



Saturday, October 25, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Gaza hospitals still remain in ruins, says Tedros Adhanom

Detailed News On Page-08

UN Chief calls for global unity on the UN day

Detailed News On Page-08

Australia keen to explore new avenues with Pak

Detailed News On Page-03



Notification issued

TLP declared proscribed outfit

Ministry of Interior imposes ban on religio-political party on cabinet's request

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior on Friday formally banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), declaring the group a proscribed organisation under the anti-terrorism act (ATA). The notification, issued by the Ministry of Interior, stated that the federal government has reasonable grounds to believe that Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan is connected with and concerned in terrorism. "... In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 11B(1)(a) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 XXVII of 1997, the federal government hereby orders TLP to be a proscribed organisation for the purpose of the Act and list the aforesaid organisation in the first schedule to the said Act," read the notification.

The interior ministry has sent notification to TLP leadership as well as to all concerned federal and provincial authorities. The interior ministry has sent notification to TLP leadership as well as to all concerned federal and provincial authorities. The TLP declared proscribed outfit as interior ministry notified ban under ATA. The move follows a series of fierce demonstrations by the TLP that erupted earlier this month after police dismantled a protest camp in Muridke, leading to confrontations that resulted in the death of a police station house officer (SHO) and three others, including a passerby. The recent development comes a day after the federal cabinet greenlighted ban on TLP under ATA following a request from the Punjab government, citing violent protests in the province that left several dead and many injured.

The summary was presented by the Ministry of Interior following a request from the Punjab government. Senior officials from Punjab also attended the meeting via video link. The meeting was informed that the TLP was previously banned in 2021 by the then government. However, the ban was lifted after six months on the condition that the group would refrain from further violence and public disorder.

Continued on Page 06

IHC grants police one-week to locate missing NCCIA official

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday gave police a one-week extension to recover National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Deputy Director Muhammad Usman, after his alleged abduction on October 14. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan conducted the hearing on the petition, days after he gave a three-day ultimatum to the police in the federal capital for Usman's recovery. During the hearing, Justice Khan remarked that the court aimed to solve the issue rather than merely give dates.

The lawyer representing Rozina Usman, the wife of the missing officer, told the court that she had also disappeared after filing the petition. Islamabad Police DSP Legal Sajid Cheema apprised the court that Usman was investigating important cases besides the famed YouTuber Saudur Rehman's, widely known as Ducky Bhai, case at the time of his alleged abduction. He revealed that some other members of the NCCIA official's investigation team were also missing. The case stems from a first information report (FIR) registered at Shams Colony Police Station on Rozina's complaint.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Qatar's Minister for Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al-Thani calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

CJCSC calls on Maldives President

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Saifur Shamsad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), while on an official visit to Maldives, called on H.E. Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, President of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ghassan Mamoona, Defence Minister and Major General Ibrahim Himi, Chief of Defence Force of Maldives. Both sides held discussions on evolving global and regional security environment and issues of mutual interest, including bilateral defence and security cooperation. They also considered avenues to further enhance military cooperation between the two.

Continued on Page 06

Karachi man robbed of digital currency

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: A man in Karachi has alleged that digital currency worth \$50,000 was stolen from his account after his mobile device was snatched at the city's airport last month. The incident reportedly took place on September 30, when the victim, Faiz Yab, a resident of Keamari, was travelling to Peshawar. According to the complaint filed in the District and Sessions Court, Malir, two men in plain clothes intercepted him at the airport and took him to an office, where his device containing digital currency access was seized. Shortly afterwards,

Continued on Page 06

Under SIFC PM invites Qatari investors to explore new avenues in Pak

Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani conveyed warm greetings from the Qatari leadership and reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to further deepen economic engagement with Pakistan

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday highlighting Pakistan's investor-friendly policies, invited the Qatari investors to explore new avenues of collaboration under the government's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) framework. The prime minister, in a meeting with Minister of Commerce and Industry of Qatar Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani, underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral trade and investment cooperation, emphasising opportunities in energy, agriculture, food security, information technology, tourism and infrastructure development. The minister is visiting Pakistan to co-chair the 6th Session of Pakistan-Qatar Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC). The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Qatar relations.

Continued on Page 06

PM highlights Pakistan's role as regional transport

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif underlined Pakistan's growing significance in regional transport and economic connectivity while addressing the closing session of the Regional Transport Ministers' Conference. He described the event as a vital platform for dialogue and strengthening bilateral and regional relations. "On behalf of the government and the people, I welcome all participating delegates," the PM Shehbaz said, emphasising the importance of collaboration and mutual prosperity.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

India cautious on trade deals

DNA

NEW DELHI: India will not accept limits on its trading choices or rush to sign agreements, Trade Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday, even as a senior government official said a bilateral trade deal with Washington was "very near". "India will not sign any trade deal in a hurry," Goyal said during a speech at the Berlin Global Dialogue, referring to European Union and the US concerns over India's continued purchases of Russian oil. Alongside ongoing EU free trade pact negotiations, India is in trade talks with the United States, which has imposed 50 per cent tariff on Indian exports. US President Donald Trump said this week he spoke with Indian PM Narendra Modi mainly about trade, and that Modi had assured him India would limit its oil purchases from Russia.

ISP says Internet to be fully restored by Monday

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Internet service provider Sornifiber on Friday said that its internet services will be fully restored by Monday following disruptions over the past week across the country. On October 20, internet users in Pakistan complained of service degradation and slow browsing speeds on certain ISPs, which was once again attributed to a fault in the submarine cable. There was no statement or acknowledgment from the ISPs in question, the IT ministry.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

Terrorists strike again

3 policemen martyred as back-to-back blasts rock KP's Hangu area

KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi sought an immediate report from the IG following the incident and called a session of the apex committee on the law and order situation in the province

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Three cops were martyred as back-to-back blasts rocked Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu on Friday, according to police. KP Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zulfikar Hameed shared these details, saying that the first blast targeted a police checkpoint in the jurisdiction of Balamunda police station. He said no policemen were usually deployed at the checkpoint, adding that some police men were on their way to the site when a second blast took place near their vehicle. Three policemen were martyred in the second blast, which was caused by an improvised explosive device, the IG said. KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi sought an immediate report from the IG following the incident and called a session of the apex committee on the law and order situation in the province, a statement from the CM office said.

Continued on Page 06

Security forces kill eight terrorists in Tank IBO

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Security forces on Friday killed eight Fata al-Khawarij terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) carried out in the Tank District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the military's media wing said. In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that the Pakistan Armed Forces conducted the IBO in the area on the reported presence of terrorists. "During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged khawarij locations, and after an intense fire exchange,

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan says Afghan crossings to remain closed

India's reopening of its embassy in Afghanistan internal matter between two countries, says FO spokesperson

FIAZ CHAUDHRY/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday announced that border crossings with Afghanistan would remain closed, citing the security situation, stressing that saving the life of an ordinary Pakistani is more important than the movement of goods or trade. Border crossings between the two countries have remained closed since October 11, following clashes earlier this month that killed dozens on both sides in the worst fighting since the Taliban's 2021 takeover of Kabul. In his maiden weekly press briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi confirmed that the decision follows last week's security developments, which necessitated strict border control measures. It is noteworthy to mention here that the border closures between Pakistan and Afghanistan pushed up prices of essential goods in both nations, with tomatoes now costing five times more in Pakistan. "The Afghan border crossings will remain closed; the life of a common Pakistani is more valuable than trade or goods transport," the spokesperson said. Fresh fruit, vegetables, minerals, medicine, wheat, rice, sugar, meat and dairy products make up most of the \$2.3 billion annual trade volume

Continued on Page 06

DPM reiterates Pakistan's commitment to UN Charter

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: As the international community observes the United Nations Day today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar reiterated Pakistan's commitment to working with member states and the UN system to reinvigorate the UN Charter's promise to pursue peace, development and human dignity for all. The deputy prime minister, in his message on the Day, said that Pakistan also joined the world community in reaffirming its steadfast commitment to multilateralism. "We believe the United Nations, as the world's most representative multilateral institution, remains uniquely placed to address shared global challenges, including grave threats to international peace and security, the worst

Continued on Page 06

earn redeem experience

Prestige Club Goes GLOBAL

Unlock unparalleled experiences in over 33 Serena destinations across 8 countries.

serenahotels.com | prestigeclub@serenahotels.com

Democratic Republic of Congo | Kenya | Mozambique | Pakistan | Rwanda | Tajikistan | Tanzania | Uganda

Kundi calls for targeted operations against terrorists

He reiterated his willingness to play a bridging role between the provincial and federal governments, urging all political forces to unite in defending the rights and resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through dialogue and reason

DNA

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has emphasized that peace is essential for the province's prosperity and development, asserting that ongoing operations against terrorists are intelligence-based and targeted. He reiterated his willingness to play a bridging role between the provincial and federal governments, urging all political forces to unite in defending the rights and resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through dialogue and reason. Addressing a joint press conference with Punjab Governor Sarfraz Khan at the Governor's House Peshawar on Friday, Governor Kundi welcomed the visiting Punjab Governor and thanked him for his visit. He said Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi should attend meetings with the Prime Minister to ensure that the province's stance is effectively presented. "The provincial government should set aside political differences and sit

with the federation to discuss public issues, particularly the NFC Award," he added. Governor Kundi said he had taken up the issue of the Pak-Afghan border closure with federal ministers and expressed hope that it would reopen soon, as the closure was severely affecting traders and leading to the spoilage of perishable goods on both sides. He warned that the security situation in the southern and merged districts was deteriorating, with daily casualties among police, army, and FC personnel. "Afghans are involved in more than half of the recent terrorist incidents, including the D.I. Khan Police Training School case. If they do not leave the area, targeted and intelligence-based operations should be conducted to restore peace," he stressed. Governor Kundi further said he had already discussed wheat supply from Punjab with the Chief Minister of Punjab and had requested Governor Saleem Haider to raise the matter with him again to facilitate inter-provincial coordination. Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Sar-

dar Saleem Haider Khan said this was his first visit to Peshawar and that he sought to strengthen ties between provinces. "Punjab has always played the role of an elder brother and will continue to do so in the current circumstances," he said. He said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has always believed in democracy and resolving political issues through dialogue. Referring to inter-provincial cooperation, he said that just as Punjab benefits from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's electricity, gas, and tobacco, the latter depends on Punjab for wheat supply and pledged to discuss the issue with the Punjab Chief Minister. Responding to a question, Governor Saleem Haider said the PPP's alliance with the PML-N was for the sake of the country. "Nothing is above Pakistan. We must all play our collective role in steering the nation out of difficulties," he said, adding that the 26th Constitutional Amendment was a credit to the PPP, while discussions on a 27th Amendment had not yet taken place.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the exhibition at the Regional Transport Ministers' Conference.

Achieving 100pc Polio eradication collective mission: Punjab CM

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that achieving the target of 100 per cent eradication of polio set by the government is a collective national mission that requires the full cooperation of every citizen. In her message on the occasion of World Polio Day on Friday, the Chief Minister emphasized that the health and future of children can only be secured through the complete elimination of this crippling disease. Maryam Nawaz said that public cooperation is crucial for achieving the goal of a polio-free society. She stressed that refusal to administer polio drops to children is in fact a denial of their healthy and prosperous future. The Chief Minister paid rich tribute to polio workers, describing them as the nation's heroes for their tireless and dedicated efforts in the fight against the disease.

**MILITARY LANDS & CANTONMENTS DEPT
RAWALPINDI CANTONMENT BOARD**
The Mall, Rawalpindi Cantt
Tel: 051-9274401-04 Fax No.: 051-9274407

CORRIGENDUM TENDER NOTICE (E-PADS)

Reference is invited to our Tender Advertisement PID(I) No. 3264/25 published in the following national dailies / newspapers:-

- Daily The Dunya & Daily The Nation dated 22.10.2025.
- Daily The Jang & Daily The Islamabad Post dated 23.10.2025
- PPRA TS No. 701744E dated 22/10/2025.

For Annual Maintenance & Repair Works (F.Y 2025-26) tender notice following corrections / amendments may please be noted:-

Amendments:

- Tender No. F-251030509**
 - For: Security Deposit – Rs. 9.00 Million
 - Read as: Security Deposit – Rs. 0.90 Million
- Tender No. F-251030603**
 - For: Security Deposit – Rs. 8.00 Million
 - Read as: Security Deposit – Rs. 0.80 Million

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

**Cantonment Executive Officer
Rawalpindi Cantt** PID/INO.3378/25

Tanker Association representatives meet OGRA officials

ISLAMABAD: Representatives of the Oil Tanker Association on Friday met with officials of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to discuss issues related to the transition and transportation of petroleum products. During the meeting, the Association highlighted various operational challenges and concerns being faced by the sector. The OGRA officials assured that the matters raised would be examined in line with existing rules, regulations, and legal frameworks to ensure smooth and compliant operations. Reaffirming its commitment to a safe and transparent petroleum supply chain, OGRA emphasized that it remains dedicated to maintaining regulated and efficient fuel transportation across the country, said a spokesman of the authority.—APP

Abdul Khabir Azad calls on CM Bugti

QUETTA: Chairman Central Route-Hill Committee Pakistan, Khatib and Inam of Bafrahi Mosque Lahore and Ambassador of Peace Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad called on Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Friday here. In the meeting, inter-religious and inter-faith harmony, tolerance, unity and solidarity, respect for humanity, promotion of the message of Pakistan and matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail. Ambassador of Love Dr. Leif Ethlen, Dr. Marqus Fida and Sahibzada Hafiz Syed Muhammad Abdul Baziq Azad, along with other dignitaries, were also present on the occasion.—APP

NIC celebrates the graduation of 23 startups from cohort 2

ISLAMABAD: Turning ideas into reality, the National Incubation Center Islamabad (NIC) proudly celebrated the graduation of 23 dynamic startups from its Cohort 2 Incubation Program, marking another milestone in Pakistan's innovation journey.

Over the course of one transformative year, these startups evolved from concept-stage ventures into revenue-generating businesses. Remarkably, 85% of the graduating startups joined NIC with just an idea, and through the center's robust mentorship, capacity-building, and scale-up programs,

they are now creating jobs, building teams, and contributing to Pakistan's startup ecosystem. NIC Islamabad's holistic incubation approach, powered by the Founders Institute, dedicated mentors, and industry coaches, provided startups with the tools and networks needed to grow sustainably. Through specialized programs in fundraising, business development, and market access, founders were empowered to refine their ideas, strengthen their business models, and scale effectively. Beyond local success, NIC startups have also

made their mark on the global stage, participating in renowned international platforms such as GITEX, LEAP, and more, establishing global connections and showcasing Pakistan's entrepreneurial potential to the world. As NIC Islamabad bids farewell to Cohort 2, the center reaffirms its commitment to continue supporting these graduates as they embark on their next phase of growth, expanding into new markets, creating employment opportunities, and positioning Pakistan as a rising hub of innovation and technology.—APP

Mr reaffirms Sindh's commitment to SDGs

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah issued special messages marking the United Nations' 80th Anniversary, World Development Information Day, Global Media and Information Literacy Week, and World Polio Day, reaffirming his government's dedication to global peace, sustainable development, digital literacy, and public health. The chief minister congratulated the UN and its member states on eight decades of global service, calling the organization "a symbol of peace, human rights, and global cooperation." He affirmed Sindh's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in education, health, and social welfare. While commending the UN's efforts, he highlighted unresolved issues in Kashmir and Palestine as major challenges to global justice, urging the UN to take concrete steps for their resolution. He stressed, "the killing of thousands of innocent Palestinians, including children, raises serious questions about the UN's role. As it marks 80 years, the organization must re-evaluate its performance and renew its commitment to protecting humanity." Mr Shah also praised the UN's support during the floods in Pakistan, especially Sindh, noting ongoing collaborations on rehabilitation, climate resilience, and development under Agenda 2030 and the Pact for the Future. Murad Ali Shah emphasized that public awareness and transparency are vital for sustainable development. He stated, "investment in education, science, and technology is key to building a strong and progressive Sindh," and stressed that true development must enhance citizens' quality of life. Mr Shah also outlined Sindh's programs targeting poverty reduction, digital transformation, and knowledge-based growth, especially youth empowerment through education and technology. Highlighting the theme "Minds Over AI," the chief minister stressed that human intellect and ethics must always guide technology. He pointed out the growing importance of media literacy in the age of Artificial Intelligence, said Sindh is equipping its youth with AI and digital skills to keep pace with global trends. The Sindh government, in partnership with media, academia, and technology stakeholders, is advancing digital awareness, ethical AI practices, and responsible communication. Initiatives like the Sindh Cloud First Policy and the Sindh IT Company are helping strengthen digital governance across provincial departments. "Our goal is to build a Digital Sindh, noted in innovation, inclusion, and sustainability," Mr Shah said. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah reaffirmed Sindh's continued leadership in eradicating polio. He said, "Every child's vaccination is our national duty. A polio-free Sindh is our shared goal." Mr Shah commended polio workers as "true heroes of the nation," and highlighted enhanced surveillance and outreach to remote areas. Murad Shah noted, "eradication of polio is not just a health goal but a measure of our collective achievement." Sindh continues to work closely with the World Health Organisation and international partners to deliver world-class vaccination and protect every child from disability. The Chief Minister concluded, "Peace, progress, and human dignity remain at the heart of the Sindh Government's vision," calling for global unity, responsible technology, and compassion for humanity.—DNA

Roundtable discussion on climate negotiation strategy, preparations for COP-30

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) convened a high-level roundtable discussion titled "Pakistan's Climate Negotiation Strategy and Preparations for COP-30." The session brought together senior policymakers, diplomats, and climate experts, including Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI); Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors ISSI; Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs at UNEP/Washington; Ms. Nadia Rehman, Member Climate Change, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives; Ms. Sadia Munwar, Deputy Director, Ministry of Climate Change; and Ms. Kashmala Kakhalik, climate finance expert. Opening the session, Dr. Neelum Nigar welcomed the participants and underscored the importance

of revisiting Pakistan's climate strategy ahead of COP30 in Belem, Brazil, to ensure that the country's commitments are aligned with its developmental needs and climate vulnerabilities. She noted that Pakistan, having suffered another round of devastating floods in 2025, stands at a critical juncture where adaptation and equitable climate finance must become national priorities. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized that COP30 marks a defining moment in global climate diplomacy where the world must shift decisively from promises to performance. He noted that for Pakistan, a country contributing minimally to global emissions yet among the most climate-vulnerable, the outcomes of COP30 would be of profound consequence. Ambassador Sohail highlighted that since COP-29, Pakistan has made tangible progress, including finalizing its National

Adaptation Plan (2025-2030) and launching the Pakistan Climate Resilience Financing Framework to enhance access to international funds. The expansion of renewable energy projects and strengthening of institutional coordination, he added, signify Pakistan's growing commitment to a coherent and inclusive climate response. He further stressed that Pakistan's approach to COP30 would be guided by pragmatism, equity, and partnership, advocating for sustainable access to climate finance, operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, technology transfer, and South-South cooperation. Reaffirming Pakistan's adherence to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), he noted that global climate action must not place equal burdens on those least responsible for emissions. He urged that Pakistan's climate diplomacy be leveraged to attract investment, technologies, and

partnerships that could advance resilience and promote green growth. Climate change, he remarked, is not a distant or abstract threat; it is an immediate existential challenge demanding coherent and consistent national and international responses. He reiterated the urgency of investing in resilience, early-warning systems, and climate-smart development, concluding that the roundtable was an opportunity to strengthen Pakistan's voice and preparedness for COP30. Delivering a video message, Mr. Jamil Ahmad of UNEP observed that COP30, dubbed the COP of Implementation, must convert commitments into measurable action, particularly for vulnerable nations like Pakistan. He commended Pakistan's Living Indus Initiative as a model for linking water security, biodiversity, and livelihoods, and urged that national and local governments alike translate global goals into community-level action.—DNA

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

PAKISTAN

MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF THE STITCH

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

JUDO

KARATE

KUNG-FU

JU-JITSU

TAEKWONDO

UNIFORMS AND COLOURED BELTS

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES PVT LTD
157-C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
Phone: +92-352-506000 / 506001
E-mail: info@ashrafind.com.pk

ashraf

National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER
Oct 01/China National Day
Oct 01/Cyprus National Day
Oct 01/Republic of Korea Armed Forces Day
Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day
Oct 02/Guinea National Day
Oct 03/Germany Unification Day
Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day
Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day
Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day
Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day
Oct 12/Spain National Day
Oct 23/Hungary National Day
October 24/United Nations United Nations Day
Oct 25/Romania Armed Forces Day
Oct 26/Austria National Day
Oct 27/Turkmenistan Independence Day
Oct 28/Czech Republic National Day
Oct 29/Turkey Republic Day



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & 16
Rescue Services.....4451122
Motorway Police.....9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange/9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....561116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9291170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CIA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Contentment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potahar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Shakeel Turabi elected President, Ammar Secy General of News Agencies Council

Other office-bearers include, Online News Agency Editor Siddiq Sajid Senior Vice President, Independent News Agency (INP) Editor Aftab Chaudhry Vice President, Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) Chief Editor Ansar Mahmood Bhatti Finance Secretary, and Pakistan Press International's (PPI) Adnan Iftikhar Deputy Secretary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Pakistan News Agencies Council (PNAC), the representative organization of the country's news agencies, was held in Islamabad, in which the organization of the council was completed. While electing the officers for the next two years

by consensus, Sabah News Chief Editor, Shakeel Ahmed Turabi was elected President of the council, while News Network International (NNI) Chief Editor Ammar Yasir was elected as the Secretary General. Other office-bearers include, Online News Agency Editor Siddiq Sajid Senior Vice President, Independent News Agency (INP) Editor Aftab Chaudhry Vice President,

Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) Chief Editor Ansar Mahmood Bhatti Finance Secretary and Pakistan Press International's (PPI) Adnan Iftikhar Deputy Secretary. The meeting reviewed the issues faced by news agencies in detail and decided to resolve these issues by consensus. It was resolved that the government, especially the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,

would further intensify its contacts and a representative delegation of the organization would soon meet the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar Advocate and other officials to resolve the issues of news agencies. It was said in the meeting that journalism is the fourth pillar of the state, news agencies are the backbone of the media and provide timely access to

information to the public, and the role of news agencies in the media is of utmost importance. The stability of news agencies is also indispensable for ordinary journalists because hundreds of journalists are associated with news agencies. Therefore, the government should take steps for their welfare, keeping in mind the importance of news agencies like newspapers and TV channels.

Acting Australian envoy meets Haroon Akhtar

Haroon Akhtar Khan highlighted that under the direction of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the government is actively working to promote the meat industry by incentivizing exports and strengthening partnerships with key countries



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan, met with the Acting High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan, Ms. Nicole Guibot, at his office today. The meeting was also attended by Secretary Industries and Production, Mr. Saif Anjum, and representatives of the meat exporters' community. During the meeting, the participants discussed measures to unlock the potential of Pakistan's meat exports, address existing challenges, and explore avenues of technical and institutional support

from Australia. Haroon Akhtar Khan highlighted that under the direction of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the government is actively working to promote the meat industry by incentivizing exports and strengthening partnerships with key countries. He emphasized that Pakistan enjoys a natural advantage in the global meat market due to its halal certification, which provides a competitive edge and can become a source of billions of dollars in export revenue. The Special Assistant further noted that Pakistan and Australia are already cooperating in the dairy sector, and extending this partnership to the meat industry would be a significant step forward. He added that technical assistance and

collaborative research projects with Australia are essential to achieving the country's export targets. The Acting Australian High Commissioner, Ms. Nicole Guibot, appreciated Pakistan's efforts to promote the meat sector and noted her country's continuing engagement in supporting Pakistan through expertise, training, and cooperation in the agricultural sector. She also noted that thousands of Pakistanis are contributing to Australia's workforce and that Australia remains a trusted destination for Pakistani students pursuing higher education. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral relations based on friendship, mutual trust, and cooperation across various sectors.

Experts discuss shifting Sino-Indian dynamics at IRS roundtable

ISLAMABAD: The China Program at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, convened a high-level roundtable titled "The Evolving Dynamics of Sino-Indian Relations", bringing together seasoned diplomats, scholars, and strategic experts to explore the complex interplay between the relations of China and India and their implications for Pakistan. Ambassador Jaahar Saleem, President of IRS, opened the session by highlighting the importance of understanding the recent dynamics involving India's softening approach toward China, following the tariff-driven strains in its relations with the US, said a press release issued on Friday. Highlighting the hypocrisy of India's so-called "strategic autonomy" driven foreign policy, he explained that Prime Minister Modi's participation in the recent SCO Summit, by agreeing to visit China after a seven-year hiatus, did not signify a full rapprochement. Rather, it reflected a slight recalibration in India's posture influenced by current circumstances which is should not be read as a strategic shift. In the longer term horizon India would continue to ally with the West to compete with China, he observed. Ambassador Mo'in-ul-Haque, former envoy to China, traced the historical arc of China-India relations, from the early solidarity of "Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai" to the rupture following the 1962 war and the more recent border clashes in 2020. He also underscored that while recent engagements, such as the Modi-Xi meeting on the sidelines of the SCO Summit, suggest a cautious thaw, deep-rooted tensions persist. He pointed to India's far-right leadership, its strategic tilt towards the West, and unresolved territorial disputes with India as enduring fault lines that can hinder the relations between India and China. Ambassador Zahir Akram, former permanent representative to UN Geneva, situated the bilateral relationship within a broader geopolitical framework. He described a quadrilateral dynamic involving India, China, Pakistan, and the United States, and cautioned against overinterpreting India's gestures of strategic autonomy. "Despite tactical shifts, the US-India relationship remains robust, anchored in long-term defense and containment strategies vis-a-vis China," he remarked. He also warned that India's vision of Akhand Bharat and its hegemonic ambitions continue to destabilize regional peace, with implications for Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. Stressing the need for strategic clarity, Ambassador Akram underscored the significance of Pakistan's long-term strategic partnership with China. Dr. Shaheen Akhtar, who is a senior professor of IR, emphasized that the global order is in a state of flux, more pronounced in the economic domain, driven primarily by intensifying US-China competition. She noted that India's economic relationship with China remains deeply embedded and resilient, despite political frictions and strategic posturing. "India's trade with China has never diminished; it continues to grow, even amid border tensions," she observed. While India projects strategic autonomy, Dr. Akhtar cautioned that this autonomy is often narrow and reactive, shaped more by tactical pressures than long-term vision. She highlighted that Pakistan has managed to improve its relations with the US while maintaining a robust strategic partnership with China, a balancing act that reflects growing space for Pakistan's own strategic autonomy. —DNA

Rs 12,000m sanction to textile industry lauded

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) on Friday lauded the Government of Pakistan, particularly the Ministry of Commerce, for approving the sanction of Rs. 12,000 million for the textile, apparel, and other export-oriented sectors under the Duty Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies (DDTL) and Long-Term Loan for Development (LTLD) schemes. In a statement, Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman, President of the Pakistan Business Forum, praised the initiative as a timely and pragmatic step toward addressing the pressing financial challenges faced by the country's exporters.

"This decision by the Ministry of Commerce is a welcome move and will go a long way in resolving the liquidity issues of our exporters," said Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman. "Timely release of funds under the DTLT and LTLD schemes will not only ease the working capital constraints of export-oriented businesses but also help restore confidence within the sector, ultimately contributing to increased exports and economic growth." The PBF President further highlighted that the textile and apparel industry remains the backbone of Pakistan's export economy, contributing significantly to employment and foreign exchange earnings. He emphasized that consistent policy support and financial facilitation from the government are vital to sustaining competitiveness in

the global market. Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman reiterated PBF's commitment to continue working closely with the government and relevant stakeholders to promote policies that enhance industrial productivity, improve export performance, and ensure sustainable economic development. The Pakistan Business Forum commended the Ministry of Commerce for its proactive role in ensuring that the export sector receives the necessary financial backing to overcome current challenges, including rising input costs and reduced international demand. PBF also expressed confidence that with the continued support of the government, Pakistan's exporters will be able to strengthen their global footprint and contribute positively to national economic recovery.

Eradication of polio national responsibility: Gilani

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Youssuf Gilani on Friday said that the eradication of polio is a national responsibility and a guarantee of a better future for the coming generations. "Pakistan has made remarkable progress in its polio eradication efforts, however, to achieve complete success, we must further strengthen our collective resolve, continue rigorous efforts, and sense of social responsibility," he said in his message on the occasion of World Polio Day. The Chairman Senate commended the government for its commitment to the eradication of polio and urged all stakeholders to ensure that their children receive polio vaccinations. —APP

Importance of ending Corporal Punishment highlighted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The College Students Council of DMCG (PG) Margalla F-7/4 on Friday organized a lecture on Corporal Punishment and Child Abuse to raise awareness among teachers and staff about child protection and positive discipline. The lecture was delivered by the Principal, Ayesha Kayani (MPhil Psychology), who shared her views on creating a respectful and supportive learning environment. The session began at 9:30 a.m. and was attended by all faculty members. Kayani discussed the responsibilities of teachers while dealing with students and emphasized the need to replace punitive actions with constructive guidance. She explained how corrective methods could help address students' behavioral issues and contribute to their emotional growth and development. She also spoke about setting clear rules and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for maintaining discipline and ensuring a safe atmosphere in educational institutions. The event concluded with appreciation for the College Students Council for arranging the session and for the Principal's valuable guidance on promoting a child-friendly environment in schools.

Zero tolerance for groups undermining state's image

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Minister for Information and Broadcasting Azma Bokhari on Friday expressed concern over elements involved in creating discord and extremism, warning that their agenda targets the state's integrity and the true spirit of Islam. During an exclusive conversation, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Azma Bokhari strongly criticized the Tehreek-e-Labbak Pakistan (TLP), saying it cannot be regarded as a political party but rather an extremist outfit operating under the guise of politics. She said the group's track record was marked by "violent and terrorist activities," which have repeatedly disrupted peace and order across the country. Bokhari noted that the TLP's actions had endangered lives, damaged property and created a climate of fear among citizens, adding, government has zero tolerance for those misusing religion to spread chaos and extremism. She clarified that the government's actions are not aimed at any political party. Replying to a query on attending measures, Azma Bokhari praised China's model and said Pakistan is adopting similar steps, including anti-terrorism legislation, strict action against polluters. She said the air quality index has improved this year and these measures will bring a cleaner environment for a cleaner, healthier Pakistan. —APP

ICCI lauds reduction in power tariff for industrial, agri sectors

ISLAMABAD: Acting President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Tahir Ayub and Vice President Muhammad Irfan Ch have highly appreciated the government's decision to allocate additional power supply to the industrial and agricultural sectors, terming it a landmark step towards revitalizing Pakistan's productive economy. They commended the decision by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and announced by the Minister for Power regarding the reduction of electricity tariff for agricultural consumers from Rs. 38 to Rs. 22.98 per unit, and the industrial tariff for additional units from Rs. 34 to Rs. 22.98 per unit. They noted that this substantial reduction will significantly lower the average cost of electricity for industries and farmers to enhance their productivity and competitiveness. Tahir Ayub said that agriculture and industry are the twin pillars of Pakistan's economy, providing employment, ensuring food security, and contributing to exports. He added that reducing energy costs, one of the major input expenses, will not only ease financial pressure on these sectors but also attract fresh investments and encourage industrial expansion. Vice President Muhammad Irfan Ch stated that the move would help stimulate industrial growth, create new jobs, and strengthen the supply chain of value-added products. He appreciated the government's commitment to fulfilling its promises for economic revival, expressing hope that continued reforms in the energy and taxation sectors would further support sustainable growth. Both ICCI leaders lauded the forward-looking initiative by stating that such pro-business measures should continue to restore investor confidence, boost exports, and accelerate Pakistan's journey toward economic stability and self-reliance. —DNA

Senator emphasizes collective efforts to eradicate polio

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Friday emphasized the need for collective efforts to eradicate polio from Pakistan, urging a shared national responsibility. "Polio is a disease that we must fight together," she said, noting that Pakistan reported 41 cases of polio in 2024. She recalled that Shehbaz Mohtaram Bhatti launched Pakistan's first anti-polio campaign in 1994, and a polio-free Pakistan was her dream. In her message on World Polio Day, Senator Rubina Khalid stated that Pakistan remains among the two countries where polio transmission has not yet been eliminated. "It is our duty to make people aware that polio drops can save children from a lifetime of regrettably," she stressed. On the occasion of World Polio Day, she reaffirmed BISP's commitment to continue supporting efforts against the disease. "Our mission is to make Pakistan polio-free," she said, urging parents and guardians to ensure their children receive polio vaccinations. —APP

Briefs

First Lady reaffirms Pakistan's resolve to end polio

ISLAMABAD: As the international community observes World Polio Day today, the First Lady of Pakistan Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to eradicating polio and protecting every child from preventable diseases. The first lady, in her message on the Day, said that Pakistan had made steady progress against polio, but the task was not yet complete. She noted that the remaining cases reminded everyone that this was not only a health issue but a shared national duty. "Each child missed is a child at risk," she said, calling for efforts to reach every home and community with the polio vaccine. Recalling the legacy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who launched Pakistan's first nationwide polio eradication campaign in 1994, the first lady said that her vision continued to guide national efforts to eliminate the disease. First Lady Aseefa Bhutto said that she felt a deep personal connection to Pakistan's polio eradication journey, recalling that the campaign was first launched by her mother, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who as Prime Minister personally administered the first polio drops to her. She said that moment not only marked the start of Pakistan's national drive against polio but also inspired her lifelong commitment to contribute to that mission. Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari paid tribute to the health workers and security personnel who served in the national polio campaign, especially the women vaccinators who travelled to hard-to-reach areas to ensure no child was left behind. —APP

Fauzia appointed as inaugural chair of OICOA sub-committee

ISLAMABAD: In a historic development, Pakistan has entrusted with the leadership of a newly established international platform to advance women's rights within the Muslim world. The organization of Islamic Cooperation Ombudsman Association (OICOA) has announced the formation of its first-ever Sub-Committee on Women's Rights, appointing Pakistan's Federal Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment (FOPAH), Fauzia Viqar, as the inaugural Chair. The initiative marks a significant milestone in global gender equality efforts, as the world remains over a century away from achieving full parity. The idea for the committee was originally proposed by Mrs. Viqar during her address at the 4th OICOA General Assembly held in Iran, where she highlighted the urgency of coordinated international action to address women's protection, empowerment, and equality. Her proposal received strong and immediate support from OICOA President Mr. Mehmet Akarca, Chief Ombudsman of Turkey, who endorsed the initiative in his concluding remarks and directed the OICOA Secretariat to begin its formal establishment. —APP

Pindi reports 35 cases in 2 days

RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority (DHA) in Rawalpindi has reported 35 fresh dengue cases in two days, with 14 only during the last 24 hours, totaling 1,177 confirmed dengue cases so far this year. According to the latest data released by DHA on Friday, a total of 39 patients are currently admitted for treatment. Allied hospitals have screened 1,481 suspected patients across district hospitals since January this year. With 1,359 teams deployed across the district to combat mosquito breeding sites, the authority has inspected over 5.9 houses, identifying 1,981.6 positive for larvae, whereas over 1.6 potential breeding spots were checked, of which 25,354 were found positive for larvae growth. —APP

PIDE, PUAN join hands to strengthen research

Both sides agreed to explore future partnerships to promote policy literacy, joint studies, and youth engagement under the PUAN-PIDE collaboration framework



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted a delegation from the Pakistan U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) for an interactive session aimed at fostering collaboration in research, policy dialogue, and institutional development. The session was led by Dr. Shujat Farooq, Dean of Research at PIDE, who welcomed the participants and highlighted PIDE's legacy as Pakistan's premier economic think tank and the policy research arm of the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives. Established in 1957, PIDE continues to guide national policymaking through evidence-based insights and innovative economic research.

Ranked as Pakistan's #1 economic think tank and among the top 10 in Asia, PIDE has evolved into a hub of intellectual leadership driving national reform through its five-fold institutional strategy—Research, Engagement, Academia, Counsel, and Hub. Dr. Shujat emphasized that strong research ecosystems are essential for national prosperity, noting that Pakistan invests only 0.16% of GDP in R&D, compared to the global average of 2.27%. He underscored that locally grounded, demand-based research—rather than externally driven consulting—must shape Pakistan's development trajectory. The session also showcased PIDE's flagship

initiatives, including RASTA (Research for Social Transformation and Advancement), Pakistan's largest competitive research grants program bridging the research-policy gap; the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), the country's only professional body of economists leading policy dialogue since 1982; and the Executive Development Centre (EDC), which offers professional training to strengthen policymaking capacity across institutions. During the lively Q&A session, PUAN members engaged PIDE researchers on research grant mechanisms, local policy priorities, and institutional reform. The discussion also addressed key challenges in Pakistan's energy and extractive sectors, including policy inconsistency,

lack of decentralization, and the absence of a coherent fiscal regime for mineral development. Dr. Shujat acknowledged these structural gaps and emphasized that collaboration across institutions is vital for coherent and evidence-based policymaking. Both sides agreed to explore future partnerships to promote policy literacy, joint studies, and youth engagement under the PUAN-PIDE collaboration framework. The visit concluded with a shared commitment to continue dialogue and develop initiatives that connect research with reform. Dr. Shujat thanked the PUAN delegation for their visit and reaffirmed PIDE's mission to strengthen Pakistan's development narrative through knowledge-driven, inclusive, and context-aware policymaking.

Muqam extends greeting to the Kashmiri nation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SADR, Engr. Amir Muqam, has extended heartfelt congratulations to the Kashmiri nation on the occasion of the 78th Founding Day. The minister paid rich tribute to the founding leaders of the Kashmiri nation and lauded their historic struggle for freedom and self-determination, said a press release.

Muqam also paid homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the liberation of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). He acknowledged the brave people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for their unwavering support to the Kashmiris during the freedom struggle. "The people of Pakistan and Kashmir are bound together as one soul in two bodies," he said. He reaffirmed that Pakistan will continue to extend its political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for self-determination. Muqam strongly condemned India's brutal and illegal occupation of Indian-occupied Kashmir and denounced the grave human rights violations being committed by the Indian forces in the region. The minister paid glowing tribute to the great martyrs of the Kashmiri freedom movement and demanded the immediate release of detained Hurriyat leaders. "Pakistan is vigorously presenting the case of the Kashmiri people at every international forum," he emphasized, reiterating that the struggle will continue until the Kashmiri people achieve complete freedom from India's unlawful occupation. —APP

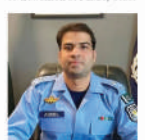
High-level team formed to probe SP Akbar's 'suicide'

Initial investigation suggests police officer shot himself dead inside his vehicle, say minister and IGP

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has formed a high-level investigation team to probe the reported suicide committed by Superintendent of Police (SP) Adee Akbar, SP Akbar, who was serving as the zonal police head of Industrial Area, died after sustaining gunshot wounds to his head in his vehicle near a hotel in Islamabad on Thursday. The incident occurred at around 4:30pm near a bridge as the officer was returning to his office. The weapon used in the incident had been seized, and forensic experts examined ballistic

evidence to confirm the sequence of events. Speaking to newsmen at PIMS, State



Minister for Interior Tal Chaudhry said a high-level investigation team had been constituted under the supervision of IGP Islamabad. The minister said as per the initial investigation, SP Adee shot

himself dead inside his vehicle late in the afternoon. A three-member inquiry committee has been constituted after consultation with the interior minister and himself, Tal said. The committee comprises DIG Headquarters, DIG Islamabad, and DIG Security. Speaking to the media, the IG Islamabad described the incident as "deeply tragic" for the entire police force. He confirmed that the officer shot himself dead inside his vehicle. He said that the State City footage reportedly "does not show any external attack; everything appears to have occurred inside the vehicle." The authorities

Discovering culture, friendship in China's snow capital Altay

ISLAMABAD: Altay Prefecture, located in the northwest frontier of China, sits in the northeast part of the Kazakh autonomous prefecture in the north of Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. It borders Mongolia to the east, Kazakhstan to the west, and Russia to the north. From the pristine Kanas Lake, hailed as "a pure land on earth," to the majestic landscapes of Koktokay and to the millennium-old rock paintings that earned Altay its global reputation as the "cradle of silk," this land is distinguished by its breathtaking natural beauty and profound cultural heritage. "Come here, try our kebabs" called out a man in slightly accented Mandarin. He is Persen Timur Nkolayevich, affectionately known as Jima, a Kazakh national who now co-owns a barbecue restaurant in Beitun, Altay Prefecture, with his Chinese wife, Guan Xinlan. Their story began at the Jeminy Port, a longstanding border crossing at the convergence of China, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Mongolia. With over a century of trading history, the port has long served as one of the most accessible gateways for China's commerce with the three neighboring countries. Since reopening more than 30 years ago, it has quickly regained its role as a regional trade hub. Spotting the opportunity, Guan opened a small eatery near the port in 2005 and learned Russian to serve foreign customers. Jima, a longhaul truck driver on the China-Kazakhstan route, soon became her de facto language tutor. Known for his warmth and generosity, he helped Guan learn Russian while also supplying her with specialty ingredients from Kazakhstan. Their relationship blossomed, and the couple married in 2009. Jima chose to settle in Altay, where he now helps run their growing business. In recent years, improved customs efficiency and a mutual visa exemption agreement between China and Kazakhstan have significantly facilitated cross-border movement. For Jima's family, the prosperity of the port has laid the foundation for a fulfilling life. The booming popularity of Altay as a cultural and tourism destination has opened new opportunities. In April this year, they relocated their restaurant to Beitun, expanding their reach with signature Russian-style kebabs. From truck driver to entrepreneur, Jima has made Altay his second home. "Altay is beautiful and well-connected, attracting visitors from neighboring countries and beyond," he said. —DNA

31 new dengue cases reported in ICT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration has intensified field operations to curb the spread of dengue, releasing its latest surveillance report that highlights extensive control measures across the city. According to the report, a total of 31 new dengue cases were recorded in the last 24 hours – 16 from rural areas and 15 from urban sectors. Currently, 61 patients are under treatment at different hospitals in the federal capital. To control the mosquito-borne virus, the administration carried out fogging at 2,006 locations and completed inspections at 41,709 sites across the city. Field teams identified positive dengue larvae at 402 places and negative larvae at three sites, leading to immediate remedial actions. As part of preventive measures, spraying was conducted in 1,095 houses where dengue larvae or potential breeding sources were detected. The administration also took action against several individuals and sealed various premises found violating dengue standard operating procedures (SOPs). Officials said that efforts are being made to make Islamabad a dengue-free city. —APP

NISE concludes national training on speech disorders

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Special Education (NISE), DGSE in collaboration with Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training successfully concluded a three-day National Training Course on "Speech Disorders and Therapeutic Management", started held on Tuesday at NISE, Islamabad. The training aimed to enhance the professional capacity of speech and language therapists, special educators, and rehabilitation experts working in special education institutions across Pakistan. Participants from Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and considerable numbers of trainees profes-

sional from DGSE centres took part in the sessions, which were designed to address both foundational and advanced aspects of speech therapy and communication rehabilitation. The course covered a wide range of critical topics, including fundamental concepts and classification of speech disorders, management of dysgraphia in cerebral palsy children, stuttering and voice disorders, neuro-motor speech disorders, and therapeutic strategies for dysarthria and articulation impairments. Renowned professionals led the sessions, including Dr. Saeed Naveed Head of the department dealing speech disorders at National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, Speech Pathologists Mrs. Tehmina Younis, Dr. Shehzad Kausar Younis, and Mr. Shehbaz Akhtar Khalid.

Rs 12,000m sanction to strengthen textile lauded

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) on Friday lauded the Government of Pakistan, particularly the Ministry of Commerce, for approving the sanction of Rs. 12,000 million for the textile, apparel, and other export-oriented sectors under the Duty Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies (DDTL) and Long-Term Loan for Development (LTLD) schemes. In a statement, Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman, President of the Pakistan Business Forum, praised the initiative as a timely and pragmatic step toward addressing the pressing financial challenges faced by the country's exporters. "This decision by the Ministry of Commerce is a welcome move and will go a long way in resolving the liquidity issues of our exporters," said Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman. "Timely release of funds under the DDTL and LTLD schemes will not only ease the working capital constraints of export-oriented businesses but also help restore confidence within the sector, ultimately contributing to increased exports and economic growth." The PBF President further highlighted that the textile and apparel industry remains the backbone of Pakistan's export economy, contributing significantly to employment and foreign exchange earnings. He emphasized that consistent policy support and financial facilitation from the government are vital to sustaining competitiveness in the global market. Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman reiterated PBF's commitment to continue working closely with the government and relevant stakeholders to promote policies that enhance industrial productivity, improve export performance, and ensure sustainable economic development. The Pakistan Business Forum commended the Ministry of Commerce for its proactive role in ensuring that the export sector receives the necessary financial backing to overcome current challenges, including rising input costs and reduced international demand. —APP

OCTOBER 2025

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centreline.com.pk

www.dnanews.com.pl

www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

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

Erdogan seeks strategic alignment on Gulf tour

DR. SINEM CENGİZ

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan embarked on a Gulf tour this week that included three stops: Kuwait, Qatar and Oman. While Qatar is not an unusual destination given the close relations between Ankara and Doha, the visits to Kuwait and Oman had particular significance. In Kuwait and Oman, Erdogan reciprocated the visits of Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sultan Haitham bin Tariq to Turkey last year. The Kuwaiti Emir's visit came as part of a regional tour to which was his first to a non-Arab country. Sultan Haitham bin Tariq to Turkey was the first by an Omani sultan in nearly 40 years. In both visits, which had significant political and diplomatic weight, several agreements were signed and they certainly opened a new page in the states' modest relations with Ankara. Erdogan visited these two nations to both reciprocate and solidify their evolving ties.

As an observer of Turkish-Gulf relations, I would argue that Turkish policymakers acknowledge that Ankara's relations with Kuwait and Oman have yet to reach their full potential. There is an understanding that each Gulf state has diverse interests and visions, which has led Ankara to develop distinct agendas with them. It is clear there is significant political will at the leadership level, which is crucial when it comes to the personalized nature of Turkish-Gulf relations. There are still a lot of untapped potential in Turkey's relations with the Gulf nations. However, the rapidly changing regional dynamics, as well as the ongoing economic transformations in the Gulf states, are significantly affecting the pace of Turkish-Gulf ties.

Turkish policymakers acknowledge that Ankara's relations with Kuwait and Oman have yet to reach their full potential. There are still a lot of untapped potential in Turkey's relations with the Gulf nations. However, the rapidly changing regional dynamics, as well as the ongoing economic transformations in the Gulf states, are significantly affecting the pace of Turkish-Gulf ties.

Firstly, Erdogan's tour came at a critical moment, just over a week after the Gaza ceasefire deal came into effect. At the regional level, Erdogan is looking for broader support from the Gulf states on Gaza and Syria. Ankara seeks Gulf support for the rebuilding of Gaza, even though Gulf states are likely to contribute through multilateral efforts rather than unilateral. On Syria, Ankara wants closer relations between the new Syrian administration and the Gulf capitals, including both political and economic engagement. Secondly, there is the aspect of Turkey's relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council as a regional bloc. It seeks a free trade agreement with the GCC and consolidation of the strategic dialogue. To achieve this goal, stronger relations with each of the six members of the GCC are essential. Thirdly, it is important to look closely at the bilateral aspects of Erdogan's

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

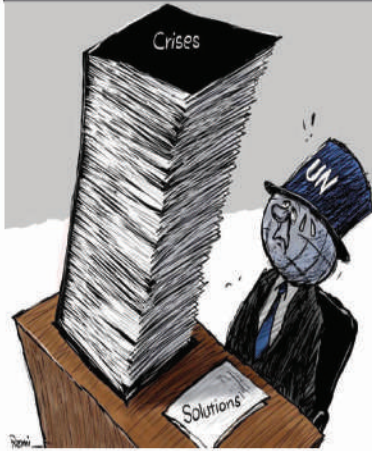
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 134

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394

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



visits to Kuwait, Qatar and Oman. The Kuwait and Oman visits were to open the door to a new era in Turkey's relations with these states. In this new era, if their cooperation is built on a strategic rather than a tactical foundation, relations could even reach the level Turkey has achieved with Qatar. If there is alignment among the leaderships on this vision, a strategic shift in defense cooperation could also be solidified.

During Sheikh Mishal's visit to Turkey last year, the two sides agreed on defense cooperation through the implementation of a protocol on defense procurement. As former Kuwaiti ambassador to Turkey Ghassan Al-Zawawi points out: "Turkey has the potential to become a key player in Kuwait's armament, particularly as its defense capabilities fit Kuwait's geopolitical needs. What Kuwait requires in terms of armament is quite different from what other Gulf states need. A breakthrough in this area could also encourage progress in other sectors of the relationship." It was noteworthy that in Erdogan's entourage, which included several ministers, one name stood out: Haluk Gorgun, the head of the Defense Industry Agency.

Ankara aims to replicate the positive momentum it has established with other Gulf states in its relations with Muscat.

Turkey's relationship with Oman is progressing quietly but steadily – a reflection of Muscat's silent diplomatic approach. When Sultan Haitham visited Turkey, I wrote that "the visit indicates that Oman is adopting a step-by-step approach to its relationship with Turkey – starting with boosting diplomacy, followed by closer trade and energy cooperation. This, in turn, could eventually pave the way for closer military and defense collaboration." Since then, several initiatives have been launched at all levels: political, economic and cultural. Oman is a crucial pillar in Turkey's GCC strategy. Ankara aims to replicate the positive momentum it has established with other Gulf states in its relations with Muscat. Like other GCC nations, Oman is currently diversifying its economic and military ties. Turkey wants to capitalize on this. Turkish companies are seeking to benefit from increased participation in both Oman's and Kuwait's economic projects. Within a year in 2023-2024, the number of Turkish-registered companies in Oman almost doubled, reflecting Turkey's growing role in Oman's economic landscape. In the same vein, Kuwait is undergoing a transformation through its economic vision. The agreements on maritime transport, direct investment and energy collaboration signed between Turkey and Kuwait during Erdogan's visit reflect this shift.

With Qatar, the main aspect focused on Ankara-Doha joint mediation efforts. Doha is seeking the support of a key partner to strengthen its mediation efforts, but not only in Gaza. In Libya and Sudan, Qatar prefers to share the responsibility and Turkey stands out as an important actor that it can rely on. Sunday's Afghanistan-Pakistan ceasefire deal was a significant outcome of their joint mediation efforts. Overall, Erdogan's Gulf tour aims to move Turkey beyond mere political alignment toward a robust strategic alignment that encompasses defense cooperation, economic integration and unified political stances on regional issues. In other words, a new Gulf-centered regional order is emerging – one in which Turkey is seeking to secure a prominent role by leveraging both its hard and soft power capabilities.

Kashmir: The World's Unfinished Promise

T.M. Awan

The Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) and the Youth Forum for Kashmir (YFK) have chronicled these abuses, torture, sexual violence, and collective punishment under draconian laws like the Public Safety Act (PSA) and Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). These reports echo the findings of the UN Special Rapporteurs and the European Parliament, which have repeatedly called for independent investigations, calls India continues to ignore. The repression is not incidental; it is structural. Every aspect of Kashmiri life, from education to journalism, is policed. Universities are monitored, journalists detained, and even mourning gatherings...

SEVENTY-Six years ago, on October 27, 1947, the first Indian troops landed in Srinagar. The move, carried out under the cover of a hastily arranged "Instrument of Accession," set the stage for one of the most enduring tragedies in the modern world, the denial of the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. That right was not a vague moral aspiration. It was an international commitment, codified in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 47 and 80, endorsed by both India and Pakistan, and publicly reaffirmed by India's own leadership at the time. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, speaking before the Indian parliament in 1952, declared unambiguously: "We have not annexed Kashmir. It is the people of Kashmir who must decide their own future." More than seven decades later, that promise lies in ruins.

The story of Kashmir is often narrated as a territorial dispute between two nuclear-armed neighbors. But at its core, it is a question of justice and democratic principle. When British India was partitioned in 1947, princely states were expected to accede based on the will of their people and geographic realities. On July 19, 1947, the All-Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, representing the majority Muslim population, passed a resolution favoring accession to Pakistan.

Yet in October that year, Indian troops entered the state before any legal accession had occurred. The so-called Instrument of Accession attributed to Maharaja Hari Singh, a Hindu ruler over a Muslim-majority population, was signed after Indian forces were already on Kashmiri soil. British historian Alastair Lamb, in "Kashmir: A Disputed Legacy," documented that Indian officials had moved troops before any valid legal process. The accession, he concluded, was "manufactured under duress."

The United Nations took notice immediately, recognizing Kashmir as a disputed territory and calling for a plebiscite to determine its future. That plebiscite never took place. Instead of honoring its international obligations, India turned the valley into one of the world's most militarized zones. Over 700,000 Indian troops now occupy the region, a ratio of one soldier for every ten civilians. Decades of curfews, arbitrary arrests, internet blackouts, and collective punishments have normalized a state of exception.

In August 2019, India unilaterally revoked Articles 370 and 35A of its constitution, the last remaining legal provisions that acknowledged

Kashmir's special status and internal autonomy. That move effectively annexed Jammu and Kashmir, stripping it of self-governance and opening the door for demographic re-engineering.

Since then, new domestic laws have been enacted to settle Kashmiris in the territory, altering the population balance in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. International observers, from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to Amnesty International, have described the situation as "systematic demographic manipulation."

In 2025, India's parliament passed the 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill, granting the Lieutenant Governor – an unelected federal appointee – sweeping powers to dismiss any elected minister or chief minister on the basis of pending legal cases or brief detentions. In a territory where dissent itself is criminalized, this provision effectively nullifies political opposition. The result is a democracy stripped of meaning. Elections are held, but not for choice – only for optics. Political participation under occupation is not empowerment; it is stage management.

Beneath the geopolitics lies a deep human tragedy. The Jammu Massacre of 1947, in which an estimated 200,000 Muslims were killed by Dogra and Indian militias, remains one of the least discussed genocides of the 20th century. In the decades since, thousands have disappeared; mass graves have been unearthed across the Valley.

The Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) and the Youth Forum for Kashmir (YFK) have chronicled these abuses, torture, sexual violence, and collective punishment under draconian laws like the Public Safety Act (PSA) and Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). These reports echo the findings of the UN Special Rapporteurs and the European Parliament, which have repeatedly called for independent investigations, calls India continues to ignore.

The repression is not incidental; it is structural. Every aspect of Kashmiri life, from education to journalism, is policed. Universities are monitored, journalists detained, and even mourning gatherings are surveilled. The result is not stability but the institutionalization of fear. Despite decades of documentation and diplomatic pledges, the international community's response

has been tepid at best. The UN resolutions remain valid, yet they are treated as relics of history rather than binding legal instruments. Western powers, quick to invoke human rights elsewhere, often silence themselves when Kashmir is mentioned, fearful of jeopardizing arms sales and trade with India's billion-strong market.

This silence has consequences. By failing to enforce its own resolutions, the UN undermines not only its credibility but the very idea of a rules-based order. The Kashmir dispute is no longer a frozen conflict; it is a nuclear flashpoint that has triggered multiple crises between India and Pakistan. Each skirmish along the Line of Control spirals into a catastrophe with global repercussions.

Pakistan's position on Kashmir is grounded in international law, not territorial ambition. It views the dispute as the unfinished agenda of Partition – a moral and legal issue stemming from India's defiance of UN resolutions. Islamabad continues to call for a peaceful resolution through dialogue and UN-supervised mechanisms. While Pakistan's diplomatic bandwidth is often limited by regional crises, its stance remains consistent: a plebiscite must decide Kashmir's future. This is not a demand for secession but for self-determination, the same principle that underpins the UN Charter. Kashmir today stands at a crossroads, a warning, a test of whether international law still carries weight in an era of strategic convenience. The moral arc of history may bend toward justice, but only if nations act upon their obligations.

The United Nations has mechanisms, precedents, and moral authority. What it lacks is the will to enforce them. As global attention shifts from Gaza to Ukraine, from Taiwan to Tehran, the voices of eight million Kashmiris remain drowned in silence.

Yet silence does not erase struggle. Each year, as Kashmiris mark October 27 as Black Day, they reaffirm that the right to self-determination is not forgotten – only deferred. Their resistance, now spanning generations, is a reminder that no occupation lasts forever, and no promise can be buried under military force.

— T.M. Awan

Senior Media and Strategic Communication Professional
International Relations Scholar
Hasickalawa@gmail.com
LinkedIn: @tahirawan

Shifting Power Dynamics in Global Politics

Syed Laique Haider

The 20th Century proved that Realism excelled not in peace but in everlasting struggle, where proxy wars became the strategic weapon of Global Supremacy. Navigating under the veil of Nuclear Deterrence, United States and Soviet Union evaded open conflict but extended power through proxy wars including Korean War (1950-1953) where contending regimes were weaponized to secure dominance, Vietnam War (1955-1975) in which Washington Struggled to contain Communist Expansion. In Angolan Civil War (1975-2002) where both global powers endorsed opposing block...

IN politics among Nations, Hans J. Morgenthau contends that "International politics, like all politics, is a struggle for power". A reality that remains undiminished in 21st Century that power is the central principle of Global Politics and persists to govern state behavior.

From Ancient Empires to Modern Nation States, the dominant logic of International Relations has consistently prioritized competition over cooperation. Thucydides, a firsthand observer of Peloponnesian war argues that, "The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must". He further elaborates that the rising power of Athens disrupted Sparta, inciting a devastating conflict that ended in Athenian defeat and proved that fear and power shape the destiny of states. Through realpolitik, the Treaty of Westphalia (1648-1648) marked the turning point in global politics built upon the principle of Modern Nation State. It established the earliest boundaries of Sovereignty, endorsed states to make decisions unilaterally in their national interest. That was the transition that built the essence of Realism, where national interest, borders and power determined the grammar of global politics.

World War I & II exposed the failure of idealism as power led to war by forming blocks like Triple Entente and Axis power to secure National Interest and led to emergence of Realism. In the era of indirect warfare, the Cold War segregated the world into adversarial ideological blocs, as the USA and USSR confronted through proxy wars, nuclear deterrence, and global power chess. The conflicts etched a truth in global world order and proved that balance of power and harsh realism of nuclear deterrence could ensure state survival in an anarchic world.

In the complex chessboard of International Relations, strategic considerations often eclipse the moral judgments, the strategic contest between United States and China has established the core struggle of this era. John Mearsheimer, a prominent Realist theorist argues that "The United States will go to great lengths to contain China and maintain its global hegemony in Asia". The Indo-Pacific region has become a strategic conflict zone where hegemony defines power.

In an era where power determined security, AUKUS

has turned into strategic pillar of Realist geopolitical contest between U.S and China. A trilateral pact among U.S, UK and Australia have illustrated the Realist logic of hard balancing, empowering Australia to possess nuclear powered submarines and enhanced defense power to deter China's rise of Naval dominance in the Indo-Pacific. It exemplifies self help, deterrence and alliance building as core tactic for state security in anarchic system. Geelong Treaty (July, 2025) secured a 50 year UK-Australia submarine pact, unveiling a strategic move to counter China amid strategic flux of U.S priorities.

QUAD aligning US, Australia, Japan and India, has transformed soft Realism structure to counter China's rise in Indo-Pacific. Despite lack of formal strategic framework, AUKUS, it strengthens intelligence sharing, maritime collaboration and organized military drills to resist China's dominance devoid of full scale warfare. In June 2025, QUAD conducted its largest ever Naval exercises near to South China Sea, engaging carrier strike forces, drones and anti-submarine system as evidence of cohesive deterrence.

Amid the dynamics of Realpolitik, drills serve as strategic declarations. Now shifting through another lens, recent PLA Exercises Revealed China's Operational Plan for a Taiwan Strait Conflict. The two-day military exercise conducted by the PLA in early April suggested a three-phase operational plan that the PLA is likely to adopt for a campaign against Taiwan. The People's Liberation Army (PLA), China's joint Military Force served as the critical tool of Beijing's Hard Power. In April 2025, PLA exercised "Strait Thunder - 2025/A", a large-scale strategic exercise included demonstration of missile strikes, naval blockades and combined sea land operations near Taiwan. Through a Realist lens, such drills reflect China's commitment to deter US Alliances like AUKUS and QUAD by military strength and secure National Interest through force if required.

While others formed Alliances, China initiates infrastructure as silent weapon in global power competition. China's Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) renewed momentum in 2025 through new infrastructure deals among global trade regions. Recently, China

strengthened ties in Central Asia and Africa with major Agreements in Kazakhstan and Egypt focused on digital networks, energy and transport. In April 2025, it launched a direct shipping route from Guangzhou to Peru's Chancay port by enhancing its influence in Latin America and lowering logistics costs. BRI is Realpolitik driven plan to enhance China's power by constructing railways, trade corridors and ports. In anarchic system, states use every instrument of power including economic strategy to secure National Interest without entirely depending on military force.

The 20th Century proved that Realism excelled not in peace but in everlasting struggle, where proxy wars became the strategic weapon of Global Supremacy. Navigating under the veil of Nuclear Deterrence, United States and Soviet Union evaded open conflict but extended power through proxy wars including Korean War (1950-1953) where contending regimes were weaponized to secure dominance, Vietnam War (1955-1975) in which Washington Struggled to contain Communist Expansion. In Angolan Civil War (1975-2002) where both global powers endorsed opposing block in Africa and Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989) also witnessed competitors for strategic hegemony by facilitating antagonist Afghan faction without direct conflict. Proxy wars elucidated the realist struggle of the 20th Century but today power game has turned into sixth generation warfare.

In 21st Century, modern conflicts have been switched from traditional warfare to non-kinetic warfare including cyber, propaganda, psychological and economic warfare. Realism examines these tools as strategic expansion of power in global politics. Emphasis on security is marked by China's Belt and Road Initiatives, the U.S-India Strategic partnership and Russia's Regional objective escalating competition for dominance. In South Asia, Indo-Pak relationship also remains locked in a Realist Security Dilemma. The perpetual conflict between India and Pakistan and its diplomatic collapse, it is realist power politics where survival supersedes the emotions. In the harsh arena of global politics, power, survival and strategic tactics seem to prevail throughout the globe. In 21st Century, states driven by self-interest, not ideals, act with strategy and vigilance will shape the world's turbulent course.

closely connected with Rybakina making a set point against the 23rd-ranked Mavrik before they went to a tiebreak. Rybakina sent down five aces during the match, and she was 17 of 17 on her second serve. "I was a very difficult match, I'm really glad I managed to win in two sets," said the 26-year-old. "It was very tight games but on the tiebreak I was able to break her serve. I was in some good points." Rybakina was locked in a straight battle for the last WTA Finals spot with Russia's Mirra Andreeva. Rybakina joins Aryna Sabalenka, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff, Madison Keys, and Elena Rybakina as the top five players and Jasmin Peňkova, and Pegula and Jasmine Paolini at the November 18 season-ending tournament. "I'll try to do well there at the finals for sure, but I think I'll be happy to play in the semifinals and win a bit title," said Rybakina. "I understand that it's important to manage your body and finish the season healthy." Paolini secured her spot in the semifinals of the WTA Finals last week in Ningbo. —*Agnes*

related to electoral competition," Aysha Chahwan-Mansuri, a member of parliament from the Sovereignty Alliance, which Al-Mashhadani belonged, described the killing as "a cowardly race reminiscence of the dark days of assassinations," not a political act. "We are not a country that has a tradition of automatic lethal, Saddam Hussein, was ousted in the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. Political parties linked to Iran-backed militias are leveraging their significant military and financial resources to dominate the political scene," she said. The Harakat Haqqani (Rights Movement) bloc, and the Sadiguni Bloc led by the leader of the Ashab Al Ahl Haqqi, Qasim Al-Hazhali. The Popular Islamic Forces, a coalition of Sunni and Shia groups that fought Daesh in Iraq, were placed under the control of the Iraqi military in 2016 but still practice still operates with significant autonomy. Al-Sudani told journalists recently that armed factions that have trained in Iraq and Syria are not allowed to take part in elections. "We cannot prevent any group from engaging in politics if they renounce arms. This is a step in the right direction," he said. "We are not going to allow any political parties participating in the elections are still active and armed. The US State Department said in a statement that Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with Al-Sudani on Monday and said that the US will continue to support the Iraqi government as that undermines Iraq's sovereignty, threaten the lives and businesses of Americans and Iraqis, and pillar Iraq's resources for Iran." Al-Sudani has positioned himself as a pragmatist for Iraqis, and he has said that he is not a religious leader. His views are relatively positive about the country's situation. —HNA

Briefs

PSX declines amid profit-taking ahead of rollover week

KSE-100 Index
retreats to intraday
low of 163,041.97
points, dropping

DNA

KARACHI: The equity market remained under pressure on Friday as investors continued to book profits following a series of strong sessions, while disappointing results weighed on sentiment ahead of the rollover week.

During the session, the Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index climbed to an intraday high of 165,025.85 points, up 435.44 points, or 0.26%, from the previous close of 164,590.41 points, and retreated to a low of 163,041.97 points, reflecting a decline of 1,548.44 points, or 0.94%.

Investor sentiment was weighed down by state-owned enterprises' (SOEs) losses, coupled with weak oil and global equities, worries over a potential US government shutdown and tariff risks. "Profit taking and some results have been lower than expectations," said Samiullah Tarig, Head of Research at Pak-Kuwait Investment Company.

The decline came after a volatile week dominated by cautious sentiment, as investors assessed recent earnings, and watched for key economic indicators. Profit-taking in the banking and energy sectors led the broad market lower, with participants opting to secure gains from the recent rally. "Stocks under pressure amid economic uncertainty, SOEs' losses

Govt begins
refunding
Rs3.5bn to Haj

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has begun issuing refunds to pilgrims who performed Hajj this year under the regular scheme. According to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the 2025 pilgrimage contributed around Rs3.45 billion to the national exchequer.

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousuf said that nearly 75% of pilgrims — more than 66,000 out of 84,960 — would receive refunds ranging between Rs12,000 and Rs110,000, depending on their respective Hajj packages.

The minister said the refunds were being processed in a transparent manner and would be credited to the pilgrims' bank.

*The government has started making refunds and the process will be completed by October 31, while 25% (21,895) of pilgrims, who got comparatively the best accommodation, will not be refunded," the minister said. According to details, 14% of pilgrims (12,286) will get Rs12,000 each, 16% (13,939) Rs25,000, 10% (8,496) Rs75,000, 12% (10,945) Rs90,000, while 408 pilgrims will be refunded Rs110,000 each.

At least 14 dead as migrant boat sinks off Turkey

ISTANBUL: At least 14 migrants died when their overcrowded, dinghy capsized in the Aegean Sea off the Turkish resort of Bodrum, the governor's office said Friday, raising an earlier toll of seven dead. "The lifeless bodies of 14 irregular migrants were recovered," the office of the Muga governor said on X, saying the coastguard was alerted to the emergency in the early hours of Friday morning. It said they had found two survivors, one of whom said the boat had been "crammed with people" and that he was letting in water, sinking just 10 minutes later. One survivor managed to swim to Celik Island. One of the survivors was an Afghan national, the governor's office said without saying where the others were from. — APP

Finance minister underscores Pak, Canada business potential

Canada's New High Commissioner to Pakistan Calls on Finance Minister

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Tarik Ali Khan, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, on Tuesday met the Minister of Finance and the Minister, Senior Member Muhammad Azeemul Haq of the Finance Division today. The Finance Minister welcomed the High Commissioner and congratulated him on assuming his responsibilities in Islamabad. The Minister shared an overview of Pakistan's recent economic performance and reform agenda, noting that after a challenging period three years ago, the country's macroeconomic indicators had shown marked improvement, with inflation brought under control and fiscal discipline restored. He highlighted the government's commitment to maintaining macroeconomic stability, strengthening state-owned enterprises, and private sector-led growth as part of the broader strategy for sustainable economic recovery.

Senator Aurangzeb also lauded the High Commissioner on Pakistan's engagement with international financial institutions and development partners, as well as the government's priority to attract foreign direct investment, particularly in energy, infrastructure, and mineral sectors. He noted that Canadian participation in projects such as the Reko Diq mine reflected the growing potential for deeper economic ties between the two countries. The Minister emphasized the importance of expanding bilateral trade, which currently stands below potential, and invited greater Canadian investment in Pakistan's renewable energy, mining, and technology sectors. He also underscored the need to enhance formal remittance channels from the Pakistani diaspora in Canada, which remains a valuable bridge between the two economies.



High Commissioner Tarik Ali Khan conveyed warm greetings from the Government of Canada and congratulated Pakistan's economic progress under the ongoing IMF programme. He said that trade diversification is a key priority for Canada and that his government is keen to strengthen trade, investment, and development cooperation with Pakistan. The High Commissioner noted that Canada is actively pursuing infrastructure and energy expansion, including LNG and critical minerals development, and sees opportunities to collaborate with Pakistan in these areas. He also mentioned Canadian companies working in renewable energy partnerships in Karachi and expressed Canada's interest in supporting Pakistan's green transition and climate resilience efforts.

Mr. Tarik Ali Khan further emphasized the shared potential to boost agricultural trade and business-to-business linkages, including through a proposed Canada-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce. He also reaffirmed Canada's commitment to climate finance and ongoing contributions to multilateral climate funds. Both sides exchanged views on the ongoing negotiations for a bilateral investment treaty and agreed that its early conclusion would further enhance investor confidence and economic engagement.

The Finance Minister also briefed the High Commissioner on Pakistan's priorities for population management, poverty reduction, and climate adaptation, underscoring the government's commitment to long-term sustainable development. The meeting concluded with both sides expressing their mutual resolve to deepen economic and trade cooperation and to continue working closely to unlock the full potential of Pakistan-Canada relations.

Punjab governor says KP CM Afridi should be allowed to meet Imran

DNA

DESLIWAH: Punguh Governor Sarda Saleem Haider said on Friday that Khayber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi should "definitely" be allowed to meet incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan. He expressed these views while answering a question during a press conference in Peshawar. His remarks come a day after Afridi was denied a meeting with Imran. It was the second time that he was refused a meeting with the PTI leader. The prime minister since assuming office on Oct 16, despite getting permission from the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

When Haider, who was addressing the press conference alongside KP Governor Paisal Karim Kundu, was asked for his opinion on the matter, he said: "There is democracy in this country. We will not deal with anyone in a political manner. The court has given [Afridi] the permission to meet [Imran], and if there is no legal hindrance, I see no reason why the meeting should not take place." The Punguh governor further stated that several visitors had been meeting several prisoners incarcerated in the provincial jails. He said that he would ensure that Sohail Afridi goes and meets the PTI founder, the sky will

"In my opinion, he (Afridi) should definitely be allowed [to meet Imran]. Otherwise, you are making someone a hero over nothing. Personally, I do not agree with the idea of preventing anyone from meeting someone."

We are political people, and we have risen to in a grassroots role. The PPP has always stood with democracy and never wants any undemocratic action anywhere," he said. The governor said he was fully confident that if the meeting took place, it would not cause any harm to the country. He said he was not sure if he would be able to see his "working relationship" with Afridi shaping up. At that, Kundu said the newly elected chief minister was currently engaged in activities pertaining to formation and "settlement" of his cabinet. "He is in Rawalpindi to meet his party's founder. His cabinet is yet to be formed, and he is not sure if he will be able to do so," he said. "Every political party had its own agenda, but when it came to the governance of the province, his advice was to constitute a 'parliamentary jirga' in the province and hold talks with the federation." We have to argue with logic to claim our rights [...]. We have [relevant] forums for that," Kundu said. He said he was not sure if he would be able to see his "working relationship" with Afridi shaping up. Interests and, particularly the National Finance Commission-

ATC orders to confiscate Aleema's CNIC, passport

ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah issues order after Imran Khan's sister skips hearing in November 26 PTI protest case

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Friday ordered the confinement of the computer activist and former member of parliament (MP) Azeem Khan, sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, after she failed to appear before the court in the November 26 PAF protest case despite repeated summons. ATC Judge Anwar Waheed said Khan was not responding to summons issued to the FIRs registered against Azeema, others in connection with the PTIs protest on November 26 last year. The development comes two days after the same court non-bailable arrest warrant for Imran Khan's sister for her role in the PAF protest. Khan was released from the proceedings. On November 26 last year, PTI supporters entered Islamabad in defiance of a ban on public gatherings and clashed with law enforcement agencies near D-Chowk. Police used teargas to disperse the protesters. The protests, which were part of the PAF, were abruptly ended after fierce clashes erupted between the law enforcers and the protesters.

The November 26, 2024, protest was aimed at building pressure on the government to release the PTI founder. The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician has been behind bars since August 2023 after he was booked in multiple cases ranging from corruption to terrorism since his ouster from power via the opposition's no-trust motion in April 2022. During the hearing today, the court also directed authorities to freeze Aaleem's bank accounts and issued instructions to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and the Directorate of Immigration and Passports for the implementation of orders. Furthermore, the ATC ordered the confiscation of property belonging to Aaleem's guarantor, Umar Sharif.

Palestinian prisoners freed

CAIRO: They were freed in exchange for Israeli hostages held in Gaza, but instead of going home, 154 Palestinian ex-prisoners were exiled to Egypt, where they are confined to a hotel and kept under tight surveillance.

All of them had been sentenced by Israeli military court to life in prison on charges of murder, belonging to Palestinian militant groups banned by Israel, and other acts of violence. But when a ceasefire took effect in Gaza earlier this month, the group was put on buses and sent to Egypt, where authorities have put them in a five-star hotel that they cannot leave without clearance. "We were separated from our families for 20 years," Murad Abu al-Kub, a 45-year-old who spent two decades behind bars for murder and for belonging to a Palestinian organisation banned by Israel, told AFP.

Now, he is living in uncertainty and under close surveillance, far from the Palestinian city of Jenin where he was born. "Nothing has changed. I still can't see mother or my siblings," Abu al-Rub told a team of AFP journalists who were able to



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister presents awards to polio workers for the recognition of their services in the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme, on World Polio Day in Islamabad on 24 October 2025. – DNA

Ceasefire offers 'lifeline' but Gaza hospitals remain in ruins

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Gaza's health system remains in ruins despite the fragile ceasefire holding, with hundreds of thousands still facing urgent medical and humanitarian needs, the head of WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, warned. The WHO chief welcomed the halt in hostilities but said "the crisis is far from over and the needs are immense."

He highlighted the toll of months of conflict: more than 170,000 people injured, including 5,000 amputees and 3,600 people with severe burns. At least 42,000 require long-term rehabilitation, and 4,000 women give birth each month "in unsafe conditions." "The destruction has been physical but also psychological," he said. "An estimated one million people need access to mental health care." Tedros *delivered a message to the world's leaders*

crossing and the restoration of medical referrals to the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to enable urgent care and expand aid delivery. "Although the flow of aid has increased," it's still a fraction of what it was before the Tetrahedron. "The fact that a significant amount of aid has built up at Al-Arish in Egypt" awaiting the reopening of Rafah at the southern tip of the Gaza Strip "is a very serious problem," says Tedros. "The UN health plan seeks \$4.8 million to maintain essential health services, strengthen disease prevention and early warning systems, coordinate health partners and support reconstruction." Rebuilding Gaza's health system, however, will cost "at least \$7 billion," he said. "WHO was in Gaza before the war started, we have been there since the war started. We stay there to help the people. Gaza build a healthier, safer and fairer future." In New York, UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq said the UN will continue to provide support by relief efforts. A UN team recently reached Gaza City's Az Zaitoun neighbourhood - inaccessible before the ceasefire - where more than 100,000 people live in "extremely poor" conditions.

described a system on the brink of collapse. "There are no fully functioning hospitals in Gaza, and only 14 out of 36 are functioning at all," he said, citing critical shortages of essential medicines, equipment and health workers." Since the ceasefire took effect two weeks ago, WHO teams have scaled up support, sending medical supplies to hospitals, deploying emergency medical teams and setting up temporary clinics.

"Yesterday, we supported the evacuation of 41 patients and 145 companions to several countries," Tedros said, thanking over 20 nations that have received evacuees. But with 15,000 patients still in need of treatment outside Gaza — including 4,000 children — he stressed that "more than 700 have died while waiting for evacuation."

He urged the reopening of the Rafah



General Practice

HOSPITAL

We Are OPEN

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



General Practitioner	Specialist	X-ray Machine	Ultrasound	ECG Monitor	MRI Scanner	CT Scanner	Endoscopy	Microscope
Pharmacy	Dialysis Machine	Operation Theatre	Laboratory	Radiology	ICU Bed	Ward Bed	Ambulance	First Aid Kit

- General & Outpatient Services
- Pediatrics & Child Health
- High-Dose Chemotherapy
- Cancer Care & Support
- Imaging
- Nutrition & Diet Therapy
- Hematology
- Oncology
- Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Gastroenterology & Hepatology
- Rheumatology & Immunology

Empathy & Caring for everyone

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

+91 83 52 47 47 01

#Prestigious Tower 1, New Thane Arts, Mumbai-400
www.generalpractice.hospital | @generalpracticehospital
+91 83 52 47 47 01 | +91 83 52 47 47 01