



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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President Xi reacts cautiously after meeting with Trump

Detailed News On Page-08

KP CM ready to work with federal govt

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Canada keen to expand ties with Pak

Detailed News On Page-07



3 others also neutralised

Wanted TTP terrorist killed in Bajaur: ISPR

Military says killed militant commander Amjad, second to Noor Wali, was highly wanted by Pakistan

Pak 'agrees' to resume talks with Afghan Taliban

Islamabad decides to give peace another chance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has agreed to resume talks with the Afghan Taliban regime in Istanbul at the request of mediator Turkiye, after earlier rounds between Islamabad and Kabul failed to "bring about any workable solution," sources said on Thursday. Sources familiar with the development told Geo News that Pakistan decided to resume the dialogue process to give peace another chance. The Pakistani delegation, which had been preparing to return home following the breakdown of earlier talks, will now extend its stay in Istanbul to continue discussions. The negotiations will reportedly focus on Pakistan's core demand that Afghanistan take "clear, verifiable and effective

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CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In a major breakthrough, security forces killed four terrorists, including top Fitna al-Khawarij, Tehreeke-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), commander in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district, the military's media wing said on Thursday. In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on the night of October 29 and 30, the movement of a group of terrorists, who were trying to infiltrate through the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was picked up by the security forces in Bajaur district. "Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted Khawarij's attempt to infiltrate," it said, adding that as a result of precise and skilful engagement, four militants, including kharji leader and a high-value target Amjad alias Mazahim, were sent to hell. The ISPR said that killed TTP commander "Amjad, second to Kharji Noor Wali and head of Rehbari Shura of Indian proxy Fitna al-Khawarij, was highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and govt had fixed head money of Rs5 million on him, as he remained actively involved in perpetuating numerous terrorist activities inside Pakistan while residing in Afghanistan". "Sanitisation operation is being conducted to eliminate any

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Forces kill 18 in Balochistan

APP

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces killed 18 terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy, Fitna al-Hindustan, in two separate operations in Balochistan. According to a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), an intelligence-based operation (IBO) was conducted in the general area Chiltan Mountains, Quetta District, on the reported presence of terrorists. "During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, 14 Indian sponsored terrorists were sent to hell," it further said. In another IBO conducted in the general area Buleda, Kech District, a terrorist hideout was busted and four terrorists were successfully neutralized. Weapons, ammunition, and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists,

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Briefs

KP CM willing to work with Center

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has said that his government is ready to cooperate with the federal government if decisions are not imposed behind closed doors. The provincial chief executive was once again denied permission to meet jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan. It was the fourth time since his October 13 election as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister that Afridi had been denied a meeting with the jailed PTI founder. Speaking to Geo News on Thursday, Afridi — who replaced Ali Amin Gandapur as the chief minister earlier this month — said he has started reviewing provincial affairs and has received several briefings, with more scheduled in the coming days.

PTI wins Senate election from KP

DNA

PESHAWAR: PTI-backed candidate Khurram Zeeshan emerged victorious with 91 votes in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Senate by-election, according to unofficial and unconfirmed results announced on Thursday. His rival, Taj Afridi, who was backed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), secured 45 votes. The seat was vacated after PTI leader Shibli Faraz, who was also the opposition leader in the Senate, was disqualified. Advertisement. A total of five candidates contested the by-election, while one vote was declared invalid during the counting process.

For supporting TTP

Field Marshal Munir castigates Afghan regime

COAS Asim Munir affirms Pakistan will not allow cross-border terrorism to be perpetrated from Afghan soil



SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir on Thursday assailed the Afghan Taliban regime for assisting India-backed terrorists despite Pakistan's efforts to improve bilateral relations with Kabul. The Afghan soil remains a safe sanctuary for Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists despite Pakistan's repeated efforts to improve ties with Kabul, he

said during an interactive session with the Jirga of tribal elders in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Peshawar, read a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). Speaking to the meeting's participants, Field Marshal Munir emphasised that Pakistan has always sought peace with all its neighbours, including Afghanistan. However, Pakistan would not allow cross-border terrorism to be perpetrated from

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JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCES DAY



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, AKAMATSU Shuichi Ambassador of Japan and others cutting cake to celebrate the 71st Japan Self Defense Forces Day. – DNA

Under new Japanese PM

Japan-Pakistan ties to grow further, says Ambassador

Embassy of Japan Celebrates 71st Anniversary of Japan Self-Defense Forces Day

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan hosted a grand reception to commemorate the 71st Anniversary of Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) Day, celebrating the establishment and contributions of Japan's defense forces to peace, stability, and humanitarian assistance worldwide. H.E. Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, welcomed guests at the event, while Colonel ABE Kazuo, Defense Attaché, represented the Japan Self-Defense Forces. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Defense of Pakistan, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. The event began with the national anthems of Japan and Pakistan, followed by the traditional cake-cutting ceremony led by the ambassador and the defense minister. The reception brought together a distinguished gathering of military officers, parliamentarians, senior government offi-

cials, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives from various sectors of society, underscoring the enduring friendship and cooperation between Japan and Pakistan. In his address, Ambassador Akamatsu extended heartfelt condolences over the loss of lives and destruction caused by the recent summer floods in Pakistan. He reaffirmed Japan's commitment to supporting Pakistan in disaster management, recovery, and resilience-building, emphasizing Japan's own long-standing experience in coping with natural disasters. Recalling past and ongoing areas of cooperation between the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Pakistan Armed Forces, the ambassador highlighted Japan's humanitarian airlift operations during Pakistan's 2010 floods, as well as joint efforts with the Pakistan Army in relief activities following the Turkiye earthquake. He also noted active engagements in 2025, including the participation of Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer JS MURASAME in

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SC suspends ruling on POC issuance to Afghans

FAIZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD, The Supreme Court on Thursday heard the case regarding the issuance of Pakistan Origin Cards (POC) to Afghan nationals. The three-member bench, headed by Justice Shahid Waheed, took up the matter, with Additional Attorney General Rana Asadullah appearing before the court. The Additional Attorney General informed the bench that the federal government had already filed an appeal against the Peshawar High Court's decision dated December 1, 2023. He submitted that the high court had ruled that an Afghan

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India waging low intensity war against Pakistan: Asif

Defence Minister says the president of the United States has, on several occasions, mentioned — he even mentioned it yesterday — that seven beautiful planes were lost in the clash between India and Pakistan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has stated that India is waging a "low-intensity" war against Pakistan from Afghanistan, adding that New Delhi is trying to "settle the score" after facing defeat in the four-day conflict with Islamabad in May. Asif expressed these views during an interview with Al Arabiya English that was released late on Wednesday. His remarks are a continuation of the censure he has been directing toward Kabul in connection with terror incidents in Pakistan, recent border hostilities and the subsequent failure of talks with its Taliban rulers. He was asked during his interview with Al Arabiya about the evidence he had to back his assertions that New Delhi was "pulling the strings" during talks with Taliban representatives in Doha and Turkiye. "When it comes to showing the evidence, or tabling the evidence, we will do that. We have the evidence," Asif replied, highlighting that

the Afghan foreign minister was visiting the Indian capital when border clashes began between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He went on to say that there was no doubt about Afghanistan having become an "Indian proxy". "And India is actually waging a low-intensity war against us from the Afghan territory and trying to settle the score [after] the last round we had around six or five months back, when they were squarely defeated. And they lost seven planes. "The president of the United States has, on several occasions, mentioned — he even mentioned it yesterday — that seven beautiful planes were lost in the clash between India and Pakistan," he added. The conflict between the two countries in May was sparked by an attack on tourists in occupied Kashmir, which New Delhi, without evidence, linked to Pakistan. Islamabad strongly denied responsibility while calling for a neutral investigation. New Delhi then launched deadly air strikes in Punjab and Azad Kashmir on May 7.

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Strategic importance of Azerbaijan in transport connectivity

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

TODAY, Azerbaijan is an attractive country in the world. The creation of political and economic stability, favorable business and investment environment ensure the realization of any project in the country. The current investment policy and successful business environment do not only attract local investors but also, attract foreign investors. The dynamic development gained in all spheres of public life in the country in recent years has significantly increased the geopolitical significance of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Along with all of these, important tasks such as active participation in socio-economic processes in the global economic space, effective access to foreign markets, and the formation of a competitive national industry have become a necessity. The issues such as globalization, rapid integration, and sustainable development, etc., which are typical for the modern era, have also specific importance for the country. Azerbaijan is one of the main initiators of the bil-

lion invested in projects, and the projects have been successfully completed. These projects include East-West", "North-South" transport corridors, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, one of the priority energy projects for the European Union (Shah Deniz-2, the expansion of the South Caucasus pipeline), Southern Gas Corridor. Besides the infrastructures of state economy, such as energy, communication, education, and health care, the transport also plays an important role for achieving social, economic, foreign policy and other public priorities by ensuring initial demands of community life. The country is one of the transport and logistical hubs within Eurasia. Efforts are underway to develop international transportation corridors and establish modern infrastructure. The opening of the East-West and North-South corridors has created new economic and transportation opportunities. Azerbaijan closely cooperates with countries located along the corridor in an effort to promote the Middle Corridor. The mentioned Corridor offers a reliable and secure route linking China and Central

Asia with Europe through Azerbaijan. Since 2022, cargo traffic along the Middle Corridor through Azerbaijan has increased by nearly 90 percent, with transit times considerably reduced. Among the new projects, the importance of the Zangezur corridor should also be highlighted. This project was initiated by Azerbaijan and gained prominence after its victory in the Second Karabakh War. Thus, recent agreements connecting mainland Azerbaijan with its Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic are expected to expand transit capabilities for international transportation further. In this context, the Zangezur Corridor will soon become an essential segment of the Middle Corridor, along with the North-South Corridor, thereby fostering peace, multilateral cooperation, and benefiting Azerbaijan's neighboring countries to the east, west, north, and south. As part of Azerbaijan's focused policy objectives, concerted efforts are underway to bolster both the development of domestic transport infrastructure and the transformation of the nation into a Eurasian transport hub. Highways situated along international transport corridors within

Azerbaijan are undergoing reconstruction to meet the highest available standards. Moreover, significant initiatives such as transitioning from direct to alternating current, conducting comprehensive infrastructure overhauls, modernizing the railway traffic structure, and enhancing control systems are currently in progress within the railway sector. Azerbaijan's strategic vision in transport connectivity extends beyond economic gains. It reflects the country's broader aspiration to promote regional cooperation, strengthen geopolitical stability, and bridge continents through shared prosperity. By positioning itself as a crossroads of civilizations and commerce, Azerbaijan is not merely a transit country it is a catalyst for Eurasian integration. In an era defined by shifting trade routes and emerging economic blocs, Azerbaijan's approach to connectivity underscores the enduring relevance of strategic geography when combined with pragmatic policymaking and visionary leadership. Its transport diplomacy, rooted in mutual benefit and regional inclusivity, continues to make Azerbaijan a pivotal link in the architecture of Eurasian connectivity.

Punjab spending Rs100b on flood victims rehabilitation: Marriyum

Marriyum highlighted that it was a remarkable achievement to initiate the compensation process within just 26 days of the disaster. She said CM Maryam Nawaz personally supervised all stages of relief, rescue, and rehabilitation operations

DNA

BAHAWALPUR: On the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the provincial government is spending Rs. 100 billion on the rehabilitation of flood victims across Punjab. Out of this amount, Rs. 11.5 billion have already been transferred to the victims' bank accounts, while Rs. 20 billion have been handed over to the Bank of Punjab. This was stated by Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb while addressing a ceremony held at Jinnah Stadium Khairpur Tamewali under the Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Flood Rehabilitation Programme. She said that under the leadership of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif, historic measures are being taken to rebuild the lives of flood-affected families. The minister informed that 180,000 bank accounts have been opened for the victims, ensuring transparent and dignified compensation for damaged houses and crops. The government, she added, is also providing cash assistance and transport facilities to affected families. Marriyum highlighted that it was a remarkable achievement to initiate the compensation process within just 26 days of the

disaster. She said CM Maryam Nawaz personally supervised all stages of relief, rescue, and rehabilitation operations. During Punjab's worst floods in history, around two million animals and countless families were safely relocated — an effort she described as “stunning the imagination”. She noted that the province's swift and well-coordinated rescue, relief, survey, and financial compensation operations have set an unprecedented example in Pakistan's history. The minister further said that a 100pc survey of flood-affected families in 72 tehsils across 27 districts has been completed. Marriyum Aurangzeb added that mobile hospitals and “clinics on wheels” remained active in the affected areas, where 1.5 million people received medical treatment — preventing any major outbreak of disease. Despite 1.8 million cusecs of floodwater flowing through Punjab's rivers, she said, timely rescue and rehabilitation efforts under the Chief Minister's leadership ensured the protection of lives and property. The ceremony was attended by Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, Irrigation Minister Kazim Ali Pirzada, C&W Minister Malik Sohaib Ahmad Bharath, PML-N leader Saud Majeed, MP Dr Rana Tariq,

Sadia Bilal, former MPA Afzal Gul, Commissioner Bahawalpur Musarrat Jabeen, RPO Rai Babar Saeed, DG PDMA Irfan Ali Kathia, and DC Dr Farhan Farooq. Addressing the event, Provincial Irrigation Minister Kazim Ali Pirzada said he has been serving the public for 24 years and praised the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) as the only party truly working for the people. He said the Chief Minister fulfilled every promise made to flood victims, noting that nine out of Punjab's 11 barrages were repaired ahead of schedule, preventing major damage during the floods. He added that the visible development in the region — including infrastructure, education, and water management — is the result of the leadership of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. PML-N leader Saud Majeed also lauded the Chief Minister's “honest and hardworking” cabinet for minimising losses during the disaster. He said ongoing development projects in Bahawalpur, including universities, colleges, hospitals, and a modern waste management system, reflect the PML-N's vision and commitment to public service.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh meeting with Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam.

Governor KP, German envoy call for uplift initiatives

PESHAWAR: German Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Ina Lepel, called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House, here on Thursday. During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest, bilateral relations, trade and investment opportunities, and ways to enhance cooperation in various sectors. The meeting also focused on Germany's ongoing public welfare and development projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as initiatives to strengthen people-to-people connections, empower youth and women, and address climate change challenges. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi proposed the launch of a Pakistan-Germany joint project to restore and modernize the railway system in the province, particularly in Peshawar. He said that improving the railway infrastructure would boost tourism and facilitate trade and travel with Central Asian countries. He emphasized that young people from the province should be given ample opportunities under German student exchange programs and highlighted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa offers vast potential for investment in multiple sectors. — APP

Pakistan engages Iran, Vietnam to boost economy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: During the meeting with the Ambassador of Vietnam, the Federal Minister emphasized that Pakistan can learn from Vietnam's successful economic transformation, which has been driven by sustained foreign investment and export-led growth. He noted that Vietnam's progress in manufacturing and value-added exports, including technology-based products such as Samsung is a model worth studying. The Vietnamese Ambassador highlighted that Vietnam can explore Pakistani markets for import of its raw materials. Both sides agreed to identify

joint investment opportunities and enhance cooperation in various sectors to strengthen economic ties between the two countries. In a separate meeting with the Ambassador of Iran, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh appreciated Iran's long-standing support to Pakistan and welcomed its growing interest in trade and investment collaboration. Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in agricultural products, including wheat, rice, and mangoes, and on exploring opportunities in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and free market trade frameworks. The Federal Minister underlined that Iran and Pakistan share historic and brotherly relations and

reiterated Pakistan's commitment to pursuing the proposals highlighted by the Iranian Ambassador to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh reaffirmed that Pakistan's constructive engagement with Vietnam and Iran reflects the government's firm resolve to promote economic diplomacy, attract foreign investment, and ensure sustainable economic growth. Board of Investment (BOI), under leadership of Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, remains committed to strengthening Pakistan's economy through increased investment facilitation and international partnerships with friendly nations.

Pakistan, Türkiye enjoy bond of hearts

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has said that relations between Pakistan and Türkiye are not just diplomatic but it is a bond of hearts. He said this while addressing the ceremony held here at Governor's House in connection with the 102nd National Day of Türkiye, said a press release issued on Thursday. This relationship was continuously strengthening on the basis of mutual respect, trust and cooperation. The ceremony was hosted Consul General of Türkiye in Lahore Mr. Mehmet Emin Simsek. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said, “Türkiye has always stood with Pakistan in difficult times. Whether during natural calamities or regional challenges, Türkiye has always shown its friendship and cooperation with Pakistan.” He said that the people of Pakistan consider the people of Türkiye as their close and sincere brothers and mutual trust between the two nations was increasing. Türkiye's Consul General Mehmet Emin Simsek said, “Pakistan has always supported Türkiye, and Türkiye highly values the sincerity and goodwill of the people of Pakistan.—APP

Ahsan calls for smart civil service to meet 21st-century challenges

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal has emphasized the urgent need to modernize Pakistan's governance and civil service system to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Addressing an international conference on “Local Realities and Regional Futures: Transforming Public Administration and Management in South Asia” at the Punjab University on Thursday, the minister called for a complete transformation in the country's administrative structure to make it more responsive, transparent, and citizen-centric. Professor Ahsan Iqbal said that governance in today's world had become increasingly complex due to technological advances, global interdependence, and changing social expectations. He noted that Pakistan's population is now younger,

urbanized, educated, and digitally connected, with citizens who expect governments to be more accountable, participatory, and technology-driven. He said the traditional model of democracy — where citizens voted and then waited for elected representatives to act on their behalf — is no longer sustainable in the modern age, where people are informed and empowered to participate in real-time decision-making. The minister pointed out that Pakistan's current civil service system, inherited from the British colonial era and last revised in 1973, was designed to maintain law and order rather than drive innovation and development. “It prizes stability over innovation, hierarchy over collaboration, and procedures over performance,” he said. “But today's challenges require agility, collaboration, and results-oriented governance.”

Highlighting the need for reforms, Ahsan Iqbal said that under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, the government has relaunched civil service reforms with renewed seriousness. A comprehensive framework, known as the “SMART Civil Service Model,” has been developed to make governance specialized, meritocratic, accountable, rooted in people, and tech-enabled. He explained that the model focuses on specialized recruitment through CSS, performance-based promotions, a new National Executive Service to include experts from the private sector, and the use of technology for efficiency and transparency. The minister said that governance must shift from process compliance to results delivery, with ministries signing annual performance agreements with the prime minister based on key performance indicators. —APP

Jazz partners with easypaisa to extend CallPerks

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has partnered with easypaisa to bring its proprietary AdTech platform, CallPerks, to easypaisa's digital banking ecosystem. The collaboration underscores Jazz's commitment to empowering brands with innovative, data-driven solutions that transform how customers experience brand communication. CallPerks, developed by Jazz, turns routine outgoing calls into opportunities for meaningful engagement by replacing traditional ring-back tones with personalized, real-time audio messages. Through this partnership, easypaisa and its brand partners will be able to use the platform to reach customers with tailored content that strengthens brand recall and drives more effective communication. Ali Fahd, Head of Jazz Lifestyle Ventures, said, “Being the market leader, Jazz holds a unique position to reach and engage customers through its CallPerks platform. This partnership enables easypaisa to leverage CallPerks' innovative AdTech capabilities to effectively reach its target audience with personalized, high-impact communication.” Khurram Warraich, Chief Digital Lending Officer at easypaisa, said: “We are delighted to partner with Jazz on this innovative initiative. CallPerks aligns perfectly with easypaisa's mission to enhance customer engagement through digital-first experiences. By integrating this platform into our ecosystem, we can provide our customers and brand partners with more relevant, personalized interactions that add value beyond traditional financial services.” This partnership not only bridges AdTech and fintech but also sets new benchmarks for how businesses can use voice as a channel for real-time customer engagement. By combining Jazz's technological innovation with easypaisa's reach in digital banking, the two companies are driving forward a more connected, data-driven future that enhances everyday experiences for millions of Pakistanis.—DNA



آئل اینڈ گیس
ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی
حکومت پاکستان



Oil & Gas
Regulatory Authority
Government of Pakistan

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS / HEARING

Notice of Public Hearing by the Authority to consider Final / Actual RLNG Sales Prices for Consumers of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited for the period July, 2022 to March, 2024.

The Federal Government of Pakistan has delegated the powers to determine and notify the RLNG Sales Prices for consumers of SNGPL & SSGCL to Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) under the applicable legal framework. In pursuant to that OGRA has issued the provisional RLNG prices for the consumers of SNGPL for the period effective July 01, 2022 to March 31, 2024 on monthly basis. The main components of the RLNG Prices are defined as; Delivery Ex. Ship (DES) price, Retainage, Transmission & Distribution Losses, Port/Terminal Charges and other import related cost, PSO/PPL Margin, LSA fee, Exchange Gain/Loss, Cost of Supply SSGCL/SNGPL etc. as approved by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Federal Cabinet and conveyed the same to the Authority in this regard.

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has submitted RLNG actualization data vide its letter dated 21st August, 2025 along with the supporting documents, working / computations based on the audited accounts for the relevant financial years with OGRA for determination and notification of final / actual RLNG Sales prices. The details of these price computations are available at OGRA's official website i.e. www.ogra.org.pk along-with monthly summary.

The Authority is to determine and notify the final / actual RLNG Prices for the said period, prior to doing this, the Authority invites all interested/affected persons including gas consumers, stakeholders, and general public to furnish their comments, suggestions and intervention before the Authority. All correspondence in this connection may be addressed to Senior Registrar, OGRA and should contain the names and addresses of applicant / interveners. Further, for online participation may be contact on E-mail given below.

All interventions/comments/suggestions must indicate the way they are likely to be affected by determination of the Authority in this case. Intervention request should be accompanied by an affidavit verifying the contents of the intervention, intervention fee of Rs. 500/- (demand draft in favour of OGRA) and authority letter, if representing an organization. All relevant documents with respect to the matter are available on OGRA's official website which can also be obtained on payment of prescribed charges of Rs.2/- per page from the office of Senior Registrar, OGRA, Islamabad through given email. For any information required from the Petitioner, please contact:

Ms. Kanwal Wazir,
General Manager (Zair),
Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited,
Gas House, 21-Kashmir Road, Lahore.
Ph No. 042-99201306, Fax: 042-992-4424

OGRA has decided to hold a Public Hearing, in the subject case according to the date, time and venue mentioned below:

Date	: November 6, 2025 (Thursday)
Time	: 11:30 a.m.
Venue	: SNGPL Head Office, Lahore

All parties to the proceedings, stakeholders, general public and interested / affected persons are hereby informed of the above proceedings.

Dr. Abdul Basit Qureshi
Senior Registrar,
Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority
OGRA Office, 37-Mauve Area, Service Road, South Sector, G-10/4, Islamabad.
Phone: 051-9108889, 051-9108890-98 (Ext-123), Fax: 051-9244310,
Email: registrar@ogra.gov.pk, Website



Public Service Message:

گیس لیکچ جان لیو احداثات کا سبب بن سکتی ہے احتیاطی تدابیر یقینی بنائیں اور حادثات سے بچیں

Islamabad marks 65 years of Master Plan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A ceremony was held at F-9 Park and the Gandhara Citizens and Heritage Center to mark the 65th anniversary of Islamabad's Master Plan and World Cities Day. On this occasion, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) reaffirmed its commitment to revitalize the founding vision from 1960, which is based on sustainability, modern planning and innovation. Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and the Inspector General of Police Islamabad attended the ceremony as special guests. The event was also attended by CDA Board Members, UN-Habitat, DHA, as well as renowned architects, town planners, and professionals from various fields across the country. Similar

ly, a large number of citizens, including representatives from civil society, university faculty and students, also participated. Addressing the ceremony, Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa said, “Let us celebrate the beauty of our city, Islamabad! On this occasion”. He said that today we pay tribute to Islamabad's Master Plan, which has been a symbol of urban planning and development for 65 years. Chairman CDA emphasized that implementing the Master Plan is the backbone of the city's core infrastructure and development. Chairman CDA said that we are fortunate to have inherited a city with a best plan, ranked among the most beautiful cities in the world. He mentioned that all wings of CDA, especially Planning, Environment, Finance, Administration and Engineering, have played a vital role in the city's planning, development,

and environmental protection. He said that CDA is working day and night to preserve the natural beauty of Islamabad and protect its environment. Chairman CDA said that robust measures have been taken over the past many years for the city's development, beautification and environmental protection. He highlighted financial autonomy, digital initiatives and collaboration with UPARCO for satellite imagery for urban planning and addressing land issues as key steps in the city's rebuilding and re-shaping. He mentioned that upcoming mega projects include an Expo Center, five-star hotels and a cricket stadium, among other development schemes. Chairman CDA said that CDA is fully prepared to deliver several long-pending residential sectors, including C-14, C-15, C-16, I-12, E-12, E-13, D-13, and F-13, while the Margalla Enclave project is being developed in collaboration with the Defence Housing Authority (DHA).

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



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Motorway Police.9270601-20

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Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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Railway Exchange9270831-5

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Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Canth Hospital...9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9280301-04

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

NUML hosts Turkish republic day celebration

Ambassador of Northern Cyprus, Education Attache of Turkish embassy visits to strengthen educational ties

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern Languages (NUML) hosted a special event to commemorate the Republic Day of Türkiye, celebrating the enduring friendship between Pakistan, and Türkiye. The event also marked the first visit of H.E. Buket Kop, Ambassador of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, to NUML. The distinguished delegation included Dr. Mehmet Toyran, Educational Counselor at the Turkish Embassy Islamabad; Colonel Fatih Yılmaz, Counselor of Interior Affairs; and Dr. Tahir Shah, Assistant to the Educational Counselor. They were warmly received by Rector NUML, Maj Gen (R) Shahid Mahmood Kayani, HI(M). Also present were DG NUML, Brig Muhammad Rafiq Khan, and Dean Faculty of Languages, Dr. Jameel Asghar Jami. During the meeting, both sides engaged in a productive discussion on fostering stronger educational and cultural cooperation among Türkiye, Northern Cyprus, and Pakistan. Ambassador Buket Kop commended NUML's academic and administrative achievements and proposed launching a teachers' exchange program to promote mutual learning and research collaboration. The Rector extended his gratitude for Türkiye's continued support in advancing higher education and intercultural linkages in Pakistan. He reaffirmed NUML's commitment to serving as a bridge of linguistic and cultural exchange, contributing to global understanding through education. Ambassador Buket Kop appreciated the shared cultural, historical, and religious ties between the three nations and emphasized the importance of turning these bonds into tangible academic partnerships. The discussion also covered potential joint research projects, student exchanges, and collaborative seminars aimed at strengthening academic cooperation. Later, the visiting dignitaries attended a Republic Day of Türkiye celebration organized by the Turkish Department of NUML. The event featured poems and performances by students highlighting Turkish history and culture. In his welcome address, Dr. Jameel Asghar Jami, Dean Faculty of Languages, highlighted Türkiye's unique journey of reform and resilience, being the first Muslim nation to emerge as a republic through internal transformation. He also expressed heartfelt wishes for Türkiye's continued progress and prosperity. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mehmet Toyran, Educational Counselor at the Turkish Embassy and Chief Guest of the event, expressed gratitude to NUML for celebrating the occasion and for its efforts in promoting Turkish language and culture in Pakistan. He reaffirmed full support for expanding academic and research collaboration with NUML. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of souvenirs to the distinguished guests, symbolizing the strong and enduring friendship among Türkiye, Northern Cyprus, and Pakistan.



ICCI organizes ergonomics training session for business executives

Session reflects ICCI's dedication to business growth as well as well-being of professionals: Tahir

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted an interactive Ergonomics Training Session exclusively designed for business executives by Dr. Yogi Wajahat Ali Khan, renowned Yoga and Mind Sciences Expert, at the Chamber House. The session focused on the importance of ergonomics in reducing workplace fatigue, improving posture, and fostering both physical and mental well-being. It was attended by a large number of participants including ICCI former Presidents, Executive Members, ICCI Members, and prominent business leaders. During the session, Dr. Yogi Wajahat demonstrated practical techniques on how to sit, move, breathe, and work, not just for efficiency but for longevity and happiness in daily professional life. In his welcome address, Acting President ICCI Tahir Ayub said that hosting such a session reflects ICCI's continued commitment to not only advancing business excellence but also nurturing the well-being of the people who drive that excellence, executives, entrepreneurs, and professionals. He added that in today's demanding corporate environment, long working hours, digital strain, and poor posture silently affect productivity and overall health. "Ergonomics is not a luxury but a necessity for sustainable performance," he emphasized. "By intelligently designing our workplaces and aligning our daily habits, we can prevent fatigue, reduce stress, and enhance creativity. A healthy workforce is indeed the foundation of a productive economy." The Acting President also appreciated the efforts of ICCI Executive Member Imran Minhas for organizing the significant and beneficial event. Dr. Waqar Ahmad Niaz, Dr. Iftikhar Haider Malik, Sikandar Zaman, and Agha Tanveer also shared valuable insights on the subject. Those present on the occasion included ICCI Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, former Presidents Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaukat Masood, Mian Akram Farid, Council Member Chaudhry Masood, Executive member Zulqurnain Abbasi and a large number of business community representatives.

ICT admin inspects 39,268 sites, 30 new dengue cases reported

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad has intensified its anti-dengue campaign, inspecting over 39,268 sites across the capital to control the spread of the dengue virus. According to the latest dengue surveillance report, 30 new cases were confirmed in the past 24 hours, with 17 cases reported from rural areas and 13 from urban sectors. The report stated that 63 patients are currently under treatment at various hospitals in the city. Field teams conducted detailed inspections of residential and commercial locations, identifying larvae at 313 sites, while one location tested negative. To prevent further breeding, spray operations were carried out at 1,452 locations, including homes and high-risk areas. A spokesman for the district administration said that the anti-dengue campaign is being implemented without interruption. Action is being taken against those violating standard operating procedures (SOPs), with several premises sealed and individuals taken into custody during field operations. "The drive against dengue will not slow down at any stage," the official said, adding that legal cases will be registered against individuals found responsible for allowing mosquito larvae to breed on their premises. The administration has also urged citizens to cooperate with field teams by maintaining cleanliness and eliminating stagnant water sources where mosquitoes can breed. Residents have been advised to immediately report any signs of larvae or dengue breeding spots to the District Control Room for prompt action. Officials noted that the surveillance and inspection teams are working across all sectors of Islamabad, focusing on both rural and urban areas to prevent the spread of the virus before it peaks. The ongoing operations include checking rooftops, underground tanks, construction sites, and other potential mosquito breeding grounds. The district administration emphasized that awareness among citizens is essential for the success of the campaign. Door-to-door visits, awareness sessions in schools, and information leaflets are being used to educate the public about preventive measures.—APP

PRCS, UNICEF join hands for gender equality, HPV awareness

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in collaboration with UNICEF organized an event titled "Boys for Gender Equality & HPV Awareness Raising" at PRCS National Headquarters in Islamabad on Thursday. The event aimed to inspire boys and young men to become advocates of gender equality and play an active role in promoting awareness about health, particularly Human Papillomavirus (HPV). The ceremony was graced by Honourable Chairperson PRCS Mrs Farzana Naek, Deputy Representative Programme of UNICEF Mrs Sharmela Rasool and other distinguished guests including Secretary General PRCS Mr. Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, IFRC Head of Delegation in Pakistan Mr. Farid Abdulqadir, Head of Office of the German Red Cross Mr. Asif Aman, Head of Delegation of the Turkish Red Crescent Ms. Beyza Taner, representatives from partner national societies, UNICEF experts, PRCS staff, volunteers, and students. In her address, Mrs. Farzana Naek highlighted the crucial role of youth in driving social change. "PRCS takes pride in its 0.7 million dedicated volunteers, the majority being young men and women who bring hope and resilience to every corner of Pakistan. Sustainable change begins with awareness but endures through action," she said. She reaffirmed PRCS's commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind and that every person, especially women, girls, and marginalized groups, has equal access to safety, opportunity, and dignity. Speaking at the event, IFRC Head of Delegation Mr. Farid Abdulqadir underscored the importance of gender equality and the vital role boys can play in achieving it. He emphasized that the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) framework remains a core element across all Red Cross Red Crescent humanitarian programs. UNICEF's Deputy Country Representative, Ms. Sharmela Rasool, encouraged the audience to take collective action for gender equality and inclusivity, ensuring that girls are not left behind in education and opportunity. During an interactive session, Ms. Fahmida Khan, Gender and Development Specialist at UNICEF Pakistan, presented alarming statistics showing that 13.4 million girls are currently out of school and that Pakistan ranks sixth globally in early marriages. She also noted that Pakistan was ranked at the bottom among 148 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025, underscoring the urgency for concrete action. She called for urgent action and encouraged boys to become advocates for girls' rights and education.

Magsi emphasizes equipping youth with modern skills

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Hussain Magsi Thursday said that equipping Pakistan's youth with modern scientific and technological skills is essential for the country's progress. He was speaking at the inauguration of the STEM FAB Lab established by the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) at the Department of Chemistry, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad. Addressing the ceremony, the minister said, "The world is advancing rapidly in science and technology and Pakistan must move forward with the same resolve to secure its place among progressive nations." He stressed that Pakistan's future development is deeply linked with science, research, and innovation. Khalid Magsi announced that modern scientific laboratories will be set up in every district to strengthen STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and foster innovation among students. The STEM FAB Lab initiative, launched by the Pakistan Science Foundation, aims to revolutionize science education through hands-on learning, digital fabrication, and entrepreneurship. In its first phase, 57 FAB Labs will be established in higher secondary schools, cadet colleges, universities, and science centers nationwide. The initiative focuses on providing national and international STEM training programs for science teachers and educators and introducing modern pedagogical approaches such as Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE). It will offer practical learning experiences to enhance students' analytical and problem-solving skills and develop their entrepreneurial abilities so they can become job creators rather than job seekers. Under this program, 200 trained STEM teachers will be deployed in selected institutions, and digital fabrication labs equipped with advanced tools will be established. The initiative also includes the introduction of an online Learning Management System (LMS) that will feature lectures, documentaries, projects, simulations, and interactive materials to support teachers and students in STEM activities. The minister lauded the Pakistan Science Foundation for promoting scientific literacy and innovation and reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding STEM education across the country, empowering youth, and building a science-driven, knowledge-based economy.—APP

Two nations, one soul Pakistan-Türkiye friendship shines at AIOU celebrations

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Türkiye Friendship Week celebrations commenced at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Wednesday with the inauguration of an international conference and a Hagia Sophia Photo Exhibition, highlighting the centuries-old cultural and civilizational bond between the two brotherly nations. Parliamentary Secretary for Education Farah Naz Akbar, addressing the opening session as the chief guest, said that the relationship between Pakistan and Türkiye is rooted in love, trust and spiritual closeness — a connection that no distance or passage of time has ever weakened. She expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for announcing this special week to honor the deep friendship between the two nations. Representing the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, AIOU Dean of Social Sciences Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir said the relationship between Pakistan and Türkiye is a sacred confluence whose name is love. He remarked that both nations are "two bodies with one soul," whose hearts beat in perfect harmony. Pakistanis never feel like strangers in Türkiye, and the people of Türkiye consider Pakistan their second home, he added. University Registrar Raja Umar Younis highlighted that Pakistan and Türkiye have always stood shoulder to shoulder and are now expanding cooperation in education, tourism, energy, trade and technology. He said AIOU is actively working on faculty and student exchanges, joint research projects and virtual academic linkages to further strengthen people-to-people relations. Chairman of the National Rehamatul-lil-Alameen wa Khatam-un-Nabiyyin Authority Khurshid Ahmad Nadeem delivered a detailed talk on the historical and intellectual foundations of Pakistan-Türkiye friendship, while Dr. Farooq Adil formally inaugurated the "Dost Forum" to promote academic collaboration. Director Yunus Emre Institute Pakistan, Dr. Khalil Tokar, said the friendship between Türkiye and Pakistan is a radiant tale stretching across centuries. He prayed for the everlasting prosperity of both countries. On the sidelines of the conference, a Hagia Sophia Photo Exhibition was opened at the AIOU Academic Complex, featuring striking photographs of Türkiye's iconic architectural wonder. The exhibition reflects shared Islamic heritage and cultural harmony between the two brotherly nations. A final-year master's student Zunaira visiting the exhibition told APP that the images inspire strength and courage. "These pictures tell us that we too can rise again and stand proud before the entire world," she said while admiring images of Istanbul's historic skyline. A Master of Mass Communication first-year student Dawood welcomed the event and said that Pakistan's bond with Türkiye runs in the blood. Director International Office AIOU Dr. Zahid Majeed emphasized the importance of further strengthening academic, cultural and research partnerships, praising the Yunus Emre Institute for promoting Turkish language and culture, and fostering deep people-to-people engagement.—APP

Railway employees' dignity to be fully protected: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi Thursday reiterated that the dignity and self-respect of railway employees would be fully protected. Chairing a meeting at the Ministry of Railways to review various operational and administrative matters, he said Pakistan Railways will ensure the safety and honor of its employees under all circumstances. During the meeting, a detailed briefing was given on the punctual departure of trains, passenger facilities and the overall condition of railway tracks across the country. The progress on ongoing development projects and system upgrade initiatives within Pakistan Railways was also reviewed. The meeting was also briefed about the recent incident at the Gujrat railway crossing, where a gatekeeper, Muhammad Afzal, was assaulted. The minister appreciated the prompt action taken by the Railway Police, which resulted in the arrest of the accused, Shams Abbas. A case has been registered against the suspect at the Railway Police Station, Wazirabad. Hanif Abbasi said that respect for railway workers was a reflection of the institution's prestige and integrity.—APP

Govt stands firm with flood victims: Mubashir

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Public Affairs Rana Mubashir Iqbal has said that the federal government stood firm with the flood-affected people during this difficult time and was making every effort to help them stand on their own feet. Talking to media on Thursday, the federal minister said that the government has taken effective measures to provide all possible facilities to the flood affectees, and he had been assigned responsibility for Swabi and adjoining areas, where he fulfilled his duties with honesty and full commitment. On the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, he distributed compensation cheques among the families affected by the floods for each loss of life in Swabi and its adjoining areas. He noted that although this amount cannot compensate for the precious lives lost, it would certainly help the bereaved families during this difficult time. Rana Mubashir Iqbal expressed hope that the flood affectees across the country would soon overcome this temporary hardship. He reaffirmed that the federal government would continue to play an active role and would not leave the victims' side until their complete rehabilitation.—APP

Briefs

Jinko solar to set up solar industrial park in Gwadar Free Zone

ISLAMABAD: Chinese company Jinko Solar has expressed interest in establishing a solar industrial park on about 20 acres of land in the Gwadar North Free Zone, as solarisation efforts gain momentum in the port city. Jinko Solar, which pioneered vertically integrated production from silicon wafers and cells to module manufacturing, has discussed plans with the Gwadar Free Zone administration to produce affordable solar panels for residential and commercial use, Gwadar Pro reported. The company also intends to develop a 2 GW battery plant with an estimated power load of 20 MW. "Chinese solar brands are increasingly popular in Gwadar because they offer better value for money compared with other foreign brands," said Muhammad Baloch, a trader of solar panels at Dashti Market, the city's main hub for electronics and solar equipment.—APP

Customs Collectorate foils attempt to smuggle narcotics

ISLAMABAD: Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) of the Customs Collectorate Airports Karachi foiled an attempt to smuggle narcotics via international mail, detecting 2.19 Kg of marijuana worth Rs 67.5 million concealed in tin cans from Thailand that had been deceptively labeled as "Thai Red Tea". The surge in global e-commerce has greatly increased cross-border trade, said a release issued here on Thursday. Through constant vigilance and effective interception, Pakistan Customs continues to safeguard our communities from harm. FBR remains committed to strict vigilance against narcotics smuggling through all means including international mail.—APP

Rawlapindi reports 13 new dengue cases

RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority (DHA), Rawalpindi reported 13 new confirmed dengue cases in the last 24 hours, making the total for the year to 1,307, according to the latest surveillance data released by the authority. 33 patients currently admitted for treatment According to the details, allied hospitals have screened a total of 20,055 suspected patients since January this year. With 1,359 surveillance teams, over 6.1 million houses have been inspected till date, identifying 195,861 positive sites. Additionally, 1.74 million potential breeding spots were checked, out of which 27,015 spots were identified positive and eliminated 222,876 larvae. On enforcement of SOPs front, authorities have taken strict punitive actions against violations. This includes registering 4,708 FIRs, sealing 1,901 premises, issuing 3,644 challans and imposing fines totaling over Rs. 11.2 million.—APP

Experts warn of rising respiratory issues amid smog and dust allergies

ISLAMABAD: Medical expert Thursday expressed serious concern over the increasing number of breathing problems caused by smog and dust allergies, urging the public to raised awareness for taking timely precautionary measures to protect their health. While talking to a local news channel on Thursday, Dr. Muhammad Waqas Khan, Emergency medical officer JPMC expressed deep concern over the rising number of breathing problems reported across the city, adding, the recent increase in smog and dust pollution has triggered a surge in respiratory issues, particularly among children the elderly.—APP

Stakeholders lead discourse on marriage age reform

The event brought together international Muslim scholars and researchers from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, and Yemen, along with representatives from key provincial departments

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), the Women Development Department (WDD), Government of Punjab, and Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) jointly organized a consultative session on Marriage Age Legislations and Muslim Family Laws. The event brought together international Muslim scholars and researchers from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, and Yemen, along with representatives from key provincial departments, including Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Women Protection Authority, Auqaf Department, Baitul Maal, Social Welfare, Local Government and Community Development, Police, Punjab Safe City Authority, Health and Population Welfare, and Education. Lawyers, religious scholars, civil society representatives, persons with disabilities,

and academicians also participated in the discussion. The panellists shared effective practices from Muslim countries that have set 18 years and above as the minimum legal age of marriage for both girls and boys. They emphasized that emotional and physical maturity are equally essential for building a strong and healthy Ummah. Amal Basha from Yemen, Andi Nur Faizah from Indonesia, Prof. Aziz Mechout from Morocco, Badar bin Salim bin Hamadan from Oman, Balarabe A. Haruna from Nigeria, and Saimum Reza Talukder from Bangladesh participated. Eight Members of the Punjab Provincial Assembly — Uzma Kardar, Rushda Lodhi, Safia Saeed, Ms. Fatima, Ms. Nasreen, Ms. Mumtaz Sumbal Maalik Hussain, and former MPA Shameela Aslam — joined voices in advocating to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years across Pakistan. They stressed that protecting vulnerable girls from

early marriages is in line with Islamic principles of justice, gender equality and wellbeing. Secretary PCSW Ijaz Ahmed Joyia said in his welcoming remarks that marriage is the foundation of a strong family structure — an area where faith, culture, law, and human rights intersect and require careful reflection and dialogue. Imam of Badshahi Mosque, Qari Muhammad Anis, also attended the consultation and extended his support to the cause, reaffirming that safeguarding girls' rights is a moral and religious responsibility. It was a joint understanding that Islam is a progressive religion that allows laws to evolve according to the needs and circumstances of society, provided they remain consistent with the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah. The participants emphasized that the minimum age for marriage should be 18 years for both boys and girls, ensuring emotional, intellectual, and physical readiness for

the social contract of marriage. The session highlighted the need for uniformity in family and marriage laws and called for the establishment of 18 years as the legal minimum marriage age for both men and women, aligning with Islamic principles and international human rights standards that promote maturity, consent, and protection of personal rights. Participants further encouraged governments and religious authorities in Muslim countries to work collaboratively to harmonize laws that reflect both Islamic jurisprudence and contemporary social realities. The session concluded with a joint commitment to continue dialogue, conduct comparative legal research, and pursue coordinated policy actions among Muslim countries. Faiza Ahsan, additional secretary WDD and muslim scholars distributed shields and certificates among the participants in recognition of their valuable contributions to the discourse. The Embassy of Norway in Islamabad supported the project under which the consultation was conducted.

Pakistan stands ready to defend its sovereignty

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, on Thursday warned that despite Pakistan's sincere efforts to resolve issues with Afghanistan peacefully, any misadventure from the Afghan side would be met with an aggressive and determined response to protect the nation's sovereignty and citizens. While conversing exclusively with a private news channel, Aqeel Malik said that Pakistan will not tolerate any threats to its national security. He also referred to the recent mediation efforts by Turkey and Qatar, aimed at facilitating Pak-Afghan Taliban talks, adding, while Pakistan approached the negotiations with clarity and seriousness, the Afghan side did not reciprocate the same level of commitment, undermining the process. He emphasised that Pakistan's stance was non-negotiable when it comes to safeguarding its borders and people. Aqeel Malik further warned that Pakistan is fully capable of defending itself. He made it clear that any misadventure or violation of agreed conditions from across the border will be met with a firm response, including targeting the source of threats. He added that Pakistan will respond decisively, including to those who provide shelter or support to militants. Responding to a query, he said Pakistan values and will not jeopardize its bilateral relations with neighboring countries. He emphasized that Pakistan respects its friendly ties and genuinely seeks peace in the region and will never compromise its principles or sit across the table with militants under any circumstances.

HEC approves higher education program

ISLAMABAD: The University of Gwadar has received approval from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to launch a Master of Science in Management Sciences, while its Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT&VI) has opened admissions for 2025-26. HEC's Quality Assurance Division issued a No Objection Certificate for the postgraduate programme, which will begin in the spring semester of 2026, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Vice Chancellor Prof. Abdul Razzaq Sabir said the approval reflects the university's growing capacity in higher education and research in Balochistan. The university has also updated its Bachelor of Science in Computer Science curriculum to align with HEC and National Computing Education Accreditation Council standards, introducing modules in artificial intelligence, data science and advanced computing. PCT&VI, established under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, is offering associate diplomas in software technology.—APP

Sino-Pak educational, cultural ties

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to deepen educational and cultural linkages between Pakistan and China, the Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Zhao Shiren, paid a special visit to the Government College Women University Sialkot (GCWUS) on the invitation of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shazia Bashir. According to a Gwadar Pro's report during the visit, the two sides signed of a landmark memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening cooperation in education, research, cultural exchange, and student development initiatives. The university campus came alive with a vibrant display of art and culture as the Department of Fine Arts, in collaboration with the Directorate of Student Affairs, organized a grand event celebrating Pak-China friendship. A lively Chinese cultural show and an art exhibition reflecting the creative expressions of students were held in honour of the visiting dignitary. Consul General Zhao Shiren lauded the artistic brilliance and passion of GCWUS students, commending their efforts to portray cultural harmony and mutual respect between the two nations. The event featured captivating performances, including a poetic tribute to Allama Iqbal and a dramatic presentation symbolizing the deep-rooted Pakistan-China friendship. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shazia Bashir warmly welcomed Consul General Zhao Shiren, describing Sialkot as the "City of Iqbal" and highlighting its significance in Pakistan's intellectual and cultural heritage. She underscored the enduring bond between Pakistan and China, emphasizing that bilateral cooperation in education and research is vital to nurturing future generations. Dr. Bashir proposed the establishment of a Chinese Language Center and a Confucius Institute at GCWUS to promote linguistic learning and deeper cross-cultural understanding. In his address, Consul General Zhao expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the warm reception and praised the university's commitment to fostering academic excellence.—DNA

HRL, Chinese firm sign MoU to strengthen industrial coop

ISLAMABAD: Precise Development (HK) Limited of China and Habib Rafiq (Pvt.) Limited (HRL), one of Pakistan's leading conglomerates, signed a strategic partnership agreement, aimed at strengthening bilateral industrial cooperation. It also aimed at promoting technological exchanges, and expanding investment opportunities between the two countries, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Under the partnership, HRL will gain access to the Chinese market through coordination with ACFIC, facilitating greater business-to-business (B2B) engagement and encouraging joint ventures across industrial sectors. The collaboration will also promote private-sector participation and support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Talking to Gwadar Pro, Khalid Taimur Akram who is currently hosting B2B basis Chinese Investments in Pakistan highlighted that the agreement is not limited to large-scale enterprises; it also envisions an inclusive framework to support small.—APP

SECP holds high-level consultation on reforms

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) issued a Consultation Paper on the "Cost Audit Regime in Pakistan" in January 2025 with the objective of reviewing the utility and effectiveness of the existing cost audit framework. The paper was circulated and placed on the SECP's website to obtain feedback from key stakeholders across various sectors. In continuation of this initiative, consultation sessions were held in Lahore and Karachi with representatives from industry, professional bodies, and regulators, said a release issued here on Thursday. The responses received reflected a broad range of perspectives, with the majority of participants considering the existing cost audit framework as a compliance-heavy requirement with limited practical or economic utility. Building upon the feedback received during the consultation process, a follow-up consultation session was organized at the SECP Head Office in Islamabad on October 27, 2025, and was chaired by the Chairperson of the SECP. The session was attended by representatives from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP), the Ministry of Industries and Production (MoI), the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), and other industry stakeholders. The participants engaged in detailed deliberations on aligning the cost audit regime with international standards and enhancing its relevance to regulatory and policy objectives. It was unanimously agreed that ICAP and ICMAP would jointly undertake a comprehensive review and furnish detailed recommendations to the SECP after consultation with relevant stakeholders, where necessary, within three weeks. The review will focus on the formats of cost accounting statements to be annexed with the audited financial statements, the scope of the audit of these annexed statements, and the mechanism for filing them with sectoral regulators. The aim is to develop a balanced and efficient cost audit framework that ensures transparency and accountability while avoiding duplication of reporting requirements and facilitating ease of doing business in Pakistan. The SECP reaffirmed its commitment to continuing an inclusive and consultative approach to regulatory reforms, ensuring that the cost audit regime effectively serves both regulatory needs and the business environment in Pakistan.—APP

Experts call for coop on clean energy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) hosted the Pre-COP 30 "Pak-C2 Energy Transition Dialogue: Challenges & Prospects" in Islamabad, bringing together leading policymakers and experts from Pakistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan to discuss regional pathways toward a low-carbon future ahead of the upcoming COP 30 in Brazil. Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, delivered the keynote address, calling for a unified regional approach to renewable energy and climate action. She warned that Pakistan is already among the world's hottest countries, with temperatures reaching 53°C, yet it contributes less than 1% to global emissions. "Half of Pakistan has gone solar on its own," she said, "but without efficient grids, financial access, and coordinated planning, progress will remain fragmented." Rehman emphasized that over \$7 trillion in global fossil fuel subsidies continue to undermine climate goals, while developing nations struggle to access climate finance. She urged that Pakistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan work together through multi-lateral platforms to mobilize resources, technology, and innovation for clean energy. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of IRS, reflected on his participation in the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, noting that Pakistan played an important role in shaping early climate negotiations. He said Pakistan remains highly vulnerable to melting glaciers, deforestation, and urban pollution, and must "confront these challenges head-on, despite limited resources." He added that stronger collaboration with Central Asia, an energy-rich region, could help Pakistan meet its growing energy needs sustainably. Mr. Saadullah Ayaz, Member (Mitigation) of the Pakistan Climate

Change Authority (PCCA), highlighted that Pakistan's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets a 30% emissions reduction and 30% shift to electric vehicles by 2030. Engr. Khuda Bakhsh, CEO of the Engineering Development Board (EDB), shared progress on Pakistan's EV and solar manufacturing initiatives, including 5,000 EV registrations and

plans to locally produce solar cells and lithium-ion batteries. Dr. Nikita Illeritsky of the Russian Academy of Sciences provided comparative insights on Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan's reliance on fossil fuels, stressing that "energy transition must align with national priorities and economic realities." Mr. Muhammad Faisal Sharif of the Private Power and Infrastructure Board

(PPIB) noted that 54% of Pakistan's current energy mix now comes from clean sources, and called for social inclusion, local innovation, and regional cooperation to turn commitments into action. The event underscored that collective regional strategies and equitable climate finance are essential for a sustainable energy transition across the Pak-C2 region.



Rising prices and a weak rupee: Pakistan’s economic crisis deepens

PAKISTAN’S economy continues to face one of the most severe crises in its recent history. The cost of living has surged dramatically, driven primarily by the persistent depreciation of the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar. The rupee has lost over 70 percent of its value in the past few years, making it one of the weakest currencies in the region. Compared to neighboring countries such as India, Bangladesh, and even war-torn Afghanistan, Pakistan’s exchange rate and inflation levels present an alarming picture of economic instability and policy paralysis. The sharp decline in the rupee-dollar parity lies at the heart of Pakistan’s inflation crisis. Every drop in the rupee’s value translates into a surge in the prices of essential goods, from fuel and food to medicines and machinery. Since Pakistan relies heavily on imports for raw materials, energy, and even basic commodities, the weakening rupee has multiplied costs across all sectors of the economy. While other regional economies have managed to stabilize their currencies through sound fiscal and export policies, Pakistan has failed to do so. India and Bangladesh, for example, have maintained relatively stable exchange rates due to robust export growth and strong foreign exchange reserves. In contrast, Pakistan’s reserves remain dangerously low, and the country continues to depend on external borrowing to manage its balance of payments. The government’s inability to control the currency slide has eroded public confidence and worsened the inflationary burden on ordinary citizens. The fundamental cause of Pakistan’s currency weakness is the chronic shortage of exports. The country’s export base remains narrow and undiversified, dominated by low-value textile products. Despite enjoying GSP Plus trade status with the European Union, which offers tariff-free access to many goods, Pakistan has failed to fully benefit from this opportunity. The primary reason lies in the limited range and inconsistent quality of its exports. Foreign buyers have repeatedly complained about discrepancies between samples and actual shipments, delays in delivery, and non-compliance with international standards. As a result, Pakistan has lost credibility in key export markets. Competing economies like Bangladesh have built global reputations for reliability, quality, and innovation, allowing them to attract international buyers and expand their manufacturing base. Pakistan, on the other hand, has not been able to match that performance. This weak export performance directly affects foreign exchange inflows, placing pressure on the rupee. Without significant export earnings, Pakistan must rely on remittances and external loans to bridge its current account gap — a model that is neither sustainable nor growth-oriented. Equally troubling is the government’s apparent inaction in addressing the underlying causes of the crisis. Successive administrations have failed to implement structural reforms or long-term industrial policies to boost competitiveness. Bureaucratic inefficiencies, corruption, and inconsistent economic decisions have deterred both domestic and foreign investors. Pakistan’s business community continues to face

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an unpredictable regulatory environment, arbitrary taxation, and energy shortages. The absence of a clear policy direction has left investors uncertain about the country’s future economic trajectory. While other regional economies have streamlined their business processes and incentivized exports, Pakistan remains mired in red tape and policy confusion. Another major obstacle to economic revival is the deteriorating law and order situation. Incidents of terrorism, political unrest, and street protests have further undermined investor confidence. A business-friendly environment requires not only stable policies but also a sense of security and predictability. Unfortunately, Pakistan has struggled to provide either. Foreign investors, including those from China, traditionally Pakistan’s closest economic ally, have grown increasingly cautious. Despite being part of the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, new Chinese investments have slowed considerably. Beijing appears reluctant to expand its footprint amid growing concerns about Pakistan’s security environment and shifting geopolitical alignments. Islamabad’s increasing tilt toward Washington has also introduced an element of uncertainty in its relations with China, which remains a key source of financing and infrastructure development. The impact of these economic challenges on ordinary Pakistanis has been devastating. Over the past two years, poverty levels have risen sharply as inflation outpaces income growth. According to various independent assessments, millions of people have been pushed below the poverty line, with food insecurity becoming a serious issue in both urban and rural areas. Economic growth remains stagnant, hovering around two percent — far below what is needed to absorb the country’s growing labor force. Manufacturing output has declined, industrial units are closing, and unemployment is on the rise. The lack of investment in education, innovation, and technology further limits the potential for economic diversification. To restore stability and promote sustainable growth, Pakistan needs a comprehensive and coordinated strategy that addresses both immediate and long-term challenges. The foremost priority must be stabilizing the rupee by boosting exports and reducing import dependency. This requires a concerted effort to improve product quality, strengthen export industries, and enforce strict compliance with international standards. Equally important is the creation of a business-friendly environment that ensures transparency, policy consistency, and legal protection for investors. Strengthening governance, reducing corruption, and improving institutional efficiency are essential steps in this direction. Law and order must also be given top priority. Without internal security, no amount of economic reform can succeed. The government must engage constructively with all regional partners, including China, to rebuild investor trust and revive key projects under CPEC. Pakistan’s economic difficulties are not the result of a single factor but of years of mismanagement, policy inconsistency, and neglect of fundamental reforms. The depreciating rupee is a symptom of deeper structural weaknesses — weak exports, poor governance, and a declining investment climate. Unless decisive action is taken to address these issues, the crisis will only deepen, pushing the country further into economic stagnation and social distress. A coherent, reform-driven, and inclusive economic policy is urgently needed to reverse the downward spiral. The time for political rhetoric has passed; what Pakistan now requires is leadership, vision, and discipline to rebuild its economy and restore hope for its people.

Trump’s Asia tour amid domestic Chaos

Qamar Bashir



Yet to millions of Americans, this journey feels like an escape from the fires burning at home. While Trump collects applause and photo opportunities abroad, his country languishes in a state of economic and social unease. The consequences of the shutdown ripple through every corner of American life. Veterans who rely on monthly stipends now face uncertainty about their next meal.

IN the midst of this domestic turmoil, President Donald J. Trump has embarked on a high-profile tour of Asia, beginning in Malaysia and extending through Japan and South Korea. His aides present the trip as a mission of global peace and partnership—a continuation of the diplomacy that earned him acclaim earlier this year for mediating between Pakistan and India, averting what could have been a catastrophic war. Yet to millions of Americans, this journey feels like an escape from the fires burning at home. While Trump collects applause and photo opportunities abroad, his country languishes in a state of economic and social unease. The consequences of the shutdown ripple through every corner of American life. Veterans who rely on monthly stipends now face uncertainty about their next meal. Students and professors working on federally funded research are unable to continue their projects. Air-traffic safety is maintained only through the commitment of unpaid professionals, while rising tensions in major cities have forced the deployment of National Guard units in several states to control crime, manage protests, and support overstretched local agencies. On social media, images of soldiers and federal workers lining up at food banks have shocked the world—an irony in a nation that spends over \$800 billion annually on defense but cannot pay its own protectors. Economists warn that each week of the shutdown costs the economy nearly six billion dollars in lost productivity, consumer spending, and delayed payments. Should it persist into November, growth could fall below 1.5 percent, erasing the modest gains achieved earlier through tax cuts and job creation programs. For a nation built on economic momentum, such stagnation signals more than a budget dispute—it marks a systemic failure of governance. Yet, instead of focusing on legislative compromise or administrative repair, the president has chosen the path of foreign diplomacy, pursuing praise overseas while the domestic foundation trembles. Trump’s first stop, Malaysia, symbolized America’s effort to strengthen its footprint in Southeast Asia amid

the ongoing rivalry with China. He was received with ceremony and flattery, attending the ASEAN dialogue on trade realignment and security cooperation. The visit yielded pledges worth \$2.9 billion in agriculture and technology investments—modest when compared to the \$475 billion annual trade volume between the U.S. and ASEAN nations. Analysts at Brookings noted that Trump’s presence had more symbolic than economic value, representing visibility rather than tangible progress. From Kuala Lumpur, the president flew to Tokyo, where meetings with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida revolved around semiconductors, defense cooperation, and rare-earth supply chains. Japan, while eager to maintain its alliance with the United States, remains wary of Trump’s 25 percent tariffs on automotive exports—a policy projected to shave nearly one percent off Japan’s GDP by 2025. Despite Tokyo’s offer to expand investment in U.S. chip facilities, no substantive trade reforms were finalized. The South Korean leg of the tour offered somewhat greater optimism. Seoul, one of Washington’s most reliable economic partners, has invested over \$120 billion in U.S. manufacturing and battery plants since 2022. Trump’s visit reaffirmed commitments to green energy collaboration, though it also left Korean exporters concerned as the U.S. maintained a 15 percent tariff structure to protect domestic industries. Economists in Seoul described the talks as “diplomatic but directionless”—productive in tone but lacking strategic clarity. Trump’s itinerary, while rich in optics, delivered little in concrete benefits to either side. Hovering over all these visits is the shadow of China. The U.S. remains heavily dependent on Beijing for more than 80 percent of rare-earth elements used in electronics, defense systems, and renewable energy production. China’s decision earlier this year to tighten export controls on these materials has sent shockwaves through American industries. Production delays, layoffs, and rising costs have become routine in sectors that form the backbone of Trump’s manufacturing revival plan. The president’s bold declaration that “America will never be held hostage by Chinese minerals” resonated with nationalist sentiment, but industry experts point out that diversification of such supply chains

will take years, not months. Ironically, the very semiconductor and innovation projects designed to reduce this dependence are currently frozen under the shutdown’s budget restrictions. Thus, while Trump preaches economic independence abroad, his domestic paralysis ensures greater vulnerability at home. The contrast between Trump’s international acclaim and his domestic disapproval is stark. His assertive executive style, once seen as a source of strength, has now paralyzed the federal apparatus. Aggressive immigration crackdowns, politically motivated deployments of the National Guard, and tariff escalations have compounded social tension. The very decisiveness admired abroad has become divisive at home. The result is a nation torn between spectacle and substance—between the image of strength and the reality of stagnation. Donald Trump’s Asia tour has demonstrated once again his unparalleled ability to command attention—but not necessarily to deliver results. No major trade accord was signed, no defense breakthrough achieved, and no progress made in repairing America’s strained economic alliances. What the tour did produce was imagery: motorcades, banners, and adoring crowds—a spectacle that contrasts painfully with the silence of unpaid workers and the frustration of grounded researchers back home. It is often easier to change regimes abroad than to mend the fractures within one’s own system, but history remembers leaders who build stability at home more than those who chase applause abroad. America stands at a crossroads where symbolism must yield to substance. The path forward lies not in foreign flattery but in domestic reform—restoring governance, rebuilding trust, and reigniting the economy. The world may admire Trump’s boldness, but the true test of leadership will be whether his citizens can once again find dignity in their work, faith in their institutions, and pride in their nation. For now, as the president basks in Asia’s adoration, America waits for the sound of its own revival. —The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd) Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France Former Press Attaché to Malaysia Former MD, SRBC | Macomb, Michigan, USA

A world of abundance? Measuring AI’s economic impact

Diane Coyle, Prof

If AI follows that pattern, how powerful could its impact be? The dotcom boom offers some useful lessons. In the second half of the 1990s, emerging digital technologies nearly doubled US productivity growth to 2.5 percent. Although economists’ forecasts vary, some studies suggest that today’s wave of AI investment could produce a similarly significant boost in gross domestic product. The most fervent AI evangelists go further, arguing that the imminent arrival of artificial general intelligence could be utterly transformative

IS artificial intelligence transforming the economy in any real sense, or is the promise of rapid growth mere hype? US stock markets certainly favor the former view: Shares of AI and tech companies have accounted for about three-quarters of the S&P 500’s gains this year. Venture capital investors appear equally convinced, having poured \$200 billion into the AI sector in 2025 alone, according to one estimate. It is no surprise, then, that analysts are increasingly asking whether we are witnessing another tech bubble, reminiscent of the dotcom boom of the 1990s, and whether, as before, it might eventually burst and drag equity markets down with it. Yet, as my University of Cambridge colleague William Janeway points out, even speculative bubbles can leave behind vital infrastructure and innovations that sustain long-term growth. If AI follows that pattern, how powerful could its impact be? The dotcom boom offers some useful lessons. In the second half of the 1990s, emerging digital technologies nearly doubled US productivity growth to 2.5 percent. Although economists’ forecasts vary, some studies suggest that today’s wave of AI investment could produce a similarly significant boost in gross domestic product. The most fervent AI evangelists go further, arguing that the imminent arrival of artificial general intelligence could be utterly transformative. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, for example, has contended that AI’s potential is being radically underestimated and that, if developed safely, such systems could drive breakthroughs in biology, neuroscience, and economic development, potentially eradicating disease, reducing poverty, and fostering global cooperation. If such a world

of abundance is indeed on the horizon — and even if it materializes only in the distant future — it is crucial to track how this transformation plays out. But as I explain in my recent book “The Measure of Progress,” traditional economic metrics still struggle to capture the effects of the “old” digital economy, let alone the emerging AI-driven one. GDP growth is a prime example. At best, it is a lagging indicator of structural change. Economic historians have shown that transformative technologies such as steam power and electricity took decades to register in official statistics, and even when their effects became visible, the measured income gains were surprisingly modest. But it would be absurd to claim these technologies were not transformative; their impact simply manifested in ways that conventional metrics failed to reflect. When it comes to AI, some of the most basic facts are missing or incomplete. For example, how many companies are using generative AI, and in which sectors? What are they using it for? How are AI tools being applied in areas such as marketing, logistics, or customer service? Which firms are deploying AI agents, and who is actually using them? Although research on AI is expanding rapidly, what is required now is systematic data collection. Reliable statistics would not only help businesses gauge demand and opportunity, but also enable governments to design policies that foster growth and protect consumers. Tech companies such as Anthropic and OpenAI have begun to recognize that the current information vacuum does them no favors, especially given their products’ reliance on data. Without a clearer understanding of AI’s economic impact, public debate will inevitably

focus on risks and anxieties, from the prospect of a “jobpocalypse” to the potential psychological effects of human-like chatbots. Industry initiatives aimed at closing this gap, though limited in scope, are essential. That said, other indicators can provide valuable insight into AI’s transformative effects. In a recent working paper with John Poquitz, research associate at the Bennett School of Public Policy, University of Cambridge, I argue that any meaningful set of indicators should include key inputs for AI development, particularly energy consumption, labor-market shifts, and data use. Another important measure is the adoption of AI-driven services, so-called agentic AI. Time-use data, both at home and in the workplace, could also prove useful, as would structural indicators such as shifts in industrial composition and organizational design. More broadly, a fuller picture of structural change would help us understand AI’s broader economic effects, from sectoral reallocation to shifting workflows. Unfortunately, few such metrics currently exist. Compounding the problem, many statistical agencies, most notably in the US, are in disarray, and most policymakers remain overly cautious about drawing on new data sources and methodologies. Academics, for their part, are eager to improve how we measure and understand AI’s economic impact. For now, however, we are in the same position as the Victorians, who learned more about how steam power, railways, and the telegraph were reshaping their world from the novels of Charles Dickens and George Eliot than from official statistics. —Diane Coyle, Prof. of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, is the author of ‘Cogs and Monsters’

Briefs

Wanted TTP
terrorist
killed in
Bajaur: ISPR

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Indian-sponsored Kharji found in the area as a relentless counterterrorism campaign under vision "Azam-e-Istehkam" by security forces and LEAs will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," the ISPR statement read. The military's media wing further said that the TTP leadership, while residing in Afghanistan, is orchestrating infiltration attempts into Pakistan, primarily to project an impression of domestic presence and to raise the diminishing morale of "their khwarij in Bajaur and Mohmand because of effective operations of security forces". "It is once again reiterated that the interim Afghan government must take concrete measures to ensure that Afghan soil is not used by kharji proxies to perpetrate terrorism against Pakistan. It also validates our stance that Afghan soil is continuously being used as a safe haven by khwarij belonging to Fitna al Khwarij against Pakistan," the ISPR said. "The security forces remain resolute and unwavering in their commitment to defend the nation's frontiers," the statement concluded. The Bajaur operation comes hours after ISPR said it had killed eighteen India-backed terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan in two separate IBOs in Balochistan. The military's media wing said that an intelligence-based operation (IBO) was conducted in the general area of Chiltan Mountains, Quetta district, on the reported presence of terrorists. "During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, fourteen India-sponsored terrorists were sent to hell," it added. In another IBO conducted in the general area of Buleda, Kech district, a terrorist hide-out was busted and four terrorists were successfully neutralised, the ISPR added. Pakistan has been grappling with rising terror incidents, particularly in KP and Balochistan, since the Afghan Taliban regime took power in 2021. The government has repeatedly urged the Taliban regime to rein in terrorist groups responsible for countless attacks in Pakistan. However, the Taliban regime largely remained indifferent to Pakistan's demands and provided refuge to multiple terrorist groups targeting security forces and civilians. Instead of addressing Pakistan's concerns about cross-border terrorism, the Taliban regime resorted to unprovoked firing along the border on October 12. Pakistan Armed Forces retaliated swiftly, killing over 200 Taliban fighters and affiliated militants; however, as many as 23 Pakistani soldiers were martyred during the border clashes.

Pak 'agrees'
to resume
talks with
Afghan...

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action" against terrorist groups operating from its soil, sources added. Despite mediation efforts by friendly nations, talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Istanbul had collapsed after the Taliban regime refused to provide verifiable guarantees that their territory would not be used by groups such as the TTP to launch attacks against Pakistan. Islamabad has repeatedly conveyed its concerns to Taliban rulers over cross-border attacks and urged that Afghan territory not be used for terrorism against Pakistan. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar had 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.

South Africa crush England
toreach Women's World Cup final

South Africa bowl out England for 194 after skipper Laura Wolvaardt powered them to 319-7

DNA

GUWAHATI: Laura Wolvaardt led from the front with a majestic 169 to help South Africa thrash England by 125 runs and reach their first-ever ODI Women's World Cup final on Wednesday. South Africa posted 319-7 and then bowled out England for 194 in 42.3 overs with medium-pace bowler Marizanne Kapp returning figures of 5-20 in the first semi-final in Guwahati. The Proteas now await the winner of the second semi-final between holders Australia and India for the title clash on Sunday in the outskirts of Mumbai. South Africa made their third straight final of a Women's World Cup – two in T20 tournaments – and their first in the 50-over marquee competition. They were beaten by England in the semi-finals of the last two ODI World Cups in 2017 and 2022. Nadine de Klerk dismissed Linsey Smith for 27 as the last wicket to trigger celebrations in the South African camp. Wolvaardt set up victory with her first World Cup century as she lay the foundations of the mammoth total in a 116-run stand with fellow opener Tazmin Brits, who made 45. Wolvaardt reached her 10th ODI ton and then switched gears to take the attack to the opposition in the final few overs, ending with 20 fours and four sixes in her 143-ball knock. She reached the top of the tournament batting chart with 470 runs including one hundred and three half-tons in eight matches. The elegant batter started with a crisp cover drive off Lauren Bell for a four and the opening pair hit regular boundaries to put England on the



back foot. England left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone dented South Africa's surge with two wickets in one over as she bowled Brits for 45 and three balls later sent back Anneke Bosch for a duck. England struck regular blows but Wolvaardt stood firm and put on key partnerships with Kapp, who hit 42, and then Chloe Tryon, who made an unbeaten 33. Wolvaardt finally fell in the 48th over off Bell and walked back to a standing

ovation and handshakes from the opposition players. Ecclestone stood out with figures of 4-44 after she was cleared to play despite suffering a shoulder injury in the previous game. South Africa pace spearhead Kapp rattled England with two wickets in the first over as she bowled Amey Jones and Heather Knight – both out for ducks. Ayabonga Khaka dismissed Tammy Beaumont for a golden duck in the second

over and despite a rearguard by skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt and Alice Capsey the England innings fell apart. Sciver-Brunt, who top-scored with 64, and Capsey, who made 50, put on 107 runs for the third wicket but after their departure the South African bowlers hit back. Kapp dismissed Sciver-Brunt and then got Sophia Dunkley and Charlie Dean caught behind to be on a hat-trick, which was avoided by Ecclestone.

Japan-Pakistan ties
to grow further

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the multinational naval exercise AMAN 25, hosted by the Pakistan Navy. Ambassador Akamatsu further mentioned that a delegation of officers from Pakistan's National Security and War Course at the National Defence University (NDU) visited Japan earlier this year, contributing to growing professional exchanges between the two countries' defense institutions. He announced that Japan-Pakistan Military-to-Military Consultations are scheduled for December, which are expected to further enhance defense dialogue and practical cooperation. Reflecting on the global significance of 2025, which marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Ambassador Akamatsu underscored Japan's enduring commitment to peace, disarmament, and non-proliferation. As the only nation to have suffered atomic bombings, he said, Japan continues to advocate for a "world without nuclear weapons." He expressed hope that both Japan and Pakistan would continue to take meaningful steps toward promoting global nuclear disarmament and peaceful coexistence. The ambassador also conveyed his appreciation for Pakistan's active participation in the Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025, commending the Pakistan Pavilion's creative exhibit titled "A Universe in a Grain of Salt." He noted that the display had drawn more than 1.5 million visitors, reflecting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and creative potential. Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Akamatsu expressed optimism that under the leadership of Japan's newly elected first female Prime Minister, H.E. Ms. Takaichi Sanae, the friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan will continue to grow stronger, guided by mutual respect, trust, and shared aspirations for peace and prosperity. The Japan Self-Defense Forces Day marks the establishment of the Japan Defense Agency and JSDF on July 1, 1954. The observance has since been celebrated on November 1, in recognition of the JSDF's critical role in disaster relief and humanitarian operations in Japan and abroad.

Teenage Australian
cricketer dies after
being hit by ball

Austin was an emerging bowler and batter, considered by his Ferntree Gully Cricket Club as a "star cricketer, great leader and an awesome young man

MELBOURNE: A promising 17-year-old Australian cricketer died on Thursday after being struck by a ball, with his family saying they were "utterly devastated. Ben Austin was in the nets with a helmet on before a Twenty20 game in Melbourne on Tuesday when he was hit in the neck while facing a ball-throwing device. He was rushed to hospital in critical condition. "We are utterly devastated by the passing of our beautiful Ben, who died earlier on Thursday morning," his father Jace Austin said in a statement. "This tragedy has taken Ben from us, but we find some comfort that he was doing something he did for so many summers – going down to the nets with mates to play cricket. "We would also like to support his teammate who was bowling in the nets. This accident has impacted two young men and our thoughts are with he and his family as well." Austin was an emerging bowler and batter, considered by his Ferntree Gully Cricket Club as a "star cricketer, great leader and an awesome young man". **APP**

Liverpool thrashed
by Palace, holders
Newcastle through
in League Cup

ENGLAND: Second-string Liverpool were thumped 3-0 by Crystal Palace as Ismaila Sarr struck twice for the visitors in the League Cup on Wednesday, booking the London side's spot in the quarterfinals and piling more misery on Arne Slot's struggling side. Holders Newcastle United dispatched Tottenham Hotspur 2-0, Arsenal beat Brighton & Hove Albion 2-0, Manchester City came back to down second-tier Swansea City 3-1 and Chelsea edged past Wolverhampton Wanderers 4-3 in other fourth-round ties. Slot rested most of his regular starters – as did the other major Premier League clubs – leaving Liverpool to suffer their sixth loss in seven games across all competitions. The match at Anfield was fairly even before Sarr scored in the 41st minute when Liverpool defender Joe Gomez attempted to clear the ball but teed it up instead for the Senegalese player, who unleashed a blistering shot past keeper Freddie Woodman. In a torrential downpour that matched the Reds fans' mood, Sarr doubled Palace's lead seconds before the break when he latched onto a lovely reverse pass from Jeremy Pino. Liverpool were reduced to 10 men when Amara Nallo was sent off in the 79th minute for taking down Justin Devenny, his second red card in two senior appearances. – **Agencies**

France's
marathon man
Mahut calls time
on tennis career

PARIS: He is best known for losing the longest professional tennis match in history against American John Isner at Wimbledon in 2010 Frenchman Nicolas Mahut delivered an emotional farewell to professional tennis after his doubles defeat at the Paris Masters. Mahut, 43, won five Grand Slam doubles titles in a career spanning 25 years, but he is best known for losing the longest professional tennis match in history against American John Isner at Wimbledon in 2010. The match lasted 11 hours and five minutes and took place over three days, with the last set alone – eight hours 11 minutes – being long enough to have broken the previous longest-match record. Mahut bid adieu to the sport on home soil alongside Grigor Dimitrov on Tuesday, losing 6-4, 5-7, 10-4 to Hugo Nys and Edouard Roger-Vasselin. "Being able to win Grand Slams was for me one of the best memories," an emotional Mahut said after the match. "That's what I will remember," he said. "Beyond the titles, the trophies that I may have, it's also ultimately everything that happened in order for me to achieve those trophies and victories." "It's all the doubts, the questioning, the mistakes I made. That is ultimately what makes a career rich and mine is very rich in that regard." Asked about his record-setting match with Isner, Mahut said: "I now enjoy talking about that match because it was a crazy experience. It brought me a lot as a player and as a man." – **APP**

Kane nets twice in German Cup as
Bayern set European wins record

Harry Kane grabbed a double as Bayern Munich set a European record of 14 successive victories to start a season with their 4-1 win at Cologne in the German Cup second round

BERLIN: Harry Kane grabbed a double as Bayern Munich set a European record of 14 successive victories to start a season with their 4-1 win at Cologne in the German Cup second round on Wednesday. Kane's first, an incredible curling strike on the turn, and a second-half header brought his tally to 22 goals in 14 games this season. Wingers Luis Diaz and Michael Olise also got on the scoresheet for the 20-time German Cup winners. Cologne's Ragnar Ache scored the opener, which put Bayern behind for the first time in a match this season. Bayern's victory bettered the record of 13 wins to start a season in all competitions set by Fabio Capello's AC Milan in 1992-93 – the previous best mark in Europe's top-five leagues. The in-form England captain Kane has scored two hat-tricks and six braces in Bayern's record-breaking run, only failing to score in two of the 14 matches. Bayern coach Vincent Kompany was careful to praise Kane's all-round contribution, as the striker continued to drop deep and create. "It's funny sometimes – at the end of the game I asked someone if Harry

scored today, and he said 'yes, two goals'," Kompany told Germany's ARD. "Sometimes you don't even notice it, because of all the other stuff he does for the team." Earlier, Bayer Leverkusen scored two goals after the 120-minute mark to win 4-2 at a 10-man Paderborn. A frustrating night for the 2024 German domestic double winners looked destined to go to spot-kicks until 19-year-old Ibrahim Maza netted to spare Leverkusen's blushes against their second-division opponents, who had not lost since August. Aleix Garcia then added gloss to the result with Paderborn pushing for an equaliser. In regulation time, Alejandro Grimaldo's 60th-minute free-kick for Leverkusen – his fourth dead-ball goal this season – was cancelled out when Paderborn's Stefano Marino scored in the 90th minute. Then in extra-time, Paderborn, who were reduced to 10 men before the hour for a last-man foul which led to Grimaldo's free-kick, stunningly took the lead through Sven Michel on 96 minutes. But former Liverpool centre-back Jarell Quansah made it 2-2 shortly before the extra-time interval. — **DNA**

India
waging low
intensity
war against
Pak: Asif

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After tit-for-tat strikes on each other's airbases during the four-day escalation, it took American intervention on May 10 for both sides to finally reach a ceasefire. Pakistan initially said it had downed five Indian planes in air-to-air combat, and later raised the tally to seven. US President Donald Trump has also mentioned the downing of seven jets during the conflict on multiple occasions, but has stopped short of elaborating on which side lost the jets.

SC suspends
ruling
on POC
issuance
to Afghans

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man married to a Pakistani woman should be issued a Pakistan Origin Card (POC). He stated that the government had no objection to issuing POCs to such Afghan nationals; however, the high court had also held that such individuals were entitled to Pakistani citizenship – a conclusion that, he argued, was not permissible under the law. Justice Musarrat Hilali questioned the legal grounds on which citizenship could be granted and inquired about the number of petitioners. The Additional Attorney General replied that there were a total of 117 applicants. Justice Hilali observed, "These are only those who have come forward." Counsel for NADRA submitted that an Afghan national married to a Pakistani woman must also possess a valid visa. Justice Hilali remarked, "We need to see whether a person entered through the door or by jumping over the wall." The Additional Attorney General further informed the court that contempt petitions had been filed in light of the Peshawar High Court ruling.

Forces
kill 18 in
Balochistan

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who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities. "Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored terrorist found in the area as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azam e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country", the press release said.

Field
Marshal
Munir
castigates...

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Afghan soil against it, he added. The army chief lauded the tribal people's "steadfast and unconditional" support to the security forces during Pakistan's recent standoff with the Taliban forces and their affiliated militant groups, while paying tribute to the sacrifices made by the people of KP in the war against terrorism. Field Marshal Munir noted that Pakistan had been exercising patience and restraint for years despite cross-border attacks on security forces and civilians. His visit to Peshawar comes as security forces have intensified their efforts to eradicate terrorist groups from the province, which has borne the brunt of terror attacks perpetrated from the Afghan soil. Field Marshal Munir assured the tribal leaders that security forces would cleanse Pakistan, particularly KP, of terrorists and their abettors. Following the meeting, the army chief visited the Headquarters 11 Corps, where he was received by the Peshawar Corps commander. During his visit, Field Marshal Munir was briefed on the current security environment in KP, the operational preparedness of the forces, ongoing counterterrorism efforts, and the situation on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

South African envoy visits RCCI

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) had the honor of hosting Mr. Rudolph Pierre Jordaan, Acting High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa, at the Chamber. RCCI President Mr. Usman Shaukat, along with Senior Vice President Mr. Khalid Farooq Qazi and Vice President Mr. Fahad Barlas, warmly welcomed the distinguished guest. Members of the Executive Committee and a large number of RCCI members also attended the meeting. During the session, President Usman Shaukat shared details of the Chamber's key initiatives and activities aimed at strengthening business and trade linkages. He presented key trade data and expressed hope for expanding bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors, including pharmaceuticals, energy, green energy, and tourism. RCCI President Usman Shaukat emphasized the need for

more frequent high-level exchanges between Pakistan and South Africa to further enhance trade and investment ties, encourage technical cooperation, and promote skill development initiatives. He

stressed the importance of fostering greater bilateral and multilateral connectivity to unlock the full potential of economic relations. He noted that South Africa remains one of Pakistan's largest

trading partners in Africa, accounting for almost one-fourth of Pakistan's total trade with the continent, while South Africa's exports to Pakistan represent nearly 10% of its total exports to Asia.



In his presentation, Mr. Pierre Jordaan highlighted the strong and historic bilateral relations between South Africa and Pakistan, which date back to the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1994. The Acting High Commissioner shared an overview of South Africa's key investment and export opportunities, focusing on priority sectors such as renewable energy, mining equipment, automotive manufacturing, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, logistics, and tourism. He underlined South Africa's status as the most industrialized economy in Africa and its preferential access to major global markets through multiple trade agreements. Mr. Jordaan invited Pakistani businesses to explore joint ventures and investment opportunities in emerging areas, including green hydrogen, natural gas, critical minerals, and new energy vehicles (NEVs). The meeting concluded with an interactive discussion on trade facilitation and potential business partnerships, followed by the exchange of mementos.

Briefs

Govt prioritizes for documenting economy: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Thursday said that the government prioritized the documented economy for the smooth functioning of a country's trade to a sustainable national economy.

Business community and traders play an pivotal role in the national economy and illegal trade is a non traditional threat to national security, Federal Minister for Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said this while addressing the first annual roundtable, "The Challenge of Illegal Business to Pakistan's National Security" organized by Institute of Regional Studies Islamabad. The illegal trade is a major challenge to the country's economic stability and the government is ensuring a conducive environment for business in the country. There are immense investment opportunities in Pakistan and all possible facilities and incentives are being provided to foreign investors, he said Sheikh said that the business community is the backbone of the country's development and investor confidence is being restored through business reforms. The Minister said that if the economy is strong, the country will develop and opportunities for the promotion of investment, industry and trade will increase. He said the share of Pakistani products in global markets must be increased and the government is committed to stabilizing the economy.—APP

Rupee gains 03 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Thursday appreciated by 03 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 280.92 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 280.95. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 282.60 and Rs 282.9, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 52 paisa to close at Rs 326.19 against the last day's closing of Rs 326.71, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen came down by 02 paisa and closed at Rs 1.82, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of 55 paisa and closed at Rs 370.62 compared to the previous day's Rs371.17. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal declined by 01 and 02 paisa to close at Rs 76.48 and Rs 74.90, respectively.—APP

PSX sheds 1,732 points to close at 156,732

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with a bearish trend on Thursday, losing 1,732.19 points, a negative change of 1.09 percent, closing at 156,732.87 points against 158,465.06 points on the previous trading day. A total of 848,303 million shares were traded compared to 951,840 million shares on previous day, whereas the total value of shares traded was recorded at Rs37.61 billion against Rs41.31 billion.

As many as 475 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 148 recorded gains, 293 sustained losses, and 34 remained unchanged. The Bank of Punjab led the volume chart with 84,182 million shares, followed by WorldCall Telecom with 50,188 million, and K-Electric Ltd. with 47,800 million shares. In the gainers' column, Supernet Technologies Limited increased by Rs118.17 per share to close at Rs1,602.56, followed by S.S. Oil Mills Limited, which gained Rs42.13 to close at Rs463.41. Among the top losers, PIA Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a decrease of Rs333.33, closing at Rs23,966.67, while Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited declined by Rs297.14, ending at Rs28,633.75. In the futures market, 561,036 million shares were traded on Thursday compared to 482,377 million. HUBC-OCTB was the top gainer, up Rs8.44 to close at Rs214.46, while ENGROHNOV fell by Rs20.95 to close at Rs217.72.—APP

Canada, Pak agree to strengthen bilateral eco, trade coop

The Canadian High Commissioner briefed the Minister on Canada's efforts to diversify trade markets across Asia and highlighted Pakistan as an important emerging market for Canadian exports such as canola oil, soybean, and pulses

ISLAMABAD: Canada and Pakistan on Thursday agreed to strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation in potential sector of economy. His Excellency, Tarik Ali Khan, High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, called on Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, at the Ministry of Commerce in Islamabad, said a release issued here on Thursday.

The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and Canada, particularly in the areas of mining, agriculture, information technology, renewable energy, and skill development.

The Canadian High Commissioner briefed the Minister on Canada's efforts to diversify trade markets across Asia and highlighted Pakistan as an important emerging market for Canadian exports such as canola oil, soybean, and pulses. He informed that Canada will be organizing three major expos in the coming months such as PDAC Convention (Mining Sector) in March, Crops Canada Show (Agriculture Sector) in April, and Collision (IT and Tech Sector) in Toronto. The High Commissioner encouraged Pakistan's participation in these shows to explore partnerships and establish business-to-business linkages.

Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan underscored Pakistan's growing focus on value addition in food, livestock, and halal-cer-

tified products, emphasizing the country's authenticity and glob-



al credibility in halal production. He invited Canadian companies to participate in the Pakistan Food & Agriculture Expo 2025, being held on November 25 in Karachi, showcasing Pakistan's agri-based and processed food potential. The Minister further highlighted Pakistan's rapid progress in digital transformation,

e-commerce, IT exports, and AI-based fintech startups, not-

ing that collaborations with global tech firms such as Meta and Google have expanded Pakistan's digital ecosystem. Both sides expressed keen interest in exploring cooperation in renewable energy projects, SME development, and human resource exchange programs, while also acknowledging the importance of

Pakistan's skilled labor for glob-

al markets. The Canadian High Commissioner appreciated Pakistan's trade-friendly policies and growing industrial capabilities. He also noted the strong Pakistani diaspora of over 300,000 in Canada, including elected representatives in the Canadian Parliament and supported initiatives to establish stronger institutional and business-to-business linkages.

The meeting concluded with both

sides reaffirming their commitment to deepen economic relations, promote joint ventures, and facilitate participation in trade expos and sector-specific events in both countries. Senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce and the Canadian High Commission were also present during the meeting.—Agencies

Climate change, poor planning drive Vietnam flooding

HANOI: Dozens of people dead, thousands evacuated and millions of dollars in damage. Vietnam is once again battling widespread flooding driven by climate change and poor infrastructure decisions, experts say. The Southeast Asian nation's location and topography make it naturally vulnerable to frequent typhoons and some flooding, but the situation is being made worse by the heavier rains that climate change brings and rampant urbanization. Vietnam is in one of the most active tropical cyclone regions on Earth and prone to heavy rains between June and September. Ten typhoons or tropical storms usually affect Vietnam, directly or offshore, in a given year, but it has experienced 12 already in 2025. "Climate change is already shaping Vietnam's exposure in several important ways," said Nguyen Phuong Loan, a climate scientist at the University of New South Wales. Studies suggest climate change will produce fewer but "possibly more intense tropical cyclones (typhoons)" along with heavier bursts of rain because a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture. "That means a higher chance of flash floods, especially in densely populated urban areas," said Loan. Rising sea levels are also putting pressure on coastal communities. With 3,200 kilometers (around 2,000 miles) of coastline and a network of 2,300 rivers, Vietnam faces a high risk of flooding. Much of the country has little natural ability to drain quickly after heavy flooding because of its topography, hydrological experts said. In some cases construction and environmental degradation has made matters worse, said meteorological expert Nguyen Lan Oanh. Upstream forest destruction for hydropower projects, cementing of drainage canals and rampant urbanization have "badly contributed to the source of flooding and increased landslides," Oanh told AFP. "Humans need to change their perception in the way they treat nature for a safer world." This week alone, floods triggered by record rainfall in central Vietnam have killed at least 10 people and inundated more than 100,000 homes. In the coastal city of Hue, up to 1.7 meters of rain fell in just 24 hours. The flooding follows several rounds of inundations in the capital Hanoi and elsewhere, linked to storm systems or heavy rain fronts. Natural disasters — mostly storms, floods and landslides — left 187 people dead or missing in Vietnam in the first nine months of this year. Hundreds more were killed or left missing last year, many of them in Typhoon Yagi, the strongest storm to hit Vietnam in decades. Yagi caused an estimated \$1.6 billion in economic losses. Vietnam "is making great efforts at early warnings," said Ralf Toumi, director of the Grantham Institute — Climate Change and the Environment at Imperial College London.—Agencies

German foreign minister to make first visit to Syria

BERLIN: German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul will on Thursday make his first visit to Syria to meet representatives of the new government including President Ahmed Al-Sharaa, his ministry said. "With the overthrow of the Assad dictatorship, the people of Syria have entered a new era," Wadephul said in a statement released by his ministry, referring to ousted leader Bashar Assad. Wadephul and a German parliament delegation will meet Sharaa and Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani before traveling on to Lebanon and Bahrain, his ministry said. Syria has been ruled by a new Islamist-led government since the overthrow of Assad in December. The country's relations with the west have warmed, with the United States lifting sanctions and European governments developing closer ties. However Syria has seen continued unrest with clashes between different ethnic groups. "Syria faces immense challenges," Wadephul said. "It needs a government that guarantees all citizens, regardless of gender, religious, ethnic or social affiliation, a life of dignity and security." Germany has a large Syrian community as hundreds of thousands settled there after fleeing the country's civil war. "Many have not only found protection here, but also a new home," Wadephul said. "Some are also considering returning to Syria to rebuild their country. I would like to deepen this special relationship between our countries together with our partners in Syria." As the German government looks to crack down on migration to curb the rise of the far-right AfD, its leaders have sought to resume deportations to Syria. Wadephul's predecessor Annalena Baerbock, from the Green party which was part of Germany's last government, had visited Syria.—APP

UN calls for end to Sudan siege after mass hospital killings

PORT OF SUDAN: UN chief Antonio Guterres called for an immediate end to military escalation in Sudan on Thursday after reports that more than 460 people were shot dead in a maternity hospital by paramilitary forces. Mohammad Hamdan Dagalo, the head of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitaries which recently seized the city of El-Fasher from army forces, has vowed the country would be unified by "peace or through war." The capture of El-Fasher, the last army holdout in the vast western region of Darfur, comes after more than 18 months of brutal siege, sparking fears of a return to the ethnically targeted atrocities of 20 years ago.—APP

France arrests five new suspects over Louvre heist

PARIS: French police have arrested five more people, including a prime suspect, over this month's daring Louvre museum robbery, the Paris prosecutor said on Thursday. Dozens of detectives have been hunting for four thieves who used a truck with a moving lift and cutting gear to break into a first-floor gallery at the museum on October 19, fleeing with jewelry worth an estimated \$102 million. The latest arrests come after two suspects were charged on Wednesday with theft and criminal conspiracy. They are suspected of being the two who broke into the gallery while two accomplices waited outside. Paris prosecutor Laure Beccau said the five suspects detained on Wednesday included a main suspect whose DNA linked him to the brazen seven-minute heist, though none of the loot had been found. "We had him in our sights," she said. "As for the other individuals who are in police custody, they are people who may be able to provide us with information about the course of events." She said it was "too early" to give additional details about the suspects. The five detentions took place in and around Paris, particularly in Seine-Saint-Denis, a region just outside the French capital. Two suspects detained on Saturday were charged on Wednesday evening with theft and criminal conspiracy after they "partially admitted to the charges," according to prosecutors. They were placed in pre-trial detention. One is a 34-year-old Algerian living in France, who was identified by DNA traces found on one of the scooters used to flee the heist. The second suspect is a 39-year-old unlicensed taxi driver from the Paris suburb of Aubervilliers. Both were known to the police for having committed thefts. The first was arrested as he was about to board a plane for Algeria at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport. The second was apprehended shortly after near his home, and "there is no evidence to suggest that he was planning to go abroad," the prosecutor said. - Wider-scale operation? Last week, Beccau told media that detectives were investigating "150 DNA samples, fingerprints and other traces." She said public and private security cameras had allowed detectives to track the thieves — some of whom wore balaclavas and high-visibility vests during the heist carried out in broad daylight — in Paris and surrounding districts. Beccau on Wednesday said while investigators were certain of the involvement of four perpetrators, they had not ruled out the possibility of a wider-scale operation "involving a backer or individuals who may have been intended recipients." But she said nothing pointed to "any complicity within the museum." The thieves dropped a diamond-and emerald-studded crown that once belonged to Empress Eugenie, the wife of Napoleon III, as they escaped. The museum's director has said it was crushed while it was extracted from the display case, but could probably be restored. The burglars however made off with eight other items of jewelry. Among them are an emerald-and-diamond necklace that Napoleon I gave his wife, Empress Marie-Louise, and a diadem that once belonged to the Empress Eugenie, which is dotted with nearly 2,000 diamonds.—DNA

Spain Dismantles Two Hashish Trafficking Networks with Morocco's Collaboration

MADRID: This operation, also coordinated with the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Tangier Court of Appeal, led to the seizure of 20 tonnes of hashish hidden in shipments of peppers on refrigerated trucks, the Spanish police said in a statement. The investigations that made this seizure possible were initiated based on information exchanged with Moroccan authorities, which led to the identification of two truck convoys suspected of transporting large quantities of drugs. The first convoy was intercepted in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, in the province of Cádiz, where officers seized 12 tonnes of hashish concealed in hidden compartments behind crates of peppers. Fifteen individuals were arrested in connection with this first operation. Three days later, a second operation in the province of Granada resulted in the seizure of an additional 8 tonnes of hashish and the arrest of five more individuals. In total, twenty people were apprehended and placed in detention for drug trafficking and membership in a criminal organization. The searches also led to the seizure of nine vehicles, including trucks and trailers, an automatic firearm, and more than 7,000 euros in cash. The Spanish National Police, which praised the valuable cooperation of Moroccan authorities, emphasized that this joint operation demonstrates "the excellence of security cooperation between Morocco and Spain, based on mutual trust, effective coordination, and a shared commitment to combat transnational criminal networks involved in drug trafficking.—Agencies



Gold declines by Rs1,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24-karat gold on Thursday decreased by Rs1,000 to Rs418,862 per tola compared to Rs419,862 on the previous day. According to the All-Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also dropped by Rs857 to Rs359,106 from Rs359,963, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold went down by Rs678 to Rs329,300 from 329,978. In the international market, gold prices declined by \$10 to \$3,965 per ounce from 3,975. However, the rate of silver remained unchanged, with 24-karat silver holding steady at Rs5,034 per tola and Rs4,315 per 10 grams, while international silver stayed firm at \$47.72 per ounce.—APP

Nepal PM holds first talks since protests with parties and 'Gen Z'

KATMANDU: Nepal's interim leader has held the first talks between political parties and youth representatives since last month's anti-corruption protests that toppled the previous government, officials said on Thursday. "We have succeeded in creating an environment of cooperation and trust by ending the state of lack of dialogue," Prime Minister Sushila Karki, the former chief justice appointed as interim leader, said in a statement on social media. The unrest on September 8-9 was triggered by a brief ban on social media, although it was fueled by long-standing frustration over economic hardship and corruption. At least 73 people were killed during the two days of unrest, which left parliament, courts and government buildings in flames. Karki, 73, who will lead the Himalayan nation until elections, held a four-hour meeting with youth representatives on Wednesday, according to her media coordinator Ram Rawal. The challenges ahead to ensure the March 2026 elections pass off smoothly are huge — including deep public distrust in Nepal's established parties. The meeting, headed by Karki, was attended by all major political parties and several "Gen Z" representatives, Rawal said. Also included were representatives of the party of ousted former prime minister KP Sharma Oli, the Communist Party of Nepal — Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML). "After the protest, there was a trust gap between them," Rawal told AFP. "This meeting has helped create an environment of trust for the upcoming elections.—APP

German-Russian jailed for six years in Munich sabotage trial

MUNICH: A Munich court on Thursday sentenced a German-Russian national to six years jail for spying for Moscow and plotting sabotage acts to undermine Germany's support for Ukraine. The suspect, named as Dieter Schmidt, was found guilty of helping to plan attacks on railway lines and military infrastructure in Germany, allegedly on behalf of Russian intelligence. German authorities have repeatedly raised the alarm about such agents, supposedly recruited via social media to carry out tasks such as taking photos of sensitive sites, since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Prosecutors accused Schmidt of scouting targets for potential attacks, including US military bases, a loading station and a tool manufacturing company. He allegedly took photos and videos of sites that he passed on to a Russian intelligence contact. "We have come to the conclusion that the charges are essentially accurate," presiding judge Jochen Boesl said on handing down the verdict. Schmidt had denied all charges against him. But he was also found guilty of membership of a foreign terrorist organization — the self-proclaimed "People's Republic of Donetsk," a pro-Russian militia in eastern Ukraine.—APP

Briefs

Mohsin Naqvi
meets with
Oman's Royal
Minister
General

DNA

MUSCAT: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met Oman's Royal Minister, General Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, in Muscat. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations between Pakistan and Oman and measures to resolve visa-related issues faced by Pakistani nationals. Both sides also exchanged views on the overall regional situation and underlined the importance of improving bilateral engagement to further strengthen ties between the two brotherly countries. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan and Oman share deep-rooted religious and cultural bonds. He noted that millions of Pakistanis are working in Oman and contributing to its economic development. He added that easing visa processes would enable more skilled Pakistani workers to find employment opportunities in Oman. Mohsin Naqvi further stated that Pakistan aims to expand partnership with Oman at all levels. Omani Royal Minister General Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani reaffirmed that Pakistan and Oman enjoy a historic and brotherly relationship.

Iran Air
launches first-
ever flight
to Quetta

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a historic development for regional air travel, Iran Air's inaugural Flight 826 (A319), operating on the route Mashhad-Zahedan-Quetta, touched down at Quetta International Airport late night on Wednesday to a ceremonial Water Cannon Salute, marking the airline's first-ever operation to the capital of Balochistan. The momentous occasion was celebrated with an inaugural ceremony held at the State Lounge, attended by a distinguished gathering. Governor of Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhel, graced the event as the chief guest. He was accompanied by the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other notable dignitaries from the civil aviation, diplomatic and business communities. The ceremony commenced with the national anthems of Pakistan and Iran, symbolizing the spirit of friendship and cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. In his address, Governor Mandokhel hailed the launch as a "significant milestone" in strengthening bilateral ties, trade, and cultural exchange between Balochistan and Iran.

Pakistan,
EU pledge
enhanced
cooperation
on mobility

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Third Session of the Pakistan-European Union (EU) Migration Mobility Dialogue was held today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). The Pakistan delegation was led by Director General Europe, Irfan Ahmed, while the EU side was headed by Deputy Director General HOME, Johannes Luchner. During the session, both sides reviewed the outcomes of the preceding day's meetings, including the 16th Pakistan-EU Joint Readmission Committee and the 3rd Pakistan-EU Talent Partnership Roundtable, held at the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, respectively. The discussions underscored the strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and the EU on migration management and labour mobility. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to the EU Readmission Agreement (EURA).

Trump cuts China tariffs to 47%
after 'amazing' Xi meeting

"I thought it was an amazing meeting," says US president after face-to-face talks with Chinese counterpart



SEOUL: US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping holding talks on South Korea. The US president announced to cut tariffs for China by 10 per cent. – DNA

NEWS DESK

SEOUL: US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he had agreed to reduce tariffs on China to 47% in exchange for Beijing resuming US soybean purchases, keeping

rare earths exports flowing and cracking down on the illicit trade of fentanyl. His remarks after face-to-face talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the South Korean city of Busan, their first since 2019, marked the finale of Trump's whirlwind Asia trip on which he also touted trade

breakthroughs with South Korea, Japan and Southeast Asian nations. "I thought it was an amazing meeting," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One shortly after he departed Busan, adding that tariffs imposed on Chinese imports would be cut to 47% from 57%.

Trading in global stocks was choppy as Trump revealed details of the deal, with major Asian indexes and European futures swinging between gains and losses. China's Shanghai Composite Index slipped from a 10-year high, while US soybean futures were weaker. World stock markets from Wall Street to Tokyo had hit record highs leading up to the meeting on hopes of a breakthrough in a trade war between the world's two largest economies that has upended supply chains and rocked global business confidence. The meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, lasted nearly two hours. Trump shook hands and escorted Xi to his car before the US president was given a red carpet send-off at the airport. Trump repeatedly talked up the prospect of reaching agreement with Xi since US negotiators on Sunday said they had agreed a framework with China that will avoid 100% US tariffs on Chinese goods and achieve a deferral of China's export curbs on rare earths, a sector it dominates. As they sat down with their delegations to begin talks, Xi told Trump via a translator that it was normal for the two leading economies of the world to have frictions now and then. But with both countries increasingly willing to play hardball over areas of economic and geopolitical competition, many questions remain about how long any trade detente may last.

Lawyer
Imaan
Mazari,
husband
indicted

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad on Thursday indicted activist and lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband Hadi Ali Chattha in a case linked to a controversial tweet. The two appeared before Additional Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka, where they denied the charges. The judge directed the prosecution to ensure all witnesses are present at the next hearing. During the proceedings, the court also asked Chattha to resubmit his surety bonds, before adjourning the proceedings until November 5. The case was registered by NCCIA against Mazari and Chattha, who was arrested last night (Wednesday). The arrest was made following the issuance of an arrest warrant by Additional Sessions Judge Majoka for skipping the case's hearing earlier in the day. Last month, the same court had issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Imaan and her husband in the case. According to FIR of the case, registered by the NCCIA, Mazari and Chattha were accused of attempting to incite divisions on linguistic grounds through social media posts.

SC grants further time to KP

Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan observed, "We granted you time on your request — now show us progress." Justice Jamal Mandokhail added, "We are simply asking you to fulfill your responsibility." Justice Rizvi remarked, "It has been 20 years since the 2005 earthquake — we are now in 2025."

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday heard the suo motu case regarding the dilapidated condition of public schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The five-member constitutional bench, headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, granted an extension after the Additional Secretary of Education for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa requested more time to comply with court directives. The court allowed a further six-month period for implementation and directed the provincial education department to submit a comprehensive and detailed report. During the hearing, the Additional Secretary informed the bench that steps were being taken in line with the court's instructions. Justice Jamal Mandokhail remarked that even after the 2005 earthquake, many school buildings had not been completed, adding that while constructing new schools is essential, repair and rehabilitation of existing ones is equally important.

Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi noted that work on 107 units in Mansehra and 11 units in Kohistan had still not been completed. The Additional Secretary sought an additional three months, while the counsel for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government stated that snowfall during winter hindered progress on construction work. Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan observed, "We granted you time on your request — now show us progress." Justice Jamal Mandokhail added, "We are simply asking you to fulfill your responsibility." Justice Rizvi remarked, "It has been 20 years since the 2005 earthquake — we are now in 2025. How much more time is needed?" The bench emphasized that its role was not to construct schools but to ensure implementation of directives. The Supreme Court then granted the provincial government a further six months to improve the condition of schools and adjourned the hearing. – APP

Mahrang case
referred to
committee

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: A five-member Constitutional Bench (CB) of the Supreme Court on Thursday referred a plea against the detention of Baloch Yakjehti Committee chief Mahrang Baloch to the Practice and Procedure Committee, which forms benches and fixes cases under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023. The plea, filed by Mahrang's sister Nadia Baloch through senior counsel Paisal Siddiqi in June, urges the SC to set aside an April 15 order of the Balochistan High Court (BHC) that rejected a petition against Mahrang's detention under the Maintenance of Public Order—a law that empowers authorities to arrest and detain individuals suspected of posing a threat to public order initially for a period of 30 days. Mahrang is currently detained at the Hudda District Prison in Quetta on charges of attacking Quetta Civil Hospital and inciting people to violence. The plea filed by her sister was taken up by the CB today. The CB was headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan and comprised Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi Shakeel Ahmad. During the hearing, Nadia's counsel Siddiqui argued that "this case should be fixed before a regular bench and not a constitutional bench". At this, Justice Mazhar said, "Since you have challenged the MPO, that makes this a case for the CB."

President, PM praise
security forces

The president and PM, in their separate statements, said that the entire nation stood by their forces in the war against terrorism and saluted their resolve and valour

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday commended the security forces for eliminating 18 India-backed terrorists in two different operations in Quetta and Kech districts of Balochistan. The president and prime minister, in their separate statements, said that the entire nation stood by their forces in the war against terrorism and saluted their resolve and valour. They said that the security forces and the law enforcement agencies were committed to eliminating terrorists in the country under the "Azm-e-Istehkam" operation. President Zardari said that the killing of 14 India-backed terrorists in Chiltan Pahar area of Quetta and four in Buleda area of Kech district was a great achievement and appreciated the valour shown by the security forces. He said that the clearance of the area by the security forces reflected their resolve to purge the country of terrorism. Prime Minister Shehbaz said, "We salute the determination of the security forces and are resolved for the complete elimination of the scourge of terrorism from the country."

Pakistan urges equal access
to civil nuclear technology

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for equitable and non-discriminatory access to civil nuclear cooperation to meet the country's energy needs, while reaffirming its commitment to nuclear security. "We underscore that removal of barriers for gaining equitable and non-discriminatory access to civil nuclear cooperation is of fundamental importance," Pakistani delegate Syed Atif Raza told the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday during a debate on the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Vienna-based UN agency. "There is a need to eliminate discrimination inherent in existing non-proliferation arrangements and establish a framework for promoting peaceful nuclear energy under appropriate international safeguards," said Raza, a counsellor at the Pakistan Mission to the UN. At the outset, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi presented his report on its work, including in Ukraine, Iran and Syria, as well as an overview of the development and transfer of nuclear technologies for peaceful applications, the enhancement of nuclear safety and security, and the strengthening of nuclear verification and non-proliferation efforts on a global scale. The Agency's initiatives include training women workers in the nuclear industry through the Marie Curie and Lise Meitner fellowships and deploying nuclear technology for

health, food security, and environmental protection. In his remarks, Raza, the Pakistani delegate, said Pakistan upholds the highest standards of nuclear safety and security which are in line with the IAEA standards. Underscoring that all States fully comply with their respective safeguards obligations, he said that those commitments should not be used to serve partisan political objectives. "Its verification regime will remain credible only if it is applied on a non-discriminatory basis as stipulated in the Agency's Statute." Pakistan, he said, believes that attacks on safeguarded nuclear facilities undermine the IAEA's safeguards mechanism, contravene international law, the charter of the UN, Statute of the IAEA and relevant General Conference resolutions. Raza highlighted Pakistan's extensive experience in operating a secure and fully safeguarded nuclear power programme, pointing to six nuclear power plants with a combined capacity of 3,530 megawatts. During last year, he added, the total nuclear energy generation contributed to 18% of the overall energy mix, which translates to 34% of our low-carbon energy production preventing approximately 15 million tonnes of CO2 emissions every year. "Pakistan stands ready to further strengthen partnership with the IAEA and other Member States in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy to realize our collective objectives and sustainable development goals," the Pakistani delegate said. – Agencies

Pressure crosses danger
mark putting gas
pipeline at rupture risk

Power plants used just 293 MMcf of RLNG, driving dangerous pressure buildup

DNA

ISLAMABAD: After nearly two months of calm, the national gas transmission network has tipped back into a critical state, with pressure in the main trunk line breaching the five billion cubic feet (BCF) danger threshold, stoking fears of a rupture that could hobble economic activity nationwide. Official data for Wednesday (October 29, 2025) show the line pack, an indicator of gas volume and pressure, at 5.177 BCF, above the safe operating limit. Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), which transports re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG), blamed the build-up on a sharp fall in power-sector offtake. Power plants are currently drawing just 293 million cubic feet (MMcf) of imported gas for generation, despite Pakistan's sovereign-backed, take-or-pay LNG contracts with QatarEnergy (two agreements) and Italy's ENI (one), which were intended to ensure a steady fuel supply for four RL-

NG-based plants in Punjab. Interestingly, despite rising system pressure, one LNG cargo per month from ENI continues to be diverted to the international market since February 2025, a practice expected to continue until December 2025 due to reduced domestic gas demand. To manage the excessive line pack, authorities have already curtailed local gas production by about 300 MMcf, a move that has frustrated exploration and production (E&P) companies. Industry officials warn that forced shutdowns of gas fields risk damaging reservoirs and could cause permanent production losses. In several past cases, gas wells failed to resume output even after more than \$1 million was spent on restoration efforts. In a related development, gas supply from the Bettani field was suspended on October 18 at 1810 hours after a sabotage attack ruptured an eight-inch Bettani-Kakakhel transmission pipeline. Separately, supply from the Dakhni plant has remained offline since October 15 due to a 21-day annual turnaround.