



Islamabad POST

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Saudi Crown Prince to visit USA to meet Donald Trump

Detailed News On Page-08

Blue economy to be game changer: FM

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Plan for Gaza soon, says PM: Mustafa

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PPP resisting the move

A power game in the name of amendment

In addition to revoking parts of the 18th Amendment, the government is also considering amendments to Article 243 of the Constitution, which deals with the command and control of the armed forces

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The government is reportedly preparing to introduce the 27th Constitutional Amendment, a move that has already begun to stir political debate and speculation across the country. According to well-placed sources, the proposed amendment seeks sweeping changes to the existing constitutional framework – including a rollback of key provisions of the 18th Amendment, which devolved significant powers to the provinces. If enacted, the 27th Amendment would effectively bring crucial departments such as health and population welfare back under the control of the federal government, reversing one of the hallmark features of Pakistan's decentralization process introduced in 2010. The proposed shift is being seen by many as a centralization of authority at a time when the federation is struggling with governance and fiscal coordination issues. In addition to revoking parts of the 18th Amendment, the government is also considering amendments to Article 243 of the Constitution,

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27th Constitutional Amend. to be tabled soo: DPM Ishaq Dar

NA, Senate's standing committees to separately review draft before bill is moved for approval, say sources

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said on Tuesday that the federal government would present the 27th Constitutional Amendment in accordance with the Constitution and only after consultation with coalition partners. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) formally approached its key ally – the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) – for its support in introducing the amendment, which would establish a

Constitutional Court, and make certain changes to the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award. This tweak also sought to amend Article 243 – which pertains to the supreme command of the armed forces – as well as several other key constitutional adjustments, according to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Other proposals included the introduction of executive magistrates, provisions for the transfer of judges, and the removal of protections

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LHC bans commercial activities on Sundays

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday ordered a complete ban on commercial activities every Sunday in Lahore as part of efforts to curb worsening smog and environmental pollution in the city. LHC Justice Shahid Karim heard a set of petitions on environmental issues and ordered the complete closure of commercial activities on Sundays and strict enforcement of the 10pm closure for marriage halls in Lahore. Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, was ranked as the most polluted city in the world again on Tuesday. Lahore recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 372, categorised as "hazardous" at 8:30am on Tuesday, according to the Swiss air monitoring agency IQAir. During the hearing today, Deputy Commissioner Lahore Musa Raza appeared before the court and presented notifications mandating the closure of markets and restaurants by 10pm. "The purpose is not merely to issue notifications but to ensure their implementation," the LHC judge remarked. The court further ordered that a director-level officer from the environment department appear at each hearing to brief the bench on progress. A commission member informed the court that ongoing excavation near Khayaban-e-Firdousi was causing daily traffic jams. WASA's legal adviser, Irfan Akram, responded that the sewerage system across Lahore was being upgraded, and progress reports would be shared in the next hearing.

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Attorney General meets the Acting President

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General of Pakistan, Mr. Mansoor Usman Awan called on the Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at Aiwan-e-Sadr today. The Acting President underscored the pivotal role which the office of the Attorney General of Pakistan, being the Chief Legal Advisor to the government plays in upholding the rule of law and ensuring swift dispensation of justice to cultivate democratic values. Attorney General apprised the President about various reforms undertaken within his office and reiterated full commitment to serve the nation. The Acting President reaffirmed to strengthen the legal and judicial system of Pakistan.



DOHA: President Asif Ali Zardari shaking hands with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha. – DNA

Speaks in Qatar

President calls for global unity, justice

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), pledging to raise literacy to 90 percent and ensure every child attends school within five years

DNA

DOHA: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to social justice, inclusive development, and global solidarity, emphasizing the need to eradicate poverty, promote decent work, and ensure equality and human rights for all. During his address at the Second World Summit for Social Development, the president expressed full support for the Doha Political Declaration highlighted that the country's vision for inclusiveness and sustainable development aligns with the spirit of the Doha Declaration. "Pakistan remains steadfast in placing people at the center of policy", President Zardari added. Showcasing Pakistan's progress, he cited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), which has empowered over nine million families through income assistance, healthcare, and education. The initiative, he said, "is recognized globally as one of the best social protection models."

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Pakistan seeks to renegotiate Qatar supplies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has struck a deal to cancel 21 liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes under its long-term contract with Italy's Eni as part of a plan to curb excess imports that have flooded its gas network, according to an official document and two sources. The document from state-owned Pakistan LNG Ltd (PLL) to the country's Ministry of Energy, dated October 22, said 11 cargoes planned for 2026 and 10 for 2027 would be cancelled at the request of gas distributor SNGPL. Only the planned January shipment in both years, and the December shipment in 2027, would be retained to meet peak winter demand,

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PIA flights grounded as engineers halt clearances

PIA's international flights hit since Monday night; at least dozen affected, leaving many Umrah pilgrims stranded

A DISPUTE between Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) management and its aircraft engineers has brought flight operations to a near halt, as the disgruntled staff have stopped granting clearances, leaving planes grounded and causing widespread disruption for passengers across the country. Sources said the engineers' protest has severely disrupted flights. Since around 8pm on Monday, not a single international flight of the airline has been able to depart. At least 55 flights have been affected, with five cancelled across the Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad airports, they said. Twelve international flights have also been affected so far, leaving passengers in a difficult spot. A large number of them are Um-

rah pilgrims. Two Karachi-Skardu flights and one Lahore-Karachi flight were cancelled, while Lahore-Muscat flights PK-329 and PK-330 were also cancelled. Similarly, the Karachi-Lahore flight PK-302 was delayed by over 14 hours, while Karachi-Islamabad's first flight, PK-300, could not take off as scheduled. Islamabad-Gilgit flights PK-601 and PK-602 also failed to operate due to operational disruption. The Society of Aircraft Engineers of Pakistan (SAEP) said its members would not return to work until the airline's CEO changed his attitude. They've stopped issuing airworthiness clearance for the aircraft, the union said.

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Briefs

27th Amend will be blow to provincial autonomy

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: Former Senate chairman Raza Rabbani on Tuesday warned that the 27th Constitutional Amendment, proposed by the federal government, would be tantamount to rolling back the provincial autonomy achieved under the 18th Amendment. "In the brittle internal political situation, playing with provincial autonomy will cast deep shadows over the Federation," Rabbani, a senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), said in a statement. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) formally approached its key ally – PPP – for their support in introducing the amendment, which would establish a Constitutional Court, and make certain changes to the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

Dick Cheney dies at 84

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Dick Cheney, a driving force behind the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, who was considered by presidential historians as one of the most powerful vice presidents in US history, passed away at age 84, his family said on Tuesday. In a statement, his family said that Cheney died on Monday from complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease. The Republican – a former Wyoming congressman and secretary of defense – was already a major Washington player when then-Texas governor George W Bush chose him to be his running mate in the 2000 presidential race that Bush went on to win. As vice president from 2001 to 2009, Cheney fought vigorously for an expansion of the power of the presidency.

Four India-sponsored terrorists killed in Balochistan IBO: ISPR

Military's media wing says intelligence-based operation conducted in Kalat district

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Security forces neutralised four terrorists belonging to Indian-proxy, Fitna al-Hindustan, during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Balochistan's Kalat district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday. The military's media wing said that security forces on the night of November 1, 2025, conducted an IBO on the reported presence of militants belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al Hindustan. "During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and, resultantly, four Indian-sponsored terrorists were sent to hell," the ISPR added. It said that weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities. The ISPR statement further said a sanitisation operation was commenced to eliminate any other Indian sponsored terrorists found in the area. It added that the relentless counterterrorism campaign under vision "Azm-e-Istehkam" – as approved by the federal apex committee on the National Action Plan (Nap) by security forces and law enforcement agencies will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

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President, PM praise armed forces for successful operation in Kalat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out a successful intelligence-based operation in Kalat district of Balochistan. The president and prime minister, in their separately issued statements, praised the forces for killing four India-backed terrorists, calling it a great achievement for national security. He said that the entire nation stood with the security forces and remained committed to the complete eradication of the scourge of terrorism. Appreciating the resolve and steadfastness of the security forces and law enforcement agencies, the president, who is currently on an official visit to Qatar, said that the continuation of Operation "Azm-e-Istehkam" against anti-state elements was

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Iran- Pakistan: renewing the bonds of brotherhood

MOHAMMAD BAQER QALIBAF



IT is a profound honor and great pleasure to be among my brothers and sisters in Pakistan. Your country, Pakistan, is a significant and influential member of the Islamic world and an important partner in our region. The relationship between our two nations is deeply rooted, encompassing cultural, religious, political, and economic dimensions. Yet, for us Iranians, the value of Pakistan extends far beyond conventional state-to-state relations – it is a bond of heart and faith. Iran and Pakistan are two brotherly nations bound together by enduring affection and mutual respect. This fraternity between our people is the most valuable asset our governments share. Iran and Pakistan enjoy profound cultural and civilizational commonal-

ties, underpinned by a shared history, faith, and vision for peace and progress. Iran was proud to be the first country to recognize Pakistan's independence, and ever since, our two nations have maintained a steadfast relationship of cooperation and goodwill. Eminent figures such as Allama Iqbal Lahori stand as timeless symbols of the intellectual and spiritual unity between our nations. His poetry and philosophy embody the shared aspirations of the people of Iran and Pakistan. Both the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have strong, vibrant, and influential parliaments. The tradition of parliamentary diplomacy between our two nations has long been active and productive. In the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, we are committed to deepening cooperation with the Parliament of Pakistan and to supporting our respective governments in strengthening relations across all sectors. Iran and Pakistan possess vast potential for the further expansion of bilateral economic cooperation. The economies of our two countries complement each other in many areas. Border trade markets represent one of the key mechanisms that must be further developed to enhance cross-border

commerce and realize our shared goal of achieving \$10 billion in bilateral trade. Iran and Pakistan also face common challenges and share common adversaries. Both nations have endured the pain of terrorism and have been at the forefront of the fight against it, offering great sacrifices in the pursuit of peace and stability. Alongside this struggle, our two nations have stood united in their unwavering support for the oppressed people of Palestine, raising a clear and principled voice against injustice and occupation. The Zionist regime remains the principal threat to peace and security across the Islamic world. Its brutal aggression in Gaza has once again exposed its inhumane and expansionist nature. From the very first day of this conflict, Iran and Pakistan have expressed solidarity with the Palestinian cause and will continue to do so unwaveringly. The twelve-day imposed war launched by Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran was yet another manifestation of this regime's hostility and aggression. The people and armed forces of Iran, however, responded with strength and dignity, defending their sovereignty and delivering a firm response to the ag-

gressor. I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the government, parliament, and great people of Pakistan for their fraternal support and solidarity during those difficult days. Iran and Pakistan will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder in the face of shared challenges, guided by the belief that the security of Pakistan is inseparable from the security of Iran. Our two countries have long enjoyed close and friendly relations, rooted in mutual trust and brotherhood. As we have preserved this solidarity through the years, so too must we strengthen it in the years ahead. Together, under the sacred banner of Islam, we must strive to remove barriers to cooperation and work for the prosperity, dignity, and progress of both our nations. Once again, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by my brothers in the Parliament of Pakistan. I pray to Almighty God for the continued peace, prosperity, and success of the great nation and government of Pakistan. – The writer is the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran

PBM, MMBL sign agreement to introduce EBVS for beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step toward enhancing transparency and financial inclusion, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has officially signed an agreement with Mobilink Microfinance Bank Ltd. (MMBL) to introduce electronic biometric verification system (EBVS) for beneficiaries under the organization's social protection programs. The agreement signing ceremony took place at PBM Head Office here on Tuesday, attended by Managing Director PBM Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt, CEO JazzCash Murtaza Ali and senior officials from both organizations, said a press release. Director General Projects PBM Prof. Dr. Zeeshan Danish gave a detailed briefing about the ongoing social welfare missions of the organization. The collaboration aims to ensure secure, efficient, and transparent disbursement of financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries across the country. Under this partnership, MMBL will integrate biometric verification technology into its digital payment platform, enabling beneficiaries to receive funds through secure biometric authentication methods. — APP

Junaid seeks stronger maritime ties with Romania to boost blue economy



DNA

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry and Romanian Ambassador Dr. Dan Stoenescu discussed closer cooperation between Karachi Port and Romania's Port of Constanța, focusing on logistics integration, trade facilitation, and regional connectivity. Rear Admiral Atiq-ur-Rehman, Acting Chairman of the Karachi Port Trust, also attended the meeting. The minister said Pakistan wants to play a bigger role in global maritime trade by building linkages that connect the Middle East, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa. He highlighted the potential of connecting Pakistani ports with the Port of Constanța to expand access to European

markets and advance the blue economy. Junaid Chaudhry noted that Pakistan's number of operational ports is expected to rise to six in the coming years, with existing ports reaching full capacity before 2047. Strengthening maritime infrastructure and connectivity, he said, is key to turning Pakistan into a major industrial and trade hub. Both sides discussed capacity building and agreed to explore training and exchange programs in areas such as maritime safety, port operations, environmental management, and digital logistics. The minister said developing a skilled workforce to manage next-generation port systems is central to Pakistan's modernization plans. Ambassador Stoenescu praised the quality of Pakistani exports and expressed Romania's interest in importing sports goods,

surgical instruments, and agricultural products. He reaffirmed Romania's commitment to strengthening economic and diplomatic ties with Pakistan, calling maritime cooperation a practical way to deepen regional integration and shared prosperity. The talks also covered opportunities for private sector participation and investment in port infrastructure. Both sides expressed optimism about opening new trade routes and reinforcing Pakistan's position as a regional maritime hub. Junaid Chaudhry said stronger partnerships with European countries like Romania would help diversify Pakistan's export markets while supporting regional stability through economic cooperation and innovation. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to expand collaboration across economic, educational, and cultural sectors, reflecting the growing partnership between Pakistan and Romania.

FGP, IRP agree to explore technology enabled community uplift

ISLAMABAD: Freedom Gate Prosperity (FGP) and Islamic Relief Pakistan (IRP), during a meeting on Tuesday, agreed to utilize modern technology to strengthen communities, enhance livelihoods, and support climate-resilient development. The meeting brought together senior representatives from both organizations to explore potential areas of partnership in community empowerment, livelihood improvement, climate adaptation, and digital innovation for social impact. The FGP delegation was led by Muhammad Anwar, CEO of Freedom Gate Prosperity, and included Shafqat Aziz (Head of Climate Change), Sabrina Shahzad (Advocacy and Communication Specialist), and Asad Rafi, CEO of Micronox, FGP's digital innovation partner. The IRP team was headed by Raza Narejo, Deputy Country Director, along with senior members from the programs, partnerships, and humanitarian response divisions, including Safi Pirzada and Muhammad Asiq Iqbal. Speaking on the occasion, Raza Narejo commended FGP's integrated approach to sustainable and inclusive development.—APP



Islamabad: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif presenting souvenir to Robert-Jan Siebert, Ambassador of Netherlands.

ISSI hosts discussion on “Pakistan and South Asia towards partnership, Peace

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable Discussion on “Pakistan and South Asia: Towards Progress, Partnership & Peace” with a visiting U.S. delegation headed by Imran Shaukat, Founder and Chairman, JOBS Group. Other distinguished members included: Skip Waskin, Chief Executive Officer, International Solutions; Anthony Renzulli, Associate Partner, Albright Stonebridge Group; Jon Danilowicz, Editor, South Asia Perspectives; Maureen Shauket, Chief Operating Officer, URC; Elizabeth Threlkeld, Senior Fellow and Director, South Asia Program, Stimson Center; and Michael Kugelman, former Director, South Asia Institute, Wilson Center. The RT brought together former diplomats, practitioners, and South Asia experts from both the U.S. and Pakistan for an in-depth exchange on pathways to regional progress, partnership, and peace in South Asia. In his remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood set the tone for the discussion by underlining the timeliness and significance of the discourse on the theme. He noted that while South Asia possesses immense potential for economic development and regional integration, its progress continues to be constrained by structural inequalities, political divisions, and a persistent trust deficit. Drawing parallels with ASEAN's cooperative approach, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized that a similar “habit of dialogue and culture of cooperation” is essential for South Asia to achieve shared prosperity. He highlighted Pakistan's readiness to promote inclusive development and regional connectivity as part of a broader vision for peace and stability in the region. Mr. Imran Shaukat expressed gratitude to ISSI for facilitating a constructive policy dialogue and emphasized the importance of engaging Pakistan's youth and private sector in regional initiatives to drive innovation and growth. He noted that Pakistan's future lies in fostering self-reliance, expanding cultural and business linkages, and adopting regional models of cooperation inspired by ASEAN's spirit of collaboration. The delegation members and participants from Pakistan shared valuable perspectives on regional cooperation, connectivity, and human capital development. They appreciated ISSI's initiative in providing a platform for informed dialogue on South Asia's evolving regional architecture and underscored the importance of sustained engagement to address shared challenges and explore new avenues for cooperation. Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), ISSI, welcomed the participants and highlighted the need to reimagine regional development and cooperation in South Asia. In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, Board of Governors, ISSI, appreciated the thoughtful inputs shared by participants and reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to fostering constructive regional discourse and partnerships that advance peace and prosperity in South Asia.—DNA

Gilani asks CDA to make befitting arrangements for ISC



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday instructed the Capital Development Authority to make befitting arrangements for the upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), scheduled to be held here

on November 11–12, 2025. The acting president, talking to CDA Chairman Mohammed Ali Randhawa, who called on him, said that as the event would bring together parliamentary leaders from across the world, the capital city should

reflect Pakistan's hospitality and organisational excellence during the conference. Randhawa briefed the acting president on the ongoing development schemes in the federal capital and the progress of key infrastructure projects. — DNA



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BY THE AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER FINAL/ ACTUAL RLNG SALES PRICES FOR CONSUMERS OF SUI NORTHERN PIPELINES LIMITED (SNGPL) FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 01, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2022.

OGRA Ordinance 2002 through its amendment vide SRO F.9(3)/2022-Legis dated March 03, 2022 by inserting Section 43(B) therein, read with Policy Guidelines approved by Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, as amended from time to time and subsequently conveyed by Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Division vide its letters No.DGO(AC)-5(235)/15-LNG dated July 27, 2015, No.DGO(AC)-5(235)/15-LNG-Vol-1-Pt dated June 27, 2016 and DGO(AC)-5(26)/2023-24 dated November 7, 2023, the Authority is empowered to determine and notify the RLNG Sales Prices for the consumers of SNGPL & SSGCL.

OGRA had been issuing the provisional RLNG prices for the consumers of SNGPL/SSGCL since April, 2015, on monthly basis. In accordance with the Policy Guidelines issued by Federal Government, the main components of the RLNG Prices are defined as; RLNG quantity, Retainage, Transmission & Distribution Losses, Delivery Ex. Ship (DES) price, Port/Terminal Charges and other import related cost, PSO/PPL Margin, LSA fee, Exchange Gain/Loss and Cost of Supply SSGCL/SNGPL etc.

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has submitted RLNG actualization data provided by all stakeholders vide their letter dated 4th July 2023 along with the supporting documents, its working / computations based on the audited reports for the relevant financial years with OGRA for determination and notification of final / actual RLNG Sales prices. The details of these prices are available at OGRA's official website i.e. www.ogra.org.pk along-with monthly summary.

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 43(B) of OGRA Ordinance 2002 (XVII) read with the Policy Guidelines approved by the ECC of the Cabinet, the Authority has determined and notified actual RLNG Sale Prices in respect of consumers of SNGPL on December 24, 2024 and revised the same on 28th March 2025.

After issuance of the above RLNG Sales Prices notification M/S Mahmood Textiles Ltd & others VS FOP etc. filled Writ Petition No 9522 of 2025 before the Honorable Lahore High Court Multan Bench. The authority in compliance of the court order dated 11-09-2025 has decided to hold a public hearing and consider that all the consumers of the RLNG, stakeholders alongwith other petitioners pending in others courts of law across Pakistan may be extended an opportunity of hearing to attend & submit their comments, reservation, suggestions and intervention in respect of RLNG Sales prices for the months of April 2015 to June 2022.

Authority invites all interested/affected persons including gas consumers and general public to furnish their comments, suggestions and intervention requests before the Authority. All correspondence in this connection may be addressed to Senior Registrar, OGRA and should contain the names and addresses of interveners.

All interveners/comments must indicate the way they are likely to be affected by determination of the Authority in this case. Intervention request should be accompanied by an affidavit verifying the contents of the intervention, intervention fee of Rs.500/- (demand draft in favour of OGRA) and authority letter, if representing an organization. Furthermore, for online participation, please contact at the email given below.

All relevant documents with respect to the matter are available on OGRA's official website which can also be obtained on payment of prescribed charges of Rs.2/- per page from the office of Senior Registrar, OGRA, Islamabad through given email. For any information required from Sui Company, please contact:

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

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

Date : **November 14, 2025 (Friday)**
Time : **11:30 A.M.**
Venue: **Serena Hotel, Peshawar**

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

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

Public Service Message:

PID(I)3722/25

گیس کی جان لیوا حادثات کا سبب بن سکتی ہے، احتیاطی تدابیر پیش بنائیں اور حادثات سے بچیں۔

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

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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



ISLAMABAD: Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, former Foreign Minister and member of the Board of Governors and Board of Directors of Beaconhouse National University, presents souvenir to Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani at the closing ceremony of the School of Tomorrow (SOT) Conference, held under the auspices of the Beaconhouse School System.

NAVTTC, NETSOL partners to provide 1,600 youth tech training

ISLAMABAD: The National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) and NETSOL Technologies have launched a major initiative to up-skill Pakistan's youth, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide 1,600 fully-funded scholarships in high-demand technology fields. The "National AI Upskilling Initiative," signed into effect today, will deliver comprehensive training in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, and Cybersecurity. As a cornerstone of the program, participants will also have the opportunity to earn international certifications from recognized global bodies, with all training provided completely free of cost. Mr. Muhammad Aamir Jan, Executive Director of NAVTTC, emphasized the initiative's strategic importance. "This partnership is a strategic leap under our Industry-Led Trainings component in our mission to future-proof Pakistan's workforce," he stated. "By providing free, certified training in these frontier technologies, we are not just creating job seekers but future innovators and entrepreneurs who will drive our national economy forward. NAVTTC is committed to ensuring our youth are not left behind but are leading the charge in the global digital revolution." The initiative, a key component of the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program (PMYSDP 2023-2026), was formalized at a signing ceremony between Mr. Muhammad Aamir Jan and NETSOL's CEO & Founder, Mr. Salim Ghauri. Mr. Ghauri expressed his strong support, stating, "I would like to thank the NAVTTC team for bringing this collaboration to fruition. We have been in business for 30 years with very limited partners because we believe in quality and maintaining standards. It has been a longstanding wish to venture into education, but we didn't want to do it commercially. These trainings will help Pakistan and its youth and contribute to our economy as well." Designed to directly address the global skills gap, the "National AI Upskilling Initiative" aims to create a robust pipeline of tech talent, empowering a new generation to contribute to Pakistan's growing digital ecosystem and compete effectively in the international market. About NAVTTC: National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) was established in 2005 to regulate & manage TVET Sector in Pakistan. NAVTTC, under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, is the apex body mandated to promote, facilitate, regulate, strategize, revamp, approve curricula, train, and provide policy direction for the country's entire Technical & Vocational Education and Training and development system.

Call for institutional reforms to tap loss, damage fund ahead of COP30

ISLAMABAD: As the global community gears up for COP30, Pakistan faces an urgent need to strengthen governance, institutional readiness, and local resilience, and clarify access mechanisms to effectively benefit from the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD). While the fund presents a critical opportunity for Pakistan, persistent gaps in governance, capacity, accreditation, and project preparedness continue to impede timely access. Building climate resilience demands integrated planning, a better understanding of financing processes, bankable projects, and locally driven approaches. Without these, Pakistan risks remaining on the margins of emerging global climate finance flows, designed to compensate developing nations for climate-induced losses. Climate experts stressed this during a roundtable titled 'Operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund: Expectations Ahead of COP30,' held at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The event was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ali Tauqeer Shaikh, senior climate expert and FRLD board member, Afia Malik, senior energy economist, Muhammad Hammad Bashir, climate finance expert, Dr Saira Qaiser, director policy, Pakistan Academy of Science, Talha Tufail, research officer, Institute of Regional Studies, Dr Irfan Yousaf, climate expert and consultant, World Bank, and Hamid Sarfaraz, climate expert. Speaking on the evolving global framework of the Loss and Damage Fund, Ali Tauqeer explained that loss and damage financing is distinct from mitigation and adaptation efforts, as it compensates developing countries for the costs of building resilience. He informed that direct budget support under the fund has been confirmed but remains non-operational, pending adoption of the risk management framework. Tauqeer further pointed out that procedural obstructions are slowing direct access to the fund, and until national accreditation is achieved, countries will have to rely on multilateral entities for access. He emphasized that projects must demonstrate country ownership, measurable results, and complementarity with national systems, with 50 percent allocation for least developed countries and geographic balance as guiding principles. Furthermore, Afia Malik highlighted that extreme weather events are already imposing heavy costs on Pakistan's energy infrastructure. She pointed out that power distribution companies have not upgraded their systems to make them climate-resilient, emphasizing the need for climate risk assessments in procurement processes and least-cost planning that accounts for resilience.—DNA

Germano Penemote, HR Minister review minority support initiatives

ISLAMABAD: Archbishop Germano Penemote, the Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See to Pakistan, met with Federal Minister for Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, in Islamabad to review key government efforts supporting religious minorities. The discussion focused on a wide range of initiatives aimed at ensuring the protection, inclusion, and advancement of religious minorities across the country. These included: Improved security and restoration of places of worship, strengthened mechanisms to promote equality and safeguard minority rights, provision of educational scholarships and financial support to underprivileged minority families. Minister of State for Law & Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, was also present during the meeting. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar expressed the government's deep appreciation for the longstanding and invaluable contributions of the Christian community to Pakistan, particularly in the fields of education, health, and social welfare. He noted that Christian missionary schools, colleges, and hospitals have played a pivotal role in educating and uplifting generations of Pakistanis, underscoring the community's enduring commitment to nation-building and public service. Archbishop Germano Penemote conveyed his deep appreciation for the government's consistent efforts and acknowledged their positive impact on minority communities. He further reaffirmed the Church's commitment to promoting peace, social harmony, and interfaith dialogue in Pakistan. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar reiterated Pakistan's constitutional and international human rights commitments, emphasizing the Ministry's resolve to build a society where every citizen, regardless of faith, enjoys equal rights, security, and meaningful participation in national life.

PPRA, HBL sign cash management agreement

ISLAMABAD: The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has made significant progress in its digital transformation efforts to align with the national vision for a modern cashless digital economy by entering into a "Cash Management Agreement" with Habib Bank Limited (HBL) here on Monday. This agreement aims to facilitate the digitization of receipts through HBL Mobile Banking and 1BILL/1LINK platforms among PPRA, procuring agencies, bidders, and all other relevant stakeholders involved in the public procurement process, said a press release. Ali Asghar Bhutto, Director (Finance) and Ateeq Haider Baig, Director (IT), signed the agreement on behalf of the PPRA, and Farwa Malik, Umer Malik, and Muhammad Irfan represented the HBL at the ceremony. PPRA's Managing Director, Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi, and other officials witnessed the signing ceremony. MD PPRA underscored the authority's commitment to advancing the digitization process through electronic payments and receipts, thus supporting the Prime Minister's vision of a cashless economy.—APP

IRSA releases 106,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 106,300 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 54,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1542.27 feet which was 140.27 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 29,200 cusecs and 52,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1231.75 feet, which was 181.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 5,700 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively.—APP

MoU signed to boost news sharing

ISLAMABAD: Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) and the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for newsharing cooperation during a virtual ceremony held via Zoom. The signing took place in the presence of Pakistan's Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Zafar Iqbal, Managing Director APP Muhammad Asim Khichi, and KUNA Acting Director General Mohammed AlMannaie, along with senior officials from both sides. Ambassador Dr Zafar introduced the officials from both news agencies and congratulated them on what he termed a "historic day" for Pakistan-Kuwait relations and the beginning of a new era in media cooperation.—APP

Ex-President RCCI's wife laid to rest

ISLAMABAD: The wife of Dr. Hasan Sarosh, former President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, mother of Hamza Sarosh, former Senior Vice President, and Yasir Sarosh; and mother-in-law of Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of UBG, passed away by the will of Allah Almighty. Her funeral prayer was offered on the other hand, after which she was laid to rest at H-11 Graveyard, Islamabad, amid tears and prayers. A large number of people attended the funeral, including MNA Malik Abrar, former MNA Mian Muhammad Aslam, Zafar Bakhtawari (Secretary General UBG), Punjab Health Advisor Zahid Bakhtawari, Abid Bakhtawari, Waqar Bakhtawari, Haris Bakhtawari, Uzair Bakhtawari, Arham Bakhtawari, RCCI Group Leader Sohail Altaf, President Usman Shoaib, former Presidents Saqib Rafiq, Asad Mashhadi, Raja Amir Iqbal, Chaudhry Abdul Rauf, Nadeem Rauf, Sheikh Manzoor Khurshid, Rahat Qudoosi, Sheikh Siddiq, Dr. Shamael Dawood, Chaudhry Iqbal, Chaudhry Imran Rasheed, ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, ICC Council Member Abdul Rauf Alam, Khalid Javed, Mian Akram Fareed, Mian Shoaib Masood, Nasir Qureshi, Aamir Waheed, Ijaz Abbasi, Chaudhry Masood, President Anjuman-e-Tajiranj Ajmal Baloch, President Talagang Chamber Malik Shabbir Awan, Babar Chaudhry, Nasir Chaudhry, Ruhail Anwar Butt, Malik Abdul Aziz, Nisar Mirza, Khalid Chaudhry, Raja Mujahid Officer, Saifur Rehman, Ameer Hamza, and a large number of members from the Rawalpindi-Islamabad business community, along with various social and political figures.—DNA



Briefs

High-quality
sesame
seeds
bearing
fruit across
Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "This year's sesame varieties were selected by the expert, and with the accompanying planting techniques, my sesame is now of high quality and high yield, which can also be exported to generate income," China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. Sesame is one of Pakistan's traditional crops, with Punjab province as the largest sesame-producing region in Pakistan. Historically, local varieties have suffered from slightly weaker resistance to adverse conditions, lower yields, and significant annual yield fluctuations. In the fields of Sahiwal, Arif Rafiq Farista could be seen busy putting bags of plump sesame seeds into storage, with joy evident on his face. Professor Zhang Lixin from Northwest A&F University (NWAU), whom Arif referred to the Chinese expert, co-founded the Silk Road Bio-Health Agriculture Industry Alliance in 2017. From the initial three Pakistani member units, it has now grown to 13 member institutions covering Pakistan's main agricultural production areas, continuously expanding the bridge for Sino-Pakistani agricultural science and technology cooperation.

Pakistan,
Switzerland
vow to enhance
Education,
development
coop

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Wajiha Qamar, met with, Foreign Minister of Switzerland, Ignazio Cassis on the sidelines of the 43rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. During the meeting, both sides discussed avenues to enhance bilateral cooperation in education, vocational training, research, and sustainable development, said a press release issued here. They emphasized the importance of knowledge exchange, innovation, and institutional linkages to equip youth with future-ready skills. Wajiha Qamar highlighted Pakistan's ongoing education reforms focused on inclusive learning, digital literacy, and skill development, underscoring the government's commitment to improving access and quality across all levels of education. She appreciated Switzerland's support for global education and development programs and expressed Pakistan's interest in expanding collaboration in the technical and higher education sectors. Ignazio Cassis acknowledged Pakistan's active role at UNESCO and praised its efforts in promoting equitable education and capacity-building initiatives.—APP

CPEC
metro train
celebrated
5 years of
successful
operation

ISLAMABAD: First electric railway transportation project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) "The Orange Line Metro Rail (OLMT)" Lahore celebrated its 5th year of successful operation with a grand event organized at its Head Office, Depot Harbanspura, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. The celebration marked five years of safe, efficient, and uninterrupted operations, symbolizing the strong and growing friendship between Pakistan and China. On the occasion, in his speech Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shiren commended the Lahore Orange Line Metro Rail for its five years of safe and efficient operation and extended congratulations to all stakeholders. He highlighted that the project exemplifies the professional partnership and joint venture spirit between China and Pakistan, rejecting the notion that it was merely a "gift.—APP

Musadik Malik warns of
'weaponisation of water'

The minister warned that lower riparian countries — those located downstream on shared rivers — faced growing risks as powerful upstream nations sought control over water flows

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Dr Musadik Malik, on Tuesday warned that the world is moving towards a dangerous new order marked by the "weaponisation of water" and growing injustice in global climate politics.

Speaking at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute's (SDPI) 28th Sustainable Development Conference at the Allama Iqbal Open University in Islam-

abad, Dr Malik said the collapse of multilateral cooperation was pushing the world into an era of conflict and competition.

"Multilateralism is dying," he told delegates. "It's landing its way to bilateralism, and now mostly to unilateralism. The new politics of the world is not moving towards cooperation. You are going to see more wars, more conflict, and more weaponisation."

The minister warned that lower riparian countries — those located downstream on shared rivers — faced growing risks as powerful upstream nations sought control over water flows.

"Water is becoming the next weapon," he said. "Once the precedent is set for upper riparian countries to control water, what will come next — the weaponisation of wind?" Dr Malik also criticised what he described as hypocrisy in global climate finance, accusing major polluters of benefiting the most from green funding. He said that 40% of the world's carbon emissions were produced by just two countries, while ten nations accounted for 75% — yet the same ten received around 85% of global green financing. "Countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh emit less than one

percent of global emissions," he said. "The countries that consume the environment don't pay the price. They should be charged for the oxygen they consume and the carbon dioxide and methane they emit. This is not justice — it's the industrial policy of big carbon emitters." Recalling Pakistan's 2022 floods, which killed up to 2,000 people and displaced more than eight million, Dr Malik said the disaster underscored the human cost of climate change. Economic losses were estimated between \$32bn and \$40bn — about 15–18% of the country's GDP.

He added that Pakistan ranked 167th out of 180 nations in progress towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, saying the country must "find sustainability in an era of global disorder." "This conference is not about the past — it's about the future," he said. "We must speak the truth and stand up for climate justice."

The SDPI's annual Sustainable Development Conference brings together international experts, academics and policymakers to discuss the challenges of achieving sustainable growth amid climate and geopolitical instability.

New parliament lodges
block nears completion
after 13-year delay

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The long-delayed new block of Parliament Lodges, pending for 13 years since 2012, is finally nearing completion. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the under-construction site

to review progress on the ongoing work. During his visit, the minister directed that the project be completed within the stipulated timeframe and emphasized maintaining the highest standards of construction quality. He instructed officials to ensure round-the-clock progress by working in three

shifts to expedite completion. Minister Naqvi said that the completion of the long-stalled project would provide parliamentarians with improved and high-quality residential facilities. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to completing all public welfare projects, including those

at Parliament Lodges, within their deadlines. Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa gave a detailed briefing to the interior minister on the project's progress. CDA Member Engineering and other senior officials also accompanied the minister during the visit.

IT professional
warns parents to
boost digital literacy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Recognizing the surge in digital risks faced by children, an IT expert on Tuesday emphasized the need for a well-structured online safety framework that integrates educational curricula, parental control systems, digital literacy programs for parents and community-driven awareness efforts to address cyberbullying and online exploitation. While exclusively speaking with a private channel, an IT expert Syed Abdul Qadir emphasized the urgent need for a structured online safety framework to protect children from the rising

dangers of cyberbullying, online exploitation and digital abuse. Abdul Qadir stressed that parents must regularly monitor their children's online activities and equally, develop their own digital literacy to understand the platforms, risks and safety tools their children engage with. The expert further noted that awareness drives and curriculum-based online safety education should be prioritized to build digital resilience among young users. He urged collaboration between parents, educators, and policymakers to promote responsible internet habits, create safer online spaces, and ensure that technology remains a tool for learn-

ing and growth not harm. Highlighting the growing concern over digital crimes and unsafe gaming environments, the expert warned that many online games and chat platforms have become breeding grounds for cyberbullying, fraud, and exposure to inappropriate content. He advised parents to use secure gaming controls, limit screen time and maintain open communication with children about their online interactions. Strengthening cyber laws, enhancing parental awareness, and integrating digital ethics into education, he said, are key steps toward curbing digital crimes and promoting a culture of online responsibility. In 2022, a

national report revealed alarming figures, indicating that nearly 20 lakh children were subjected to various forms of online exploitation and harassment, adding, the findings underscored the urgent need for stronger bonds between parents, teachers and children to build a united front against digital abuse. Experts stressed that a healthy relationship and regular communication among parents, educators and students can play a decisive role in identifying early warning signs of exploitation, guiding children toward safe online practices and fostering a culture of trust and awareness within homes and schools alike.

CPEC's 2×330 MW
Thar Power Projects
reach completion
milestone

ISLAMABAD: The lenders of two 330-megawatt coal-fired power projects in Thar, developed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), have declared the Project Completion Date (PCD) on October 31, 2025, according to filings made by Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC), The Hub Power Company Limited (HUBCO), and Thal Limited to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). According to official documents available with Gwadar Pro, lenders of Thar Energy Limited (TEL) and Thal Nova Power Thar (Private) Limited (TN) have declared the occurrence of the PCD for their respective 2×330 MW mine-mouth coal-fired power plants on October 31, 2025. The announcements were formally conveyed to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on November 3 by FFC, HUBCO, and Thal Limited, the key stakeholders in the Thar energy complex. In its disclosure, FFC stated, "We are pleased to inform you that the lenders of Thar Energy Limited (TEL) have declared the occurrence of 'Project Completion Date' of the 330 MW power plant on October 31, 2025. ... TEL is a mine-mouth coal-fired IPP operating in Thar, which successfully achieved Commercial Operations Date on October 1, 2022. FFC holds 30 percent shares in TEL." The company added that the declaration "will enable TEL to pay dividend to its shareholders subject to availability of distributable profits and completion of procedural approvals," noting that the milestone "demonstrates FFC's commitment to protect the interests of its shareholders and giving them the best possible value." In a similar filing, Hubco confirmed that the lenders of both TEL and TN had announced their completion dates, calling it "a monumental occasion" for the company and its investors. The statement read: "The declaration of PCD for both TEL and TN is a monumental occasion for the Company as it will enable TEL and TN to pay dividend to their shareholders ... The achievement of PCD further demonstrates Hubco's commitment to protect the interests of its shareholders and giving them the best possible value." Hubco directly holds 60 percent shares in TEL, and indirectly, through its wholly owned subsidiary Hub Power Holdings Limited, 38.3 percent shares in TN. Both projects are recognized as priority projects under CPEC, reflecting their strategic importance in Pakistan's power development agenda. Thal Limited, another leading investor in the Thar power cluster, also informed the PSX that lenders of Thal Nova Power Thar (Private) Limited (TN) had declared the project complete on October 31, 2025. Its official statement said: "TN is a mine-mouth coal-fired IPP operating in Thar, which successfully achieved Commercial Operations Date on February 17, 2023. Thal Limited, through its wholly owned subsidiary Thal Power (Private) Limited, holds 26 percent shares in TN." It added that the milestone "is a monumental occasion for the Company as it will enable TN to pay dividend to its shareholders ... and further demonstrates Thal's commitment to protect the interests of its shareholders and giving them the best possible value.—DNA

Citizens
urged to
stay alert
as dengue
spreads

ISLAMABAD: Raising concern over the growing number of cases, health experts Tuesday appealed to healthcare professionals, district administrations and other stakeholders to step up awareness and prevention measures as the situation could worsen through December. While speaking with a local news channel, dengue expert Dr. Faheem expressed serious concern over the rising number of dengue cases across several districts, adding, if timely preventive measures are not taken, the situation could worsen in the coming weeks, with cases likely to remain high through December. Dr. Faheem emphasized that the recent surge is largely due to stagnant water accumulation following intermittent rains, which provides ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. He urged local authorities to intensify fumigation drives, clear clogged drains, and promote awareness about early detection and treatment. Highlighting the critical role of public cooperation, Dr. Faheem called on citizens to regularly inspect their homes and surroundings, eliminate standing water, and use mosquito repellents.—APP

Ahsan urges
joint regional
action for
climate
resilience

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday called for deeper regional cooperation to achieve sustainable development and build resilience against climate change, describing South Asia as "the frontline of converging crises that threaten both lives and livelihoods." "The road to enduring peace and prosperity is paved with sustainable development. Nowhere does this clarion call echo louder than in our region - South Asia, home to nearly two billion souls, a quarter of humanity's heartbeat," he said while addressing the 28th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC -2025) here at the Allama Iqbal Open University. He said South Asia remained a region of immense potential yet profound challenges. "This is a tapestry of boundless human ingenuity and untapped economic dynamism. Yet, despite remarkable strides, over 380 million South Asians remain trapped in multidimensional poverty, and one in three children battles stunting," he added.—APP

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Kundi stresses
youth leadership

He urged local governments to collaborate with youth organizations to effectively implement the Green Pakistan initiative, emphasizing that concrete and practical steps are essential to complete plans into reality

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has emphasized that confronting the challenges of climate change requires collective resolve and practical action. He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is directly facing the adverse impacts of environmental changes, adding that youth must be

prepared to take a leading role in climate action and be placed at the center of sustainable national development policies. He expressed these views while addressing the National Climate Conference of Youth 2025 as the chief guest at Iqra University, Islamabad, on Tuesday. The event was attended by CEO of the National Youth Club for Climate Change (NYCCC) Umair Mufakkar, students,

and environmental activists. Governor Kundi congratulated the organizers and partner institutions on successfully holding the important conference, terming it a significant platform for youth engagement in climate resilience. He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa witnessed severe effects of climate change this year and stressed the need to turn these challenges into economic op-

portunities. Highlighting the critical role of young people, Governor Kundi remarked that youth are not merely stakeholders but the future leaders of the climate movement. He urged local governments to collaborate with youth organizations to effectively implement the Green Pakistan initiative, emphasizing that concrete and practical steps are essential to complete plans into reality.

Encroachments in Islamabad's sector G-8 growing unchecked

ENCROACHMENTS in Islamabad's Sector G-8 have reached alarming proportions, turning once orderly streets into congested corridors of chaos. Despite repeated complaints from residents, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) appear to be doing little beyond issuing hollow statements and conducting superficial operations that fail to address the root of the problem. Over the past several years, open spaces, service roads, and even footpaths in G-8 Markaz and surrounding areas have been overtaken by car showrooms, workshops, and informal businesses. What was originally planned as a commercial and residential hub has now become a sprawling encroachment zone, where every inch of public space seems to have been commercialized. The most glaring violations are visible outside car showrooms that have virtually taken over service roads and footpaths, using them as parking lots and display areas for their vehicles. In some stretches, particularly in G-8 Markaz and G-8/4, pedestrians are forced to walk on the roads as sidewalks are completely blocked by cars. Residents complain that the CDA enforcement teams turn a blind eye to these blatant encroachments, allowing businesses to operate freely in violation of municipal by-laws. "The situation has become unbearable," said a resident of G-8. "We cannot even park our own cars near our homes because showrooms and workshops occupy every available space. The CDA only wakes up when media highlights the issue, and even then, they just remove a few temporary setups and leave the main violators untouched." The Islamabad Traffic Police, too, have been criticized for what locals describe as "lip service" and "cosmetic actions." Despite visible traffic chaos in and around the Markaz, ITP's response has been limited to placing cones or posting officers for a few hours. Vehicles parked illegally on footpaths, greenbelts, and double lanes remain unchecked. Traffic congestion during peak hours has become routine, particularly around the main commercial areas and near the G-8/4 government offices such as AGPR, PEM-RA, PTCL, POST OFFICE etc. Commuters often find themselves trapped in long lines of traffic, made worse by haphazard parking and unauthorized roadside businesses. "Every other day there's a traffic jam here. Instead of clearing the encroachments, the authorities just fine a few drivers and move on," complained a shopkeeper. Urban planners and civic activists say the unchecked encroachments reflect a deeper governance failure. "The CDA's enforcement wing is either under pressure from commercial interests or simply lacks the will to act. This kind of neglect not only ruins the city's aesthetics but also discourages law-abiding citizens," remarked a former CDA official on condition of anonymity. Residents have demanded immediate and meaningful action not just symbolic drives to reclaim public spaces. They are calling for strict enforcement of building and parking regulations, removal of illegal car showrooms, and continuous monitoring to prevent re-encroachment.

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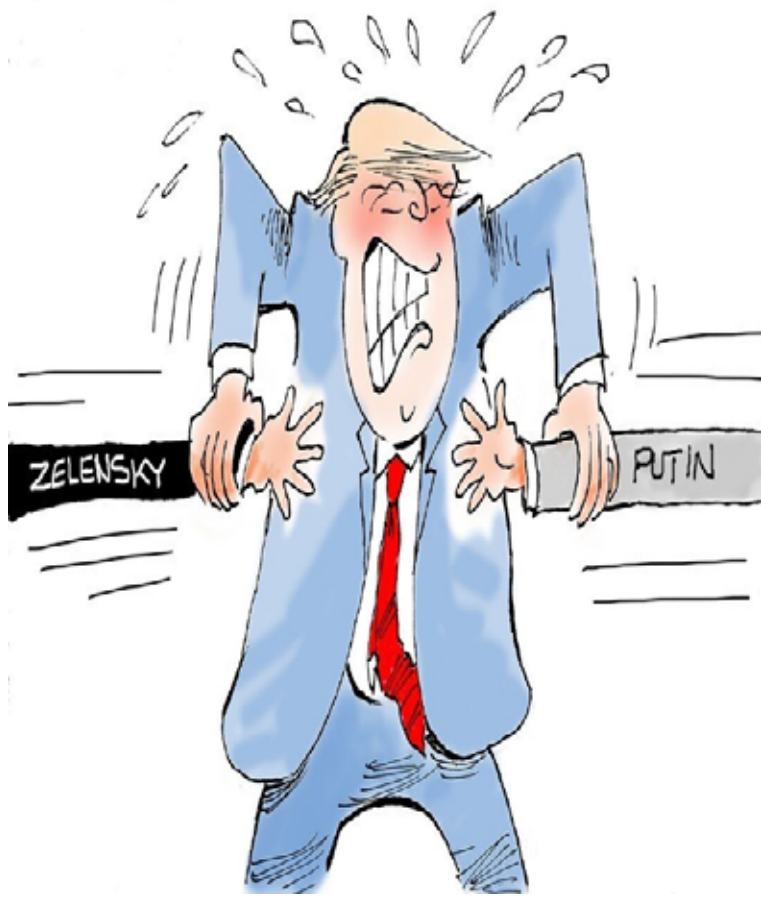
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Negligence and fee hike render Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground practically useless

THE once-vibrant Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground in Islamabad lies in a state of disrepair, a stark reminder of the Pakistan Sports Board's (PSB) negligence and poor administrative decisions. A place that once echoed with the rhythm of hockey sticks and the dreams of young athletes now wears a deserted look. The reasons are many, but the most glaring is the sharp increase in ground usage fees that has effectively priced out local clubs and athletes. In recent months, the PSB raised the ground usage fee by nearly 300 percent, a move that has shocked and disappointed the local hockey community. What was once an affordable space for budding players and clubs to train has now become inaccessible to most due to the exorbitant charges. With no teams or clubs able to afford the revised fee, the ground sees little to no activity – leading to rapid wear and tear of the turf, unmaintained facilities, and a visible decline in its overall condition. Reports suggest that washrooms are in a filthy condition, water pumps are out of order, and general maintenance is non-existent. The very turf that was supposed to be preserved through better financial planning is now deteriorating faster due to non-usage and lack of upkeep. Ironically, the PSB's decision to increase revenue through the hike has likely backfired, as the absence of bookings means less revenue instead of more. One wonders whether anyone at PSB has formally assessed the revenue trends before and after the price hike – a basic step in policy-making. It appears not. Despite repeated appeals and written requests by local clubs to reconsider the revised fees or to offer concessions for student and grassroots teams, both the Pakistan Sports Board and the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination have remained unmoved. Their inaction signals not only indifference but also a disturbing disconnect from ground realities and the needs of the hockey community. Pakistan's national sport has long been in decline, and missteps like these only further alienate young players from pursuing hockey professionally. Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground was meant to be a cradle of talent, nurturing the next generation of national players. Instead, it now symbolizes the decay of the sport itself. There is a pressing need for introspection at the PSB and the ministry level. If the goal is to promote sports, particularly hockey, then facilities must be made affordable, accessible, and maintained to a standard that encourages participation. Charging steep fees while failing to provide basic amenities is a disservice not only to the sport but also to the nation's youth. Until the authorities take corrective action – including revisiting the fee structure, restoring basic facilities, and consulting with stakeholders – the future of hockey in Islamabad, and by extension in Pakistan, remains bleak.

Canada Ad That Rattled Trump

Qamar Bashir



Canadian citizens were deeply divided. Some praised Ontario for “standing up for free trade principles,” seeing it as a proud reaffirmation of Reagan-era conservatism and cross-border partnership. Others accused the provincial government of jeopardizing livelihoods for political theater. Social-media platforms were soon flooded with hashtags such as #ReaganAdGate and #TariffWarNorth. Polls conducted by the Toronto Star indicated that 42% of Canadians supported the ad, while 47% thought it was ill-timed and diplomatically irresponsible

IN October 2025, a seemingly harmless Canadian public-service announcement featuring Ronald Reagan's 1987 speech on tariffs ignited an international political storm. What began as a provincial media campaign by Ontario quickly escalated into a full-blown trade confrontation with the United States—one that exposed the fragility of U.S.-Canada relations in the Trump era and the fine line between political messaging and economic provocation. The ad opened with archival footage of Reagan declaring, “Protectionism is destructionism. Tariffs and quotas are barriers that protect the few at the expense of the many.” The message, originally delivered at the height of the Cold War, was reinterpreted by Ontario's communications bureau as a critique of modern tariff nationalism. The closing frame read, “Free trade built North America. Tariffs break it.” The timing was deliberate. It aired just days after President Donald J. Trump announced a 5% tariff increase on Canadian steel, aluminum, and agricultural imports—part of his renewed “America First Fair Trade” agenda. For Trump, the ad wasn't merely a disagreement over policy; it was personal. The president viewed the Reagan montage as a deliberate distortion of a conservative icon's legacy—one that painted Trump as an economic isolationist rather than a nationalist reformer. Within hours of the broadcast, the White House communications team condemned the ad as “foreign political interference in U.S. policy discourse.” Trump himself took to Truth Social, writing: “Fake Reagan quotes, fake Canada leadership. We're done talking until they apologize. New tariffs coming.” The fallout was swift. Trump's administration suspended ongoing trade negotiations aimed at refining the U.S.-Canada Economic Partnership Framework. He ordered a 10% across-the-board tariff increase on all Canadian imports, including automotive parts, lumber, dairy, and consumer goods. For two economies intertwined through \$800 billion in annual trade, the move sent shockwaves through industries on both sides of the border. Trucking associations, small exporters, and retail chains immediately warned that price hikes were inevitable before the 2025 holiday season. In Ottawa, Prime Minister Mark Carney acted quickly to contain the crisis. Although the advertisement originated from Ontario's provincial government rather than the federal cabinet, Trump's

reaction forced Ottawa to intervene. In a carefully worded statement, Carney expressed “regret for any misunderstanding” and emphasized that “the ad does not reflect Canada's federal stance on U.S. trade policy.” According to The Washington Post, Carney even reached out to Trump personally to offer an apology—an unusual act in modern diplomacy that underscored how high the stakes were. Trump acknowledged the apology publicly but refused to lift the suspension of trade talks. “I appreciate Prime Minister Carney's words,” he said during a Mara-Lago press briefing. “But actions speak louder than apologies. We'll see if Canada really wants fair trade—not propaganda.” The ad's creators defended their intent, claiming it was meant to “highlight the historical value of free trade” rather than criticize Trump personally. Yet political analysts in both countries saw it as a textbook case of how symbolic gestures can spiral into real-world consequences. “Reagan's words were about global cooperation against communism, not about contemporary tariff disputes,” explained Professor Samuel Pritchard of the University of Toronto. “Re-contextualizing them during an active negotiation with a protectionist White House was politically reckless, even if rhetorically clever.” Canadian citizens were deeply divided. Some praised Ontario for “standing up for free trade principles,” seeing it as a proud reaffirmation of Reagan-era conservatism and cross-border partnership. Others accused the provincial government of jeopardizing livelihoods for political theater. Social-media platforms were soon flooded with hashtags such as #ReaganAdGate and #TariffWarNorth. Polls conducted by the Toronto Star indicated that 42% of Canadians supported the ad, while 47% thought it was ill-timed and diplomatically irresponsible. For small business owners in Ontario and Quebec, the timing could not have been worse. Tariff hikes immediately disrupted auto-parts exports and timber shipments. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce estimated losses exceeding \$2.4 billion within the first two weeks of the new tariff regime. The Toronto Stock Exchange saw its manufacturing index fall by nearly 4% in a single day—its steepest drop since early 2023. In the United States, the political narrative was equally polarized. Trump's supporters hailed the move as evidence of his “uncompromising defense of American workers,” while his critics accused him of hyper-

sensitivity and using trade policy to punish political speech abroad. Several U.S. senators from border states, including Michigan and New York, quietly urged the administration to de-escalate, citing mounting pressure from local businesses dependent on cross-border supply chains. Mark Carney's apology, intended as a pragmatic gesture, triggered heated debate in Canada's Parliament. Opposition leader Pierre Poilievre accused the prime minister of “bowing to American intimidation” and undermining Canadian sovereignty. Carney countered that leadership demanded “preventing a rhetorical dispute from turning into an economic war.” His cautionary tone reflected the grim reality that Canada could ill afford another prolonged tariff standoff, especially after years of global inflation and energy-price volatility. Meanwhile, the United States began leveraging the dispute in broader trade negotiations with Europe and Mexico, signaling that Washington was prepared to use tariffs not merely as economic tools but as instruments of political discipline. Analysts warned that such tactics risked eroding trust even among America's closest allies. The Reagan-ad episode, they argued, revealed how fragile diplomatic etiquette had become in an era of social-media-driven politics and impulsive leadership. For historians, the irony was impossible to miss. Ronald Reagan—whose words were meant to defend free markets—had unintentionally become the centerpiece of a 21st-century trade war. The contrast between Reagan's optimism and Trump's transactional realism encapsulated a profound shift in American conservatism: from a belief in open exchange to a strategy rooted in economic nationalism and leverage. The “Reagan Ad Affair,” as international media dubbed it, may one day be remembered less for its economic cost and more for its symbolic power. It captured a moment when an old speech from the Cold War could still shake the foundations of modern diplomacy—when images, not policies, defined the fate of nations. In an age where political theater travels faster than policy restraint, one provincial ad in Canada became a global lesson in the perilous intersection of media, ego, and economics.

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

A History of Faith, Wisdom and Victory

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The geographical and political dimensions linking both personalities are equally compelling. Muhammad Ghauri ruled over Ghor, Ghazni, and parts of Afghanistan before extending his influence to India. His rule over Afghanistan was not just territorial; it represented the consolidation of a frontier that had long been the buffer and the bridge between Central and S.Asia

HISTORY has a curious way of drawing parallels across centuries, linking men of destiny whose courage and conviction transcend time. More than eight hundred years apart, two commanders – Sultan Muhammad Ghauri and Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir – stood in moments of national trial and triumph, defending faith, honour, and sovereignty against formidable adversaries. Though separated by centuries, the essence of their missions and the spirit of their victories reveal a striking resemblance; both Chief faced India as the principal foe, both emerged victorious through strategy and perseverance, and both carried the banner of a Muslim commander whose faith guided his sword. In the late 12th century, Sultan Muhammad Ghauri, the ruler of Ghor in present-day Afghanistan, rose from the rugged mountains to become the founder of Muslim rule in northern India. His historic encounter with Prithvi Raj Chauhan, the ruler of Ajmer and Delhi, marked a turning point in the subcontinent's destiny. The First Battle of Tarain, fought in 1191, saw Ghauri defeated and wounded. But rather than surrendering to despair, he returned the following year – 1192 – with renewed resolve, reorganized forces, and divine faith. On the plains near Tarain once more, he crushed the Rajput confederacy and captured Prithvi Raj Chauhan. The victory at Tarain was not merely a military conquest; it opened the gates of India to centuries of Muslim rule and civilizational synthesis. Eight centuries later, another commander from the soil of Pakistan mirrored this determination and strategic brilliance. On the nights of 8 and 9 May 2025, when India sought to test Pakistan's resolve through a sudden and treacherous strike, General Syed Asim Munir, then serving as Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, led the nation through what became known as the One-Day War. The Indian offensive – planned with precision but motivated by arrogance – met with swift and decisive retaliation from Pakistan's armed forces. Within hours, Indian military installations across the Line of Control were neu-

tralized, and their aerial and ground incursions repelled. The night that was meant to bring Pakistan to its knees became the dawn of its renewed pride and unity. Both Sultan Ghauri and Gen. Asim Munir displayed the attributes of leaders who believed that battles are not merely won by weapons but by faith, discipline, and conviction. Ghauri's empire was born from the ashes of repeated defeats, while Asim Munir's triumph emerged from years of subversive warfare waged by India through its proxies in Afghanistan. In both cases, the enemy underestimated the power of belief – a mistake history has never forgiven. The geographical and political dimensions linking both personalities are equally compelling. Muhammad Ghauri ruled over Ghor, Ghazni, and parts of Afghanistan before extending his influence to India. His rule over Afghanistan was not just territorial; it represented the consolidation of a frontier that had long been the buffer and the bridge between Central and South Asia. Similarly, General Asim Munir, in his era, faced the challenge of restoring stability in the same Afghan frontier, which in modern times became the haven for Khawarij-inspired terrorist factions. These extremist, supported and financed by hostile agencies, particularly Indian intelligence networks, sought to destabilize Pakistan from Afghan soil – a strategy reminiscent of medieval alliances between Hindu Rajputs and Central Asian chieftains against emerging Muslim powers. The modern commander's challenge was not of cavalry and swords but of drones, intelligence, and hybrid warfare. Yet the essence remained unchanged – defending Pakistan's ideological and territorial integrity against forces that refused to accept its right to exist in peace. General Asim Munir's strategic doctrine combined deterrence with restraint, faith with professionalism, and national security with moral clarity. His background as a Hafiz-e-Quran and his reputation for integrity lent a spiritual depth to his leadership, recalling the piety and discipline of the early Islamic commanders. Both Sultan Ghauri and Gen Asim embodied an unwaver-

ing trust in divine will while employing the finest strategies of their age. When Ghauri faced the Rajput confederacy, he used trickery, speed, and tactical flexibility to counter the traditional elephant corps of the Indian armies. His cavalry maneuvered with precision, turning what seemed an equal fight into a resounding victory. Likewise, General Asim Munir used the modern tools of warfare – surveillance, cyber intelligence, and swift precision strikes – to neutralize a numerically larger adversary. The speed and surprise of Pakistan's counter-offensive during the May 2025 conflict echoed Ghauri's own mastery of battlefield timing eight centuries earlier. The aftermath of both victories was equally telling. Ghauri's triumph laid the foundations for the Delhi Sultanate, which would last for centuries and nurture the composite civilization of the Indo-Muslim world. In the same way, Asim Munir's leadership restored confidence to a nation fatigued by internal challenges and external conspiracies. The victory of May 2025 was not merely military – it reaffirmed the unity of Pakistan's people and the resilience of its institutions. It is said that leaders are born in the crucible of adversity. Sultan Muhammad Ghauri was once captured by his enemies but rose to become the conqueror of Hindustan. Gen. Asim Munir, too, faced challenges from political turbulence, terrorism, and regional hostility, yet emerged as the guardian of Pakistan's sovereignty. Their lives reflect the principle that true commanders fight not for glory but for faith, duty, and the endurance of their nation. In the final analysis, history does not merely repeat itself; it echoes the virtues of courage, faith, and perseverance through men who understand the weight of command. Sultan Muhammad Ghauri and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, though separated by eight centuries, stand as twin reflections in the mirror of time – soldiers of faith who defended their frontiers against India's aggression, one through the sword and the other through strategy, both guided by conviction that victory belongs only to those who fight with righteousness and trust in Allah.

Briefs

A power game in the name of amendment

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which deals with the command and control of the armed forces. Sources suggest that the move aims to provide legal cover for the potential appointment of a Field Marshal, a development that could have profound implications for Pakistan's civil-military balance. Moreover, the powers of the judiciary may also be curtailed under the new constitutional scheme. Reports indicate that the government intends to establish a full-fledged Constitutional Court, separate from the existing Supreme Court structure. A similar concept was floated earlier under the 26th Amendment, which created a constitutional bench, but it failed to achieve its intended objectives. Critics argue that the new amendment is less about reform and more about consolidating power. "One thing is clear — this amendment has nothing to do with the welfare of the people of Pakistan. It's purely a power game, an exercise in dominance," a senior political analyst remarked. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which was the chief architect of the 18th Amendment, has strongly opposed the proposed changes. Party leaders fear that undoing provincial autonomy will undermine the federal structure of the state. However, political insiders suggest that despite its initial resistance, the PPP may ultimately strike a deal if it receives certain political concessions. As deliberations continue behind closed doors, the 27th Amendment appears set to reshape Pakistan's political and constitutional landscape once again — though not necessarily in favor of the common citizen. Another leading political party the PTI has also decided to oppose the amendment. The PTI leadership made it clear that any attempt to cut powers of the judiciary or to harm the spirit of the constitution shall be resisted.

27th Constitutional Amend. to be tabled...

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related to provincial shares in the NFC Award. Speaking on the floor of the Senate, Dar said that the government was in the process of introducing constitutional tweaks, confirming that the 27th amendment was "on its way". "We will try to present it in accordance with the Constitution," he assured, adding that legislators would be able to debate and share their opinions before the matter was referred to the relevant committee. The deputy prime minister emphasised that the amendment would not be rushed through Parliament. "It will not happen that the amendment is passed in haste — I give this assurance," he said. Referring to the PPP, Dar said that the government was currently in discussion with its major coalition partner and would also take other allied parties — including the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQMP), the Awami National Party (ANP), and the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) — into confidence before finalising the draft. "The final document will be presented before the House," he said. Responding to recent remarks by Bilawal, Dar said it was his right to express his opinion. "Bilawal Bhutto's observations were not made without basis — those points have been discussed," he added, noting that the government and PPP had reached an understanding and would now bring other allies on board.

LHC bans commercial activities on Sundays

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The LHC directed the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) to submit details and timelines of ongoing sewerage projects in the next hearing.

Russian premier says Moscow-Beijing coop strengthening

"We are implementing joint programs in aviation and automotive manufacturing. We are developing transport corridors. We are working in the extreme conditions of the Arctic," he added

ISTANBUL: Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said that cooperation between Moscow and Beijing is strengthening despite turbulence in global politics and the global economy. Mishustin made the remarks at the 30th regular meeting of the China-Russia heads of government in the Chinese city of Hangzhou, according to a Russian government statement. The meeting was also attended by Chinese Premier Li Qiang, with whom Mishustin held talks earlier in the day. Li was quoted as saying that Beijing is ready to strengthen cooperation with Moscow to more effectively protect their common interests.

At the meeting, Mishustin noted the launch of new large-scale projects by their countries, which he said include the development of oil and gas fields, the production of high-tech equipment, and cooperation in energy, peaceful nuclear energy, and space and lunar exploration. "We are implementing joint programs in aviation and automotive manufacturing. We are developing transport corridors. We are working in the extreme conditions of the Arctic," he added. He said the two neighbors share broad common interests and similar views on fundamental issues, adding that the share of the dollar and euro in their

trade transactions dropped to the "level of statistical error," meaning negligible. He said Moscow hopes to increase tourism between the two countries, facilitated by the transition to a visa-free regime for Russians traveling to China. "On the instructions of (Russian President) Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, we are working on similar decisions (to abolish visas) for Chinese citizens," he added. He also conveyed readiness to increase supplies of Russian-produced food products, which he said have become popular among Chinese citizens. Mishustin also invited Li to attend a meeting of the Council of Heads of Government

of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Moscow on Nov. 17-18. Li, for his part, said Beijing is willing to work with Moscow to enhance strategic communication, increase cooperation in various areas, and safeguard common development and security interests in an improved manner, state news agency Xinhua reported. He stressed China's eagerness to cooperate with Russia to continuously advance the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era. Following the meeting, the two sides inked multiple documents, including a joint communique. — APP

Pak to host ATP challenger for the first time



AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to make tennis history — for the first time ever, the country will host an ATP Challenger event in Islamabad, beginning November 24. The tournament marks a major milestone for national sports, showcasing Pakistan's vibrant and peaceful image to the world. Addressing a press conference,

President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, said this will be a historic moment for Pakistan tennis. "Hosting this prestigious event in Islamabad will project our country's positive and progressive image globally," he said, adding that after cricket, tennis has now become the second sport attracting the highest number of foreign players to visit Pakistan.

"It is our collective responsibility to project a soft image of our country," Aisam emphasized. He noted that during the current year, Pakistan successfully hosted five international tournaments and sent twelve teams abroad for participation. The PTF President also highlighted efforts to promote junior talent, mentioning that Mikael Ali Baig has shown exceptional performance,

while Shayan Afridi and Mikael Baig have qualified for the main rounds of the Under-12 and Under-16 events, respectively. "The future of our young players is bright, and we are hopeful to see them compete in Grand Slam events soon," he added. "My dream is to see tennis flourish in every corner of Pakistan," Aisam said. "Through the Pakistan Tennis League (PTL), we aim to create heroes, ignite passion, and bring the sport into the mainstream spotlight." He further revealed that 2026 will be a busy and remarkable year for tennis in Pakistan, as the country plans to launch its own Pakistan Tennis League — a major step toward professionalizing the sport. Aisam also expressed his intent to invite international tennis stars he has played with, stating, "To host elite global players, we must create the right environment — and it all begins with world-class infrastructure." He extended his gratitude to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for his continuing support in developing tennis and resolving the long-standing lease issue of the PTF Tennis Complex, Islamabad.

Worker dies after medieval tower partly collapses in Rome

"Despite this, spontaneous cardiac activity could not be restored" and his "death was pronounced at 12:20 am." He had been helping to renovate the Torre dei Conti, which partially collapsed shortly before mid-day Monday, sending rubble into the street and a thick white cloud of dust into the air

ROME: A worker who was pulled from the rubble of a medieval tower that partly collapsed in Rome died on Tuesday, Italian media reported citing hospital sources. The man, a Romanian national, had remained conscious during the long rescue operation before being hospitalised in critical condition, according to authorities. "Resuscitation attempts were made for about an hour to save Octay Stroici," Italian news agency ANSA said, citing the Umberto I hospital. "Despite this, spontaneous cardiac activity could not be restored" and his "death was pronounced at 12:20 am." He had been helping to renovate the Torre dei Conti, which partially collapsed shortly before midday Monday, sending rubble into the street and a thick white cloud of dust into the air. Three other workers were earlier evacuated from the site, one of them in critical condition, a spokesman for the fire service told AFP. The tower is in a busy area, just off the Imperial Forum and close to the Colosseum, Italy's top tourist site. A second partial collapse of the tower about one and a half hours later sent up further billowing clouds of dust. After the first collapse, firefighters managed to "put up some protection" around the trapped man, so when the second collapse occurred he was shielded, Rome Prefect Lamberto Giannini said. One worker inside at the time of the first collapse told AFP he escaped from a balcony. "It was not safe. I just want to go home," said the man, white dust covering his uniform, who gave his name as Ottaviano and his age as 67. The Torre dei Conti, dating from the early 13th century, was being restored with European Union funds. Monday's collapses affected a buttress and part of the tower's base, then part of the stairwell and the roof, Rome's Directorate of Cultural Heritage said in a statement. — Agencies

Jamie Melham on Half Yours becomes only the second woman to win Melbourne Cup

Jamie Melham Makes History as Second Woman to Win Melbourne Cup, Guiding Half Yours to Stunning Victory in Australia's \$10 Million Race, Completing Remarkable Caulfield and Melbourne Cup Double Triumph

MELBOURNE: Jamie Melham became only the second woman jockey to win the Aus\$10 million (\$6.5 million) Melbourne Cup Tuesday, steering Half Yours to victory in Australia's "race that stops a nation." The five-year-old gelding pulled clear in the final stretch on a soft track to outpace Goodie Two Shoes and Middle Earth by 1.5 lengths in the energy-sapping 3,200-meter (two-mile) handicap at Flemington. "Oh my God, this is what we do it for," said Melham, who came third last year aboard Okita Soushi and won the Caulfield Cup on the all-Australian Half Yours in her last ride. "This is why we get up out of bed every morning at 4 a.m., it's tough, it's not all glorious and perfect as everyone can see sometimes. 'I've had an amazing year,' she added. "Got married, had some really great days on the track, but nothing ever, ever compares to this feeling right now I'm feeling." She joined Michelle Payne, who famously steered 100-1 outsider Prince of Penzance to glory in 2015, as the only women to win the race. First run in 1861, New Zealand's Maree Davey was the first woman jockey to saddle up at the Melbourne Cup in 1987. A record four women took part last year and three this year. "Welcome to the club," Payne, who was commenting, told Melham. "We have so many young girls coming into our industry and to see her win the Caulfield and Melbourne Cup double, is just so fitting. She is such a hard worker." Trained by father-son duo Tony and Calvin McEvoy, Half Yours was an early favorite but French galloper Presage Nocturne took over at the head of the market 30 minutes before race start at \$7.00. — Agencies



PIA flights grounded as...

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According to SAEF sources, the engineers had been wearing black armbands for almost two and a half months to press their demands. They said that even during this long, peaceful protest, the airline's management didn't bother to sit down and talk to them. Sources say the engineers haven't received a raise in eight years, and the airline is facing a serious shortage of spare parts, alleging that the engineers are coerced to clear aircraft for flights in breach of aviation rules. The SAEF said they could not put passengers' lives at risk because of pressure from the airline's management. Meanwhile, the CEO of the national airline has ordered strict action against the aircraft engineers. He said any engineer responsible for disrupting operations will face tough measures. On the other hand, a spokesperson for the national airline said the aircraft engineers' body held no legal standing, and "the real aim of this movement is to sabotage the airline's privatisation." He said calling it a "safety issue" and walking off the job at the same time was a deliberate act meant to trouble passengers and create unfair pressure on the administration.

PHS volleyball gives Cabell Midland fits in three-set loss

ONA: As did the Dodgers to the Blue Jays in the World Series, as did Lucy to Charlie Brown with a football, Cabell Midland teased Parkersburg. The Knights (43-5) fell behind the Big Reds (20-17) considerably before storming back to win 3-0 Monday in the WVSSAC Class AAAA South Region volleyball tournament at the Castle. The 25-21, 25-23, 25-16 victory propels Cabell Midland to the state tournament Nov. 11-13 at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center. "I'm thrilled, absolutely thrilled," Knights first-year coach Emily Gaskins said. "These girls have worked so hard all year. You can't convince me there's another team that wants this more." The Big Reds, who enter the losers bracket of the double-elimination tournament, appeared to want it, too, especially early in each set. Parkersburg led 8-2 in the first set, 7-1 in the second and 6-5 in the third. Parkersburg's Kennedy Porter hits a shot over the net during the Class AAAA, South Region volleyball tournament Monday at Cabell Midland High School in Ona. (Photo by Tim Stephens) "Yeah, I don't know what that was about," Cabell Midland senior Jilly Yost said, with a laugh. Whatever it was, Parkersburg was happy to have the lead. "We just couldn't put it away," Parkersburg coach Tammy Fisher said. "We had a hard time putting it away." The Big Reds will play Hurricane, Oak Hill or Buckhannon-Upshur on Wednesday for a trip to the state tournament. In the opening set, Lucy Johnson made a kill to start Cabell Midland's comeback from six points down. Katie Lawson's smash to the back line gave the Knights a 13-12 lead they never relinquished. Cabell Midland extended the advantage to six points on a Lawson ace. Parkersburg drew within 24-21, but Johnson secured the final point. The Big Reds jumped to a 7-1 lead in the second set before Yost's kill sparked a 10-4 run to give the Knights the lead. Cabell Midland extended the margin to seven points on an ace by Payton Bowyer, only to see Parkersburg rally within 24-23 on a point by Kelina Utietiang. Lawson, though, scored the set-winner for a 2-0 lead. Parkersburg led 6-5 in the third set after Layke Smith deftly dropped a shot between Knights defenders. A pair of hitting errors, though, erased the lead and the Knights went on a 13-2 run to take control. — Agencies



South Korea to triple AI spending, boost defence budget

"We will significantly expand investment to usher in the 'AI era'," he said, noting the amount was more than three times the current year's AI-related budget

SEOUL: South Korea will triple spending on artificial intelligence and make its biggest defence budget increase in six years, President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday in his annual parliamentary budget speech. Lee said 10.1 trillion won (\$7 billion) would go towards "a major transformation aimed at propelling South Korea into the ranks of the world's top three AI powers" alongside the United States and China. "We will significantly expand investment to usher in the 'AI era'," he said, noting the amount was more than three times the current year's AI-related budget. The proposal was made in a speech outlining his government's spending plans for 2026. Overall, the

budget plan totals 728 trillion won, an 8.1 percent increase from this year. Lee now needs parliament to pass the budget proposal, which is likely given his party's majority. On the defence budget, the president said his government wants to see an 8.2 percent increase from this year to 66.3 trillion won. If passed, it will mark the highest defence spending increase since 2019. "We will overhaul conventional weapons systems into state-of-the-art systems suited for the AI era and swiftly transform our military into an elite, smart force," Lee said. Of next year's AI budget, 2.6 trillion won "will be invested in introducing AI across industry, daily life and the public sector, while 7.5 trillion won will

go towards talent development and infrastructure building", Lee said. South Korea is home to two of the world's leading memory chip makers, Samsung Electronics and SK hynix. The two tech giants manufacture chips essential for AI products and the power-hungry data centres that the fast-evolving industry relies on. Jensen Huang, the CEO of US chip titan Nvidia, announced last week plans to supply 260,000 of the firm's most advanced chips to South Korea. After the announcement on Friday, Huang described that goal as "ambitious". But, he said, "there's no reason why Korea cannot achieve it — you have the technology, you have the software expertise and you also have a natural abil-

ity to build manufacturing plants". The US, a key military ally, stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea to help it fend off military threats from the North. Since taking office in June, Lee has vowed to "respect" North Korea's political system and pursue dialogue without preconditions, in a sharp break with the policies of his hawkish predecessor. Lee noted on Tuesday that South Korea already spends "1.4 times North Korea's annual GDP" on defence alone and is "ranked fifth in global military strength". Seoul and Pyongyang technically remain at war as the 1950-53 Korean War ended in armistice, not a peace treaty. — Agencies

Four India-sponsored terrorists killed in...

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President Asif Ali Zardari paid tribute to the security forces for eliminating four terrorists in Kalat IBO. In a statement, the president said the nation stands firmly with its forces in their resolve to root out terrorism under Operation Azm-e-Istehkam. The development comes a day after the military's media wing said it had killed at least three terrorists in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The operations were conducted in KP's North Waziristan and Tank districts. In North Waziristan's Esham, security personnel picked up the movement of a group of khawarij, who were trying to infiltrate through the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The troops effectively engaged the group of terrorists and killed them via a precise and skilful engagement, the military's media wing said. Pakistan has been grappling with rising terror incidents, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan, since the Afghan Taliban regime took power in 2021.

President, PM praise armed forces...

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indispensable for national security. Similarly, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Pakistan would continue the war against terrorism until its complete eradication from the country, reiterating that entire nation stood in support of the armed forces with an unwavering resolve to protect the homeland.

President calls for global unity, justice

FROM PAGE 01

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), pledging to raise literacy to 90 percent and ensure every child attends school within five years. The president also mentioned initiatives such as the National Youth Internship Programme and green and resilient housing projects, which aim to empower youth and strengthen climate resilience through nature-based solutions like mangrove restoration. President Zardari also expressed grave concern over the "weaponization of water" and violations of the Indus Waters Treaty, calling them a "serious threat" to the livelihoods of 240 million Pakistanis.

Pakistan seeks to...

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according to the document, reviewed by Reuters. Two sources familiar with the matter in Pakistan said that Eni had agreed to the move under the contract's flexibility provisions. LNG is in strong demand globally, and suppliers typically stand to earn more by selling cargoes in the spot market than under long-term contracts. Eni declined to comment. PLL, SNGPL, and Pakistan's petroleum ministry did not reply to requests for comment. PLL's move marks one of Pakistan's most significant steps yet to rein in LNG purchases as rising renewable generation and lower industrial demand leave it with surplus imported gas.

Briefs

At least 5
people killed
in train crash
in central
India

NEW DELHI: A passenger train crashed into a cargo train in central India Tuesday, killing at least five people and injuring several others, a senior government official said. The incident happened near Bilaspur, about 116 kilometers (72 miles) from Chhattisgarh's state capital, Raipur. Television channels showed images of one train colliding with another near the accident site. Rescuers are searching through the debris for survivors. The local passenger train hit the goods train from behind and toppled over some coaches, senior government official Sanjay Agarwal told The Associated Press. "Rescue team is trying to cut through the train to take out a few passengers trapped inside," he said. Train collisions aren't uncommon in India where the vast rail network faces issues of aging infrastructure and human error. —APP

PSX
witnesses
bearish trend,
loses 1,521
points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday witnessed a bearish trend as the benchmark KSE-100 Index fell by 1,521.39 points, a negative change of 0.93 percent, closing at 161,281.77 points compared to 162,803.16 points on the previous trading day. The total turnover in the ready market was recorded at 899.41 million shares against 949.36 million shares a day earlier, while the traded value decreased to Rs 37.31 billion from Rs 47.58 billion. The market capitalization also fell to Rs 18.47 trillion from Rs 18.64 trillion. Out of 479 companies that transacted shares in the ready market, 133 closed higher, 314 recorded losses, while 32 remained unchanged. World-Call Telecom remained the volume leader with 78.87 million shares, followed by Telecard Limited with 76.86 million shares and K-Electric Ltd. with 71.62 million shares. —APP

Rupee gains
03 paise
against US
Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 03 paise against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 280.87 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 280.90. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 282.5 and Rs 282.8, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 16 paise to close at Rs 323.73 against the last day's closing of Rs 323.89, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.82, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of 53 paise and closed at Rs 368.29 compared to the previous day's Rs 368.82. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal declined by 03 and 01 paise to close at Rs 76.46 and Rs 74.88, respectively. —APP

Gold price
decreases by
Rs 3,500 per
tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24-karat gold on Tuesday decreased by Rs 3,500 per tola to Rs 420,362 as compared to Rs 423,862 on the previous trading day, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold came down by Rs 3,001 to Rs 360,392, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs 2,859 to Rs 330,263. The price of international gold also dipped by \$35 to \$3,980 per ounce. Meanwhile, the rate of silver per tola decreased by Rs 130 to Rs 5,022, and the price of 10 grams of silver declined by Rs 112 to Rs 4,305. —APP

Pak-Iran partnership to unlock
new opportunities in agri- trade

During the discussion, the Ambassador informed that Iran intends to import 350,000 livestock from Pakistan and expressed satisfaction over the progress made on rice export agreements, stating that the purchase arrangements are expected to be finalized soon

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to realizing the goal of \$10 billion in bilateral trade with Iran as the partnership would not only strengthen the economic ties between both nations but also contribute to regional food stability. The minister held a meeting with the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moqaddam and discussed avenues of expanding cooperation in agriculture, food security, and trade between Pakistan and Iran, said a press release issued by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. Rana Tanveer also highlighted that Pakistan's agricultural products, including rice, maize, and fodder, are of high quality and geographically closer to Iran, offering a cost-effective alternative to imports from distant markets like Brazil and Australia. The minister appreciated Iran's desire to strengthen agricultural ties and welcomed the proposal for extra-territorial cultivation on Pakistani soil, emphasizing that Pakistan is open to innovative partnerships that promote sustainable agricultural practices. He stated that such initiatives would contribute to regional food security and help both countries cope with the impacts of climate change. He expressed confidence that the ongoing collaboration between Pakistan and Iran will pave the



way for enhanced agricultural productivity, improved food security, and deeper economic integration. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to working together in the spirit of friendship and mutual benefit to promote sustainable agricultural development and regional prosperity. The Iranian Ambassador conveyed an invitation from the Minister of Agriculture Jihad, Iran, for Rana Tanveer Hussain to attend the forthcoming ECO Summit on February

17, 2026. The Ambassador also expressed Iran's keen interest in expanding agricultural trade with Pakistan and highlighted the mutual potential for collaboration in livestock, crops, and food processing. During the discussion, the Ambassador informed that Iran intends to import 350,000 livestock from Pakistan and expressed satisfaction over the progress made on rice export agreements, stating that the purchase arrangements are expected to

be finalized soon. He added that wheat imports from Pakistan have already begun and that Iran is also ready to import maize and fodder in whatever quantity Pakistan can provide. He shared that the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture Jihad is looking forward to hosting a follow-up delegation from Pakistan to further enhance agricultural cooperation and finalize joint projects. Both sides agreed that Pakistan and Iran share similar agro-climatic conditions, which provide a strong

basis for collaboration in research, seed development, and technology transfer. The Iranian side showed interest in initiating joint ventures in areas such as modern irrigation systems, drought-resistant crop varieties, and organic farming. The Ambassador further conveyed Iran's willingness to collaborate on training and capacity-building programs for agricultural scientists and technical experts, ensuring mutual growth and knowledge exchange.

Stronger Intra-OIC
economic integration urged

ISTANBUL: Pakistan urged stronger Intra-OIC economic integration, digital Cooperation at 41st Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) session. Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan represented Pakistan at the 41st Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), being held in Istanbul from November 1st to 4th 2025, said a release issued here on Tuesday. In his opening remarks, Minister Jam Kamal Khan underscored the urgent need for enhanced economic cooperation, digital integration, and sustainable development among OIC member states, describing COMCEC as a vital platform to advance shared prosperity across the Muslim Ummah. "It is an honor to address this distinguished gathering at a time when the world faces profound economic, political, and environmental challenges," he stated. "For us in the Islamic world, economic cooperation is not merely about trade—it is about forging stronger bonds of partnership and mutual benefit." The minister emphasized that intra-OIC trade and investment must be significantly strengthened to overcome global challenges. Despite immense potential, intra-OIC trade remains below its capacity, largely due to regulatory barriers, limited connectivity, and infrastructural gaps. He proposed reducing non-tariff barriers, streamlining customs procedures, and harmonizing trade regulations across member states to promote freer movement of goods and services. "Pakistan believes the OIC Trade Agreement should become a real tool for trade liberalization and cross-border facilitation," he added. Highlighting Pakistan's commitment to regional collaboration, the minister called for greater private-sector engagement and public-private partnerships to unlock new avenues for investment and job creation. Jam Kamal Khan also urged member countries to prioritize digital transformation, particularly in areas like e-commerce, fintech, and digital infrastructure, to expand opportunities for youth and entrepreneurs. "By promoting digital integration, we can enhance market access and create new prospects for innovation and growth," he noted. On sustainability, he reiterated Pakistan's dedication to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and proposed the establishment of an OIC Green Finance Mechanism to fund climate-resilient and renewable-energy projects. "Our economic growth must go hand in hand with environmental stewardship to ensure prosperity for future generations," he emphasized. The minister further suggested the creation of an OIC Center of Excellence for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and innovation across sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and renewable energy. During the same session, Pakistan also delivered a joint statement on behalf of the Asia Group, reaffirming collective commitment to strengthening economic cooperation and advancing digital transformation among OIC countries. Representing the Asia Group, Minister Jam Kamal Khan extended deep appreciation to the Government of Türkiye and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for hosting the session and for their continued leadership in promoting economic solidarity among Muslim nations. He highlighted that while digital technologies are transforming trade, logistics, and financial systems in many Asian OIC countries, digital disparities persist in broadband coverage, data governance, and cross-border payment systems. "The Muslim Ummah must act decisively to ensure that no member state is left behind in this digital transformation," he stated, urging member states to strengthen secure, resilient, and inclusive digital infrastructure and promote Shariah-compliant financial solutions for small and medium enterprises. The statement also called for greater data-driven cooperation among OIC institutions—such as SESRIC, IsDB, ICDT, and IOFS—to promote evidence-based policymaking, while encouraging youth participation and digital-skills development as key drivers of inclusive economic growth. The Asia Group reaffirmed support for achieving the OIC's target of 25 percent intra-OIC trade share by 2025 through the adoption of digital customs and single-window systems, and urged closer collaboration on developing regional digital payments and trade facilitation platforms. —DNA

UK to criminalize protests outside
homes of public officials

LONDON: Britain will introduce a new criminal offense banning protests outside the homes of elected officials, judges and local councillors, as part of wider efforts to curb harassment and intimidation in politics. Under the Crime and Policing Bill, police would be given powers to stop demonstrations aimed at influencing officials in their public duties or private lives, the government said on Tuesday. Those convicted could face up to six months in prison. "The level of abuse faced by those taking part in British politics is truly shocking — it's a threat to our democracy," security minister Dan Jarvis said in a statement. "People should be able to participate in our politics without fearing for their own or their family's safety." A parliamentary survey found that 96 percent of British lawmakers had experienced harassment, while an independent body that oversees elections in Britain said more than half of candidates in the last general election faced threats or intimidation. Before winning the election last year, the now Prime Minister Keir Starmer was targeted, when pro-Palestinian activists left children's shoes and a banner outside his London home, urging him to back an arms embargo on Israel. In 2023, the then prime minister Rishi Sunak faced protests from climate activists outside his London and North Yorkshire residences. The government said the bill would also introduce new offenses targeting protest tactics, including bans on climbing war memorials, using flares or fireworks. —APP

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DataFeast aiming
to foster culture
of data literacy

ISLAMABAD: Chief Statistician Dr Naeem uz Zafar on Tuesday said that the DataFest 2025 is not just a celebration of statistics, but a national movement to empower citizens, policymakers and institutions through accessible and actionable data, aiming to foster a culture of data literacy, transparency and informed decision-making. Briefing the media to outline the strategic communication goals and media engagement plans for the upcoming DataFest 2025, he highlighted the importance of media as a bridge between data users and producers, said a press release issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. He emphasized the critical role of data in addressing Pakistan's pressing challenges, including governance, development. —APP

RCCI
welcomes
Roshan
Maishiat
package

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Tuesday lauded the government's Roshan Maishiat package and its decision to allocate additional power supply to the industrial and agricultural sectors, terming it a landmark initiative toward revitalizing Pakistan's productive economy. In a statement, RCCI President Usman Shaukat commended the government's move to reduce electricity tariffs for the agricultural and industrial sectors. He said the decision demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting key pillars of the national economy. Under the new package, the electricity tariff for agricultural consumers has been reduced from Rs38 to Rs22.98 per unit, while the industrial tariff for additional units has been brought down from Rs34 to Rs22.98 per unit. Shaukat noted that high electricity costs have long been a major burden on businesses, directly affecting production, employment, and overall economic activity. "This substantial reduction will significantly lower the average cost of doing business, enabling industries and farmers to boost their productivity and competitiveness," he added. He emphasized that agriculture and industry are the twin pillars of Pakistan's economy—providing employment opportunities, ensuring food security, and contributing significantly to exports. The RCCI president expressed confidence that the Roshan Maishiat package will play a pivotal role in strengthening these sectors and driving sustainable economic growth. —APP

Turkish flights
to Iraq's
Sulaimaniyah
resume

SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq: Flights between Türkiye and the Iraqi Kurdish city of Sulaimaniyah resumed on Monday after a two-and-a-half year ban due to accusations from Ankara of increased militant activity in the province. Airport spokesman Dana Mohammed said that the first Turkish Airlines flight landed in Sulaimaniyah Airport from Türkiye, with 105 passengers on board ... before departing to Istanbul with 123 passengers." Türkiye had announced in April 2023 a ban on flights to and from Sulaimaniyah International Airport over allegations that the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party had infiltrated the airport and boosted activity in the province. Mohammed said that Monday's flights marked "the end of the ban" on the airport, adding that "Turkish airspace has been reopened as of today to flights from Europe to the (Sulaimaniyah) airport and vice versa." Türkiye is the main transit point for flights in and out of the key city in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region. —APP

UK govt
orders
poultry
restrictions
as avian flu
spreads

LONDON: The UK government on Tuesday ordered all poultry in England to be kept inside due to escalating cases of avian influenza. The order takes effect from Thursday. "The new measures mean bird keepers across the whole of England must house all poultry and captive birds if they keep more than 50... or if they sell or give eggs away," a statement said. Similar limited restrictions were made in parts of north, central and eastern England last week. "Given the continued increase in the number of avian influenza cases in kept birds and wild birds across England, we are now taking the difficult step to extend the housing measures to the whole of England," said UK Chief Veterinary Officer Christine Middlemiss. The risk to human health remained "low" and that "properly cooked" poultry and eggs were safe to eat, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said. —APP

Iraq can disarm factions only
when US withdraws, says PM

BAGHDAD: Iraq has pledged to bring all weapons under the control of the state, but that will not work so long as there is a US-led coalition in the country that some Iraqi factions view as an occupying force, the prime minister said. Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani said a plan was still in place to have the multinational anti-Daesh coalition completely leave Iraq, one of Iran's closest Arab allies, by September 2026 because the threat from Islamist militant groups had eased considerably. "There is no Daesh. Security and stability? Thank God it's there ... so give me the excuse for the presence of 86 states (in a coalition)," he said in an interview in Baghdad, referring to the number of countries that have participated in the coalition since it was formed in 2014. "Then, for sure there will be a clear program to end any arms outside of state institutions. This is the demand of all," he said, noting factions could enter official security forces or get into politics by laying down their arms. "No side can pull Iraq to war," says Sudani. Iraq is navigating a politically sensitive effort to disarm Iran-backed militias amid pressure from the US, which has said it would like Sudani to dismantle armed groups affiliated with the Popular Mobilization Forces, an umbrella group of mostly Shiite factions. The PMF was formally integrated

into Iraq's state forces and includes several groups aligned with Iran. At the same time, the US and Iraq have agreed on a phased withdrawal of American troops, with a full exit expected by the end of 2026. An initial drawdown began in 2025. Asked about growing international pressure on non-state armed groups in the region such as Lebanon's Hezbollah, part of Iran's so-called Axis of Resistance created to counter US and Israeli influence in the Middle East, Sudani said: "There is time enough, God willing. The situation here is different than Lebanon." "Iraq is clear in its stances to maintain security and stability and that state institutions have the decision over war and peace, and that no side can pull Iraq to war or conflict," said Sudani. Shiite power Iran has gained vast influence in Iraq since a US-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003, with heavily armed pro-Iranian paramilitary groups in wielding enormous political and military power. Successive Iraqi governments have faced the challenge of keeping both arch-foes Iran and the US as allies. While the US slaps sanctions on Iran, Iraq does business with it. Securing major US investment is a top priority for Iraq, which has faced severe economic problems and years of sectarian bloodletting since 2003. US companies increasingly active in Iraq, says Sudani

"There is a clear, intensive and qualitative entrance of US companies into Iraq," said Sudani, including the biggest ever agreement with GE for 24,000 MW of power, equivalent to the country's entire current generation capacity, he said. In August, Iraq signed an agreement in principle with US oil producer Chevron (CVX.N), for a project at Nassiriya in southern Iraq that consists of four exploration blocks in addition to the development of other producing oil fields. Sudani said an agreement with US LNG firm Excelerate to provide LNG helped Iraq cope with rolling power cuts. Sudani praised a recent preliminary agreement signed with ExxonMobil, and he said the advantage of this agreement is that for the first time Iraq is agreeing with a global company to develop oilfields along with an export system. Sudani said that US and European companies had shown interest in a plan for the building of a fixed platform for importing and exporting gas off the coast of the Grand Faw Port, which would be the first project there. Sudani said the government had set a deadline for the end of 2027 to stop all burning of gas and to reach self-sufficiency in gas supplies, and to stop gas imports from Iran. "We burn gas worth four to five billion (dollars) per year and import gas with 4 billion dollars per year. —DNA

Briefs

Heavy Rain,
hailstorm and
first winter
snowfall hit
Dir and Swat

PESHAWAR: Heavy rain and hailstorms accompanied by thunder and lightning on Tuesday morning hit the districts of Dir and Swat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, intensifying the cold across the region. In Dir, dark clouds covered the sky as rain and hail lashed the area, causing flash floods in streams and disrupting traffic on the GT Road. Landslides and road erosion in upper areas forced residents to remain indoors. The downpour and hailstorms damaged standing crops, fruit orchards and several vehicles. The heavy rain also disrupted the power supply, plunging large parts of the district into darkness. In Swat, heavy rain and hail also brought a sharp drop in temperature. In Mingora city, torrential rain caused local streams to overflow. Poor performance by the Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) was once again exposed, as the failure to clean drainage channels in time led to waterlogging on roads. Rainwater flowing onto streets caused severe inconvenience to residents. In upper areas including Kalam, Mahodand, Utror and Gabral, the season's first snowfall has turned the weather chilly and picturesque. Meanwhile, lightning struck in Chakdara, damaging a 132,000-volt transmission line and cutting off power to several areas. According to WAPDA Swat, efforts are underway to restore electricity, though officials have not provided a timeframe for full restoration. – Agencies

Govt to
announced
plan for
Gaza, says
PM Mustafa

DNA

RAMALLAH: Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa announced that the government will circulate its executive program for Gaza's recovery and reconstruction to all relevant countries and international institutions. The program outlines a strategic vision for recovery and reconstruction priorities and coincides with the publication of the updated Gaza Losses and Needs Assessment, prepared in cooperation with the World Bank and UN agencies. The Prime Minister emphasized that this initiative reflects the readiness of both the government and international partners to implement the program swiftly, within the constraints posed by the current circumstances. At the start of today's (Tuesday) weekly Cabinet session, Prime Minister Mustafa reaffirmed ongoing coordination with UN agencies, international partners, friendly nations, and donor entities to ensure coordinated and integrated interventions.

Pak-Afghan confrontation
more than a bilateral dispute

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-Afghanistan confrontation is more than a bilateral dispute, as it might have a wide-ranging impact on regional level as well as affecting international peace as a whole. Stakeholders needed to sit together to set aside the raising conflict, lowering the temperature between the two sides. Regional analysts view the confrontation as more than a bilateral dispute. The whole scenario should be looked into the background of Pakistan's closer counter-terrorism coordination with the United States sits alongside its strategic and economic ties with China, including plans to extend connectivity through western corridors. The frontier's stability will not be read without the lens of US-China competition and a reshaping of influence in Central Asia. In this context, any perception of disproportionate force or legally ambiguous actions could complicate Islamabad's diplomacy as well. It is heartening to note that Pakistan and Afghanistan remain in a fragile calm after mid-October ground clashes and Pakistani airstrikes, including inside Afghanistan, were followed by a ceasefire mediated by Qatar and Türkiye and announced in Doha on the 19th of October. UN monitors urged "a lasting end to hostilities" after recording at least 18 killed and more than 360 wounded on the 16th of October. The heaviest fighting was reported around Spin Boldak in Kandahar and parts of Paktika, underscoring how quickly the frontier can tip from skirmishes to

wider confrontation. Torkham, the main Khyber Pass crossing linking Pakistan's Khyber district with Afghanistan's Nangarhar, has since been partially reopened to allow Afghan nationals to return. Pakistan resumed limited movement on the 1st of November to let stranded Afghans cross back under its repatriation plan, while commercial traffic remained shut. Mediators said both sides agreed in Istanbul to keep the truce in place and to set up a mechanism to monitor and verify alleged ceasefire violations, including cross-border fire, incursions and support for militants. The consequences for non-compliance are to be decided at the next meeting on the 6th of November. Islamabad claims that the confrontation stemmed from militant attacks launched from Afghan soil and has tied any durable truce to Kabul taking action against the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. "We have a ceasefire agreement as long as there is no violation," Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said on the 20th October, adding that the truce "hinges" on curbing attacks from across the border. In a later interview he warned that, if talks fail, Pakistan has the "option of open war." The Taliban administration firmly denies harbouring anti-Pakistan militants. In Doha, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said "neither country will take hostile actions against the other" and that there would be no support for groups attacking Pakistan. – Agencies

Blue economy to be 'a game changer', says Aurangzeb

Pakistan's starting point in this sector is "pretty modest" but ambition is right, says finance czar

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that Pakistan's blue economy will be a "game changer" for the country, backed by a clear roadmap and ambitious targets set by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs. Speaking at a virtual maritime conference, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said Pakistan's starting point in the blue economy sector is "pretty modest", contributing around 0.4% to 0.5% of the national GDP, or roughly one billion dollars. He said the Ministry of Maritime Affairs has set an ambitious but achievable goal to grow this figure to \$100 billion by 2047. "This billion dollars getting to a 100 billion blue economy number by the time we get to 2047 is transformational, and it's the right ambition that we have set ourselves as we go forward," he said. The minister emphasised that this sector has huge potential for national economic transformation. Aurangzeb highlighted that strong international relationships and trade links would support Pakistan's economic stability. "[...] relationships, which have been strong for the longest time, are moving from government-to-government discussions to trade and investment flows into the country," he said. "This, Inshallah, should help us in terms of moving across to a sustainable growth path." He outlined the roadmap to achieve the \$100 billion target, which is backed by strong pillars. Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture is a priority, through



value-added processing, modernising cold chain logistics, and ensuring world-class hygiene standards. Seafood exports, currently worth around \$500 million, could rise to \$2 billion over the next three to four years.

Aurangzeb added that these efforts will be guided by a national fisheries and aquaculture policy in strategic partnership with the FAO, ensuring policy consistency over the long term. The minister also spoke about modernising Pakistan's ports and logistics. "We digitise and upgrade operations, whether it's Karachi, Port Qasim, and Gwadar, to replicate international best practices and strengthen regional trade partnerships," he said. These measures aim to boost trade and logistics efficiency while promoting regional cooperation. Aurangzeb also stressed the importance of renewable energy and marine biotechnology in the blue economy. "We are launching pioneering pilot projects in tidal and offshore wind generation, and developing marine biotechnology value chains, which represent significant opportunities for innovation and growth," he said. Innovative financing mechanisms, including blue bonds and blended funding models, will support these projects and ensure sustainable development. He said that, along with improved trade and investment flows and ongoing structural reforms, these initiatives would help Pakistan move towards a sustainable growth path. "This is a game-changing sector, where the potential is huge," Aurangzeb said. The finance minister concluded that the blue economy, alongside other transformative sectors such as digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and mining, represents a critical engine for Pakistan's long-term growth. "With clear targets and policy consistency, this sector will play a central role in propelling the economy forward," he added.

EU scrambles to
seal climate deal
ahead of COP30

BRUSSELS: EU environment ministers will Tuesday make a last-ditch attempt to reassert the bloc's climate ambitions by nailing down key emissions targets in the run-up to the UN's climate summit in Brazil. "To come empty-handed to Belem," where the COP30 talks are taking place from November 10 to 21, "would really undermine the EU's credibility," warned an EU diplomat. Talks are expected to stretch into the night among the European Union's 27 member states, which have been haggling for months over two separate targets for slashing greenhouse-gas emissions: one for 2035 and the other for 2040. Behind only China, the United States and India in terms of emissions, the EU has been the most committed of the major polluters to climate action and has already cut emissions by 37 percent compared to 1990. But after blazing a trail, the EU's political landscape has shifted to the right, and climate concerns have largely taken a back seat to defence and competitiveness. Ministers' most urgent challenge on Tuesday is to reach a unanimous deal on an emissions target for 2035, known as a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which Paris Agreement signatories are supposed to bring to the Brazil summit. Beyond that, they hope to lock in the support of a weighted majority of countries for the next big climate target set out by the European Commission on the path to carbon neutrality by 2050. The EU executive said in July it wanted to cut emissions by 90 percent by 2040, compared to 1990 levels – a major step towards net-zero. – Agencies

Pakistan's inflation
rises to 6.2% in October,
highest in 12 months

Food prices climb after floods, border disruptions disrupt supply chains, shows data

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Inflation surged to its highest level in a year in October, fuelled by sharp increases in food prices after floods and border disruptions disrupted supply chains. The renewed price pressures have raised concerns about challenges ahead for the central bank's cautious monetary policy approach. Headline inflation measured by the consumer price index (CPI) rose 6.2% in October 2025 from a year earlier, up from 5.6% in September, as food prices surged 5.6% – the fastest pace since April 2024. Perishable items led the climb, with tomato prices skyrocketing 127%, sugar up 34.8%, wheat 22.6% and wheat flour 15.7%. The supply shocks, triggered by flood-damaged farmlands and the closure of the Afghan border following clashes, squeezed agricultural trade routes and caused some food item shortages, spilling inflationary pressure across other sectors. Price pressures spread beyond food, with housing and utilities inflation quickening to 4.2% from 3.7% and transport costs jumping to 6.7% from 4.2%. Clothing and footwear edged up to 8.1%, while miscellaneous goods

and services surged to 18.2% from 14.9%. Inflation held steady for restaurants and hotels at 6.1% and eased slightly for household furnishings to 4.0%. Recreation and culture prices, however, extended their decline, falling 3.7%. On a monthly basis, consumer prices rose 1.8%, driven by a sharp 14.9% spike in perishable food costs. Notably, on October 27, the State Bank of Pakistan kept its key interest rate unchanged at 11% for the fourth meeting in a row, taking a cautious approach as it faces rising inflation and a weak economic recovery. The central bank is holding off on further cuts, worried that supply problems and higher food prices could push inflation up again. Core inflation – which excludes volatile food and energy prices – also picked up pace. Urban core inflation climbed to 7.5% year-on-year from 7.0% in September and 8.6% in October 2024, while rural core inflation advanced to 8.4% from 7.8% and 11.7% in October 2024, highlighting persistent underlying price pressures. Urban inflation stood at 6.0%, while rural areas saw 6.6% inflation, from 9.3% and 4.2%, respectively, in the same month last year. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) increased 1.1% in October, as compared to an increase of 0.6% in the previous month and 3.9% in the same month of last year.

United States seeks UN approval
for Gaza security force

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: The United States is seeking approval from the United Nations for the establishment of an International Security Force (ISF) in Gaza with a mandate of at least two years, Axios reported on Tuesday. According to the report, the US sent several UN Security Council (UNSC) members a draft resolution yesterday outlining the establishment of its proposed security force to maintain security in the Palestinian enclave. Axios, which obtained a copy of the draft, said that the resolution was designated "sensitive but unclassified". It reported that the resolution would give the US and other participating countries a broad mandate to deploy security forces to govern Gaza until the end of 2027, and allowed the possibility of extensions beyond that time. The force would be established "in consultation with the Gaza 'Board of Peace'", to be chaired by US President Donald Trump, the publication reported. The Board of Peace is also to remain in place "at least through the end of 2027". However, a US official told Axios that the ISF was to be an

"enforcement force and not a peacekeeping force". The official said that the goal was to vote to establish the force in the next few weeks and deploy the first troops to Gaza by January. The publication said the draft would serve as the basis for upcoming negotiations between UNSC members. It further said that the proposed resolution tasked the ISF with "securing Gaza's borders with Israel and Egypt, protecting civilians and humanitarian corridors, and training a new Palestinian police force, with which it's to partner in its mission". The ISF would also "stabilise the security environment in Gaza by ensuring the process of demilitarising the Gaza Strip, including the destruction and prevention of rebuilding of military, terror, and offensive infrastructure, as well as the permanent de-commissioning of weapons from non-state armed groups," the draft stated, as well as taking on "additional tasks" as required to support the Gaza peace deal. Axios said that this suggested that the mandate included disarming Hamas if it does not do so of its own volition. The resolution further said that the ISF would deploy in Gaza "under unified command acceptable to the Board of Peace" and stressed that there would be "close consultation and cooperation with Egypt and Israel".

Saudi Crown Prince MBS
will visit US on Nov 18

Visit comes as Trump pushes Saudi Arabia to join list of nations that have joined Abraham Accords

WASHINGTON: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will be at the White House on November 18 for an official working visit with US President Donald Trump, a White House official said on Monday. The visit comes as Trump pushes Saudi Arabia to join the list of nations that have joined the Abraham Accords. In 2020, Trump reached deals with United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco to normalise relations with Israel. The Saudis have been hesitant to join in the absence of steps toward Palestinian statehood. Trump told CBS' "60 Minutes" in an interview broadcast on Sunday that he believed the Saudis would ultimately join the accords. Trump and bin Salman may also discuss a US-Saudi defence agreement. The Financial Times reported two weeks ago that there were hopes the two countries could sign such an agreement during bin Salman's visit. A senior Trump administration official told Reuters that "there are discussions about signing something when the crown prince comes, but details are in flux." The Saudis have sought formal US guarantees to defend the kingdom as well as access to more advanced US weaponry. Saudi Arabia is one of the largest customers for US arms, and the two countries have maintained strong ties for decades based on an arrangement in which the kingdom delivers oil and Washington provides security. During Trump's visit to Riyadh in May, the United States agreed to sell Saudi Arabia an arms package worth nearly \$142 billion. – Agencies

Explosion at
SC building
causes panic

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An explosion has taken place at the Supreme Court building in Islamabad, according to local media. Media reports initially said the explosion was caused by a gas cylinder but later linked it to an air conditioner. In multiple videos received by Dawn following the incident, the damaged interior of parts of the SC building is visible with blood stains on the floor. One of Dawn's court correspondents identified one of the areas as a cafeteria located in the building's basement. In other videos recorded outside, people, including lawyers, could be seen spilling out of the building. At least one person, who was visibly injured and bleeding, could be seen being taken away. Another person, with no visible injuries but apparently badly affected, could also be seen being brought out of the building. Another video also showed policemen present at the site.

Fierce
mountain
storms kill
9 in Nepal

KATHMANDU: Days of ferocious snowstorms and an avalanche in Nepal's treacherous Himalayan peaks have killed nine people, including five Italian climbers, officials said Tuesday. The deaths occurred in two separate accidents since Friday. On Monday, an avalanche hit a group of 12 people at the base camp of 5,630-metre (18,471-foot) Yalung Ri peak, in central Nepal. Seven people died in that disaster, including three Italians, two Nepalis, a German and a French climber, Phurba Tenjing Sherpa, from expedition organiser Dreamers Destination, told AFP. Sherpa, whose company had arranged the expedition for some of the group, said he had "seen all the seven bodies". The rest of the group were rescued and airlifted to the capital Kathmandu on Tuesday morning, said senior police officer Gyan Kumar Mahato, from Dolakha district. – Agencies

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