



Islamabad POST

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Tarar lambasts Imran Khan sisters' interviews to the India media

Detailed News On Page-08

French embassy hosts event to give awards

Detailed News On Page-08



Bilawal Bhutto Warns against NFC reversal

Detailed News On Page-01



Friendship bonds cemented

Pak, Egypt move to boost trade with 250-firm white list

DPM holds joint presser with Egypt FM, who expresses solidarity with Pakistan after recent terror attacks

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Ishaq Dar said on Sunday that Pakistan would provide Egypt with a list of 250 business enterprises, selected through a transparent mechanism for inclusion in Egypt's "white list," as both countries decided to enhance bilateral relations. In a joint presser alongside Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. Badr Ahmed Mohamed Abdelatty, Dar said another list of 250 additional firms will be prepared within six months, bringing the total to 500. Dar, who also holds the portfolio of foreign affairs, said that both countries have also decided to establish a Pakistan-Egypt Business Council, a move aimed at giving institutional shape to bilateral trade cooperation.

To address rising visa-related complaints, he said, both governments have finalised a new facilitation mechanism to streamline travel and business movement between the two countries. The DPM said the political consultations between the two sides will be held in Pakistan during the first quarter of 2026, adding that the forum will hold its first meeting in Cairo in the second quarter of 2026.

He added that, for the first time since 2010, Pakistan and Egypt have agreed to convene the Joint Ministerial Commission in 2026. Egypt's foreign minister expressed deep condolences and solidarity with Pakistan over the recent terrorist attacks in the country, reaffirming that Cairo stands firmly with Islamabad in its fight against terrorism.

The two leaders also held a bilateral meeting before the joint press conference. Dar welcomed the positive momentum in relations between Pakistan and Egypt, noting that Islamabad holds its bilateral ties with Cairo in high regard. The DPM said the Egyptian foreign minister's presence reflected the close and cooperative relationship between the two countries. He added that the visit demonstrated their shared commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation across political, economic,

Continued on Page 06

President calls for stronger Pakistan Egypt ties

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Badr Ahmed Mohamed Abdelatty, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Expatriates of Egypt, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr today. The President said Pakistan values its longstanding ties with Egypt, which are rooted in shared faith and mutual respect, and looks forward to advancing the relationship in a more structured and forward-looking direction. He also conveyed warm greetings for President Abdel Fattah El Sisi. The President noted that this year marks 77 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries and expressed the hope that both sides will reinvigorate cooperation in trade, investment and people-to-people exchanges. He encouraged greater Egyptian investment in sectors where opportunities are expanding, including energy, logistics, construction, agriculture, mining and IT.

Dr. Badr Ahmed Mohamed Abdelatty delivered a message from the Egyptian President and expressed Egypt's keen interest in expanding its partnership with Pakistan in various fields. The two sides also exchanged views on key regional and international issues, reaffirming their resolve to work together for peace, stability, and prosperity. Earlier, the two leaders held a one-on-one meeting and exchanged views on key issues of mutual interest.

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DNA



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Badr Ahmed Mohamed Abdelatty, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Expatriates of Egypt, presenting a message from the President of Egypt to President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. - DNA

FC suicide attackers identified as Afghans

NADRA confirms identity of Nov 24 attackers

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: The investigation into the suicide attacks at the Peshawar Federal Constabulary (FC) Headquarters is underway, with authorities confirming that all three killed terrorists were Afghan nationals. The National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) has verified the Afghan nationality of all three suicide attackers involved in the 24 November incident, according to the investigators. However, further personal details of the attackers have not yet been provided to investigators.

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ECP rejects allegations over NA-18 Haripur by-election

FAISAL SHEIKH

HARIPUR: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has strongly dismissed what it termed "baseless and misleading" allegations made by certain elements attempting to create controversy over the recent NA-18 Haripur by-election. In an official statement on Sunday, the Commission clarified that claims regarding the appointment of the District Returning Officer (DRO) and Returning Officer (RO) being part of a conspiracy were entirely unfounded. The ECP explained that due to staff shortages during

Continued on Page 06

27th Amendment

Pakistan strongly reacts to UN HR office statement

The Foreign Office stressed that the amendment was passed by a two-thirds majority in Parliament after following all constitutional procedures. It underlined that Pakistan remains fully committed to safeguarding human rights, human dignity, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday strongly rejected what it called a "baseless and misguided" statement issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) regarding the recently adopted 27th Constitutional Amendment. In a sharply worded response, the Foreign Office said Pakistan viewed with "deep concern" the ungrounded and misplaced apprehensions expressed on behalf of the High Commissioner, emphasizing that constitutional matters fall strictly within the purview of Pakistan's elected representatives.

"Like all parliamentary democracies, all legislation as well as any amendment to the Constitution remain the exclusive domain of the elected representatives of the people of Pakistan," the statement said. "Democracy and democratic methods form the bedrock of civil and political rights, and

therefore must be respected." The Foreign Office stressed that the amendment was passed by a two-thirds majority in Parliament after following all constitutional procedures. It underlined that Pakistan remains fully committed to safeguarding human rights, human dignity, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. While acknowledging the importance Pakistan attaches to the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the statement expressed regret that "Pakistan's views and ground realities were not reflected" in the OHCHR's remarks. Islamabad urged the High Commissioner to show respect for Pakistan's sovereign parliamentary decisions and to refrain from issuing comments that "reflect political bias and misinformation." The government maintained that external commentary on purely domestic constitutional processes is unwarranted and does not contribute to constructive engagement.

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

Possibility of Governor rule

Six possible names for new KP Governor

Their familiarity with KP's security landscape is being viewed as a major factor in the ongoing deliberations

FAIZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is expected to replace Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, with at least six prominent names under active consideration for the key constitutional office, official sources disclosed on Friday. The move comes amid rising security concerns in the province and in-

creasing friction between the provincial government and the Governor House. According to reliable political and administrative sources, the shortlisted names include former KP chief minister Pervez Khattak, former ANP chief minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti, and three retired senior military officers - Lt Gen (R) Tariq Khan, Lt Gen (R) Ghaur, and Lt Gen (R) Khalid.

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Briefs

Provision of equal health facilities, key priority: PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said the protection of health is a fundamental civil right and providing equal opportunities for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care especially to vulnerable and marginalized groups, remained a priority of the government. In a message on World AIDS Day, he said Pakistan joined the international community in reaffirming, with a strong voice, its resolve to eliminate major challenges such as AIDS to public health and to ensure protection from this disease for all. In this context, he said the federal government, in collaboration with provincial governments, is committed to ensuring that initiatives at the local level yield meaningful results.

Bilawal warns against rollback of 18th Amend

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has warned that those who want to undo the 18th Amendment or the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award are "playing with fire." Addressing a public rally held in Larkana on the 58th foundation day of the PPP, Bilawal said: "If there is any power in any amendment after the 1973 Constitution, it is in the 18th Amendment." His remarks came days before the National Finance Commission (NFC) meeting scheduled for December 4. Referring to the 27th Constitutional Amendment, he said that the PPP recently passed a constitutional tweak in collaboration with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

After Amendment

Chief of Defence Staff notification to be issued soon: Kh. Asif

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif Decries "One-Sided" Gaza Ceasefire, Urges Stronger Global Pressure on Israel

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that notification of Chief of Defence Staff shall be issued soon. He dispelled impression as if the government was deliberate delaying the notification. He added, work on the notification is in progress. His statement implies that the notification will be issued upon Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's return to the country, who is reportedly currently visiting London for medical check-ups. Some legal experts had argued that without a new notification, Field Marshal Muneer's tenure could be interpreted as having lapsed. However, a 2024 amendment to the Pakistan Army Act extended the tenure of

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KP CM alleges Imran eld in isolation

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR, NOV 30: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has claimed that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has been kept in isolation in Adiala jail since November 4. Addressing a press conference in Peshawar on Sunday after a parliamentary party meeting, CM Afridi expressed concerns over "troubling reports" published about the former premier in international media.

Continued on Page 06

Finland again decides to close Embassy in Pakistan

The latest review examined Finland's diplomatic network through the lens of security and the requirements of Team Finland's export-promotion agenda; The closure of the Islamabad embassy marks a setback in Finland-Pakistan diplomatic engagement

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Finland has announced a major restructuring of its global diplomatic network, confirming that its embassy in Islamabad will once again be closed this time by 2026. The decision follows a fresh strategic review carried out by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the ministry said in an official statement. This is not the first time Finland has withdrawn its diplomatic mission from Pakistan. The embassy was first shut down in 2012, primarily over financial and security concerns. It remained closed for a decade before being reopened in 2022, operating since then from the Serena Business Complex. In a 2023 interview with this correspondent, Finland's Ambassador to Pakistan, Hannu Ripatti, recalled the circumstances that led to the earlier closure. "Finland closed the embassy about 10 years ago, mainly due to financial constraints following the dot-com crisis. Security costs were also a factor—not just in Islamabad but in other countries as well. We shut down 10 mis-

sions, and Islamabad was among them. Our foreign minister at the time called these 'bad decisions', but such steps become unavoidable when resources are tight," he said. The Ambassador added that while Finland reopened missions in Manila, Islamabad and Doha, the Doha mission was prioritized due to the FIFA World Cup, as Finland wanted to ensure the presence of a resident consul ahead of the global event. "At the moment we are functioning from a temporary location at the Serena Business Complex," he had told this newspaper. "The idea was that in about a year's time we would return to the old premises and resume routine operations, including visa issuance." It now appears that Finland's latest strategic recalibration has superseded those earlier plans. Diplomatic sources point out that one underlying issue influencing Finland's decision is the absence of a Pakistani embassy in Helsinki. Finland has long encouraged Pakistan to open a resident mission to strengthen political, economic and trade ties. However, Pakistan opted to cover Finland through its mission in Sweden.

This asymmetry, Finnish officials have privately noted, has limited the scope of bilateral engagement. Under Finland's revised diplomatic strategy, embassies in Islamabad, Kabul and Yangon will all be closed next year. According to the Ministry, the closures reflect "operational and strategic considerations," including complex political conditions in host countries and relatively limited commercial interaction with Finland. The Ministry emphasized that the foreign service periodically reassesses its global footprint to ensure alignment with evolving foreign-policy priorities. The latest review was guided by two major considerations: security assessments and the export-promotion goals of Team Finland, the country's international trade and investment support framework. The objective, it said, is to concentrate diplomatic and commercial resources in regions where Finland sees greater long-term strategic and economic value. Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen underscored the rationale behind the changes. "Our operating environment is changing rapidly. The adjustments will help us build a stronger and more competitive Finland and manage our exter-

nal relations in accordance with our priorities," she said. While withdrawing from South Asia and parts of Southeast Asia, Finland is expanding its footprint in areas of strategic interest. Earlier this year, it opened a Consulate General in Houston, one of the United States' key centres for energy, innovation and global trade. The Ministry is also preparing to establish new commercial offices in 2026 in countries where Business Finland has previously been active—another signal of Finland's intent to prioritize economic diplomacy. The closure of the Islamabad embassy marks a setback in Finland-Pakistan diplomatic engagement, which had only recently gained momentum following the reopening in 2022. With both countries lacking resident ambassadors in each other's capitals, the relationship is now likely to depend heavily on regional missions and virtual diplomacy unless policy decisions evolve on either side. Finland's Ambassador is hosting his National Day reception in Islamabad on December 4, 2025—an event that is expected to be his last major diplomatic gathering before the embassy winds down its operations in the coming months.

Quality marble best resilient to severe climatic conditions: Malik

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry's former president Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that use of quality marble in the infrastructural development can effectively offset the impact of diverse and severe climatic conditions on buildings. Talking to a delegation of marble importers and traders here Sunday, he said that Pakistan is exposed to harsh summers, heavy monsoon rains, smog/dust, and fluctuating temperature, however, premium marble provides a stable and resilient surface that can endure these challenges without losing its structural integrity. Its natural density and low porosity help prevent cracks, stains, and erosion, ensuring that floors, walls, and exterior facades maintain their original form and finish for decades, he observed. Malik was of the view that impact of quality marble on the lifespan of constructed buildings is particularly significant, as it directly contributes to reducing long-term renovation costs, making it a cost-effective investment for homeowners, builders, and commercial developers. Its lasting strength adds to the overall structural reliability of the building, enhancing safety and sustainability. APP

Awareness campaign in Murree to curb plastic use

RAWALPINDI: An awareness campaign to eliminate the use of plastic bags and products is underway in Murree under the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) Bilal Yameen Satti, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Murree Faisal Ahmed, on Sunday conducted visits to markets, shops, hotels and tourist sites to educate citizens, shopkeepers and tourists about the harmful effects of plastic. MPA Satti said plastic "not only pollutes the environment but also diminishes the natural beauty of tourist destinations," stressing that reducing its use had become a pressing necessity. He emphasized that maintaining Murree as a clean and plastic-free tourist destination was a shared responsibility. Awareness material was distributed, and the use of eco-friendly bags was encouraged. APP

Court Notice

IN THE COURT OF SHAHZADA KAMRAN JUDGE CIVIL/Family COURT RAWALPINDI Suit For Recovery Maintenance Allowance etc. Mst. Sadia Madiha Waqas etc. Versus Waqas Ahmed Notice to Waqas Ahmed s/o Shoukat Ali R/o House CB-2263, Street No. 25, Mohallah Allama Iqbal, Colony, Tench Bhatta, Rawalpindi Cantt, Tehsil and District Rawalpindi. The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court personally, through counsel or attorney on 02-12-2025 at 9 am avoid ex-parte proceeding.

FM announces major shift to export-led economic model

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a wide-ranging press conference in Islamabad, has underscored the Government's decisive shift toward an inclusive, private-sector-driven and export-led growth model, highlighting the recent abolition of the Export Development Surcharge (EDS) as a key demonstration of this commitment. He noted that the Government's earlier decision to eliminate the decades-old levy, alongside reforms to strengthen the Export Development Fund's governance, reflects a clear policy direction aimed at boosting competitiveness, empowering exporters, and laying the foundations for sustainable economic expansion. The Minister stated that in line with the Prime Minister's directive to place the private sector at the centre of Pakistan's economic expansion, the Government had accepted recommendations to overhaul the EDF's governance structure. He noted that the Prime Minister had gone beyond the private sector's proposal by approving the complete abolition of the Export Development Surcharge introduced in 1991 ending the 0.25% levy that exporters had paid for decades. The matter has already been summarised for Cabinet approval, after which its implementation will begin immediately. He emphasized that this step reflect

ed the Government's resolve to empower exporters, improve competitiveness, and channel resources and decision-making authority toward the private sector to realise Pakistan's export potential. Senator Aurangzeb reiterated that the Government's medium-term economic vision rests on moving from stabilisation to durable, broad-based and inclusive growth led by exports, remittances, productivity and private investment. He stated that recent months had shown clear

signs of momentum in domestic economic activity, noting that from July to October, cement production rose by 16 percent, fertiliser by 9 percent, petroleum by 4 percent, automobiles by 31 percent, and mobile phone manufacturing by 26 percent. Large-scale manufacturing grew by 4.1 percent year-on-year in the first quarter, reflecting a positive shift compared to the contraction recorded last year. He emphasised that the challenge ahead was to sustain this trajectory while

ensuring that Pakistan does not return to the boom-and-bust cycles driven by external sector pressures. The Minister highlighted that export performance had strengthened, with overall exports rising 5 percent and IT services exports growing by over 20 percent year-on-year. He stressed that the IT sector had recorded back-to-back monthly highs in September and October, establishing itself as a critical pillar of the "new economy," alongside emerging sectors such as minerals and mining. He noted that

the \$3.5 billion Reko Dik-related syndication, led by IFC and now financially closed following the resolution of procedural delays, represents a transformational investment that will generate an estimated \$2.8-\$2.9 billion in annual exports once production commences. The Minister reported that remittances had also shown robust strength, reaching \$38 billion last year and expected to surpass \$41 billion this year, providing a sizeable buffer to the current account. He added that the Government was managing imports carefully under a reformed tariff regime designed to support industrial competitiveness by prioritising raw materials and intermediate goods while gradually phasing out long-standing protectionism. This transition, he emphasised, will be phased over four to five years to enable domestic industries to become internationally competitive. Senator Aurangzeb underscored that structural reforms remained central to the Government's agenda. He confirmed that the new Tax Policy Office—now operational under the Finance Division—had conducted its first advisory board meeting and would henceforth be responsible for preparing tax policy and the national budget. The objective, he said, was to bring consistency, analytical rigour, and private-sector input into the policy-making process while allowing FBR to focus on enforcement, compliance and technology-driven administration. He noted that work on pension, debt, SOE reform, the

digital economy, taxation, energy, and rightsizing was proceeding as committed earlier. On public finance, the Minister reported that Pakistan's domestic debt stock had stabilised for the first time in nine years, and debt servicing costs had begun to decline with the reduction in the policy rate. He confirmed that Pakistan's inaugural Panda Bond supported by credit enhancement from ADB and AIIB and approved by China's central bank, would be issued before December or, at the latest, before the Chinese New Year, helping diversify Pakistan's funding base and reduce borrowing costs. The Minister announced that the 11th NFC Award process would begin next week, with Chief Ministers and provincial finance teams joining deliberations. He emphasised that revenue, expenditure and governance reforms require constructive federal-provincial engagement and expressed confidence that the meeting would be held in a spirit of "Pakistan First," following the consensus approach demonstrated during the National Fiscal Pact. Responding to questions about the sugar sector and commodity governance, the Minister stated that durable reform required a full transition away from government involvement—from import and processing to trading and regulation. He emphasised that persistent distortions cannot be eliminated without structural changes and that the Government remained committed to deregulation and transparency.

Fashion industry can generate billions in export revenues

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that fashion industries generate billions in export revenues for countries which excel in branding, craftsmanship and trend-setting. He was addressing the 1st International Design Conference 2025 with a theme of 'Fashion and Global Trade' organised by Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD) here Sunday. Mian Kashif said, design and fashion spur economic growth, strengthen national branding, and enable countries to integrate more effectively into global value chains. He said, sustainability has further increased the importance of thoughtful design, asserting that eco-friendly materials, circular fashion concepts, and minimal-waste production are becoming essential components of international trade standards. Italy, France and China have proved that strong

design eco-systems can elevate their global market share. For emerging economies, he said, investment in design education, digital tools, and creative talent opens doors to high-value exports and new trade opportunities, he added. PFC chief said, design and fashion play a pivotal role in shaping global trade by driving innovation, value-addition and cultural exchange. In today's interconnected world, people are no longer satisfied with basic functionality; they seek products which reflect identity, aesthetics and lifestyle aspirations. This demand pushes industries — from textiles and apparel to furniture, accessories and even technology — to adopt creative design philosophy that enhances product appeal and competitiveness in international markets, he added. With e-commerce accelerating global reach, well-designed products travel faster across markets, capturing new consumer segments. Earlier in her welcome ad-

dress, PIFD Vice Chancellor Prof Hina Tayyaba Khalil said that today's conference brings together thinkers and practitioners who understand that fashion is more than creativity — it is a global business eco-system. From supply chain networks and international sourcing to sustainability mandates, digital retail, export competitiveness and cross-cultural design exchange, fashion operates at the intersection of innovation, economics and diplomacy. "As Pakistan continues to strengthen its footprint in global textile and apparel markets, the conversation we initiate here today carry exceptional relevance and strategic importance. "At PIFD, we believe that preparing next generation of designers requires an understanding not only of aesthetics and craftsmanship but also of global market dynamics, trade regulations, engineering technologies and the powerful role of design in shaping economic value. APP

Khyber Pass defines geopolitics, custodian of primitive civilizations

PESHAWAR: Standing before Babe-Khyber at Jamrud tehsil of Khyber district, the iconic gate marking the entrance to the historic Khyber Pass, 12-year-old Ibrahim Khan beams with pride as he visits the site with grandfather on Sunday "Seeing Babe-Khyber was always my dream," he told APP as his eyes sparkling after watching the historic monument with national flag hoisting on top. Dressed in traditional Shalwar Qameez with woollen sweater and Chitrali Chugha by her grandfather, young Ibrahim said, "My Baba Jan brought me here today, and it's even more beautiful than I imagined, with the national flag hoisting sky-high on top of Babe-Khyber gate—a gateway to historic Khyber Pass." For visitors like Ibrahim, the Khyber Pass is not merely a rugged road rather it is a living museum without walls. As high in the rugged folds of the Safed Koh mountain range where icy winds whisper tales of emperors, warriors, and wandering caravans, Khyber Pass passes between

Pakistan and Afghanistan that still defines its importance in geopolitics besides unfolding history and primitive civilizations. A symbol of Pakistan's glorious past, the Khyber Pass remains a place where geography and history collide, and where every stone seems to echo with the footsteps of monarchs, invaders, and explorers who traversed it over the past 3,000 years. Stretching 53 kilometers, the pass has served as a vital artery for trade, migration, and conquest. From Alexander the Great to the Mongols, from Persian kings to British colonial forces, this narrow ribbon of land has witnessed the rise and fall of world-changing empires. "This historic pass has seen more history than most modern cities in South Asia. Being a gateway to subcontinent, Khyber pass continues to shape the history, civilizations and geopolitics of the region due to its strategic significance in all eras," said Dr. Bakhtzada Khan, Assistant Director of Archaeology

and Museums in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "It is not just a route but a palimpsest of empires, each era leaving behind cultural, political, and military imprints." He said how the British constructed the Khyber Railway in the early 20th century—an engineering marvel designed for military logistics. Even Winston Churchill, then a young British officer, once served here and wrote about the pass's strategic importance. At over 1,000 meters above sea level sits Landi Kotal, just seven kilometers from the Afghan border. Once a bustling stop for armies and traders, this dignified town has long served as a gateway between South and Central Asia. "From Aryans to Mughals, every ruler who marched into the subcontinent passed through Landi Kotal via the Khyber Pass," explains Dr. Bakhtzada. The Achaemenid Empire incorporated the region in the 6th century BC, contributing to the spread of Gandhara culture. APP



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General PPP Syed Nayar Hussain Bukhari, Incharge Central Secretariat Syed Sibte-ul-Haidar Bukhari alias Sibti Shah, Senator Shireen Rehman, Central Minority Leader Rashid Chauhan, Raja Shakeel Abbasi Advocate and others cutting the cake on the occasion of the 58th Foundation Day of the Peoples Party (PPP) at the Central Secretariat. DNA Photo

New industrial estate to be setup near Ring Road

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain has said that industrialists were playing a pivotal role in the economic development of the country's economy and their genuine issues were being resolved on a priority basis. He also made a formal announcement to establish a new industrial estate near Rawalpindi Ring Road. The minister further assured that issues facing the traders and business community would be addressed as government's top priority. He said this during his visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Saturday, where he held a detailed meeting with RCCI President Usman Shaukat, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, and a large number of industrialists. The meeting featured an open discussion on challenges being faced by the industrial sector, which received

big appreciation from the meeting participants. The minister said that, in line with the vision of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the process of industrialization in the province has been significantly accelerated. For the first time, industrial units are being set up in Bahawalpur Industrial Estate,

while construction of 10 new factories has already begun in Quaid-e-Azam Business Park, Sheikhupura. He highlighted that on the CM's directions, a Garment City was also being established in Quaid-e-Azam Business Park to promote the textile sector. He added that several new in-






dustrial estates are being developed across Punjab to further provide vast investment opportunities in the available in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). He urged businessmen to fully avail the incentives and facilities being offered in these zones. Chaudhry Shafay Hussain revealed that the Punjab Chief Minister has approved a major program for the improvement of infrastructure in small industrial estates, which will commence next month. "The Chief Minister will soon hold meetings with representatives of all chambers of commerce and industry across the province," he informed. The minister said that plots in industrial estates that were allotted but on which industrial units were not established as per policy, were being permanently cancelled. He criticized previous governments for doing nothing to improve industrial infrastructure, whereas the current government has undertaken remarkable work in this regard.



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

DECEMBER

- Dec 01/Romania National Day
- Dec 02/United Arab Emirates National Day
- Dec 02/Laos Republic National Day
- Dec 05/Thailand National Day
- Dec 06/Finland Independence Day
- Dec 07/India Armed Forces Flag Day
- Dec 09/Tanzania National Day
- Dec 11/Oman Armed Forces Day
- Dec 12/Kenya Independence Day
- Dec 12/Turkmenistan Neutrality Day
- Dec 16/Bahrain National Day
- Dec 16/Kazakhstan Independence Day
- Dec 18/Qatar National Day
- Dec 18/Niger National Day
- Dec 23/Philippines Armed Forces Day
- Dec 23/Japan National Day



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- Motorway Police...9266044
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- CAA.....9281092



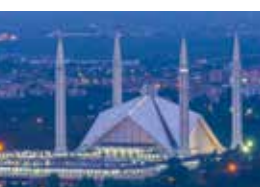
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- RGH.....9290301-7
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Islamabad Metropolitan

- Corporation.....9209224
- Potohar Town.....9209224
- Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Models taking part in a fashion show organized in Islamabad. DNA

Zafar calls for Business community unity for stable economy

Secretary General UBG, Zafar Bakhtawari, has said that the decision of Anjum Nisar, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, and S.M. Tanveer to unite is a step taken in the larger national interest, and it will have deep and lasting effects on FPCCI as well as on business politics in the country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General UBG, Zafar Bakhtawari, has said that the decision of Anjum Nisar, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, and S.M. Tanveer to unite is a step taken in the larger national interest, and it will have deep and lasting effects on FPCCI as well as on business politics in the country. He said that when we emphasize that businessmen should be role models and that the business community deserves respect, this will only be possible when we bring into our chambers and the federation those individuals who are untainted, educated, and mindful of the country's honor and dignity at every moment. He added that the upcoming presidents of chambers will collectively determine which individuals are best



suit for leadership, because the President of the Federation does not represent the nation only at the national level but also enhances Pakistan's image and dignity internationally. Therefore, these factors will be kept at the forefront, and leadership will now emerge from within the chambers and the federation based on merit and integrity. In a statement issued on the UBG-BNP alliance, he said that the way UBG's Patron-in-Chief, S.M. Tanveer, and Dr. Gohar Ejaz have been working over the past two years for the upgradation, respect, and effective functioning of the Federation has paved the way for this new alliance between UBG and BNP. He termed it a historic step in Pakistan's business politics. He said that after these transformational decisions, the business community of Pakistan will unite, and together we will work for the

improvement of the country, for economic progress, national stability, and for peace. "There may be a few individuals who feel uneasy about this decision, but we will take everyone along. Those who have reservations will also be addressed, because unity is our core objective," he said. Zafar Bakhtawari further said, "I believe that from top to bottom, what we need most is unity. I would propose that S.M. Tanveer, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, and Anjum Nisar undertake a whirlwind tour of the country and visit all major chambers to take the business community into confidence and explain that this decision has been taken in the best national interest. InshaAllah, as a result of this decision, Pakistan's honor and dignity will increase tremendously, and the business community will be able to continue its activities with greater respect, confidence, and stability."

Islamabad's key infrastructure projects enter final phase

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Three major infrastructure projects in the federal capital the T-Chowk Flyover, Shaheen Chowk Underpass, and Faizabad Interchange remodeling have entered their final stages, with construction work progressing at an accelerated pace.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday visited all three sites to review ongoing development activities. During the inspection, he expressed satisfaction with the pace and quality of work, directing authorities to ensure timely completion using all

available resources. To further ease traffic flow at Faizabad, the minister instructed that Loop 1 and Loop 2 be expanded to three lanes. He also ordered the installation of landscaping and lighting along both sides of the projects to enhance their visual appeal. The minister noted that the completion of these initiatives will significantly improve traffic movement, reduce congestion, and facilitate daily commuters. He added that the T-Chowk Flyover, in particular, will benefit travelers from the twin cities and Punjab. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa briefed the minister on the progress, stating that nearly 80 percent of the T-Chowk Flyover

has been completed and is expected to open for traffic in early December. All pile caps and girder casting for the flyover are finished, while 75 percent of the protective walls are in place. At Shaheen Chowk, all 70 girders for the underpass have been launched, with remaining structural work nearing completion. Ramp 1 and Ramp 2 of the project are already fully built. Progress at the Faizabad Interchange also remains steady, with pole foundations and RCC walls completed and asphalt work currently underway. The visit was attended by CDA members, the Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, and other senior officials.

ISSI to focus on Re-imagining South Asia

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) will be holding its annual flagship Dialogue Forum, the "Islamabad Conclave", on December 3 and 4, marking its 5th Edition, the Conclave's thematic focus this year is on "Re-imagining South Asia: Security, Economy, Climate, Connectivity."

The Islamabad Conclave has, in recent years, evolved into a premier Track 1.5 initiative, convening senior members of Pakistan's leadership alongside eminent scholars, academics, practitioners, and area experts from within the country and abroad, said a press release issued here Sunday. The Conclave provides a platform to reflect on regional and global developments, evaluate their all-encompassing implications, and suggest forward-looking policy pathways for Pakistan. At a time when geopolitical flux, economic uncertainty, climate vulnerability, and connectivity deficits are reshaping the strategic landscape, the Islamabad Conclave aims to foster informed debate

and propose innovative, cooperative solutions. South Asia, today, stands at a decisive crossroads. The receding bipolar moment and the rise of multi-polarity have intensified major power competition, heightened regional fragilities, and transformed traditional and non-traditional security domains. Long-standing unresolved disputes, nuclear brinkmanship, transnational terrorism, climate-induced disasters, and low levels of economic integration continue to constrain the region's vast potential. Within this overall context, the Conclave's central theme is divided into five focused sub-themes: Regional Security Order Amid Evolving Multi-polarity, emerging strategic security challenges, transnational terrorism and emerging security challenges in South Asia, economy and climate change and regional connectivity in South Asia. Following the Inaugural Plenary, each sub-theme will be taken up in separate Working Sessions featuring distinguished speakers from Pakistan and abroad with diverse expertise, enriching the discourse

with academic depth, practical experience, and policy relevance. The Concluding Plenary will draw together the central insights and recommendations emerging from the deliberations. "This year's Conclave will be richer in scope, depth, and level of participation," stated Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood. He added that renowned academics, practitioners, and thought leaders would share their perspectives on how South Asia must navigate the complex contemporary challenges and find opportunities to build a future of hope, progress and prosperity. "Essentially, this is an exercise in thinking together — re-imagining South Asia in the key realms of security, economy, climate, and connectivity," he concluded. The Islamabad Conclave is now well-recognised as a cornerstone of Pakistan's think-tank-based Track 1.5 policy dialogues. Each edition has expanded the Forum's intellectual and policy footprint. The Conclave in 2024 focused on "Pakistan and the Evolving Global Order.—APP

FIA offloads two for fake passport stamps

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration unit at Islamabad International Airport foiled an attempt by two passengers to travel abroad using fake passport stamps, officials said on Saturday.

An FIA official told on Sunday that the passengers, identified as Ameen Khan and Habibullah, were offloaded from an international flight bound for Malaysia. The spokesperson said the two men belonged to Peshawar and Buner.

He said FIA immigration officers detected that the passengers' passports carried fake departure stamps as well as forged Malaysian arrival stamps, indicating an attempt to falsify their travel history. The official said both passengers were handed over to the FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Islamabad for further legal action. More arrests and legal proceedings are expected as the investigation continues.—APP

Workshop on professional collaboration

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences and Technology (FUUAST) Islamabad, is all set to organise workshop titled "Professionalism in Partnership: Conduct Guidelines for Staff & Scholars" on Dec 1st. The workshop is going to be jointly organized by the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) of FUUAST and the Association of BioRisk Management (ABM), said a press release on Sunday. At the event, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between the University's ORIC and the Association for BioRisk Management (ABM) to promote awareness about BioRisk and enhance students capacity to manage it. Renowned Leaders, experts and academics professional will grace the event with their presence and share their view point on need for professional collaboration and modern academic partnerships.—APP

Railways builds 176 new residential units for employees

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to improve the living facilities for its staff, the Pakistan Railways (PR) has built 176 new residential units across the country, costing Rs118.382 million.

According to documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the department has renovated 608 residential units in 13 divisions across the country in last three years. Out of 608 residential units, 65 units are located in Karachi Division, 11 in Sukkur, 10 in Quetta, 24 in Multan, 17 in Lahore, 77 workshops in Mughalpur, 30 in DGM/HQ, 130 at the Pakistan Railways Academy Walton, Lahore, 82 in Rawalpindi Division, 150 in Peshawar Division, 10 at the Pakistan Railways Carriage Factory, Islamabad, while two quarters have been repaired at the Raisalpur Locomotive Factory.

Talking to Wealth Pakistan, Director General Planning at the Ministry of Railways, Kamran Waseem, said the Pakistan Railways has created a safer and more sustainable living environment for its workforce. He said timely repairs and structural assessments have helped prevent potential hazards. He said surveys are regularly conducted and special repairs are undertaken within available resources. Eviction notices are issued when structures are declared unsafe, and affected families are relocated to suitable quarters. He said the department is also working to ensure transparency and fairness in the allotment process, particularly for those displaced from the condemned units. "These efforts reflect the PR's broader commitment to institutional reforms, improved service delivery, and long-term stability," he said. Waseem said the improvement in employees' living conditions has enhanced efficiency, reduced operational stress, and improved service delivery. He said the department has also begun implementing stricter monitoring mechanisms to identify structural issues at an early stage to reduce future repair costs.—APP

Over 309,000 power theft cases detected

ISLAMABAD: Power distribution companies across the country intensified their crackdown on electricity theft, registering 309,757 First Information Reports (FIRs) and arresting 129,117 individuals during a two-year campaign from January 2022 to December 2024. The crackdown uncovered 501 million units of stolen electricity, resulting in detection bills worth Rs 19,651 million. However, only Rs 11,361 million has been recovered, leaving a gap of more than Rs 8.29 billion. The figures, covering the two-year campaign, show a national recovery rate of just 57.81 percent. According to official figures, Punjab led with 252,307 First Information Reports (FIRs) registered against power pilferage, resulting in 115,577 arrests. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa followed with 40,112 FIRs and 11,012 arrests, while Sindh recorded 16,688 FIRs and 2,319 arrests. Balochistan reported 650 cases with 209 arrests during the two-year period. Officials confirmed that the recovered amount is deposited into the DISCOs' revenue accounts without allocation under any specific head. LESCO filed 171,178 FIRs and arrested 50,123 suspects over the theft of 187 million kWh units. The company issued detection bills worth Rs 7.06 billion, recovering Rs 4.03 billion — a 57.08 percent recovery rate. GEPCO and FESCO reported strong results, achieving recoveries of 94.62 percent and 79.69 percent respectively, while IESCO recorded a recovery rate of 87.66 percent of its billed amount. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded one of the poorest outcomes, managing to recover just 22.31 percent of its billed amount. Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) reported that while it booked electricity theft cases amounting to Rs 3.15 billion, the utility managed to recover only Rs 690 million — reflecting a recovery rate of just 21.84 percent. Tribal Areas Electric Supply Company (TESCO) registered 264 FIRs in power theft cases, leading to the arrest of 24 individuals. The utility reported a modest recovery rate of 60.49 percent.—APP

Briefs

Dengue situation in Islamabad remains stable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The dengue situation in Islamabad has remained steady for several days, with the district administration reporting only one new patient in the last 24 hours. While, rural areas continued to show zero cases, and one case was confirmed from the urban side of the city. According to the administration, the improvement is the result of coordinated planning, strict monitoring and timely action across the capital. Officials said these steps have helped stabilize dengue trends and limit the spread of the virus. As part of the ongoing anti-dengue drive, teams conducted fogging at 772 locations and carried out spray operations at 35 residential sites. Inspectors also visited 22,438 spots across the city in a single day to check for larvae, stagnant water and possible breeding points. Health officials confirmed that five dengue patients are currently admitted in different hospitals. Their condition is stable and they are receiving uninterrupted medical care. During recent inspections, no larvae were detected in open areas, according to the field teams. However, larvae were found at 10 points categorized as commercial hotspots.

Weak audit system major driver of poverty

DNA

ISLAMABAD: One of the major reasons behind rising corruption in Pakistan is the weakness of the audit system. The mechanism for monitoring funds allocated to federal and provincial departments is almost nonexistent. Central and provincial institutions are facing a performance crisis, driven in part by the limited operational independence of the Auditor General. Internal audit systems within departments are also nearly absent, giving officers and staff a free hand to misuse public resources. Well known business leader and former president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Shahid Rashid Butt, said the audit and accountability framework in the country has been deliberately weakened. This, he said, allows the bureaucracy to openly abuse its authority, undermining both the protection of public resources and public trust. As a result, trillions of rupees at the federal and provincial levels fall prey to corruption every year. He said the Public Finance Management Act has been reduced to a formality, as no department is willing to appoint a chief internal auditor. Due to the absence of internal checks, irregularities are detected only after financial damage has occurred, while enforcement of penalties is also negligible.

President expresses condolences

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of life and widespread displacement caused by severe flooding across Southeast Asia. The President said the tragedy, which has claimed hundreds of lives and left many missing, has brought great distress to the people of Pakistan. He conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost loved ones and to the governments and people of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The President noted that Pakistan understands the pain and uncertainty caused by such disasters, as it continues to face climate driven catastrophes of its own. He said the scenes of submerged communities and families forced from their homes are a reminder of shared human vulnerability and the growing impact of extreme weather across the region. President Zardari said Pakistan will stay closely engaged with regional partners and international organisations to explore practical ways of offering support within its means.



ISLAMABAD: Models taking part in a fashion show organized by the French embassy, on the occasion of awards distribution ceremony. Detailed news and another picture on Back Page. DNA

Dialogue forum to focus on 'Re-imagining South Asia'

Through this platform, ISSI remains committed to promoting dialogue, advancing Pakistan's foreign policy objectives, and supporting efforts toward cooperative regional solutions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) will be holding its annual flagship Dialogue Forum, the "Islamabad Conclave", on 3-4 December 2025. Marking its 5th Edition, the Conclave's thematic focus this year is on: "Re-imagining South Asia: Security, Economy, Climate, Connectivity."

The Islamabad Conclave has, in recent years, evolved into a premier Track 1.5 initiative, convening senior members of Pakistan's leadership alongside eminent scholars, academics, practitioners, and area experts from within the country and abroad. The Conclave provides a platform to reflect on regional and global developments, evaluate their all-encompassing implications, and suggest forward-looking policy pathways for Pakistan. At a time when geopolitical flux, economic uncertainty, climate

vulnerability, and connectivity deficits are reshaping the strategic landscape, the Islamabad Conclave aims to foster informed debate and propose innovative, cooperative solutions.

South Asia, today, stands at a decisive crossroads. The receding unipolar moment and the rise of multipolarity have intensified major-power competition, heightened regional fragilities, and transformed traditional and non-traditional security domains. Long-standing unresolved disputes, nuclear brinkmanship, transnational terrorism, climate-induced disasters, and low levels of economic integration continue to constrain the region's vast potential. Within this overall context, the Conclave's central theme is divided into five focused sub-themes: (i) Regional Security Order Amid Evolving Multi-polarity; (ii) Emerging Strategic Security Challenges; (iii) Transnational Terrorism and Emerging Security Challenges in

South Asia; (iv) Economy and Climate Change; and (v) Regional Connectivity in South Asia: Multilateral Pathways for Collective Growth.

Following the Inaugural Plenary, each sub-theme will be taken up in separate Working Sessions featuring distinguished speakers from Pakistan and abroad with diverse expertise, enriching the discourse with academic depth, practical experience, and policy relevance. The Concluding Plenary will draw together the central insights and recommendations emerging from the deliberations. "This year's Conclave would be richer in scope, depth, and level of participation," stated Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood. He added that renowned academics, practitioners, and thought leaders would share their perspectives on how South Asia must navigate the complex contemporary challenges and find opportunities to build a future of

hope, progress and prosperity. "Essentially, this is an exercise in thinking together - re-imagining South Asia in the key realms of security, economy, climate, and connectivity", he concluded.

The Islamabad Conclave is now well-recognised as a cornerstone of Pakistan's think-tank-based Track 1.5 policy dialogues. Each edition has expanded the Forum's intellectual and policy footprint. The Conclave in 2024 focused on "Pakistan and the Evolving Global Order." The 5th Edition aims to further elevate this growing legacy by offering nuanced analyses, proposing actionable strategies, and contributing to a more stable, connected, and prosperous South Asia. Through this platform, ISSI remains committed to promoting dialogue, advancing Pakistan's foreign policy objectives, and supporting efforts toward cooperative regional solutions.

monsoon season. The coming months, he said, would be critical for rehabilitating infrastructure damaged by this year's floods and for implementing measures to mitigate future disasters. He said the plan's next stage—Phase II—would focus on long-term adaptation and the expansion of climate resilience initiatives already underway. The strategy, he added, is anchored in a three-part framework: "Fix, Grow and Build." The minister underscored the need for active provincial participation, warning that effective climate resilience cannot be achieved without close coordination between federal and provincial governments, as well as local institutions and community-led organisations. Highlighting Pakistan's acute climate vulnerability, Dr Malik noted that the country contributes less than 1 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions yet remains among the world's most climate-affected nations. In comparison, he said, just ten countries account for more than 70pc of global emissions. He urged the international community to acknowledge its responsibilities and work toward climate justice, enhanced financing and collective global action. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to climate-resilient development, Dr Malik called on global partners, development organisations and local stakeholders to collaborate in safeguarding vulnerable communities and building a sustainable future.—DNA

Musadik calls for urgent climate resilience steps

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Sunday stressed the urgent need for climate-resilient development and coordinated action to confront the escalating impacts of climate change, particularly on vulnerable populations in Pakistan. Speaking as chief guest at a conference titled "Climate Change and the Built Environment: Promoting Resilience and Adaptation in Low-Income Settings", organised by the Institute of Global Health and Development at the Aga Khan University (AKU), the minister said Pakistan must move swiftly to strengthen preparedness, adaptation and environmental stewardship across all sectors. Dr Malik informed participants that the government has formulated a 300-day national preparedness plan on the instructions of the prime minister to gear up for the 2026

IBCC workshop empowering master trainers and item writers

ISLAMABAD: The Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) successfully concluded a two-day national consolidation workshop for master trainers and item writers at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU). The closing ceremony was graced by Farah Naz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, who was warmly received by Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, Executive Director of IBCC, said a press release on Saturday. This capacity-building initiative was held under the strategic guidance and strong institutional support of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, reinforcing national efforts to modernize assessment systems and enhance the quality and credibility of examinations across Pakistan. Parliamentary Secretary Farah Naz Akbar applauded IBCC's sustained commitment to empowering teachers and advancing examination reforms aligned with contemporary educational standards. She noted that IBCC's initiatives clearly reflect the Ministry's long-term vision for strengthening national assessment frameworks. "Teachers shape our tomorrow. They are the true architects of a skilled, educated and progressive nation," she said, reaffirming that sustainable reforms must be rooted in teacher development and standardized assessment prac-

tics. During the ceremony, Farah Naz Akbar distributed shields to distinguished master trainers. The participation certificates were awarded to all attendees. Earlier, in his remarks, Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah underscored the significance of training highly qualified educators drawn from across the country, who will now cascade this knowledge to their institutions and professional networks. He highlighted IBCC's continued leadership in strengthening national assessment capacity, noting the workshop as a key milestone in efforts to standardize modern item-development practices. Dr Mallah further emphasized the importance of item writers gaining mastery over digital assessment platforms and tools to transition toward intelligent and automated paper-generation systems. "Our goal is to reach a future where exam papers can be developed efficiently, transparently, and with enhanced precision—ultimately moving toward smart generation systems that drastically reduce manual effort, improve quality, and strengthen public trust in assessments," he stated. The workshop represented another moment of national significance in IBCC's broader mission to transform examination systems through digitization, professional capacity building, standardized qualifications-based reforms, and improved assessment literacy among educators.—DNA

Minister highlights message of unity at Int'l Qirat competition

Sardar Yousuf added that next year, Pakistan plans to invite all countries where Muslims live, in addition to Muslim-majority nations, to participate in the competition

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousuf on Saturday said that the participation of Qura (reciters) from 37 Islamic countries in Pakistan's first international Qirat competition reflected a strong message of unity, peace and global solidarity. Speaking at the concluding ceremony, the minister said the successful organization of such a spiritual event marked a significant achievement for the government. He announced that the Qirat competition would continue in the coming years, stressing that events of this nature help promote and spread the true message of the Holy Quran. Sardar Yousuf said the Quran brings peace and comfort to the heart, adding that Pakistan's creation is spiritually linked to the holy book, as the country came into existence on the 27th of Ramadan—the date on which the Quran was revealed. For this reason, he noted, the successful holding of the competition carried special significance. "We should live our lives according to the teachings of the Quran," he said. The minister said he had restored several positive initiatives that were discontinued by previous governments, originally launched during Nawaz Sharif's tenure. He added that the government had also revived work on key reforms, including the Salat and congregational prayer system, which is being implemented in consultation with scholars nationwide. ardar Yousuf noted that while many Pakistanis recite the Quran, they are unable to understand its meaning, e underlined the importance of learning Arabic, describing it as the religious language of Muslims, and said the Ministry of Religious Affairs was coordinating with universities to promote Arabic education. "We believe that peace in the country and across the world can be achieved through the teachings of the Quran and the exemplary character of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)," he said. Sardar Yousuf added that next year, Pakistan plans to invite all countries where Muslims live, in addition to Muslim-majority nations, to participate in the competition.—DNA

Vibrant STEAM model exhibition held at Govt high school Bega

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A colourful exhibition of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) models was held at Government High School Bega in Kotli Sati-an Tehsil on Saturday. The event was formally inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Nahid Kulsoom Shehzadi, and was attended by District Education Officer (Secondary) Saima Aram, District Education Officer (Elementary, Women) Sidra Batool, District Education Officer (Elementary, Men) Bilal Hussain Pasha, and Deputy District Education Officer (Men) Muhammad Nadeem. The guests inspected all participating school stalls in detail. The officials highly appreciated the students' scientific skills, creativity, dedication and hard work in preparing the models. Each project reflected significant effort by both teachers and students. The guests noted that the students' innovative and scientific ideas left a positive impression on all attendees. The exhibition provided an informative and encouraging environment, boosting students' confidence and promoting scientific and creative activities. Officials described the event as well-organised, commendable and memorable.

Man held for abusing 12-year-old boy

RAWALPINDI: The Kallar Syedan Police on Saturday arrested a man accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old boy a week earlier, a Rawalpindi Police spokesman said. According to the first information report, the complainant stated that his neighbour had called his son to his house on a pretext and assaulted him. The police registered a case and took the suspect into custody. The spokesman said the child's medical examination had been completed in accordance with legal procedure. The Superintendent of Police Sadder said the suspect would be presented in court with solid evidence "to secure his conviction". He added that strict action would be taken in all cases involving the harm or abuse of children.—APP

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Briefs

Pak, Egypt
move to
boost trade...

FROM PAGE 01
defence, and cultural spheres, and provided an important opportunity to advance shared goals. Dar also appreciated the encouraging progress in recent engagements at various levels on the margins of multilateral and regional forums around the world, aimed at promoting long-term cooperation, partnership, and brotherhood. He said the bond of brotherhood between Pakistan and Egypt is known globally, and both sides are determined to elevate their multidimensional ties to a higher level. In his remarks, FM Abdelatty conveyed sincere condolences and sympathies from the Egyptian government and people over the tragic loss of lives in the recent terrorist attacks in Islamabad and Peshawar. He reaffirmed Egypt's full solidarity with Pakistan in its efforts to eradicate terrorism. He said Egypt deeply valued its cordial relations with Pakistan. Both countries, the visiting dignitary noted, faced shared challenges at economic, political, and security levels, which encouraged closer cooperation and the exchange of expertise and best practices. "Peace and stability are the main pillars of our strategic partnership," he said, expressing Egypt's desire to elevate the relationship to a strategic level and revitalise the existing institutional mechanisms of dialogue, particularly the Joint Ministerial Committee.

Chief of
Defence
Staff...

FROM PAGE 01
the service chiefs to five years. That change included a "deeming" clause stating that the amendment "shall always be deemed to have been part of the Pakistan Army Act", a formulation that legal minds say removed the requirement for a fresh notification extending the COAS tenure from three to five years. He also sharply criticized the Gaza ceasefire agreement, calling it "one-sided and repeatedly violated by Israel," as fresh reports confirm continued Israeli strikes despite the truce announced on October 10. The Minister said Israeli forces have continued to target civilians, including women and children, in blatant disregard of the ceasefire framework negotiated in Sharm el-Sheikh. "Since the ceasefire took effect, at least 352 Palestinians have been martyred, and the total death toll in Gaza has tragically crossed 70,000 since the war began," he said, terming the ongoing situation a test of the world's conscience. He expressed deep concern over Israel's "systematic and deliberate violations," describing them as proof that Tel Aviv is not serious about honoring the agreement. The Defence Minister said the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza demanded urgent and unified international action.

ECP rejects
allegations
over NA-18...

FROM PAGE 01
general elections, it is not always possible to appoint ROs and DROs from within the Commission, but in by-elections such appointments are made as per requirement. For the NA-18 by-poll, officers already posted in the same area were appointed, fully in accordance with the Elections Act, 2017. The Commission noted that these appointments were made well before polling day and no objections were raised by any party until after the results were announced. "Raising accusations only after losing the election is unjustified," the ECP stated. Addressing further allegations, the Commission said that if any Returning Officer had refused to accept an application, the concerned party should have approached the ECP, but no such complaint was filed. Similarly, no formal request for stopping consolidation or initiating a recount was made either to the RO or the Commission within the stipulated time.

Pakistan Bags Three Bronze at
World Fitness Championship

All three medalists proudly represented the Pakistan Army, underscoring the institution's strong contribution to national sports and physical excellence

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan achieved remarkable success at the World Fitness Challenge & Bodybuilding Championship, held in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, by securing three bronze medals at the prestigious global event. Organized under the umbrella of the International Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation (IFBB), the championship featured athletes from 57 countries, where the Pakistani contingent showcased exceptional skill, discipline, and determination. All three medalists proudly represented the Pakistan Army, underscoring the institution's strong contribution to national sports and physical excellence. In the women's division, Olympian Sadaf Siddiqui—who also won three gold medals for Pakistan Army at the National Fitness Championship earlier this year—demonstrated outstanding strength and technique, earning a bronze medal in the World Women's Masters Category. Her performance stood out among competitors from 18 countries, reaffirming her position as one of Pakistan's premier fitness athletes. In the men's events, Havaladar Maqbool Ahmed secured a bronze medal in the Masters Individual Category, showcasing impressive skill against athletes from 53 countries. Similarly, Inam Ullah earned a bronze medal in the Seniors Category, competing against global participants from 57 nations. These achievements are a testament to the athletes' hard work, discipline, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Their success not only brings pride to the nation but also highlights Pakistan's growing presence in international fitness and bodybuilding competitions.

Senator Mushahid Hussain
elected Chairman AEPF

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF), at the annual conference of this bi-continental organization, held in Budapest, the capital of Hungary, which concluded yesterday. The conference, which was held under the theme, 'Peace and Democracy in Eurasia', was hosted by the ruling party of Hungary, Fidesz. Zsolt Nemeth, former deputy Foreign Minister of Hungary, was elected Co-Chairman of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) representing Europe, said a press release received here on Sunday. The conference was attended

by 35 parliamentarians, political and think tank representatives from 25 countries, 15 from Asia and 10 from Europe. In his acceptance speech, Senator Mushahid Hussain, who is also Co-Chairman of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) thanked the participants for electing him Chairman of the unique Forum for a two-year term, since the Asia-Europe Political Forum is the only non-governmental institution which links political representatives, public intellectuals and think tanks of Europe with their Asian counterparts, meeting alternately in Asia and Europe.

Mushahid spoke of the role of Pakistan in promoting connectivity in Asia, between South Asia and Central Asia, and beyond as well,

in Eurasia, especially given the emerging dynamics of geoeconomics and geopolitics. He termed Pakistan as the 'ideal bridge between the East and the West'. Senator Mushahid Hussain urged the need to promote connectivity through such mechanisms as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China, with CPEC playing a key role, plus other organisations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). He rejected the notion of a new Cold War or the politics of confrontation. Senator Mushahid Hussain welcomed the 28-point plan of US President Donald Trump to end the Ukraine War, saying this needless, unwarranted conflict must end through dialogue. He also stressed the need for inter-faith harmony, adding that Asian values upheld

the importance of family, religion, faith and harmony as pillars of stability in society. Senator Mushahid Hussain also spoke of Pakistan's connections with Europe in the field of trade, investment, economy, education and science and technology, adding that as a member of the UN Security Council, Pakistan was playing a responsible and important role to preserve and protect the rule of law and the United Nations Charter. He also criticised Western double standards on human rights and said the world was moving towards a new global order that was no longer dominated by the West but, rather, a world where the global majority, countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, had a greater voice, role and impact as part of the Global South.

Thousands protest in
Philippines against
flood control fraud

MANILA: Thousands marched in the Philippine capital on Sunday, demanding jail time for scores of officials, lawmakers and construction firm owners accused of pocketing billions of taxpayer dollars in a sweeping corruption scandal. Rage over so-called ghost flood-control projects has been mounting for months in the archipelago country of 116 million, where entire towns have been buried in floodwaters driven by powerful typhoons in recent months. President Ferdinand Marcos has seen friend and foe alike, including a congressman cousin, swept up in the scandal since he made the widespread fraud the centrepiece of a July national address. On Sunday, marchers faced with barbed wire-wrapped barricades blocking their route to the presidential palace chanted "Police! Protectors of the corrupt!" as riot police pounded on their shields in response. The protesters, who had gathered earlier at Manila's Luneta Park, carried a large effigy that merged Marcos and his chief political rival, Vice President Sara Duterte, into a two-headed crocodile representing corruption. About 10 kilometres (six miles) away, another group of demonstrators called for corrupt officials to be "put in jail now" as they marched along the thoroughfare known as EDSA, site of the People Power Movement that helped oust Marcos's father from power in 1986. According to official crowd-size estimates, fewer than 10,000 people took to the streets, while more than 17,000 police officers were deployed. - Agenc

Pakistan grabs 3
bronze medals in
World Fitness C'ship

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan achieved success at the World Fitness Challenge & Bodybuilding Championship, held in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, by securing three bronze medals at the global event. Organized under the umbrella of the International Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation (IFBB), the championship featured athletes from 57 countries, where the Pakistani contingent showcased exceptional skill, discipline, and determination, said a press release. All three medalists proudly represented the Pakistan Army, underscoring the institution's strong contribution to national sports and physical excellence. In the women's division, Olympian Sadaf Siddiqui—who also won three gold medals for Pakistan Army at the National Fitness Championship earlier this year—demonstrated outstanding strength and technique, earning a bronze medal in the World Women's Masters Category. Her performance stood out among competitors from 18 countries, reaffirming her position as one of Pakistan's premier fitness athletes. In the men's events, Havaladar Maqbool Ahmed secured a bronze medal in the Masters Individual Category, showcasing impressive skill against athletes from 53 countries. APP

Oscar-winning UK playwright
Tom Stoppard dies aged 88

LONDON: British playwright Tom Stoppard, who won an Oscar for the screenplay of the 1998 film "Shakespeare in Love", has died at the age of 88, United Agents announced on Saturday. Stoppard, who first made his name with "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" – an absurdist tragicomedy about two minor characters from Shakespeare's "Hamlet" – developed a distinctive style combining serious ideas with comedy. "We are deeply saddened to announce that our beloved client and friend, Tom Stoppard, has died peacefully at home in Dorset, surrounded by his family," the talent agency said. "He will be remembered for his works, for their brilliance and humanity, and for his wit, his irreverence, his generosity of spirit and his profound

love of the English language." Rock legend Mick Jagger led the tributes on social media. "Tom Stoppard was my favourite playwright," the Rolling Stones frontman posted on X. "He leaves us with a majestic body of intellectual and amusing work. I will always miss him." In London, the Olivier Awards announced that West End theatres would dim their lights for two minutes at 7:00 pm on Tuesday in his memory. As well as his Oscar, Stoppard won three Oliviers and five Tonys, among the top awards in the theatre world. Britain's National Theatre, which worked closely with Stoppard, staging many of his plays, paid tribute to "his sharp intellect, inventive narrative structures, and a blend of highbrow humour with profound philosophical enquiries". London's Royal Court the-

atre said his work "probed the deepest human mysteries of truth, time, mortality and frailty while dazzling with wit, laughter and the buoyancy of the human spirit". His publisher, Faber Books, paid tribute to "one of the most brilliant and feted playwrights of the last 60 years and one of the great intellects of our time". For Stoppard, Shakespeare proved to be a rich seam for him to mine. "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead", the play that first brought him success in theatres on both sides of the Atlantic, won a string of theatre awards. Then when he adapted it for cinema in 1990, in a version starring Tim Roth, Gary Oldman and Richard Dreyfuss, it picked up the Golden Lion – the top prize – at the Venice Film Festival. - Agencies

Master Paints-Sheikhoo wins 11th Battle Axe Polo Cup

The final lived up to expectations, producing fast-paced action and impressive horsemanship. Master Paints-Sheikhoo seized control in the opening stages, dominating the first two chukkas to establish a commanding 5-2 lead

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Master Paints-Sheikhoo captured the coveted trophy of the 11th Battle Axe Polo Cup 2025, after defeating Master Paints-Skywell in an exciting final played at the Garrison Polo Ground. The closing ceremony was graced by chief guest Muhammad Owais, Marketing Manager TCL Pakistan, who distributed prizes among the finalists. Also present were Club Secretary Major Babar Mehoob Awan and senior polo officials. The high-profile event also drew a large crowd of polo enthusiasts, families, and club members who gathered to witness the season's marquee contest. The final lived up to expectations, producing fast-paced action and impressive horsemanship. Master Paints-Sheikhoo seized control in the opening stages, dominating the first two chukkas to establish a commanding 5-2 lead. Although Master Paints-Skywell mounted a spirited comeback in the final chukkas, outscoring their opponents by four goals to three, the early deficit proved insurmountable. Master Paints-Sheikhoo held their nerve in the decisive moments to seal a well-deserved 8-6

victory and lift the title. Star striker Raja Samiullah led the front with an exceptional five-goal haul, supported by Mir Huzaifa Ahmed with

two goals and Osman Aziz Anwar with one. For Master Paints-Skywell, Raja Temur Nadeem impressed with four goals, while Agha Musa Ali Khan added two.

Earlier in the day, Indus Polo claimed the subsidiary final with a commanding performance, rounding off an action-packed conclusion to the tournament.

President
calls for
stronger
Pakistan
Egypt ties

FROM PAGE 01

Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Sherry Rehman, Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari and the Secretary Foreign Affairs attended the meeting. The Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Dr Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan, was also present.

KP CM
alleges
Imran eld
in isolation

FROM PAGE 01

"We went to Adiala, but were not allowed to meet even for two minutes. We even approached the high court, but the meeting could not take place," he said. CM Afridi staged a 16-hour-long sit-in outside the Adiala Road on November 27 after he was denied a meeting with the PTI founder, who has been incarcerated since August 2023, since his ouster from power via the opposition's no-trust motion in April 2022. At today's presser, the KP chief minister said that they would go to Adiala jail after staging a protest outside the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

Six possible
names for
new KP
Governor

FROM PAGE 01

A sixth name from the civil bureaucracy is also said to be in discussion, though it has not yet been publicly confirmed. Among the contenders, Lt Gen (R) Tariq Khan and Lt Gen (R) Ghaur stand out for their extensive experience in counterterrorism and border security, having served as Inspectors General of the Frontier Corps (FC) during some of the most challenging phases of militancy in the region. Their familiarity with KP's security landscape is being viewed as a major factor in the ongoing deliberations. Sources indicate that the federal leadership is leaning toward appointing a retired military officer as the next governor, given the province's deteriorating law-and-order situation and the increasingly confrontational posture of the KP Chief Minister. The growing wave of violence – including attacks in merged districts and heightened militant activity along the Afghan border – has reinforced the argument for choosing a figure with strong security credentials. Political observers note that the selection of the next governor will signal Islamabad's strategic priorities for the province, particularly at a time when KP's governance and security challenges have become a central national concern.

FC suicide
attackers
identified...

FROM PAGE 01

Officials said that more than 100 suspects have been questioned so far as part of the inquiry. The development comes nearly a week after three FC personnel were martyred, and as many terrorists were killed when security forces foiled an attack on the FC Headquarters in Peshawar. Meanwhile, the investigators have also obtained CCTV footage showing the attackers' movement from Rehman Baba graveyard to the FC Headquarters. They revealed that the suicide bombers did not carry any mobile phones on the day of the attack, making the investigation more challenging. According to the investigating officials, they are actively working to identify and locate any accomplices or facilitators linked to the attackers. The blasts, which targeted the Federal Constabulary Headquarters on 24 November, resulted in significant casualties and prompted a wide-scale security review in the area. Earlier on Tuesday, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General (IG) Zulfiqar Hameed said that investigators had gathered crucial evidence, including photographs, fingerprints, and CCTV footage of the suspects.

Briefs

FIA offloads two for fake passport stamps

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration unit at Islamabad International Airport foiled an attempt by two passengers to travel abroad using fake passport stamps, officials said on Saturday. An FIA official told APP on Sunday that the passengers, identified as Ameen Khan and Habibullah, were offloaded from an international flight bound for Malaysia. The spokesperson said the two men belonged to Peshawar and Buner. He said FIA immigration officers detected that the passengers' passports carried fake departure stamps as well as forged Malaysian arrival stamps, indicating an attempt to falsify their travel history. The official said both passengers were handed over to the FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Islamabad for further legal action. More arrests and legal proceedings are expected as the investigation continues. - APP

Four killed, 10 wounded in California shooting: US police

LOS ANGELES: Four people were killed and 10 wounded in a shooting at a family gathering in California on Saturday night, US police said, calling it a "targeted incident." The shooting took place inside a banquet hall in Stockton, northeast of San Francisco, just before 6:00 pm, San Joaquin County Sheriff's office spokesperson Heather Brent told reporters in a news briefing. The victims, who range from "juveniles to adults," were taken to local hospitals, Brent said, adding that information on the shooting was limited. "What we have confirmed at this time is that there was a banquet hall where a family was celebrating. We have 14 victims of this shooting. Four of those are deceased," Brent said. "Early indications suggest that this may be a targeted incident. Investigators are exploring all possibilities at this time." The sheriff's office said in a post on social media that detectives were "working to determine the circumstances leading up to this tragedy." "We are urging anyone with information, video footage, or who may have witnessed any part of this incident to contact the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office immediately," it said. No suspect has been identified so far. California Governor Gavin Newsom had been briefed on the shooting, his office said in a post on social media. - APP

Russian drone strike kills one

KYIV: A Russian drone attack has killed one person and wounded 11 on the outskirts of the Ukrainian capital, the regional governor said Sunday. Mykola Kalashnyk, the Kyiv regional governor, reported "another enemy drone attack" and said rescuers were evacuating residents of a high-rise building and firefighting was ongoing. "Unfortunately, as a result of the enemy attack on Vyshgorod, one person was killed and 11 were wounded. Among them is one child," Kalashnyk wrote on Telegram. The latest attack follows a Russian drone and missile attack on Friday night that killed three people and left hundreds of thousands across Ukraine without power. A team of Ukrainian negotiators was headed to the United States on Saturday for talks on a US plan to end the war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said. Washington's original proposal - drafted without input from Ukraine's European allies - would have seen Kyiv withdraw from its eastern Donetsk region and the United States de facto recognise the Donetsk, Crimea and Lugansk regions as Russian. - APP

French Alumni Gala celebrates talent, creativity and growing academic ties

"This growth reflects not only the interest of Pakistani students," he said, "but also the increasing willingness of French academic institutions to deepen cooperation with Pakistani universities"



ANSAR M. BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of France in Pakistan hosted a vibrant and elegant evening as it marked the third edition of French Alumni Day with a special Awards Distribution Ceremony and Fashion Show, celebrating Pakistan's growing community of France-educated professionals. The event, held with the support of Campus France, marked a significant milestone with the

launch of the first-ever French Alumni Gala and Excellency Awards in Pakistan. French Ambassador Nicolas Galey, in his keynote address, highlighted the remarkable rise in Pakistani students choosing France as a study destination, noting that applications had surged from 200 only four years ago to an impressive 7,000 this academic year—a striking 35-fold increase. "This growth reflects not only the interest of Pakistani students," he said, "but also the increasing willingness of French academic institutions to

deepen cooperation with Pakistani universities." He credited the success of the annual Choose France Education Tours, held consecutively for four years, for resulting in numerous exchange agreements and enhanced institutional linkages. Ambassador Galey emphasized that French Alumni Day was more than a reunion of former students. "The objective is to highlight the impact of studying in France for talented Pakistanis," he noted. "Being part of this alumni network is an asset for individuals, their institutions, and Pakistan as a whole."

He praised the contributions of Pakistani and French universities, the Campus France-Pakistan offices in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi, and the cultural section of the French Embassy for their steadfast commitment. "Their efforts," he said, "are fully aligned with the development of relations between France and Pakistan and are deeply appreciated by both governments."

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of five remarkable alumni who have distinguished themselves in fields including banking, arts and theatre, gastronomy, consulting, entrepreneurship and women's empowerment. Ambassador Galey said these individuals embodied the creativity, talent and modernity of today's Pakistan, enriched by their academic experience in France.

He noted that French education builds values such as multicultural exposure, curiosity, innovation and the courage to take risks—qualities that make alumni highly sought after by major companies, especially in the energy, mobility, industrial and cosmetic sectors. Ambassador Galey also acknowledged the support of the Pakistan-France Business Alliance, calling it a crucial partner in ensuring continuity between studies in France and professional engagement with French and Pakistani companies.

Expressing satisfaction over the growing interest in French higher education, he told the alumni: "You are the best ambassadors for France. Your experiences and achievements will continue to inspire young Pakistanis to follow the same path."

True to French tradition, the evening concluded with a display of gastronomy and fashion, celebrating the cultural elegance France is known for. Ambassador Galey thanked the organizers and participants for making the event "unique and memorable," while reaffirming that the dynamic alumni community remains a vital bridge between the two nations. The gala not only showcased talent and success but also reaffirmed the deepening educational and cultural partnership between France and Pakistan.

FBR misses Nov revenue target with Rs143bn tax shortfall

Downward-revised tax collection target from Rs14,130bn to Rs13,979bn, agreed with IMF, might face major deficit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) is facing a shortfall of Rs143 billion in achieving its desired target for November with sluggish economic activities, closure of industrial units and hike in tax rates doubling the revenue shortfall. The FBR high-ups are hopeful that the revenue collection might cross the Rs900 billion mark for November 2025. In the first four months (July-October) period, FBR had faced a shortfall on an average in the range of Rs68 billion on a per-month basis; however, in the fifth month (November 2025) this gap widened to Rs143 billion, according to provisional revenue figures available till 4:25 pm on Saturday, indicating that the shortfall started piling up after each passing month. The possibility of achieving the FBR's annual target of Rs14,130 billion seems impossible. Even the downward-revised tax collection target from Rs14,130 billion to Rs13,979 billion, agreed with the IMF, might face a major shortfall, keeping in view the existing pace of collection in the first five months of the current fiscal year. In recent days, the government's top functionaries, including SIFC's National Coordinator Lt Gen Sarfraz Ahmed and Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed, have

publicly conceded that the flawed growth model, comprising higher taxation rates for the formal sector, was unsustainable and needed to be changed.

Everyone concedes that it is necessary to slash tax rates, but they are unable to ascertain how to do it in a sustained manner in the context of the IMF programme. Pakistan and the IMF have envisaged a tax collection target of Rs6.49 trillion by the end of December 2025. The FBR's tax collection hovered around Rs4.7 trillion in the first five months of the current fiscal year. In order to materialise the July-December target, the FBR will have to fetch Rs1.756 trillion in December 2025 to achieve the desired results.

According to the provisional tax collection figures, the FBR's net tax collection stands at Rs4.727 trillion after paying refunds of Rs0.254 trillion. The gross collection stood at Rs5.04 trillion. The FBR has collected income tax of Rs2.231 trillion, sales tax Rs1.875 trillion, federal excise duty of Rs0.326 trillion, and customs duty of Rs0.547 trillion in the first five months of the current fiscal year. In November 2025, the FBR's gross collection stands at Rs0.995 trillion, out of which refunds were paid amounting to Rs0.48 trillion, so the net collection hovers at Rs0.892 trillion. The FBR's tax collection target stands at Rs1.035 trillion, so the shortfall touched the level of Rs0.143 trillion.

Afghan national arrested in Texas over alleged bomb threat

Dawood Alokozay arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force

DNA

NEW YORK: An Afghan national who entered the United States under the Biden administration's "Operation Allies Welcome" programme has been arrested after allegedly posting a TikTok video suggesting he was con-

structing a bomb intended for the Fort Worth area in Texas, according to a report by Fox News, citing the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Court documents show that the suspect, identified as Mohammad Dawood Alokozay, has been charged at the state level with making a terrorist threat. Alokozay was taken into custody on Tuesday, a day before the shooting in Washington DC, by the Texas Department of Public Safety and an FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force in a coordinated law enforcement effort, the report said.

The report noted that Rahmanullah Lakanwal, the gunman who shot two National Guard members earlier this week, also entered the country through the same resettlement programme. The resettlement program was set up by Biden after the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, which led to the rapid collapse of the Afghan government and the country's takeover by the Taliban.

Following the attack, US President Donald Trump said his administration will "permanently pause" migration from all "Third World Countries", following an attack near the White House he attributed to Biden-era immigration vetting failures.

Information minister lambasts Imran Khan's sisters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has slammed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan's sisters for "harming" the country's reputation by appearing on Indian media platforms. Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Sunday, the information minister alleged that these appearances were being used to spread "propaganda" against Pakistan. "Why did they [Imran's sisters] not raise the Kashmir issue or Marka-e-Haq when speaking to Indian channels... they appeared on Indian channels to defame the country... propaganda is being spread today on Indian and Afghan media," he said. "I wish Noreen Niazi had talked about the seven planes that were shot down. Instead, she goes there and cries for a person facing a £190 million corruption case," Tarar added.



The information minister further said that Imran's sisters "should be ashamed" for giving interviews on Indian platforms that, according to him, work against Pakistan's interests. He also targeted senior PTI leadership, claiming that close family members of the party's founder had actively participated in what he described as anti-Pakistan narratives abroad. The minister further accused the PTI of attempting to weaken national institutions through misinformation and political agitation.

KP issues: Speaking about governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the info minister said the provincial government had failed to curb non-custom-paid vehicles, illegal mining and drug trafficking. He accused the KP government of protecting "drug cartels" and claimed that billions in potential tax revenue were being lost.

"The pockets of those in power in KP are being filled," he said, adding that the tobacco sector could generate significant revenue if taxed properly. Tarar also linked the issue to criminal networks and political influence. "One reason is the political-terror-crime nexus," he added. He said the security forces responded strongly to recent cross-border attacks, stating: "When there was infiltration from Afghanistan, our army gave a full response."

Sri Lanka cyclone deaths rise to 159, major flood hits capital

About a third of country remains without electricity, running water; storm destroys over 20,000 homes

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan authorities battled rising floodwaters in parts of the capital on Sunday after a powerful cyclone left a trail of destruction, killing at least 159 people across the country. The death toll had reached 159, with another 203 people missing, the DMC reported, following a week of heavy rains brought on by Cyclone Ditwah, which moved away from Sri Lanka on Saturday. "Although the cyclone has left us, heavy rains upstream are now flooding low-lying areas along the banks of the Kelani River," a DMC official said. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake declared a state of emergency on Saturday to deal with the aftermath of the cyclone and appealed for international aid. India was the first to respond, sending relief supplies and two helicopters with crew to carry out rescue missions. Japan said it will send a team to assess immediate needs and pledged further assistance. While the rains have subsided across the island, several roads in the worst-affected central province remained inaccessible, the DMC said. The extreme weather system has destroyed more than 20,000 homes and sent 122,000 people into state-run temporary shelters. Another 833,000 people required assistance after being displaced by the floods. Troops from the army, navy, and air force have been deployed alongside civilian workers and volunteers to assist with the relief effort. Officials reported that about a third of the country remains without electricity or running water due to collapsed power lines and inundated water purification facilities. Internet connections have also been disrupted. The cyclone has become Sri Lanka's deadliest natural disaster since 2017, when flooding and landslides claimed more than 200 lives and displaced hundreds of thousands. - DNA

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