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Egypt, Pakistan relations cordial, says Ambassador

Detailed News On Page-08

Trump says Nigeria action possible soon

Detailed News On Page-08



FM Ishaq Dar to attend meeting in Istanbul

Detailed News On Page-01



Peace deal implementation

Turkiye set to call for action on Gaza

The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Indonesia are set to join the meeting on ceasefire developments

DNA

ISTANBUL: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan is expected to call at a meeting in Istanbul on Monday for arrangements to be made as soon as possible to ensure the security and administration of Gaza by Palestinians, a foreign ministry source said on Sunday. The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Indonesia are set to join the meeting on ceasefire developments and the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the Turkish foreign ministry source said.

The source said Fidan was expected to "emphasise the importance of coordinated action by Muslim countries for the ceasefire to evolve into a lasting peace." Countries taking part in the Istanbul talks all attended a meeting with US President Donald Trump in New York in September on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Over 16,500 patients who need specialised care remain stranded in Gaza even as the World Health Organisation continues to facilitate the evacuation of those most critically ill, Al Jazeera reported. According to a UN situation update, as of September, Egypt had received the highest number of Palestinian evacuees from Gaza, totaling 3,995, followed by the United Arab Emirates with 1,450, Qatar with 970, and Türkiye with 437. In Europe, Italy hosted the largest number of patients, providing medical care to 201 individuals. The UN reported last week that 3,800 Palestinian children still require evacuation to receive urgent healthcare abroad. Israel warned Sunday that its military would step up its attacks against

Continued on Page 06

Istanbul talks: Pakistan picks apart Afghan Taliban

Islamabad called for arresting or controlling terrorists based in Afghanistan, says info ministry

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Amid a fragile ceasefire between Islamabad and Kabul, Pakistan on Saturday rejected the "deliberate twisting of facts" attributed to the Afghan Taliban's spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahid, regarding the recent Istanbul talks between the two countries. In a statement posted on X, the Ministry of Information said Pakistan had demanded that terrorists based in Afghanistan and posing a threat to Pakistan either be controlled or arrested. "When the Afghan side claimed those individuals were Pakistani nationals, Islamabad immediately proposed that they be handed over through designated border crossings, in line with its long-standing position," it said. "Any claim to the contrary is false and misleading," the statement added. The clarification came after Zabihullah Mujahid told a private news channel

Continued on Page 06

FM Ishaq Dar to attend Arab-Islamic meeting

Islamabad will push for Gaza ceasefire implementation and full Israeli withdrawal at Istanbul talks, says FO

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar will undertake a one-day visit to Istanbul tomorrow to attend the Coordination Meeting of Arab-Islamic Foreign Ministers, the Foreign Office said on Sunday. The meeting, hosted by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, will discuss the implementation of the Gaza Peace Agreement and regional efforts to consolidate the ceasefire, read the statement. According to the statement, Pakistan — which has remained engaged with the Arab-Islamic peace initiative that led to the signing of the Gaza Peace Agreement in Sharm El-Sheikh — will underscore the need for the full implementation of the truce and Israel's complete withdrawal from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially Gaza. "Pakistan will also call for the provision of unfettered humanitarian assistance to Palestinians and the reconstruction of Gaza," the FO said.

Continued on Page 06

Zardari to attend Doha summit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari will attend the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, Qatar, from November 4-6, being held under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly. The summit will bring together world leaders and policymakers to discuss ways of advancing social development, promoting decent work and employment opportunities, as well as strengthening inclusive safety nets, the President's Secretariat said. On the sidelines, the president will hold important meetings with global and regional leaders, including the leadership of Qatar, as well as heads of major multilateral forums such as the United Nations and other international organisations. President Zardari will underscore Pakistan's commitment to inclusive growth and social protection, with the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) at the centre of efforts to reduce poverty and build resilience among vulnerable groups.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E. Akamatsu Shuichi, presents the trophy to the winning team during the final of the Serena Hotels Polo Cup 2025. Detailed news and more pictures on Page 6 — DNA

Imran Ismael says

Qureshi agreed that stalemate in politics must end

Qureshi has been indicted in multiple cases pertaining to the May 9, 2023 riots and has remained behind bars since August 2023

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Imran Ismail — one of the three ex-PTI leaders who visited the party's Shah Mahmood Qureshi at a hospital in Lahore on Thursday — insisted on Sunday that the former foreign minister had agreed that the stalemate in Pakistan's politics must end. Ismail's claim has come even when Qureshi's lawyer Rana Mudassar maintained that no political discussion had taken place between his client and the three former PTI leaders during the "surprise" visit. However, Ismail posted on X today that some had begun to "portray our recent political outreach as a 'minus formula' designed to weaken Imran Khan or hijack [the] PTI. Let me be clear: there is no PTI without Imran Khan. He is its founder, face, and force.

Continued on Page 06

Journalists rights to be protected: PM

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said the government would take steps to ensure effective investigation, justice, and prosecution in cases of crimes against journalists. His remarks came on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists. The day, observed on November 2, highlights the need for justice in cases where journalists are attacked or killed. This year's observance draws attention to the online threats faced by women journalists and the

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Journalists body raises alarm

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) on Sunday expressed grave concern over rising crimes against journalists, reporting a sharp increase in violations during the past year. Marking the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, the journalists' body said that violations of journalists' rights increased by 60% over the past year, with 142 cases reported across the country. The PFUJ stated that independent journalism and the right to information are "facing serious threats" in Pakistan, urging the government to ensure protection and safety for journalists. It demanded transparent investigations and accountability in all attacks on journalists, along with compensation for affected media workers.

Punjab govt extends section 144

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab Home Department extended the enforcement of Section 144 across the province for seven more days, a spokesperson confirmed on Sunday. A formal notification regarding the enforcement of Section 144 until Saturday, November 8, 2025, was issued by the provincial government. The spokesperson said that the ban on all kinds of protests, rallies, processions, sit-ins, public gatherings, and similar activities will remain in place. Under Section 144, any gathering of four or more people in public places is strictly prohibited, the spokesperson added. The notification also stated that the display of weapons and the use of loudspeakers are completely banned.

Cop martyred at CTD police station

Peshawar CCPO says preliminary assessment shows blast caused by detonation of old stored explosives

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: A Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) official was martyred and two others were injured when stored explosives detonated at a CTD police station in Peshawar on Sunday. Peshawar Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Mian Saeed said that the preliminary assessment suggests the blast occurred in the station's armoury due to a short circuit, where old explosive materials had been stored. "The explosion appears to have been caused by the detonation of old explosives kept in the armoury," he said. The CCPO added that the fire spread to other sections of the depot, igniting additional munitions and causing secondary explosions. "A portion of the building collapsed due to the blast," he said, confirming the martyrdom of one CTD officer and injuries to two others. "All detainees were safely evacuated from the lock-up," the CCPO said, adding that the blast did not appear to be an act of terrorism.

Continued on Page 06

Three cops injured in blast in Hangu

DNA

HANGU: Three cops, including a station house officer (SHO), were injured in a blast caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) in the Doaba area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu district on Sunday, police said. Abbas Majeed, the regional police officer in Kohat division, confirmed these details to Dawn, further stating that a police convoy was targeted in the IED attack. He added that SHO Imranuddin was among the three injured policemen. Separately, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said the provincial chief executive, Sohail Afridi, had taken notice of the incident and sought a detailed report from the KP inspector general of police. He directed that the injured

Continued on Page 06

Afghanistan–Pakistan Concerns: A call for reciprocal security

For many Afghans, the Istanbul engagement represents more than a tactical pause; it symbolizes the long-awaited hope of being treated as an equal partner, not as a pawn in Pakistan's security equation

ABDUL WAHEED WAHEED

AFTER weeks of uncertainty and tense exchanges, cautious optimism has returned to Kabul as preparations begin for the next round of Afghanistan–Pakistan talks, scheduled in Istanbul on November 6. The first phase, mediated by Türkiye and Qatar, concluded with what Islamabad described as a "conditional truce." Yet in Afghanistan, public sentiment is different, more hopeful and forward-looking. People and commentators alike view the upcoming meeting as a rare opportunity to move beyond blame and redefine relations on the principles of equality and non-interference. For many Afghans, the Istanbul engagement represents more than a tactical pause; it symbolizes the long-awaited hope of being treated as an equal partner, not as a pawn in Pakistan's security equation. Although both sides have for decades exchanged accusations over cross-Durand Line militancy, there is a growing realization that regional peace cannot endure through provocative rhetoric, but only through sincere engagement. Pakistan's Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif, has tied the fragile ceasefire to Kabul's ability to curb militant activities, even urging the Afghan government to "restore peace in Pakistan."

Such a demand exposes the contradiction at the heart of Islamabad's policy. The same state that once built, trained, and celebrated armed groups as tools of influence now seeks protection from the very forces it once empowered. What was once projected as strategic depth has turned into strategic distress, a reversal that reveals how policies rooted in manipulation ultimately consume their own architects. What a strange twist of logic: the very state that once sponsored, sheltered, and glorified armed groups as "strategic assets" now appeals to the country that suffered from those policies to ensure its own security. History, it seems, has come full circle, not as redemption, but as a tragedy authored by its own architects. Instead of confronting the roots of extremism nurtured by its own doctrines, Islamabad seeks external guarantees for internal peace. Yet true stability cannot be outsourced. It demands introspection, accountability, and a decisive break from the ghosts of past ambitions. Pakistan often portrays the movement of insurgents across the Durand Line as a threat originating entirely from Afghanistan. Yet this narrative overlooks a crucial reality: once these fighters cross into Pakistan, they disperse across various regions and may eventually return to Afghan soil. What happens, then, to Pakistan's own security institutions

Continued on Page 06

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Chief Collector Customs honoured for boosting export facilitation

LAHORE: Pakistan Tea Association (PTA) on Sunday hosted a high tea reception in honour of Chief Collector Customs (Exports) Muhammad Sadiq to acknowledge his outstanding services and unwavering commitment to facilitating exporters through progressive reforms and efficient service delivery. In his remarks, Chief Collector Muhammad Sadiq expressed gratitude for the recognition and reaffirmed his resolve to continue supporting trade facilitation through transparent and business-friendly customs policies. He emphasized that close collaboration between the Customs Department and exporters was vital to strengthening Pakistan's export sector and enhancing its global competitiveness. Earlier, in his welcome address, Bhai Saleem Aman Ullah, former Chairman of the Pakistan Tea Association, along with other representatives, lauded Chief Collector Muhammad Sadiq for his proactive leadership, commitment to transparency, and efforts to create a conducive environment for trade growth. They noted that under his dynamic guidance, Customs operations had become more efficient, resulting in smoother export procedures and improved confidence among exporters. —APP

MDCAT 2025 results announced

SUKKUR : SIBA Testing Services (STS) announced the final results of the Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) 2025 on Sunday. The test was conducted on October 26, 2025, across nine cities and ten test centers in Karachi, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Larkana, Jacobabad, Sukkur, and the Federal Capital, Islamabad. The results have been declared after addressing all grievances received from applicants regarding the provisional results uploaded on October 30, 2025. In line with STS's commitment to merit and transparency, the final results were compiled based on the minimum passing criteria set by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)—55% for medical college admission and 50% for dental college admission. —APP

Lost and found

I, Aftab Ali Malik, holding CNIC 61101-8391491-5, owner of vehicle No. LEE-12-396, model 2012, bearing Registration No. LEE-12-396, bearing engine no Y 600275 and chassis no NZE 1402146582. The original sale invoice and sale certificate of this vehicle issued in the name of Hassan Afzal by Indus Motor Company Ltd, has been lost in Melody and reported in Aabpara police station, Islamabad. FIR dated 24-10-2025. Finder may please return these documents to Customer Relation, Indus Motor Company Ltd, Plot No. N.W.Z./I/P-1, Port Qasim Authority, Karachi. Toll free no. 0800-11123

CM discusses welfare projects with MPAs

They described initiatives such as the cath labs and electrobus service as symbols of people-friendly governance, benefiting citizens from all walks of life

LAHORE, Nov 02 (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif held a detailed meeting with members of the National and Provincial Assemblies and party ticket holders from Sahiwal Division to review progress on public welfare projects, law and order, road restoration, the "Suthra Punjab" initiative, and ongoing reforms in the health and transport sectors. The CM said that public service, rapid development, and transparent governance are core priorities of the PML-N government. She observed that the crime rate in Punjab has significantly declined, contributing to improved peace and stability in both urban and rural areas. CM Maryam Nawaz said that rehabilitation of public transport and road infrastructure is not only an investment in

mobility but also a means of generating employment and economic activity across districts. She added that "Suthra Punjab" is more than a cleanliness campaign, it marks the beginning of a new civic culture in the province. Parliamentarians and party representatives from Sahiwal Division lauded Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's leadership, particularly the rehabilitation of 20,000 kilometers of roads across Punjab and the establishment of a modern cath lab and electrobus service in Sahiwal. They said that under her dynamic leadership, Punjab has emerged as a peaceful, clean, and fast-developing province. They described initiatives such as the cath labs and electrobus service as symbols of people-friendly governance, benefiting citizens from all walks of life. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Students performing their skills during the Martial Arts competition at F-9 Park in the Federal Capital.

Pak, Türkiye pledge to strengthen educational collaboration

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Wajih Qamar, met with Prof. Dr. Yusuf Tekin, Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, on the sidelines of the 43rd Session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The meeting focused on enhancing educational cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye, particularly in the fields of teacher training, vocational and technical education, digital learning, and academic

exchanges, said a press release issued here. Wajih Qamar appreciated Türkiye's strong partnership with Pakistan and acknowledged the support extended through various educational initiatives, scholarships, and institutional collaborations. She highlighted Pakistan's efforts to modernize its education system by integrating innovation, skills development, and inclusive learning opportunities. Prof. Dr. Yusuf Tekin commended Pakistan's commitment to promoting quality education and expressed Türkiye's interest in expanding collaboration

through joint research programs, exchange of expertise, and partnerships between universities and training institutions of both countries. It is further said, both sides reaffirmed their shared resolve to deepen bilateral cooperation in education and continue working closely within UNESCO's framework to advance global goals in education, science, and culture. The meeting underscored the historic and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, rooted in shared values and a mutual vision for progress and development. —APP

Emerging technologies to reshape global labour markets

LAHORE: Convener of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Committee on Food, Shahid Imran, said on Sunday that four emerging technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, advanced energy systems, and sensor networks, are poised to reshape global labour markets, offering vast opportunities to enhance productivity and transform jobs across agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, and several other sectors. Addressing a seminar titled "The Role of Emerging Technologies in Pakistan's Economic Growth," here on Sunday, he said that unlocking the full potential of these technologies, while effectively managing their associated risks, would require mobilization of investment capital, accelerated diffusion of global technology, and inclusive access to innovation. Citing a recent report by the World Economic Forum, Shahid Imran said that seven major job sectors are expected to experience the greatest technological transformation. These include agriculture, manufacturing, construction, wholesale and retail trade, transport and logistics, business and management, and healthcare, which collectively represent nearly 80 percent of the global workforce. "Understanding which technologies will be most transformative and how they will impact these key sectors is crucial to anticipating their effects and steering toward positive outcomes," he remarked. He noted that while emerging technologies bring enormous opportunities, they also pose challenges that require tailored strategies. The report, he said, recommends sector-specific and context-driven approaches, emphasizing improved technology diffusion and access in agriculture and healthcare, localized industrial strategies for manufacturing, and well-functioning digital platforms for the transport and logistics sectors to enhance efficiency while preventing market monopolies. He added that Pakistan must embrace these technological transitions proactively to ensure inclusive, sustainable economic growth and competitiveness in the evolving global landscape. —DNA

SDPI all set to hold 28th SDC with 40+ sessions

ISLAMABAD: Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) is all set to host its 4-day 28th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) — the Institute's annual flagship programme and one of the largest and most influential policy advocacy gatherings of South Asia — here at the premises of Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad from November 4 to 7. The conference will serve as a curtain-raiser to COP30 with the aim to spark actionable discussions on climate finance, trade, circular economy, inclusive growth, inequalities, Artificial Intelligence and the transformation of global governance for sustainable futures, said a press release issued on Sunday. Alongside the conference, SDPI is also organizing the 3rd Sustainability Investment Expo (SIE) to bring academia, think tanks and industry close to each other in pursuit of providing capacity building and investment opportunities. —APP

Health minister orders completion to int'l standards

QUETTA: Balochistan Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar conducted a comprehensive inspection of the under-construction Trauma Center on Spini Road, Quetta, a critical healthcare project aimed at transforming emergency medical services across the province. Accompanied by Special Secretary Health Shahak Baloch, officials from the Communication and Works (C&W) Department, and representatives from other relevant agencies, the Minister reviewed the progress and issued firm directives to expedite the project. During the visit, Minister Kakar emphasized key priorities as the project must be finalized without delay to meet urgent public health needs. He emphasized that the construction must adhere to global benchmarks to ensure the delivery of modern, reliable medical care. Highlighting the strategic importance of the facility, the Health Minister said that the Trauma Center will significantly improve the province's capacity to handle accident and emergency cases, benefiting not only Quetta but all of Balochistan. —APP

CM Bugti announces major health, education upgrades in Sinjawi

SINJAWI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti while addressing a large public gathering in Sinjawi on Sunday, reaffirming his government's commitment to the fair and effective use of public resources to deliver essential services to the province's most remote areas. Speaking at the event hosted by Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar, CM Bugti emphasized that development funds must be utilized transparently and efficiently to ensure long-term, sustainable public welfare. The Chief Minister announced several key initiatives aimed at improving healthcare and public administration in Sinjawi. The Chief Minister announced that the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital will be expanded into a fully functional 20-bed facility. The project will be implemented through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to ensure high-quality medical services. Sarfraz Bugti said that a new Administration Complex will be constructed in Sinjawi to streamline governance and service delivery. To enhanced security in the area, he said four new police stations will be established to strengthen law and order in the region. Underscoring the government's focus on education, CM Sarfraz Bugti announced several measures to support students and teachers and two new buses will be provided for students and staff of Sanjawi's Boys and Girls Colleges. —APP

Special train arrives with Sikh Pilgrims at Nankana

NANKANA SAHIB: First special train carrying 932 Sikh pilgrims from Sindh has arrived in Nankana Sahib on Sunday to attend the 556th birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji. According to APP correspondent, the pilgrims were warmly welcomed by senior district administration officers, who presented bouquets and showered flower petals on the guests. As the pilgrims stepped off the train, they were greeted with scenes of happiness, smiles, and brotherhood.

The Sikh pilgrims raised religious slogans, such as "Guru Ki Jai Ho Sat Sri Akal" and "Jo Bole So Nihal," filling the air with spiritual fervor. The district administration provided a free tunnel service to transport the pilgrims to the central Gurdwara Janam Asthan. Three-day celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj's birth anniversary are set to begin at 3 pm on November 2 and will continue until November 6. The festivities will feature various religious rituals, including

Akhand Path, and will conclude with a palanquin procession and a magnificent fireworks display. Around 30,000 pilgrims from worldwide are expected to attend the celebrations, showcasing the significance of Nankana Sahib as a sacred site for Sikhs. The government of Pakistan has decorated Nankana Sahib to welcome the Sikh guests, and the government of Punjab has released a Punjabi movie, "Chal Mele Na Chale," highlighting the message of peace, love, and brotherhood. —APP

4,857 couples married under Dhee Rani programme

LAHORE: Under the visionary welfare agenda of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, the "Dhee Rani Programme" has achieved a historic milestone by organizing 66 dignified collective marriage ceremonies across the province within just nine months, ensuring the honorable union of 4,857 underprivileged couples. According to the Programme's Focal Person and Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Sohail Shaukat Butt, the initiative has been implemented in three successful phases. During Phase I, 25 ceremonies

were organized, followed by 23 in Phase II, while Phase III saw 18 ceremonies held during October alone, marking a record achievement in the programme's outreach and efficiency. Sharing district-wise details, the Minister said that Dera Ghazi Khan led with 204 marriages, while Bhakkar and Muzaffargarh each facilitated 200. Similarly, 169 collective marriages were organized in Jhang, 163 in Gujranwala, 149 in Okara, 169 in Lahore, 148 in Multan, and 139 in Khanewal, reflecting the programme's wide geo-

graphical coverage and effective administrative execution. Sohail Shaukat Butt added that the "Dhee Rani Programme" has received overwhelming public appreciation, especially in South Punjab, underscoring citizens' confidence in Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's people-centric and inclusive governance. He added that under the direct supervision of the Punjab government, each deserving couple received a complete wedding package, including a gift card worth Rs 200,000, bridal attire, and full ceremony arrangements. —APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria
National Day

Nov 04/Italy
Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation
Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia
National Day

Nov 11/Poland
Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan
Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium
Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil
Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
National Day

Nov 18/Oman
National Day

Nov 18/Morocco
Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh
Armed Forces Day

Nov 22/Lebanon
Independence Day

Nov 25/Suriname
National Day

Nov 28/Mauritania
National Day

Nov 28/Albania
Flags Day



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....561116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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



Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

CDA pushes major progress in underdeveloped residential sectors

DNA

ISLAMABAD :Development work in Islamabad's residential sectors has gained notable momentum under the directives of Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa, with visible progress being reported in multiple areas of the capital's long-awaited housing projects. According to source on Sunday, a review meeting held a couple of days ago at CDA Headquarters under the chairmanship of Muhammad Ali Randhawa highlighted his keen interest in ensuring the rapid completion of development works across residential sectors. Officials briefed the chairman that infrastructure construction has commenced in subsectors 2 and 3 of Sector E-12, while in Sector I-12, base work, TST and other major development activities have entered their final stages. The meeting underscored that the CDA's renewed administrative drive to expedite housing projects that have remained pending for years and to deliver long-promised civic facilities to allottees. Ateeq Sheikh, President of the E-12 Allottees Welfare Association, welcomed the progress but urged for greater speed and consistency. "It is heartening to see the CDA putting real effort into Sector E-12 now, but there is still a lot more to be done in various subsectors. We have been waiting for civic services for decades. Although recent development brings hope, we expect substantial progress to remove the lingering disappointment of residents," he said. From Sector I-12, allottee representative Khumar Gul praised Chairman Randhawa's focus on residential sector development. "We welcome the chairman's attention toward I-12. The development in the Markaz has gained noticeable pace, which is encouraging, but there is still much to do in the residential area. We hope the remaining work will be completed swiftly so that possession can be granted with all basic amenities in place," he stated. He revealed that a delegation of I-12 allottees would meet the Director General (E&M) soon to request an expedited installation of underground electricity cables. Another allottee, Tahir Mahmood, stressed the importance of timely provision of essential utilities. "Water, electricity, and sewerage facilities must be ensured before possession. Clear timeline for possession is crucial so that allottees can begin construction without further uncertainty," he remarked. Allottees from both Sectors E-12 and I-12 expressed satisfaction with the CDA's renewed commitment and visible field activity, describing it as a positive shift that, if sustained, could finally translate long-standing promises into tangible reality for thousands of awaiting families.

ISLAMABAD: CDA workers busy trimming grass along roadside in the Federal Capital.

Rawlapindi to get big parking plaza at Jinnah Park

DNA

RAWALPINDI:Punjab government has decided to construct a mega parking plaza to address chronic parking issues clogging Kachehri Chowk and surrounding roads. The much awaited multi-storey parking plaza will be constructed on the barren land of the city's Jinnah Park, providing secure space for 1,000 plus vehicles while freeing up main roads from gridlock. The project aligns with the Kachehri remodelling scheme's timeline, aimed to elevate the city's mobility to new heights. A senior official from the Punjab Highways Department confirmed APP on Sunday that the plaza would span nearly eight kanals of land land, including a basement and three floors. "The packing plaza will address the rampant road parking issues which uses Mushtaq Baig Road and Jhelum Road, providing the public to park their vehicles at secure place," he said. He informed that the project's total cost stands at Rs1.25 billion, with the summary approval in its final stages. He further confirmed that the one-year timeline has been set, with the department's team aiming to sync the plaza's construction with the Kachehri remodelling project for on-time completion within the same timeframe. The construction work on two flyovers and three underpasses at Kachehri Chowk and Jinnah Park have also started for which the traffic diversion plan has already placed. "Preserving Jinnah Park's horticulture, beauty and recreational value remain top priority", he said and expected even further enhancement of the park's beauty. The magnificent influx to the district courts and other government departments has made the commute too difficult to approach central Kachehri Chowk and its linked roads because of irregular arrayed goods of parked vehicles on the main GT Road and Mushtaq Baig Road. The issue has also furthered difficulty in managing the traffic flow at the central cross road. The said plaza will significantly address the issue in this regard. The experts expect such initiatives will streamline traffic management in the bustling city.

Overseas can now register, transfer vehicles

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Excise and Taxation Department has introduced a new digital facility enabling overseas Pakistanis to complete vehicle registration and transfer processes through the PakID mobile application. Talking to APP, Director of Excise, Bilal Azam said that the move would eliminate the need for expatriates to visit Pakistani embassies or send powers of attorney for vehicle-related matters. "Now, for registration and transfer of the vehicle, they can download the PakID app. From there, they can record their biometrics, and we will ensure the vehicle's transfer," he said. He emphasized that submitting biometrics through the app would serve as proof of identity, making a separate Transfer Order (TO) form unnecessary. However, he urged both sellers and buyers to ensure proper documentation. "When you sell any vehicle, please ensure that you sign your transfer letter and hand it over to the purchaser," Azam said, adding that both biometric verification and a signed transfer letter were legal requirements. In another development, Azam announced a crackdown on token tax defaulters in Islamabad. The department has suspended and cancelled registrations of several vehicles, following multiple public notices and newspaper advertisements. "We have issued notices to defaulters from 1980 to 2000 and, after due process, cancelled their registrations," he said. A reinstatement process is available for affected vehicle owners seeking to regularize their status, Azam added. The initiative marks another step in Islamabad Excise's broader digital reforms aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, and convenience for citizens and overseas Pakistanis alike. **APP**

30,137 sites inspected, 23 new dengue cases reported

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad District Administration has intensified its dengue prevention operations, inspecting over 30,000 sites and reporting 23 new dengue cases within 24 hours, according to the daily surveillance report. The Islamabad District Administration continued its citywide dengue control campaign with extensive fogging, inspections, and public awareness drives aimed at stopping the spread of the virus. According to the daily surveillance report, anti-dengue teams inspected 30,137 locations across the capital in the last 24 hours. The teams conducted fogging operations at 861 sensitive sites and sprayed 1,142 areas, including various sectors and union councils, to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. During larva detection operations, teams identified 185 positive hot-spots where dengue larvae were found. These areas have been marked for intensive follow-up actions. The report recorded 23 new dengue cases during the past day. Of these, 17 cases were reported from rural areas of Islamabad and 6 from urban areas. Health authorities said that 67 patients are currently under treatment in different hospitals across the federal capital. The administration has instructed anti-dengue teams to conduct regular inspections in affected neighborhoods and submit daily performance reports to ensure consistent monitoring. Officials also stated that strict enforcement measures are being taken against those violating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Several sites have been sealed, and individuals were detained for non-compliance with dengue prevention guidelines. To raise public awareness, the district administration has installed banners and information boards at public places, urging residents to maintain cleanliness and eliminate stagnant water sources. These steps are part of an ongoing campaign to educate citizens about preventive measures and community participation in dengue control. A representative of the district administration emphasized that community involvement is essential to overcome the challenge. Citizens have been requested to follow dengue prevention SOPs, ensure proper waste disposal, and regularly check residential and commercial premises for mosquito breeding sites. The administration reiterated its commitment to keep Islamabad safe from the dengue virus through coordinated efforts of health teams, local authorities, and community participation. **APP**

University of Gwadar, Chinese firm sign MoU

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The University of Gwadar (UG) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chinese company Hangeng to strengthen academia-industry collaboration and create new employment and scholarship opportunities for local students and graduates, the UG announced it, according to Gwadar Pro. The agreement was formalized during a meeting between a UG delegation and Liao Longtai, Chief Executive Officer of Hangeng, who expressed the company's commitment to supporting Gwadar's youth through educational and professional initiatives. "Hangeng, which has been operational for a year, is expanding its production capacity and is keen to offer job opportunities to talented graduates from Gwadar," said Mr. Liao. "We appreciate the University of Gwadar's initiatives in building academic-industry partnerships and look forward to creating meaningful employment and scholarship opportunities for local talent," he added. Under the MoU, Hangeng will offer merit-based scholarships to outstanding students and collaborate with UG to organize a Job Fair aimed at recruiting skilled graduates, particularly in the fields of veterinary sciences, management, and computer science. Mr. Liao requested Dr. Dolat Khan, Registrar of the University of Gwadar, to coordinate the upcoming event once Hangeng finalizes its list of available positions.

PML-N will only sit with PTI if it shows seriousness

ISLAMABAD: Senior PML-N leader Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan reaffirmed his party's commitment to constructive engagement on matters of public interest, including election reforms, anti-terrorism measures and welfare policies, urging PTI to adopt a serious and responsible attitude toward national issues. While speaking exclusively to a local news channel on Sunday, he made it clear that PML-N leadership set clear terms for any dialogue with PTI, stating that meaningful talks are only possible if PTI demonstrates seriousness and prioritizes public welfare, adding, national issues must take precedence over personal or political interests. He further criticized PTI for being overly focused on the release of their chairman rather than addressing the pressing needs of the public. He highlighted that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) are suffering due to rising terrorism and poor governance, which demands immediate attention from political parties. Dastgir reaffirmed that PML-N is always ready to engage in constructive dialogue on matters such as public welfare, anti-terrorism measures, election reforms and legislation aimed at national betterment. However, he stressed that any cooperation with PTI would require a shift in focus from personal agendas to the real issues affecting ordinary citizens. He said PML-N is fully focused on improving the lives of the people and building a better, progressive country. Since coming into power, the party claims that the country's reputation has gained international recognition and the daily lives of citizens have become easier compared to the period when PTI held federal power. He added that PML-N also remains committed to the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and hopes that PTI's leadership will reconsider its priorities and show seriousness in addressing the needs of the people. **—DNA**

UNESCO grants OIC-COMSTech as observer at SESAME

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has formally granted the status as Observer to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTech) at the International Centre for Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) In an official communication from the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs, UNESCO addressed to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General OIC-COMSTech, UNESCO acknowledged the receipt of COMSTech's letter and confirmed that the observer status of OIC-COMSTech at SESAME took effect from 26 September 2025. Expressing his views on this development, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary stated, "We are honoured to join SESAME as an Observer. This milestone reflects COMSTech's continued commitment to strengthening scientific cooperation and fostering advanced research across the OIC Member States. SESAME represents a unique model of collaboration that transcends geopolitical boundaries through science, technology, and innovation. COMSTech's association with SESAME will open new avenues for joint research, capacity building, and access to cutting-edge facilities for scientists from the Islamic world." He further emphasized that COMSTech, as the Ministerial Standing Committee of the OIC on Science and Technology, remains dedicated to promoting international partnerships that advance knowledge, innovation, and sustainable development in line with the goals of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. **—APP**

Workshop enhances journalists' critical knowledge, field-based skills

ISLAMABAD: A two-day national training workshop on "Environmental and Disaster Journalism" concluded on Sunday aimed to equip journalists with critical knowledge and field-based skills to report effectively on disasters, environmental degradation and climate change. The workshop, organized by ProtectEarth Consultants in collaboration with The CSS Institute, Momentum Development Foundation and Resilient Future International, brought together senior media professionals, government representatives, academics, and emerging journalists from across the country. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Director General, Crisis Management Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who served as the Chief Guest, said a press release. In his keynote address, Dr Sirohey emphasized that climate-induced disasters were reshaping the global security and humanitarian landscape. He also introduced his latest publication, "Networks of Power: From Sindh to Silicon Valley", highlighting the evolving global networks of governance and technology in addressing crises. In his welcome address, Muhammad Azmat Qazi, Chief Executive of ProtectEarth Consultants, shared personal experiences of reporting from flood-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan, reflecting on his collaboration with a international journalist. Qazi discussed how local journalists can improve crisis coverage and serve as first responders of truth. His presentation, "Learning for Environmental and Disaster Journalists", illustrated the real-life distinctions between natural disasters, emergencies, and first response dynamics. Day 1 also featured technical sessions by Zaigham Abbas, Director, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, who spoke on "Plastic and Air Pollution, and Water Treatment Technologies". He also shared that how marine life was being effected by plastic garbage and thrown away fishing nests. Meanwhile, Ali Jabir Malik, President, Environmental Journalists Forum (EJF) discussed "Environmental and Disaster Reporting amid Intensifying Climate Catastrophes." He emphasized on pre-training of each environmental and disaster journalist as they could visit the disaster hit areas with emotional stability and complete knowledge of dealing with disheartening situations. Day 2 of the workshop focused on reflection, forward planning, and sociological dimensions of climate communication. Aftab Alam Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Resilient Future International, discussed "The Challenges and Opportunities in Climate Change and Journalism". He also underscored the various approaches which could be adopted to mitigate challenges in Environmental and Disaster Journalism. **—DNA**

Himmat Card distribution ceremony tomorrow

RAWALPINDI:The Punjab Social Welfare Department is all set for a grand divisional ceremony on November 4 to distribute high-end assistive devices to people with disabilities (PWDs) across Rawalpindi Division. Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Sohail Shaukat Butt will be the chief guest while parliamentarians and high ranked official will also attend the event. The event will also mark the launch of the third phase of the flagship Himmat Card initiative, providing quarterly financial assistance of Rs10,500.00 directly into beneficiaries' accounts. Rukhsana Mazhar Awan, focal person and Deputy Director of Social Welfare for Rawalpindi Division, confirmed in an exclusive interaction with APP on Sunday that all arrangements for the ceremony were in place. "Approximately 75 PWDs from entire division including Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal and local areas will receive advanced assistive aids including motorized wheelchairs, tri-motorcycles, and manual wheelchairs," Rukhsana said. **—APP**

Briefs

Documentary
‘Xi to
Gwadar Port’
concluded

ISLAMABAD: Chinese media team from Xi'an concluded the special documentary film named "Xi'an to Gwadar Port: Great Feats of Builders", giving tributes to meretricious services of those who played a game-changing role to make Gwadar Port as well as CPEC successful. On the occasion, Chinese media team Director Bai Zhijun said at Gwadar Business Centre the documentary focuses on rigorous work of ordinary labourers in the construction of CPEC, capturing their perseverance, glory, dedication and responsibility. He said that choosing to conclude here carries special significance. "This place is not only brilliant end of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) but also the spiritual home of the builders' stories captured by our cameras," he added.

When the last shot was frozen in the morning light, he said, every frame embodies the power perseverance and we extend our deepest respect to every builder who has rooted themselves in the posts. COPHC chairman Yu Bo, GPA chairman Noor UL Haq, Former Mayor Gwadar City Baboo Ghulab, Safe City Project Deputy Director Dadullah Yousaf attended the event. **APP**

Zong to setup
China-Paki-
stan joint inno-
vation lab

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's information services and technology innovation company, has inked a strategic understanding to establish the China-Pakistan Low-Carbon Intelligent Manufacturing International Joint Innovation Laboratory at NUCES-FAST University. It marks a new milestone in bilateral scientific and technological collaboration between China and Pakistan. The Lab will serve as a collaborative research and development platform jointly established by Zong, Suzhou University of Science and Technology (USTS), Guangzhou Institute of Software Application Technology (GZIS), and NUCES-FAST (National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences). This initiative aims to strengthen scientific research, promote knowledge exchange, and drive low-carbon innovation through advanced technologies, Zong said, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro. Research under this collaboration will initially concentrate on four core domains: low-carbon and environmental protection through the application of cloud and digital technologies; intelligent construction and manufacturing driven by artificial intelligence and 5G connectivity; clean and renewable energy systems enhanced by big data and smart energy management; and digital and intelligent applications integrating IoT, AI, and advanced analytics. **APP**

Shahbaz
diplomacy
restores
Pakistan's
global
credibility

DNA

ISLAMABAD :President of the Pakistan Business Network Omar Butt has said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's foreign policy has restored Pakistan's global credibility, turning a period of economic and diplomatic uncertainty into one of renewed confidence and engagement. He said that when Shahbaz Sharif took office in March 2024, Pakistan faced overlapping crises including strained relations with key allies, IMF uncertainty, and dwindling Gulf support. In less than two years, he noted, "Pakistan has moved from isolation to influence through consistent and pragmatic diplomacy." According to Omar Butt, Islamabad's ties with Washington are now at their highest level in decades, reflected in improved security coordination and continued IMF backing. The United States and European Union now see Pakistan as a credible partner rather than a dependent actor, he said. Pakistan's success in maintaining the GSP Plus status with the EU has sustained export growth despite the global economic slowdown. **APP**

Serena Hotels promotes cultural heritage through crafts festival

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Cultural Diplomacy Initiative, organized a vibrant two-day Crafts Festival in collaboration with Nomad Art Gallery, celebrating more than 40 years of Nomad's remarkable journey in promoting art, culture, and the empowerment of indigenous artisans across Pakistan. The festival brought together skilled craftsmen and artists from diverse regions of the country, providing them with a platform to showcase their traditional crafts, hand-embroidered textiles, jewelry, pottery, home décor, paintings, and other handmade creations that reflect Paki-



stan's rich cultural heritage.

A key focus of the festival was on women's empowerment, highlighting the extraordinary work of women artisans who con-

tinue to preserve centuries-old techniques while supporting their families and communities through their craft.

Nageen Hyat, Founder and Director of Nomad Art Gal-

lery, shared her thoughts on the occasion, stating, 'Nomad has always believed in the transformative power of art and culture to empower communities, especially



women artisans. This collaboration with Serena Hotels allows us to celebrate their resilience, creativity, and the cultural richness they represent.'

Serena Hotels, through

its Cultural Diplomacy Initiative, continues to promote cultural diversity and creative expression by providing platforms that celebrate Pakistan's artisans and preserve traditional craftsmanship.

The initiative reflects Serena Hotels' ongoing commitment to social responsibility, inclusion, and heritage preservation, promoting meaningful connections between communities through art and culture.

ICCI urges strong industry-academia links

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Acting President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Tahir Ayub, has emphasized that strong industry-academia linkages are essential to bridge the gap between market needs and academic training, particularly to empower women through skill-based education and professional development opportunities.

Talking with a group of visiting women entrepreneurs here at Chamber House he noted that the changing dynamics of the modern economy demand a closer partnership between educational institutions and the business sector to ensure that graduates, especially women, are equipped with the practical expertise and technical competencies required in today's job market.

Tahir Ayub highlighted that empowering women through education-based initiatives not only contributes to their individual growth but also enhances national productivity

and economic resilience. He said ICCI is fully committed to promoting collaboration with universities and technical institutions to create pathways for female students to gain hands-on experience, internships, and mentorship opportunities within the industrial sector.

He stressed that special attention must be given to strengthening female participation in technical and vocational disciplines, which can significantly contribute to sustainable employment and inclusive economic development. The Acting President further urged both public and private sector stakeholders to support education-driven empowerment programs, particularly those that align with emerging technologies, digital transformation, and innovation-led industries. He reaffirmed ICCI's dedication to working closely with academia, government bodies, and development partners to establish platforms that enhance women's role in Pakistan's economic progress.

Tahir Ayub concluded that investing in women's education and technical training is not merely a social responsibility but a strategic imperative for achieving long-term national prosperity and competitiveness in the global marketplace.

Event held in
Islamabad to
strengthen Sino-
Pak cultural bridge

ISLAMABAD: China Study Centre at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), in collaboration with China Media Group (CMG) and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China hosted here a cultural-academic event titled "Understanding Xizang,". It was aimed at deepening mutual understanding and strengthening the academic and cultural bridge between Pakistan and China. The event brought together diplomats, scholars, and students to explore the cultural richness and modern transformation of Xizang, offering Pakistani audiences a window into the region's diverse traditions and contemporary progress, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. Among the distinguished guests were Chen Peng, Cultural Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy; Moin ul Haque, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Khalid Taimur Akram, Representative of PRCCSF; and Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, Former CEO of the Special Economic Zones Authority. The dignitaries shared their experiences of China and encouraged students to seize opportunities for academic and cultural exchange. During the event, a visually striking video was presented, showcasing Xizang's breathtaking landscapes, vibrant culture, and modern infrastructure. The presentation captivated the audience, especially the students, who were inspired by the region's beauty and development. Huzafa Rehman, Minister of State for National Heritage and Culture, was chief guest at the event. He said that the cultural exchange programs play a vital role in fostering mutual respect and understanding between Pakistan and China. In his concluding remarks, Prof. Dr. Sohail Ashar expressed gratitude to the guests and reaffirmed the importance of strengthening people-to-people connections. "Such activities are crucial for students to learn, grow, and appreciate the depth of our bilateral friendship," he noted. The ceremony concluded with the exchange of souvenirs and a group photograph, a symbolic moment reflecting the shared aspirations of two nations bound by friendship, learning, and cultural harmony. **DNA**

Pakistan's
Base metal
tools exports
to China edge
Up 2%

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export of tools, implements, and cutlery made of base metals to China saw a modest but steady rise of two percent in the first nine months of 2025, totaling \$5.67 million compared with \$5.56 million during the same period last year, customs data shows, China Economic Net reported. A closer look at the data shows a mixed performance across categories. According to data from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), Exports of pliers, including cutting pliers, pincers, and tweezers, led the sector with \$2.66 million, up from \$2.15 million last year impressive rise of 23%. In contrast, exports of scissors and tailor's shears fell to \$1.31 million from \$1.43 million, while safety razor blades also declined slightly to \$0.98 million.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan host
event to promote culture

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Azerbaijan Tourism Board and Pakistan Tourism Mart (PTM) jointly organized an exclusive dinner to promote tourism and cultural collabora-

tion between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. The event was attended by distinguished dignitaries from both countries, including Florian Sengtschmid, CEO Azerbaijan Tourism Board; Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana, MD PTDC; Zafar

Bakhtawari, Chairman Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (APJCCI); Syed Muhammad Ali Hamdani, CEO PTM; Rafia Syed, DG TDAP; Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, National Coordinator PM; Samir

Ahmedli, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Azerbaijan; and Adeeba Khalid Jadoon, CMO PTM. The group photo captures a moment of unity and shared vision to foster stronger tourism partnerships between the two brotherly nations.

Chinese delegation
explores new
avenues

The framework also encourages third-party participation in CPEC cooperation, experience-sharing in industrial development, and collaboration in sectors such as mining and export-oriented manufacturing

ISLAMABAD: A 15-member Chinese delegation, led by the Organizing Committee of the China-Pakistan Safety Production Equipment Procurement Demand Matching Conference, visited the Board of Investment (BOI)'s Project Management Unit (Special Economic Zones) to explore new avenues of industrial cooperation and investment under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The meeting, chaired by BOI PMU (SEZ) Director General Farah Farooq, aimed to deepen collaboration between Chinese enterprises, Pakistani ministries, and local business communities in advancing Pakistan's industrialization agenda. During the session, BOI officials presented Pakistan's evolving investment landscape and highlighted the facilitation mechanisms available to investors in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). A detailed overview of operational and developing SEZs was shared, outlining opportunities for joint ventures and industrial relocation. As per an official statement, the Chinese delegation showed strong interest in establishing new manufacturing facilities and enhancing bilateral linkages. The meeting concluded with an exchange of Memoranda of Understanding and joint venture proposals, reaffirming the commitment of both sides to translate discussions into concrete partnerships. The visit aligns with the recently announced "Action Plan to Foster an Even Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era (2025-2029)", jointly agreed during Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China earlier this year. Under the Action Plan, both sides have committed to advancing the development of industrial parks and demonstration projects for industrial cooperation. China has pledged support for enterprises investing in Pakistan's SEZs, including those in Karachi and Islamabad, through preferential policies and a more enabling business environment. The framework also encourages third-party participation in CPEC cooperation, experience-sharing in industrial development, and collaboration in sectors such as mining and export-oriented manufacturing. **DNA**

Pak-China
growing
collaboration
in marine
sciences
highlighted

SHENZHEN: Pakistani scholars, from senior experts to young researchers, actively contributed to global ocean dialogues at the 2025 China Marine Economy Expo (CMEE) held here, demonstrating the growing role of Pakistan-China collaboration in marine sciences and sustainable ocean governance. The Expo served as a vast platform spanning 40,000 square meters, featuring over 300 leading enterprises, according to a Gwadar Pro's report. Covering marine energy, deep-sea mining, intelligent ocean equipment, marine electronic information, modern marine services, marine biopharmaceuticals and coastal tourism, it facilitated high-level exchanges on maritime innovation and cooperation. Professor Samina Kidwai, Director General of Pakistan's National Institute of Oceanography, delivered a virtual presentation titled "Climate Variability in the Arabian Sea and Its Impact" on the occasion.

Her analysis brought critical regional climate challenges to the forefront of international discussion and highlighted the need for joint research initiatives. The inaugural Blue Wave Conference, launched on October 30 as a key component of the expo, saw vibrant participation from Pakistani youth. **DNA**

PIDE, PIE join
hands to overhaul
outdated curriculum

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD :The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) convened a high-level brainstorming session to deliberate on one of Pakistan's most pressing educational challenges — the urgent need to reform the national curriculum to make it more inclusive, coherent, and relevant to learners' needs. The session, attended by senior education experts, researchers, and policymakers, served as a platform for evidence-based dialogue on the current shortcomings of the national curriculum and possible pathways for improvement. Dr. Nadeem Javaid, Vice Chancellor, PIDE, and Dr. Shahid Soroya, Director General, PIE, represented their respective institutions and led the discussion on aligning education policy with on-ground realities and learning outcomes. Participants agreed that Pakistan's existing curriculum faces serious structural and pedagogical gaps. Feedback from teachers and educationists has highlighted content overload, unrealistic learning targets, and weak contextual alignment with students' environments, particularly in government and low-cost private schools. Many classrooms across the country lack the necessary resources, teacher training, and infrastructure to deliver the curriculum effectively, resulting in rote-based learning rather than critical and creative thinking. On the other hand, elite schools with better facilities, digital tools, and trained staff can implement the curriculum more successfully, further widening the learning and opportunity divide between privileged and under-resourced learners. Dr. Nadeem Javaid noted that Pakistan cannot continue with a one-size-fits-all approach in education, emphasizing that the curriculum must reflect the diversity of learners, the socio-economic realities of different regions, and the future skills required in a changing world. The session also reflected on the post-18th Amendment scenario, which devolved education and

curriculum development to the provinces. While devolution has enabled provinces to tailor education policies according to local needs, it has also created challenges of fragmentation, inconsistency, and lack of national comparability. Dr. Shahid Soroya highlighted that the goal is not uniformity but coherence, underscoring the need for a shared national vision that allows flexibility for provincial adaptation while ensuring equity and quality across Pakistan. To address these challenges, the session discussed the need for a measured, participatory, and technically sound strategy. The proposal centers on two core instruments: A National Policy Framework for Curriculum Development and Review and Minimum Standards for Curriculum Content and Learning Outcomes. The policy framework will outline guiding principles, governance mechanisms, and processes for curriculum design, review, and implementation across provinces, while the minimum standards will establish essential learning benchmarks to ensure that every child in Pakistan achieves core competencies, regardless of geography or school type. These proposed tools would help balance national cohesion with local relevance, ensuring a curriculum that is both equitable and adaptable to varying educational contexts. Participants agreed that curriculum reform must be driven by data, evidence, and inclusive dialogue among key stakeholders. Institutions such as PIDE and PIE have a central role to play — combining policy research, academic insight, and practical education expertise to develop sustainable solutions. The session concluded with a shared commitment to continue collaboration in advancing a curriculum that promotes child-centered, competency-based, and contextually responsive learning. Both institutions reaffirmed their dedication to helping shape an education system that empowers every Pakistani learner with the knowledge, skills, and values needed for national development and global engagement.

Why hard power politics is driving Turkiye's foreign relations

DR. SINEM CENGİZ

IN the past decade, Turkiye has increasingly integrated military and defense elements into its foreign policy through expanded mandates, the sale of defense industry products, and the signing of defense and military agreements. Hard power politics has become a steadier foundation for its relations with other nations, making defense a central component of its foreign policy. Ankara's need for a more militarily assertive approach has extended beyond its borders, driven by perceptions of immediate threats to its national security and the growing instability in its neighborhood. One of the key elements of this hard power strategy include the deployment of troops externally, in addition to the Turkish Armed Forces' conventional role in UN and NATO missions. This week, the Turkish Parliament approved extensions for military operations in neighboring countries to keep troops in Iraq and Syria for three more years and maintain peacekeepers in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon for an additional two years. Since 2014, the parliament has regularly renewed the cross-border mandates, typically on a yearly basis. However, the current mandate for Syria represents the longest extension since Turkiye launched its first cross-border intervention there in 2016. In Iraq, Turkish military operations date back to the 1980s when it began efforts to dismantle the Kurdistan Workers' Party, designated as a terrorist group by Turkiye, the US, and the EU. The mandates for Syria and Iraq have caused divisions within the parliament. The ruling Justice and Development Party and the Nationalist Movement Party supported the motion, while the Republican People's Party and the People's Equality and Democracy Party opposed it. However, Turkiye's deployment to the UN peacekeeping force received broader backing. Despite maintaining good relations with the new administration in Damascus and the government in Baghdad, Turkiye remains concerned about potential instability arising from the activities of terrorist groups, particularly the PKK and Daesh militants. The motion for Syria stated that PKK and its offshoots "refuse to take steps toward integration with the Syrian central administration due to their separatist and divisive agenda." The extension of the mandate indicates that Syria's new government requires international support to strengthen its counterterrorism capacity. At the same time, it reflects Turkiye's long-term hard power strategy in Syria. Turkiye's hard power political approach has also coincided with instabilities

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ranging from the Caucasus to Africa. Today, Turkiye has its troops deployed in at least nine countries, from Syria to Iraq, Libya to Azerbaijan, and Qatar to Somalia. Since 2017, Ankara has also begun exporting Bayraktar TB2 drones, Turkiye's first domestically developed armed uncrewed aerial vehicle. The Bayraktar TB2 played a critical role in several conflict zones, including Libya, Karabakh, and Ukraine, where it gained international recognition for its effectiveness. Turkiye has sold TB2 to at least 34 countries, including its allies and partners in Europe, Central and South Asia, Africa, the Levant, and the Gulf. This drone diplomacy has provided Ankara with a strong network of allies across Eurasia, Africa, and the Middle East. According to the head of Turkiye's Defense Industry Agency, Haluk Gorgun, Turkiye's defense industry exports surpassed \$7.1 billion last year, marking a milestone. Gorgun also accompanies President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on key foreign visits, the most recent being a Gulf tour that included three stops: Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman. The hard power politics in Turkiye's foreign policy is also a deliberate attempt to put strategic autonomy at the center. The push for autonomy has been motivated by the restrictions Turkiye has faced when it comes to buying arms from its Western allies. This week, the UK secured a deal worth up to £8 billion to supply Turkiye with 20 Typhoon fighter jets. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Turkiye will receive the first of the batch of 20 Typhoons in 2030. The Eurofighter jets are jointly produced by Britain, Germany, Italy, and Spain, and the deal was subject to approval from the other members of the consortium. Erdogan hailed the agreement as "a new symbol of the strategic relations" with Britain. The deal was signed during Starmer's visit to Ankara and is the largest fighter jet export agreement in almost two decades. It comes as Turkiye seeks to take advantage of the advanced warplanes to make up ground with regional rivals such as Israel. Separately, Turkiye plans to buy more Typhoons from Oman and Qatar. Last week, it was also reported that Turkiye was nearing a deal to secure 12 Typhoons from Oman and Qatar to meet its immediate needs, with more new jets coming from Britain in future years. There is also a growing tendency among Western and regional states to pursue closer defense cooperation with Turkiye. The frequent contacts between defense ministers have led to the signing of numerous defense industry agreements and memoranda of understanding in defense industry technologies and military inventory. Turkish defense products are also increasingly attractive because they come with fewer political conditions and are less influenced by the shifting agendas of some Western governments. Thus, Turkiye's hard power politics — encompassing defense and military cooperation — has become a critical pillar of its cooperative security agenda, which has emerged as a key instrument of its foreign policy. This approach serves multiple objectives: bringing security to the neighborhood, enhancing strategic partnerships, modernizing defense capabilities, gaining global recognition and responsibility, and countering both traditional and non-traditional threats. In an era defined by transnational security challenges, this policy has evolved from a matter of choice to a strategic necessity.

How Trump Turned the Land of Immigrants Against Its Own

Qamar Bashir



Simultaneously, federal and transport departments are enforcing regulations that restrict immigrant participation in key industries such as trucking, logistics, and services. Commercial driving licenses for immigrants are being rescinded, and companies employing non-citizen drivers face heavy penalties. The crackdown extends beyond the workplace: ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has intensified raids and detentions across states, with reports of overcrowded detention centers and deportations even of long-time green-card holders

THE United States was founded as a nation of immigrants—a place where people from every corner of the world sought refuge, dignity, and opportunity. Apart from the Native Americans, everyone who calls America home today descends from immigrants who crossed oceans and deserts to rebuild their lives on its soil. From the earliest settlers of England, Ireland, and Germany to the waves of Italians, Poles, and Jews who followed, immigration was never just a demographic process—it was America's identity, its heartbeat, and its greatest strength. For more than two centuries, immigration fueled the growth of the American economy, populated its vast frontiers, and shaped its unmatched diversity. Yet, the same nation that once prided itself on being a beacon for the oppressed has gradually turned hostile toward the very idea of immigration itself—especially when the immigrants come with darker skin, foreign tongues, or unfamiliar faiths. Historically, the earliest immigrants were Europeans—white, Christian, and culturally similar to the Anglo founders. Assimilation was easy because whiteness acted as a passport to belonging. By 1900, nearly 80 percent of America's foreign-born population came from Europe. Even then, there were prejudices against Italians, Irish, and Eastern Europeans, but time erased their differences. Within a generation, the children of Polish or German immigrants were "simply American." But the narrative changed after the U.S. began military and political interventions in non-white regions—from Vietnam to Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan. These wars displaced millions, many of whom sought refuge in the very country that had destabilized their homelands. Asylum seekers from the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa arrived not out of choice, but desperation. Unlike their European predecessors, their darker skin and unfamiliar cultures became barriers to assimilation. According to the Migration Policy Institute, nearly 45 million immigrants now live in the United States—making up about 13.7 percent of the total population. Yet, attitudes toward them remain deeply divided along racial lines. Surveys by Pew Research (2024) show that over 60 percent of white conservatives believe immigrants "burden the nation," while 70 percent of non-white Americans view them as vital contributors to the economy. Under the Trump administration's second term, America is witnessing an unprecedented tightening of immigration laws. The new Senate immigration bill, reportedly enjoying bipartisan momentum, seeks to cut off federal and state benefits to all immigrants, re-

gardless of legal status—permanent residents, work-visa holders, or even those who have contributed taxes for years. It is a striking shift from the nation's foundational promise that anyone who works hard and abides by the law can earn both livelihood and dignity. Simultaneously, federal and transport departments are enforcing regulations that restrict immigrant participation in key industries such as trucking, logistics, and services. Commercial driving licenses for immigrants are being rescinded, and companies employing non-citizen drivers face heavy penalties. The crackdown extends beyond the workplace: ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has intensified raids and detentions across states, with reports of overcrowded detention centers and deportations even of long-time green-card holders. These policies have drawn resistance from governors, business owners, and human-rights groups, who argue that the U.S. economy relies heavily on immigrant labor. In healthcare alone, foreign-born workers constitute nearly 17 percent of the workforce, including 28 percent of physicians and surgeons. In hospitality, agriculture, and construction, immigrants represent between 30 and 50 percent of employees. The restaurant and hotel sectors—worth over \$1.1 trillion annually—would collapse without them. America's anti-immigration wave is not rooted in economics but politics. The irony is that while immigrants are blamed for "stealing jobs," unemployment in 2025 remains near 3.9 percent, and companies are desperate for workers. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, there are 9 million unfilled jobs, many in sectors shunned by native-born Americans due to low wages or high physical demands. Historically, immigrants have powered America's economic rise. More than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children—names like Google, Tesla, Pfizer, and Apple. Collectively, these companies contribute over \$8 trillion to the U.S. economy each year. Yet, today, the same immigrants who sustain the economy are vilified as threats to national security and social order. Social-media platforms echo with xenophobic calls to "deport them all," forgetting that the nation's wealth was built not only on the labor of immigrants but also on the exploitation of other nations. The United States and its NATO allies waged decades of wars in resource-rich regions—extracting oil, minerals, and trade routes—and then turned away the refugees of those same wars. Libya's collapse, Syria's civil war, and Afghanistan's disintegration are all painful reminders that Western intervention created chaos whose human cost now knocks at their own doors. America's short political memory compounds the

tragedy. Each administration rewrites the moral code of migration. Obama expanded DACA and refugee resettlement; Trump dismantled both. Biden restored limited protections, but the political pendulum swung back again with renewed hostility. The result is a system that treats immigrants as expendable assets—welcomed when needed, discarded when convenient. Even worse, detention centers have multiplied, with National Guard units deployed in several states to assist ICE. Civil-rights lawyers document cases of long-time residents deported without trial, separating families and traumatizing children. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reports over 200,000 deportations in 2025 alone—many involving individuals who have lived in the U.S. for more than a decade. The roots of this crisis are moral and structural. America cannot destabilize other nations through wars, sanctions, and regime change, then demonize those who flee the wreckage. Immigration is the mirror of foreign policy. Every missile dropped abroad creates another migrant seeking safety. If the United States wishes to curb immigration sustainably, it must let other nations live with dignity—free from exploitation of their oil, minerals, and industries. Let their people build prosperity at home instead of being forced to cross borders for survival. China's model offers an instructive contrast: by investing in its own citizens through education, infrastructure, and industry, it has sharply reduced outward migration. America, too, must return to its founding promise—one that values people not by color or country, but by character and contribution. Instead of walls and bans, it needs reforms that regularize honest workers, integrate them through civic education, and penalize employers who exploit them. The world once admired the United States for its open arms, not its closed borders. The Statue of Liberty still stands in New York Harbor, holding a torch once meant to light the path for the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." But today, that light flickers. A nation that rose from the dreams of immigrants risks collapsing under the weight of its own fear and hypocrisy. To preserve its greatness, America must remember its origin story. It was not whiteness, wealth, or weapons that built this country—it was human hope. And hope knows no color, no visa, and no border.

— Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister,
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former Press Attaché to Malaysia
Former MD, SRBC
Macomb, Michigan, USA

How the Sky Changes its Colour

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Pakistan, however, was not deceived. The nation's leadership and strategic community have long understood the pattern of Western duplicity in South Asia — the tendency to praise restraint while rewarding aggression, to preach peace while selling weapons. The lesson of May 2025 is therefore unmistakable; we must never place all our trust...

THERE is no doubt that, bound by the vagaries of time and the temptations of material interest, man's memory often bends to convenience. Consciously or unconsciously, he wishes to erase his past words and actions whenever they no longer serve his present ambitions. Thus, political leaders and even great nations often seek to rewrite their own narratives, expecting the world to forget their contradictions and embrace their latest version of the truth. Yet history, with its unyielding pen, does not forget. When India launched its unprovoked aggression against Pakistan in early May 2025, the world witnessed one of those rare moments when hypocrisy and self-interest stood naked before truth. At the height of tension, then U.S. Vice President JD Vance, serving under President Donald J. Trump, declared that "the United States has nothing to do with the disputes between Pakistan and India." The statement, intended to project diplomatic neutrality, infuriated New Delhi, which had expected overt Western support in its misadventure. However, when Pakistan's armed forces responded decisively on May 8 and 9, inflicting serious losses and compelling Indian forces to retreat, the situation changed overnight. India's fury turned into panic, and the same United States that had claimed indifference suddenly jumped into the fray like a self-appointed village Chaudhry, rushing to break up the very fight it had quietly encouraged. Had India been on the winning side, no such Chaudhry would have appeared to call for peace. But by the command of Providence and through the foresight of Pakistan's leadership, events unfolded in a way that stunned the world. Pakistan's swift and disciplined response not only preserved national dignity but also demonstrated a strategic maturity

few had anticipated. Still, as soon as the smoke began to clear, Washington sought to reshape the narrative. To maintain its global image, the U.S. began claiming that it had "stopped the war." The story of Pakistan's success was quietly replaced with the illusion of American mediation. Behind this façade, however, lay a deeper reality — the war of interests. If, during the confrontation, the American-made aircraft in India's fleet had been shot down instead of the French Rafales, Washington's reaction would have been markedly different. The silence that followed Pakistan's defensive victory was not born of neutrality but of calculation. American defense corporations had vast stakes in India's market, and preserving those contracts became the real priority. For days after the clashes, Western media carried conflicting reports; first denying losses, then underreporting them, and finally attributing calm to U.S. "diplomatic intervention." In truth, as the dust settled, a quiet series of negotiations began between Washington and New Delhi, culminating in a ten-year defense cooperation framework — a pact that ensured India would remain one of America's largest arms clients for the next decade. This was the real game plan; a war wrapped in profit, a partnership clothed in rhetoric. Pakistan, however, was not deceived. The nation's leadership and strategic community have long understood the pattern of Western duplicity in South Asia — the tendency to praise restraint while rewarding aggression, to preach peace while selling weapons. The lesson of May 2025 is therefore unmistakable; we must never place all our trust, or our eggs, in one basket. National security cannot depend on the shifting loyalties of external powers; it must rest on self-reliance, regional cooperation,

and unwavering internal strength. The US Naval "Enterprise" that once promised steadfast assistance to Pakistan still struggles to fulfill its commitments. This, too, is a reminder that alliances built on convenience rarely withstand the test of adversity. The world respects those who act with principle, not those who wait for validation. In this age of transactional diplomacy, Pakistan must remain guided by its own compass — the pursuit of peace through strength, and friendship without submission. While the so-called champions of global order alter their narratives to suit commercial gain, Pakistan's resilience stands out as a model of discipline and dignity. The events of May 2025 were not merely a military episode; they were a revelation — exposing the double standards of international politics, where morality bends before markets and truth is silenced by trade. Yet amidst all this noise, Pakistan's steadfast resolve spoke louder than any statement issued from afar. History will remember that when others hesitated, Pakistan acted. When the world's "Chaudhry" tried to rewrite the story, reality remained unshaken on the ground. The clash of May 2025 was more than a confrontation between two neighbors; it was a test of national will, and Pakistan passed it with honor. The coming years will bring new challenges and new temptations — calls for alignment, pressures of endurance, and promises of assistance. But if there is one enduring lesson from that chapter, it is this; our destiny lies not in the hands of others, but in the strength of our own decisions. When power politics obscures the truth and the mighty of the world attempt to revise history, Pakistan's voice must remain clear and unyielding. For when the world wavered, Pakistan stood firm — and that, above all, is the echo that still resounds beyond May.

Briefs

Turkiye
set to call
for action
on Gaza

FROM PAGE 01
Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, a day after the Lebanese health ministry reported four people killed in an Israeli air strike. Despite a November 2024 ceasefire with the Lebanese group, Israel maintains troops in five areas in southern Lebanon and has kept up regular strikes. Hezbollah is playing with fire, and the president of Lebanon is dragging his feet," Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a statement. Officials in Gaza say Israel has let in only a small share of the humanitarian aid that was promised under the US-brokered ceasefire, which came into effect last month, Al Jazeera reported on Sunday.

Istanbul
talks:
Pakistan
picks...

FROM PAGE 01
that during the Istanbul negotiations, the Afghan side had offered to deport individuals considered security threats by Islamabad — a proposal Pakistan allegedly declined. He alleged that Pakistan had instead asked Afghanistan to restrain those individuals within Afghanistan rather than deport them. Mujahid further asserted that Afghanistan's policy prohibits migrants from carrying weapons and said that Kabul would act if Pakistan provided credible evidence of any threat. He also alleged that Pakistan's recent actions appeared to be aimed at creating conditions for a possible US

Afghanistan
— Pakistan...
Concerns...

FROM PAGE 01
during this movement? Despite a heavily fenced Durand Line and a well-equipped military with sophisticated surveillance technology, why are they absolved of their duty to prevent infiltration or re-entry? To ignore this internal responsibility while externalizing blame weakens the very moral ground on which peace must stand. True security will not emerge from deflection but from shared accountability, from both nations recognizing that responsibility, like the Durand Line itself, runs both ways.

Three cops
injured in
blast in
Hangu

FROM PAGE 01
policemen be provided immediate medical treatment, the statement said, adding that the CM paid tribute to the police personnel's "courage and sense of duty". The CM further directed that security in the province be tightened and strictly monitor suspicious elements. "Elements involved in [such] cowardly attacks will be taken to task," the statement quoted him as saying.

Qureshi
agreed that
stalemate in
politics...

FROM PAGE 01
"Our initiative — undertaken by Mehmoond Moulvi, Fawad Chaudhry, and myself — is not a conspiracy. It is a conscious effort to move Pakistan's politics away from confrontation and back toward reconciliation. The politics of defiance and endless agitation has brought PTI only shrinking space, arrests, and exhaustion. It's time to pause, reflect, and rebuild." He claimed that the three of them — who were among several party members left the PTI following a crack-down on the party in the aftermath of May 9 protests — had "privately consulted a number of PTI stalwarts. Almost all admitted that confrontation has failed and that reconciliation is the only way forward."

Serena Polo Cup 2025 delivers
an unforgettable finale

Serena Hotels extended warm congratulations to both teams for their exceptional sportsmanship and performance. The tournament reaffirmed Serena Hotels' dedication to encouraging athletic excellence



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Sports Diplomacy Initiative and ongoing commitment to promoting community engagement through sports, hosted the much-anticipated Serena Polo Cup 2025 at the Islamabad Club Polo Grounds.

The event drew an enthusiastic audience, including diplomats, corporate leaders, and polo enthusiasts, creating a lively atmosphere that celebrated the grace and excitement of the game. The final match of the Serena Polo Cup 2025 featured a thrilling contest between Team BN and Team Asean. Both teams demonstrated remarkable coordination, agility, and mastery



of the sport, keeping spectators captivated until the very end. Following an intense battle across four chukkers, Team Asean secured victory with a score of 7, claiming the prestigious Serena Polo Cup 2025 title. Serena Hotels extended warm congratulations to both teams for their exceptional sportsmanship and performance. The tournament reaffirmed Serena Ho-

tels' dedication to encouraging athletic excellence. Beyond polo, Serena Hotels continues to champion a variety of sporting disciplines across Pakistan including tennis, squash, golf, and women's cricket as part of its efforts to promote youth engagement, gender equality, and national pride, while strengthening bonds within local and international communities.

Frank refuses to condemn
Van de Ven, Spence for
snub in Spurs defeat

LONDON: Tottenham manager Thomas Frank refused to condemn Micky van de Ven and Djed Spence after his defenders appeared to ignore him following Saturday's 1-0 defeat against Chelsea. Joao Pedro's 34th minute strike gave Chelsea a fifth consecutive victory over their London rivals and a 10th win in their last 12 meetings in all competitions. Frank's team were booed off after they produced only one shot on target in their latest disappointing display at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. It was a third home loss in seven matches under the former Brentford boss, who has been unable to solve the poor home form that also plagued his predecessor Ange Postecoglou in 2025. Adding to Frank's problems, Van de Ven and Spence headed towards the tunnel after the final whistle and,

despite Frank seemingly telling them to thank the Tottenham fans, they walked past the Dane, who stared in their direction before he turned to applaud the crowd. "I think that is one of the small issues. We have Micky van de Ven and Djed Spence who are doing everything they can. They perform very well so far this season and everyone is frustrated. We do things in a different way, so I don't think it is a big problem," Frank said. "All the players are of course frustrated. They would like to do well, they would like to win, they would like to perform well, so I understand that. "I think it is about, which is difficult, to be consistent in good times and in bad times. That is why I went around to the fans as I did. It is more fun when we win, I can tell you that."

Although they sit in third place in the Premier League — above Chelsea on goal difference — Tottenham fans are becoming frustrated with their manager's prosaic tactics, which stand in stark contrast to the club's 'to dare is to do' ethos. Asked if he understood the supporters' reaction at the result, Frank said: "Yes, 100 per cent. We all sense the frustration and the emotions. That is part of football." Frank has always been known as a pragmatic manager willing to sacrifice style for points, a philosophy unlike the attack-minded Postecoglou, who was sacked despite winning the Europa League last season to end the club's 17-year trophy drought. "I would say that of course hurts massively. I have never been in charge of a team that created that little in one game. — Agencies

WAPDA
clinches 54th
Gymnastics
C'ship

ISLAMABAD: WAPDA Gymnastics Team has yet again established its dominance in National Gymnastics by winning the 54th National Men's Gymnastics Championship 2025, held at Karachi. With their outstanding performance, WAPDA gymnasts won as many as 15 Medals — 8 Gold, 4 Silver, and 3 Bronze. Among the Champions, WAPDA gymnast Muhammad Afzal was declared the Best National Player of the Championship for his exceptional skills. Pakistan Army remained the runners-up, while Pakistan Railways secured third position in the Championship. A total of seven teams participated in the Championship — WAPDA, Pakistan Army, Pakistan Railways, Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. —APP

Rano bear, other
animals health
condition reviewed

KARACHI: A committee constituted by High Court of Sindh under the chairmanship of Chief Conservator of Wildlife, Javed Mahar, visited the Karachi Zoo to check the physical and mental health of Rano bear and other animals housed in the zoo. During the visit, the committee members inspected various enclosures, observed animal behavior, and evaluated their overall health conditions. The objective of the visit was to ensure that the animals are being maintained in accordance with prescribed welfare standards and to identify any areas that may require improvement. The Karachi Zoo administration extended full cooperation to the visiting committee. The team provided detailed briefings regarding ongoing animal care practices, feeding routines, veterinary check-ups, and maintenance of enclosures. It was noted that regular veterinary support, proper nutrition, and improved hygiene measures have contributed positively to animal welfare. However, the committee also observed a few areas for further enhancement and recorded specific recommendations to ensure continued compliance with animal care standards and to further uplift the zoo environment. These observations will be formally presented to the High Court in the upcoming report for appropriate consideration. The Karachi Zoo administration reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining international standards of animal welfare, transparency, and cooperation with all relevant authorities to ensure a safe, healthy, and good environment for all animals under its care. — Agencies

Cop
martyred
at CTD
police...

FROM PAGE 01
"The clearance operation is underway," CCPO Saeed confirmed. Soon after the blast, police cordoned off the area, while Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU), Rescue 1122, and fire brigade teams launched operations to clear the site and extinguish the fire. "The clearance operation is underway," CCPO Saeed confirmed. KP IGP Zulfikar Ahmed has taken notice of the incident and directed the Additional IGP CTD to submit a detailed report within five days, the police spokesperson said. Meanwhile, a special CTD investigation team visited the site to investigate the incident and collect forensic evidence.

Journalists
rights to be
protected...

FROM PAGE 01
broader chilling impact these have on freedom of expression. "Today reminds us that a free, informed, and responsible press is the foundation of any democratic society," the prime minister said in a statement. "Journalists enable public access to facts and are torchbearers of truth. Violence, threats, or reprisals against them while performing their duties are attacks on freedom of expression. "I pay tribute to journalists who faced hardships for truth and solidarity with families of media workers who lost loved ones in the line of duty."

FM Ishaq
Dar to
attend...

FROM PAGE 01
It added that Islamabad would reiterate the need for collective efforts to achieve an independent, viable, and contiguous State of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, based on pre-1967 borders in line with relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative. "Pakistan has been, and will continue to be, committed to efforts to restore peace, justice, and dignity to the Palestinian people, as well as to ensure the realisation of their right to self-determination," the statement concluded.

Zardari to
attend Doha
summit

FROM PAGE 01
Pakistan's readiness to pilot a Doha-aligned Social Protection and Jobs Compact (2026-28) aimed at expanding coverage to informal workers, persons with disabilities, and children, while promoting decent work and green employment, will also be highlighted.

Attock hosts first-ever
chess c'ship held

Shawel Haider clinched first position, Muhammad Zaman secured second place, while Zeeshan Ahmed bagged third position

ATTOCK: For the first time in the history of Attock, a formal chess competition was organised at the Attock Sports Gymnasium under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Attock Anza Abbasi in collaboration with the Punjab Government, aimed at promoting healthy competitive culture among youth while sharpening intellectual strength, critical thinking and strategic reasoning. According to APP correspondent, a total of 28 players, including 24 male and 4 female participants, along with 4 judges took part in the tournament. Matches were played on a best-of-three format from 9am till 2pm. Shawel Haider clinched first position, Muhammad Zaman secured second place, while Zeeshan Ahmed bagged third position. The winning participants were awarded cash prizes. Anza Abbasi said chess is not just a game of entertainment but a symbol of wisdom, patience, strategy and mental discipline. "Chess globally is recognised as a training of strategic planning and decision-making. It sharpens memory, enhances cognitive functions and improves problem-solving abilities," she added. She said the district administration will continue to promote such intellectual and skill-building activities among youth, as these platforms form the foundation of balanced, progressive and mentally strengthened future generations. — Agencies

Girls' Hockey in
Islamabad colleges
Gains Momentum

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In a major step toward reviving girls' hockey and providing greater opportunities for school and college girls to engage in sports, an exhibition event featuring several educational institutions was organized at the Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium in Islamabad. The event was inaugurated by Federal Secretary for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Mohyuddin Wani, who lauded the growing enthusiasm among young girls for the sport.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohyuddin Wani said that the federal government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is fully committed to providing all possible facilities for youth development, particularly in the field of sports. "Girls have a bright future in sports. The Ministry of IPC is ensuring that government schools and colleges in Islamabad are equipped with state-of-the-art sports facilities," he emphasized. He further added that through continuous efforts, a healthy and encouraging environment is being created for young girls to excel in sports and emerge as future stars. Meanwhile, in the exhibition matches, Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) G-6/1 defeated Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/2 by 1-0, while Army Public School (APS) Humayun Road, Rawalpindi edged past Bonita Club by 1-0. The match between Islamabad Girls Hockey Club and IMCG G-6/1 ended in a draw.

PFUJ delegation visits SNJ headquarters in Paris

DNA

PARIS: In a high-level engagement aimed at addressing the escalating crisis facing journalists in Pakistan, a delegation from the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) held crucial talks with top officials of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) at the Syndicate National des Journalistes (SNJ) headquarters. IFJ President Dominique Pradalié and Secretary General Anthony Bellanger expressed grave concern over targeted killings of journalists, cases filed under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), undeclared censorship on media outlets, harassment of working journalists by both state and non-state actors, and widespread non-payment of salaries along with forced dismissals by media owners. The IFJ leaders urged Pakistan's President, Prime Minister, and Chief Justice to take immediate notice of the dire situation, warning that failure to act would prompt an appeal for United Nations intervention. During the detailed meeting, the PFUJ delegation—comprising Secretary General Shakeel Ahmed, Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists President Tariq Usmani, and Foreign Committee Head Waseem

Shahzad Qadri—briefed Pradalié and Bellanger on the ground realities. In a joint statement, the IFJ president and secretary general affirmed that the federation is closely monitoring Pakistan's media environment. They strongly condemned unlawful actions against journalists, including the misuse of PECA to lodge cases, and demanded the immediate withdrawal of all



such charges, effective legislation to protect journalists' rights, and legal action against those responsible for targeted killings. The statement also denounced undeclared censorship imposed by government institutions on media organizations and journalists, calling for an immediate end to these unconstitutional and undemocratic practices. Highlighting the forced layoffs of hundreds

of journalists and media workers, the IFJ officials demanded that Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif introduce urgent and robust legislation to halt what they described as the "economic massacre" of journalists in Pakistan.

The federation pledged full support to PFUJ, its representative body in Pakistan, committing to take steps at every level to safeguard journalists' rights and employment. The issue will be placed on the agenda of the upcoming IFJ Congress. Pradalié and Bellanger also took serious note of alleged death threats issued to PFUJ President Rana Muhammad Azeem and others, reportedly from Taliban-linked groups. They called on the Prime Minister and top investigative agencies to conduct a thorough probe and ensure that those involved in the terror group face the full rigor of the law, including severe punishments. Following the discussions, the PFUJ delegation was given a tour of the Journalists' Memorial. The visit concluded with a lavish dinner hosted by IFJ President Dominique Pradalié in honor of Shakeel Ahmed, Tariq Usmani, and Waseem Shahzad Qadri. This meeting underscores growing international pressure on Pakistani authorities to uphold press freedom amid reports of increasing vulnerabilities for media professionals.

Briefs

Syrian leader to discuss sanctions, reconstruction in US visit: FM

MANAMA: Syria's president will discuss issues including lifting remaining sanctions, reconstruction and counter-terrorism when he becomes the country's first leader to pay an official visit to Washington later this month, the foreign minister said Sunday. Ahmed Al-Sharaa is expected in the US capital in early November, Syria's top diplomat Asaad Al-Shaibani told a panel at the Manama Dialogue in Bahrain. "This visit is certainly historic," he said. "Many topics will be discussed, starting with the lifting of sanctions," Shaibani said, adding: "Today we are fighting (the Islamic State) ... any effort in this regard requires international support." Discussions will also revolve around reconstruction after more than a decade of war, he said. The foreign ministry in Damascus confirmed the trip would be the first ever visit to the White House by a Syrian president. On Saturday, US envoy to Syria Tom Barrack said Sharaa was heading to Washington "hopefully" to sign an agreement to join the international US-led alliance against the Daesh. —APP

Train knife attack not terrorist incident, 2 British men held: Police

HUNTINGDON, England: British police said on Sunday that a knife attack on a train which put 11 people in hospital was not a terrorist incident, adding that two men — both British nationals — had been arrested. Counterterrorism police had helped with the initial investigation after the mass stabbing of passengers on a London-bound train in eastern England on Saturday. "At this stage, there is nothing to suggest that this is a terrorist incident," Superintendent John Loveless from British Transport Police told media on Sunday. The two men arrested on suspicion of attempted murder were a 32-year-old male, a black British national, and a 35-year-old British national of Caribbean descent, Loveless said. Both had been born in the UK, he added. "It would not be appropriate to speculate on the cause of this incident," he said. The arrests were made by armed police after the train made an emergency stop at Huntingdon around 80 miles (130 km) north of London. Of the 11 people hospitalized, four have since been discharged and two patients remain in a life-threatening condition, police said. —APP

Ukraine drone attack sets ablaze oil tanker, Russia says

The port is home to the Tuapse Black Sea oil terminal and a Rosneft-controlled oil refiner Ukraine has targeted the refinery with several drone strikes this year. A Ukrainian drone attack damaged and set ablaze a tanker and infrastructure at a major oil terminal in Russia's key Black Sea port of Tuapse overnight, authorities in the southern region of Krasnodar said on Sunday. The attack on the southern outlet for Russia's crude and refined products came a day after traders told Reuters shipments from the seaport would rise in November, threatening knock-on effects for export flows. "In the port of Tuapse, fragments of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) fell on an oil tanker, damaging the deck superstructure," the administration said on the Telegram messaging app. "A fire broke out on the vessel. The crew were evacuated." The port is home to the Tuapse Black Sea oil terminal and a Rosneft-controlled oil refinery, which Ukraine has targeted with several drone strikes this year. It was not immediately known if the terminal was operating after the attack, which the administration said damaged its buildings and other infrastructure. Unofficial Russian. —APP

ICCI eyes enhanced economic ties with KSA

ICCI President Sardar Tahir appreciated Ambassador Ahmed Farooq's active efforts for advancing Pakistan's economic interests and congratulated him on the successful visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia

DNA

RIYADH: Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and Member of the Prime Minister's Task Force on the Development of the Housing Sector, held a detailed meeting with Ahmed Farooq, Ambassador of Pakistan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the Pakistan Embassy in Riyadh. The meeting focused on promoting bilateral trade and investment between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, with special emphasis on sectors offering mutual economic benefits for both countries. Sardar Tahir appreciated Ambassador Ahmed Farooq's active efforts for advancing Pakistan's economic interests and congratulated him on the successful visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia. President ICCI, Sardar Tahir Mehmood, identified several promising areas for Saudi investment in Pakistan, including the textile and garments industry, agriculture and food processing, marble and construction materials, hotel and hospitality sector, and export-oriented connectivity projects. He added that Pakistan's IT and digital services sector, which has shown remarkable growth over the past two years, provides a strong foundation for technology partnerships and outsourcing collaborations. Sardar Tahir Mehmood announced that ICCI plans to organize a Pakistan-Saudi Business & Investment Forum in Riyadh, aimed at connecting Pakistani



exporters, industrialists, and developers with Saudi investors and business leaders.

He requested the Embassy's support and patronage for hosting this high-level event

to help realize the vision of enhanced Pakistan-Saudi economic cooperation.

UK MPs call for govt adoption of new Islamophobia definition

LONDON: Prominent UK politicians have written to Steve Reed, secretary of state for housing, communities and local government, urging him to adopt a new definition of Islamophobia. Recent statistics in England and Wales have shown a 19 percent rise in hate crimes against Muslims in the last year. In a letter, the group of 40 MPs said adopting the new definition would be an "important step" in curbing anti-Muslim prejudice. An independent working group of MPs was established in February to determine the new definition of Islamophobia to address "unacceptable treatment, prejudice, discrimination and hate targeting Muslims or anyone who is perceived to be Muslim." It was chaired by the former attorney general for England and Wales, Dominic Grieve, and included the co-chair of the British Muslim Network, Akeela Ahmed. The letter said the new definition "comes at a time when unfortunately, Islamophobia continues to increase rapidly, with devastating consequences. In 2025, 45 percent of religious hate crimes were directed towards Muslims." It added: "This means Islamophobic hate crimes have risen 92% since 2023 and the adoption of a definition by the government becomes more important than ever." Signatories urged Reed to adopt the definition in November during Islamophobia Awareness Month, after the working group submitted their report in October for consultation. The proposal for a new definition has been met with criticism in some quarters over fears it could curb free speech in the UK. Supporters of a new definition have pointed out that under the 2010 Equality Act, Muslims are not protected from racial discrimination as they are not defined as a racial group. Shaista Gohir, a member of the House of Lords who also sat on the working group, accused government ministers of being "silent" on the increase in anti-Muslim hate in England and Wales. A previous definition of Islamophobia from the all-party parliamentary group on British Muslims stated: "Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness." The definition was adopted by the Labour Party in 2019, as well as the Liberal Democrats, but not by the Conservative government at the time, which said it "was not broadly" accepted and required more work. MP Afzal Khan, who penned the letter to Reed, told The Guardian: "Muslims receive the highest number of recorded religious hate crimes in the UK." He said there had been an "aggressive shift" in attitudes toward Muslims in the past year, and the government cannot "let the momentum slip" on a new definition of Islamophobia. "We urgently need a robust definition that protects people while preserving free speech," he added. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government said in a statement: "The department is carefully considering the Working Group's recommendations and we will respond in due course."

Israeli tourists unwelcome amid exploitation, security fears

KOH PHANGAN: After months of enduring Israeli tourists snatching his restaurant's tissues and condiments without permission, hogging seats without paying, and skipping lines, Bob reached his breaking point and decided to no longer welcome them. Having worked all his life in the hospitality industry, he had never come across such behavior by visitors to the island. Each time he tried to intervene, he was faced with a wave of negative reviews hitting his establishment. "After I asked one group of Israeli tourists to leave, I received more than 4,000 bad reviews — my restaurant's rating dropped from 4.8 to 2.2 stars. It's now been corrected, but that experience was really frustrating," Bob told Arab News. In October, his restaurant, Pun Pun Thai Food, a popular establishment on Koh Phangan, a holiday island in southern Thailand, put up a sign making it clear that Israelis were not allowed even past the threshold. "I hate the repeated behavior I've encountered from many Israeli tourists — it happens so often that it led me to put up a 'No Israel' sign at my restaurant," Bob said. "What I've experienced isn't just from one person — it happens repeatedly." Over the past few months, such incidents have been increasingly highlighted by the locals, who started to record and share them on social media. In May, an Israeli woman went viral after a Koh Phangan restaurant employee requested that she leave for not respecting the establishment's rules. The employee could be heard saying: "You're not welcome here," to which the woman replied: "My money builds your country." Besides the nuisance that such behavior has become for them, locals are also worried about tourists competing with their businesses by renting out houses, running restaurants, organizing tours, or operating motorbike rental shops without permission. A group of business owners and island residents recently filed a petition with more than 200 signatures, submitted to the governor of the Surat Thani province, urging action against what they described as "Israeli activities causing distress to local communities." Apiwat Sriwatcharaporn, assistant village chief in Koh Phangan, acknowledged the growing concern over foreigners running unlicensed business operations on the island. "If they just live or travel here, that's fine," he said. "But business operations should be done legally." According to Thailand's Immigration Bureau, as of late September, there were 2,627 Israeli nationals applying for visa extensions on the island, out of about 8,000 total foreigners, making Israel the largest group under scrutiny for potential illegal commercial activity. Tan, whose family has been operating a business in Koh Phangan, said problems with Israeli visitors are not new. But lately, they have become more noticeable, as more and more of them are visiting. —APP

RCCI finalizes preparations for Tashkent business moot, IAA

DNA

RAWALPINDI: President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), Mr. Usman Shaikat, held a constructive meeting with DG CARs, Mr. Zaigham, to review preparations for the upcoming Uzbekistan Business Opportunities Conference and International Achievement Awards (IAA), scheduled to take place 8-11 November in Tashkent. The meeting focused on strengthening regional collaboration, promoting economic partnerships, and celebrating excellence in international business — key elements of RCCI's vision to enhance cross-border trade and investment. During the discussion, Mr. Usman Shaikat emphasized the commitment of the Pakistani business community to achieving tangible and long-term outcomes by launching new joint ventures with Uzbek companies. "This visit is expected to serve as a powerful impetus for deepening trade and economic relations, creating employment opportunities, fostering technology exchange, and advancing joint initiatives for the mutual benefit of the people of Uzbekistan and Pakistan," said Mr. Shaikat. Pakistan and Uzbekistan share strong historical and cultural ties, and their economic partnership has grown significantly in recent years. The two countries signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in 2022, which has since led to a 40% increase in bilateral trade. Strategically, both nations are vital to regional connectivity — with Uzbekistan, the largest landlocked republic in Central Asia, serving as a critical link connecting five Central Asian Republics (CARs) and acting as a bridge

between the East and West. Former RCCI Vice President and Chairman IAA, Mr. Shahraiz A. Malik, also attended

the meeting and shared his insights to ensure the success of these prestigious international events.

**Knowledge, innovation, policy diplomacy to shape S. Asia's future**

DHAKA: Dr. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser and Emeritus Professor at Western Sydney University, Australia, has said that knowledge innovation, policy diplomacy, and the rebuilding of social trust would determine the future of South Asia. Dr. Chowdhury made the remarks while addressing the IASSANPA International Conference 2025 at the Institute of Administrative Sciences (IAS), University of the Punjab, Lahore. The international event, themed "Local Realities and Regional Futures: Transforming Public Administration & Management in South Asia", began today at the Riazuddin Auditorium, CEMB. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Sidra Irfan. Professor Dr. Kashif Rathore, Director of IAS, University of the Punjab, delivered the welcome address, said a Finance Ministry press release. —APP

Libya detains education minister over textbook scandal

TRIPOLI: Libyan prosecutors have announced they are detaining the country's education minister for negligence over a scandal involving school textbooks. The minister, Ali Al-Abed, is serving in an interim capacity after taking over from Mousa Al-Megariet, who was himself sentenced in March to three-and-a-half years in prison over a similar case involving a textbook shortage. The prosecutor general's office said in a statement Saturday night that it had ordered the preventative detention of Abed and the head of the ministry's school programs department "pending an investigation into harm to the public interest and violation of the right to education." Both Abed's case and that of his predecessor have drawn intense public attention in Libya. The prosecutors said the investigation into Abed concerned the granting of contracts to print books for the current school year, and had found "irregularities in the administrative and financial procedures" surrounding such contracts. It also revealed a "lapse in the duty to provide the textbooks to two million students on time," they added. The 2025-2026 school year began over a month late in Libya, with the parents of nearly 2.6 million students who lacked books forced to shell out for photocopies. In Libyan public schools, textbooks are provided free of charge through the end of secondary school, paid for through a special allocation in the education ministry budget. —APP

Greater investment in agri research urged to boost food security

LAHORE: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain has said that improving agricultural productivity is critically important, and for this purpose, both the public and private sectors must invest in agricultural research. He assured that the government will financially support anyone engaged in research to strengthen the agriculture sector. Addressing the business community at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), he emphasized that better-quality seeds are fundamental to agricultural progress and that a Track and Trace system for certified seeds is being introduced. He also highlighted that reducing edible oil imports has become a pressing national need. On the occasion, LCCI President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol, Vice President Khuram Lodhi, SAARC Chamber Vice President Mian Anjum Nisar, former LCCI President Muhammad Ali Mian, and Executive Committee members were also present. Rana Tanveer Hussain stated that he has always worked for the development of all sectors and had earlier served as Minister for Industries and Production by choice. He noted that food security has emerged as a global concern, being considered a top priority worldwide. —APP

Briefs

Over 5,000
Afghans
repatriate
via Torkham
Border

PESHAWAR: The repatriation of Afghan refugees continues at a rapid pace, as around 5,220 Afghan nationals returned to their homeland after reopening of the Torkham border, authorities informed on Sunday. As per the data provided on Sunday, 401 individuals returned through legal channels, while 2,314 were undocumented. So far, over 828,000 Afghan refugees have completed their repatriation process. The return process from other provinces is also ongoing. On the same day, 19 refugees departed from Islamabad and 450 from Punjab through Torkham Border, bringing the total number of returnees from various provinces to 25,392. From Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's transit points, 19 Afghan citizens were deported, while 7,261 detainees have been repatriated from jails in Peshawar, Landi Kotal, and Kohat. As per the latest figures, more than 54,000 legal and 628,000 undocumented Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan since the start of the repatriation campaign. — APP

PM reiterates
GoP's
commitment
to protection of
press freedom,
journalists

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Sunday, reiterated that the Government of Pakistan is firmly committed to protecting press freedom and ensuring a safe environment for journalists. In a message on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, he said "A free press is the guarantee for a strong, transparent, and democratic Pakistan". Today served as a reminder that a free, informed and responsible press was the foundation of any democratic society, he said, adding journalists enabled the public's access to facts and stood as torchbearers of truth. "Acts of violence, threats, or retribution against them in the course of their professional duties are, in fact, attacks on freedom of expression," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying. On the occasion, the prime minister paid tribute to all journalists who had endured hardships in the pursuit of truth and justice and expressed solidarity with the families of those writers, journalists and media workers who lost their lives in the line of duty. — APP

JI chief
vows to free
Karachi from
'corruption'

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: Lashing out at the Sindh government for the city's deteriorating infrastructure, Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has vowed to free Karachi from "land grabbing and the corrupt system." Speaking at a ceremony on Sunday, Naeem said that despite the challenges, JI's elected representatives were working beyond their capacity to serve the people. "Karachi's roads are not even built, yet citizens are receiving e-challans worth thousands," he said and added: "We will liberate this city from the system of loot and land-grabbing." The JI chief said development work had resumed in nine towns, and even projects initiated by Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab had to be overseen by JI representatives due to "poor governance". "There is no proper transport system, roads are broken, and the Red Line BRT project has ruined University Road. Even the Orange Line doesn't cover all of Orangi," he lambasted Hafiz Naeem accused the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of manipulating local body elections through favourable delimitations and rigging.

Gateway to 70,000 Years of History:
Egypt unveils the grand museum

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid, delivered an inspiring and heartfelt address during the inauguration ceremony of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) — hailed as the world's largest archaeological museum — celebrating Egypt's rich heritage and reaffirming the deep-rooted friendship between Egypt and Pakistan. Addressing a distinguished audience comprising diplomats, government representatives, media personnel and members of the international community, Ambassador Abdelhamid described the opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum as "a truly historic moment" and "a new home for the treasures of ancient Egypt."

He said the museum stands proudly near the Great Pyramids of Giza, symbolizing Egypt's enduring respect for history, culture and knowledge. "It unites our glorious past with our modern vision for the future," the Ambassador said. "Through this museum, Egypt opens its doors to the world, inviting all nations to explore the story of a human civilization written on the banks of the Nile — a story of creativity, resilience and timeless beauty."

Emphasizing the close and historic ties between Cairo and Islamabad, Dr. Abdelhamid said, "Egypt and Pakistan have long enjoyed a deep and enduring friendship, founded on mutual respect, cultural understanding and close cooperation. Just as the Nile and the Indus have given life to two great nations, our countries continue to stand together in pursuit of peace, progress and prosperity."

The envoy noted that the Grand Egyptian Museum is not just an architectural wonder but a national symbol of perseverance and vision. Built at a cost exceeding one billion dollars and covering an area of 480,000 square meters, the museum has been designed under the auspices of UNESCO as a "fourth pyramid" — a stunning visual and symbolic continuation of Egypt's ancient legacy.



The Ambassador revealed that the museum hosts more than 100,000 artifacts, including the complete collection of treasures belonging to King Tutankhamun, displayed together for the first time in history. The exhibits are complemented by cutting-edge technologies such as augmented reality, offering visitors an immersive journey through 70,000 years of Egyptian civilization.

Dr. Abdelhamid also extended an open invitation to Pakistan's tourism and travel industry to collaborate with their Egyptian counterparts in promoting cultural tours and travel programs to the GEM. He encouraged journalists, media outlets and content creators to visit the museum and share its inspiring story with audiences worldwide. "Their coverage will not only showcase Egypt's

rich heritage but will also help promote cultural understanding and strengthen the bonds between our peoples," he added. Concluding his remarks, the Ambassador warmly invited Pakistanis to visit the Grand Egyptian Museum, "to walk through 70,000 years of history and witness how Egypt's timeless heritage continues to inspire the future."

Istanbul Dialogue: A
golden opportunity for
Pak-Afghan cooperation

PESHAWAR: As regional tensions and economic challenges persist across South Asia and the Middle East, the upcoming Istanbul Dialogue, scheduled for November 6, has emerged as a promising platform for Pakistan and Afghanistan to rebuild trust, strengthen cooperation, counter terrorism, and pave the way toward lasting regional peace and stability. Despite the collapse of the first round of peace talks in Istanbul due to the rigidity of the Afghan Taliban, Pakistan has agreed to participate in another round of talks aimed at addressing all outstanding issues, including cross-border terrorism emanating from Afghanistan through peaceful means.

Observers believed that the Istanbul dialogue offers a neutral setting for candid discussions, practical confidence-building measures, and verifiable guarantees, particularly on controlling terror groups and proxies infiltrating from Afghanistan and carrying out attacks inside Pakistan. "All eyes are on Istanbul, Türkiye, where another round of crucial peace talks between Pakistan and Afghan Taliban will take place on November 6," said Dr. Ejaz Khan, a foreign relations expert at the University of Peshawar, while talking to APP. "These talks especially focused on stopping terror groups operating against Pakistan if successful hold the potential to ensure regional peace and stability." He said that Turkey's facilitation added credibility and balance to the process, which could lead to a roadmap for durable peace and economic cooperation. "The pressure is mounting on the Afghan Taliban regime to engage in constructive dialogue with Pakistan to

bring Fitnaul Khwarij (TTP) to justice," he added.

Dr. Ejaz said this is a critical moment for the Afghan Taliban, as Pakistan has raised serious concerns about the presence of terrorist groups such as the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Fitnaul Hindustani in Afghanistan, and has demanded decisive action against them and demanded verifiable guarantee which is right of all parties engaged in negotiations. Citing reports, he said that Afghanistan continues to serve as a safe haven for terror groups, with an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 TTP terrorists still present there. Many hardcore TTP operatives, released from Afghan prisons after the Taliban takeover in 2021, are being used as proxies against Pakistan, he added. Dr. Ejaz argued that the Afghan Taliban have been using terrorism as a tool to achieve financial leverage. He emphasized that Pakistan's demand for decisive action against terror groups and dismantling of their training camps is consistent with both the Doha Agreement and the UN Charter. He explained that under the Doha Agreement, the Afghan Taliban are obligated to prevent the use of Afghan soil by terrorist groups against any other country, including Pakistan. Tracing the conflict's roots, he said Afghanistan has been the epicenter of global rivalries since the 1979 Soviet invasion and later the 2001 US-led intervention that toppled the Taliban regime. He stressed that Pakistan has consistently pursued a responsible approach toward Afghanistan, guided by shared geography, culture, and security interests. — APP

Gaza school
children return
to class after
two years

UNITED NATIONS: After two years of Israeli war that kept them out of classrooms, Gaza's children are finally returning to the classroom, surrounded by devastation — but determined to learn, according to a UN report. "What we need now are notebooks, books, and pens. We want to get our lives back", said one young Palestinian girl, Sham Al-Abd was quoted as saying in a heavily damaged school. She now attends the Deir al-Balah Joint Elementary School run by the UN Palestine refugee agency (UNRWA). Despite the old furniture and the few drawings that brighten the classroom walls at a school visited by UN News correspondent, the children's excitement to return there after months of seeking shelter from the bombs, remains undiminished. One of Sham's classmates, Asil Al-Loh, spoke enthusiastically about how she felt: "We want to learn and play, and study all subjects as we did before. Now we only study Arabic, English and mathematics."

Following the ceasefire in Gaza, UNRWA is working to restore a sense of normalcy in schools that had previously been used as shelters. Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, announced that the agency is expanding its "Return to Learning" programme in Gaza, offering both in-person and online education.

At the Deir al-Balah Joint Elementary School, signs of transformation from shelter to school, are still evident. UN News correspondent said he saw families cooking meals in the corridors, while tents still occupy the schoolyard. When young student Shad al-Bahisi returned to Deir al-Balah, she said she found the area "destroyed," and that "many displaced people were still there."

Some classrooms remain without enough chairs, their floors are covered with tarpaulins and blankets. Yet the excitement and determination are shining through.

"To date, more than 62,000 students have benefited from temporary learning services through these basic educational activities since their launch on 1 August 2024", according to Inas Hamdam, UNRWA's spokesperson.

Deir al-Balah School is one of those converted into a shelter but UNRWA continues to open additional temporary learning spaces, said Ms. Hamdam. — Agencies

Trump threatens US military action in
Nigeria over treatment of Christians

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Saturday said he has asked the Defence Department to prepare for possible "fast" military action in Nigeria if the West African nation fails to crack down on the killing of Christians. The US government will also immediately stop all aid and assistance to Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and top oil producer, Trump said in a post on Truth Social. If the United States sends in military forces, it would go in "guns-a-blazing," to completely wipe out the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities," Trump wrote, without providing any evidence of specifics about the treatment of Christians in Nigeria. Trump called Nigeria a "disgraced country" and warned its government must move quickly. "If we attack, it will be fast, vicious, and sweet, just like the terrorist thugs attack our CHERISHED Christians!" he wrote.

Abuja had no immediate reaction to Trump's threat of military action. The White House also had no immediate comment on the potential timing of any US military action. Although the US Department of Defence referred Reuters to the White House for comment on Trump's threat, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth released a social media post of his own. "The Department of War is preparing for

action," Hegseth wrote on X. "Either the Nigerian Government protects Christians, or we will kill the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities."

Trump's post on Nigeria came a day after his administration added Nigeria back to a "Countries of Particular Concern" list of nations that the US says have violated religious freedom. Other nations on the list include China, Myanmar, North Korea, Russia, and Pakistan.

Before Trump posted his attack threat, Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu earlier on Saturday pushed back against claims of religious intolerance and defended his country's efforts to protect religious freedom.

"The characterisation of Nigeria as religiously intolerant does not reflect our national reality, nor does it take into consideration the consistent and sincere efforts of the government to safeguard freedom of religion and beliefs for all Nigerians," Tinubu said in a statement, citing "constitutional guarantees to protect citizens of all faiths."

Nigeria's Foreign Ministry, in a separate statement, vowed to keep fighting violent extremism and said it hoped Washington would remain a close ally, saying it "will continue to defend all citizens, irrespective of race, creed, or religion. Like America, Nigeria has no option but to celebrate the diversity that is our greatest strength." — Agencies

Ex-PM Shahid Khaqan
Abbasi hospitalised

Abbasi undergoes heart procedure with doctors placing two stents to address blockage in his arteries

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi underwent a heart procedure with doctors placing two stents to address blockage in his arteries.

Hospital sources confirmed that the former premier's condition is now stable and satisfactory, and he is under constant medical observation. According to Abbasi's family, doctors have advised him to take complete rest and avoid any strenuous activity for the time being.

Abbasi was earlier admitted to the hospital after experiencing cardiac complications, where he is still receiving treatment under the supervision of senior cardiologists. Miftah Ismail, a party colleague of Abbasi, said in a post on X that the former prime minister's health is steadily improving and he is resting comfortably.

"Alhamdulillah Shahid Khaqan Abbasi sahib's health condition continues to improve and he is now resting comfortably," he wrote.

"We expect and pray for his quick and full recovery. I thank friends who have been calling to ask about his health," Miftah added.

Ex-PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi hospitalised after chest pain

Abbasi served as Pakistan's 18th prime minister from August 2017 to May 2018 after the ouster of Nawaz Sharif. In February 2023, Abbasi announced parting ways with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz — the party where he had served as senior vice president — and later in the same year launched his own party, Awaam Pakistan.



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"Caring for all health needs"

Occupational Health Services: Safeguarding Wellbeing at Work

Occupational health services play a vital role in promoting employee wellbeing and ensuring safe, productive workplaces. Here are the key areas covered under our service provision.

- Risk assessments:**
Identifying potential hazards in the workplace. Fitness-for-work assessments (pre-employment/periodic/return to work medicals); Helping employers understand if an employee can perform their job safely and what adjustments might be needed.
- Sickness absence management and rehabilitation:**
Providing guidance to help employees return to work after a period of illness.
- Health surveillance:**
Monitoring the health of employees exposed to certain risks, like in construction or manufacturing. Mental health and wellbeing support: A growing part of OH services to help employees with mental health issues that affect their work.
- Management referral:**
If your employer has concerns about your health and how it impacts your work, they can refer you to an OH professional.
- Self-referral:**
Some services allow you to self-refer for advice, but this typically does not result in a written report for your supervisor unless a management referral is made instead.

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