in Sudan's civil war between the regular army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. The RSF claimed Saturday to have regained control of Bara, a strategic city on a key crossroads to the Darfur region. United Nations agencies have voiced alarm about the reported level of violence in the city. The Sudanese Red Crescent unit was on an official mission in Bara as part of a food distribution team, the IFRC said in a statement. "They were clearly identified by wearing Red Crescent vests, which are supposed to provide them with full protection, and carried identification cards issued by the local branch. "Any attack on humanitarian teams is unacceptable." The IFRC said the Sudanese Red Crescent has lost 21 colleagues on duty since the conflict broke out in April 2023.—APP

Briefs

\$250m funding to boost glacier-fed agri under ADB project

NEWS DESK

SLAMABAD: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved \$250 million for Glaciers to Farms, a major adaptation plan led by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A statement issued by the ADB said the plan aims to help communities in glacier-dependent regions, including Pakistan, Central Asia and the South Caucasus, cope with the growing impacts of climate change. The funding, mostly in grants, will complement \$3.25 billion from ADB over the next decade. It will support projects in nine countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, all of which rely on glacier-fed rivers for farming, drinking water, and electricity. By improving irrigation, water storage, and watershed management, the plan will help farmers maintain their crops even as glacial melt increases the risk of droughts and floods, particularly in Pakistan's northern mountain regions. "Rapid glacial retreat is one of the most complex challenges our region faces," ADB Director Yasmin Siddiqi said. "With support from GCF, Glaciers to Farms will help communities move from short-term fixes to long-term solutions that protect lives and livelihoods today and for the future," she added.

Deadliest police operation in Brazil kills 132

DNA

BRASILIA: The deadliest police operation in Brazil's history killed at least 132 people, officials said on Wednesday, after Rio de Janeiro residents lined a street with dozens of corpses collected overnight, a week ahead of global climate events in the city. The tally from the Rio public defender's office was more than double the death toll released on Tuesday, when state authorities reported at least 64 dead, including four police officers. The raids were targeting a major drug gang, the state government said.

Rio Governor Claudio Castro said the initial tally had only counted bodies processed in the public morgue. Penha residents who went looking for lost relatives had collected many of the corpses from a forested area behind their neighborhood, according to people at the scene, where more than 70 of the bodies were lined up in the middle of the street. "I just want to take my son out of here and bury him," said Taua Brito.

Sialkot police start operation against Afghan nationals

SIALKOT: In a campaign to send back Afghan nationals, Sialkot Police on Wednesday made an announcement through loud speakers in mosques that nobody would provide shelter, rented houses etc., to Afghan nationals. According to spokesman for the police, DPO Faisal Shehzad initiated a comprehensive campaign to ousted Afghan nationals from the district Sialkot. In this regard, he said that the police officials used loud speakers of Masajids to inform the people to out Afghan Nationals from their houses. He said that police would take stern action against all those who would provide shelter to Afghan Nationals or rented out their houses to them. – APP



BAKU: Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan held a bilateral meeting with Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, Chairman of Senate of Pakistan on the sidelines of the International Parliamentary Conference on the 30th anniversary of adoption of Azerbaijan's Constitution. – **DNA**

Iran remains open to constructive diplomacy, says Iranian Envoy

Ambassador Amiri denounced the aggressive posture of the US and labelled it as a clear violation of international law and UN norms. He further elaborated that re-imposition of sanctions were politically motivated which undermined the credibility of international agreements

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: In a high-level roundtable discussion conducted by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam, reiterated Iran's willingness to an open and constructive diplomacy on nuclear issue. Ambassador Amiri denounced the aggressive posture of the US and labelled it as a clear violation of international law and UN norms. He further elaborated that re-imposition of sanctions were politically motivated which undermined the credibility of international agreements. Criticizing the UNSC, Amb Amiri denounced the forum for failing to prevent unilateral actions and overlooking

Iran's verified compliance record. He clarified that under Article 26 of the JCPOA, Iran retained the right to respond proportionally to violations by other signatories. Despite this, he once again emphasized that Iran's nuclear program was entirely peaceful and consistent with the postulates of the NPT. Amb Amiri also appreciated Pakistan's consistent support and highlighted the need for stronger cooperation in energy, trade and connectivity projects. In his keynote address, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, former envoy to Iran, provided a strategic assessment of the snapback sanctions and their broader implications for global non-proliferation norms. He observed that the JCPOA (2015), once hailed as a model of cooperative diplomacy, collapsed due to unilateral actions and the breakdown of trust.

Ambassador Mahmood explained that the Cairo understanding was an attempt to re-establish limited monitoring and inspection under the UN framework, but the triggering of snapback mechanism undermined its progress. He warned that sanctions might insinuate further instability through their secondary effects on regional states like Syria, Yemen and Lebanon.

Jahur Saleem highlighted that Pakistan's relationship with Iran stood the test of time and that recent 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel demonstrated its significance. He mentioned that the failure of JCPOA eroded the trust in global commitments and disproportionately impacted the ordinary citizens. Amb Jahur noted that sanctions disrupted South Asian trade flows, approximately 70-80 percent of

which was dependent on maritime routes. He Stressed that Pakistan always advocated for a balanced and cooperative approach that avoided zero-sum rivalries and promoted inclusive regional growth through the platforms like CPEC and BRI.

Professor, faculty of World studies University of Tehran Dr Tohid Asadi analyzed that the sanctions obstructed Iran's access to global markets, technology and capital, and affected the regional supply chains and energy routes. Dr Asadi was of the view that Tehran's foreign policy now prioritizes geo-economic integration with regional partners in which Pakistan holds the special place. He stressed that Tehran-Islamabad relationship is now evolving beyond security concerns to include connectivity, trade corridors and energy collaboration.

Jamaica's strongest-ever storm, Hurricane Melissa, turns to Cuba

Cuban authorities say
some 500,000 people
ordered to move to higher
ground ahead of hurricane

NEWS DESK

JAMAICA: Hurricane Melissa churned toward Cuba's second-largest city with the force of a powerful Category 4 storm on Tuesday, hours after making landfall in neighboring Jamaica as the strongest-ever cyclone on record to hit that Caribbean island nation.

Melissa roared ashore near Jamaica's southwestern town of New Hope, packing sustained winds of up to 185 mph (295 kph), according to the US National Hurricane Center, well above the minimum 157 mph (252 kph) wind speed of a Category 5 storm, the highest level on the Saffir-Simpson wind scale. In southwestern Jamaica, the parish of St Elizabeth was left "underwater," an official said, with more than 500,000 residents without power.

"The reports that we have had so far would include damage to hospitals, significant damage to residential property, housing and commercial property as well, and damage to our road infrastructure," Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness said on CNN after the storm had passed. Holness said the government had not received any confirmed storm-related fatalities, but given the strength of the hurricane and the extent of the damage, "we are expecting that there would be some loss of life." Melissa's winds subsided to 145mph (233kph), the NHC said, as the storm drifted past the mountainous island.

SC rejects plea to halt Senate election in KP

Barrister Gohar, representing Shibli Faraz, argued that since the Election Commission had de-seated his client, the court should issue a stay order and suspend polling for the vacant Senate seat

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside the Peshawar High Court's order in the Shibli Faraz case and directed the High Court to decide the pending petition after hearing all parties. The apex court also rejected a plea to stop the Senate election. A five-member constitutional bench headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan heard the appeal filed by Senator Shibli Faraz against the Peshawar High Court's decision to indefinitely adjourn proceedings on his petition challenging the Election Commission's notification that de-seated him. Barrister Gohar, representing Shibli Faraz, argued that since the Election Commission had de-seated his client, the court should issue a stay order and suspend polling for the vacant Senate seat.

Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi asked how many seats were up for election, and Barrister Gohar replied that polling was being held for only one. The bench observed that the court would not interfere in the election process and dismissed the request to halt the polling. Counsel for the Election Commission contended that the petitioners must surrender before seeking relief. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar asked whether the Peshawar High Court had ruled on the case's maintainability, to which Barrister Gohar replied that it had not been dismissed. Justice Jamal Mandokhail remarked that the matter related to fundamental rights, while Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman argued that such rights were linked to punishment, noting that the petitioners had been convicted by an anti-terrorism court.

Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi observed that the High Court should have issued a brief order instead of writing a 31-page judgment. The Supreme Court then set aside the Peshawar High Court's decision, disposed of the appeal, and directed the High Court to hear both sides and decide the pending petition on merit. – APP

Pakistan pushes for ending US economic embargo on Cuba

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has renewed its call for an end to the American economic embargo against Cuba, a demand the UN General Assembly has made annually since 1992, as the Caribbean region braces for devastation by Hurricane Melissa. "Such measures — including the extraterritorial application of domestic laws — contravene international law, including the humanitarian and human rights obligations," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told the 193-member Assembly, which began debating the issue on Tuesday. The General Assembly has repeatedly debated the severe impact of the embargo on the Cuban people, highlighting its negative effects on daily life, human rights, and economic development, and calling on the US to terminate blockade of the country. But the Assembly action has no legal power as only the U.S. Congress can lift the embargo. In his remarks, Ambassador Asim Ahmad said that Pakistan "stands in solidarity" with Cuba in its sovereign right to pursue their chosen path of development and to ensure access to essential goods such as food, medicine, and technology without restriction. "The impact that the economic, financial and commercial embargo has had on Cuba and its people is deeply concerning," the Pakistani envoy said. Pakistan, he said, believes that international cooperation must rest on the pillars of sovereign equality, mutual respect, and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. "Resort to unilateral economic measures stands in stark contradiction to these principles, particularly the selective application of such measures on developing countries, driven by political considerations." In this regard, he cited the Secretary-General's report which points to the severe burdens on Cuba's development trajectory that the embargo had placed. "The restrictions have significantly constrained the country's ability to engage in trade, access foreign investment, conduct financial and banking transactions and import essential goods and services," the report said.

South Korea gifts Donald Trump replica of ancient golden crown

GYEONGJU: US President Donald Trump may be facing "no kings" protests back home, but in South Korea officials had the perfect gift for the monarch-loving magnate – a replica golden crown. Trump met South Korean counterpart Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday, part of a visit in which he is expected to hold tense trade talks with China's Xi Jinping. And capping a lavish welcome ceremony in the historic capital Gyeongju, Trump was presented with a replica of a crown worn by the kings of Silla, the dynasty that ruled from 57 BC to 935 AD. The gift was a replica of "the largest and most extravagant of the existing gold crowns" from the Silla period, Trump was told. It represented "the divine connection between heavenly and earthly leadership". Seoul's presidential office said the headgear symbolises "peace, coexistence, and shared prosperity on the peninsula – values that mirror the Silla dynasty's long era of stability". Trump has made no secret of his love of monarchies the world over. Americans rallied across the country this month in opposition to what organisers call Trump's "king-like" presidency and erosion of democratic norms in the United States. Trump mocked the rallies on social media, sharing AI-generated posts showing himself wearing a crown while flying a fighter jet emblazoned with the words "King Trump" dumping faeces on protesters. – APP



General Practice
HOSPITAL

We Are OPEN

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





OUTPATIENTS



IN-PATIENT WARD



INTENSIVE CARE UNIT



MATERNITY CARE UNIT



SURGICAL CARE UNIT



X-RAY



LABORATORY



RADIOLOGY / CT SCAN



ICU



DAY SURGERY ROOM



OPERATION THEATRE



DAY CARE SURGERY



MEDICAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT



MICROSCOPY LAB



ULTRASOUND



ECG



UPR



PHARMACY



General Physician Services



Pediatrics & Child Health



Neurology



Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery



Medicine



Plastic Surgery



Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle



Psychiatry



Gynecology & Women's Health



Nephrology



Gastroenterology



Dermatology & Aesthetics



Ear, Nose & Throat



Orthopedics and Sports Medicine



Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation



General Surgery



Cardiology



Ophthalmology



Psychiatry & Mental Health

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.

info@generalpractice.com.pk
[+92 33 47 47 47 01](tel:+923347474701)


Pakdawn Tower 2, New Blue Area, Islamabad


www.generalpractice.com.pk

[generalpracticeislamabad](https://www.facebook.com/generalpracticeislamabad)

+92 51 5960 4741 | +92 51 5161 474