



Islamabad POST

Thursday, November 06, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Detailed News On Page-08

Pakistan for countering disinformation

Detailed News On Page-08


Haris Rauf Fined for Asia Cup misconduct

Detailed News On Page-06



Cross-border infiltration

Pakistan presses Kabul on militancy after six calls: Dar

Says Islamabad committed to fighting against terrorism to last breath and hopes talks on Nov 6 move forward

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Tuesday he received six calls from Afghanistan's acting foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, and told him one thing: do not allow your soil to be used against us. "I told the Afghan minister: we only want one thing — that Afghan territory not be used against Pakistan — and added that the situation has put him in a difficult position," DPM Dar said, while speaking on the floor of the Senate. Recalling the fallout after the Taliban took power in 2021, the DPM said that Pakistani envoys told the new Afghan rulers they had come for "a cup of tea," but that small missteps had costly consequences, and such mistakes must not be repeated. He said formal ties between the two countries went quiet for four years after the Taliban takeover, but he travelled to Afghanistan to hold talks and sign agreements. His single demand, he said, was that Afghan soil not be used for attacks on Pakistan. "Violent incidents in Afghanistan have risen since the current government came in," Dar said and added, "Islamabad is committed to fighting to the last breath and expressed hope that talks scheduled for November 6 will move forward." On domestic security, he said operations carried out up to 2018 had significantly reduced militant attacks in the country. Separately, Dar dismissed claims about payments to religious scholars in Punjab, saying he had no knowledge of any officials giving Rs10,000 or Rs25,000 to ulema — and if true, it would be regrettable.

Last month, Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to extend a ceasefire during talks in Istanbul after the worst border clashes between the neighbours in years, according to Turkiye which mediated the talks along with Qatar.

The two countries faced their most serious military confrontations since the Taliban's 2021 takeover of Kabul, with deadly clashes this month triggering Pakistani airstrikes, Afghan retaliatory fire and the closure of key crossings used for trade and transit.

Turkish officials added that a follow-up meeting would be held in Istanbul on November 6 to decide how the mechanism will be implemented, and that Turkiye and Qatar "stand ready to continue cooperation with both sides for lasting peace and stability."

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid issued a separate statement shortly before midnight in Istanbul confirming the conclusion of the talks and saying both sides had agreed to continue discussions in future meetings.

Pakistan has been grappling with rising terror incidents, particularly in KP and Balochistan, since the Afghan Taliban regime took power in 2021. The government has repeatedly urged the Taliban regime to rein in terrorist groups responsible for countless attacks in Pakistan. However, the Taliban regime largely remained indifferent to Pakistan's demands and provided refuge to multiple terrorist groups targeting security forces and civilians. Instead of addressing Pakistan's concerns about cross-border terrorism, the Taliban regime resorted to unprovoked firing along the border on October 12. Pakistan Armed Forces retaliated swiftly, killing over 200 Taliban fighters and affiliated militants; however, as many as 23 Pakistani soldiers were martyred during the border clashes.

VICTORY DAY OF AZERBAIJAN



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Acting President of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov, and others cutting cake to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Victory Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan. — DNA

FIA denies travel ban at Karachi airport

Immigration checks, profiling made more effective only in specific cases, says spokesperson

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration on Wednesday denied reports of a travel ban at Karachi airport, clarifying that passengers from all provinces were travelling without hindrance. The agency "rejects such claims as no such ban is in place," said a spokesperson in Karachi, rejecting claims of discrimination against passengers from

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Israel returns bodies of 15 Palestinians

DNA

ISRAEL has handed over the bodies of 15 Palestinians to Gaza, a day after Hamas returned the body of an Israeli-American soldier, Al-Jazeera reported. Health officials at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis confirmed the handover. The latest transfer brings the total number of Palestinian bodies returned to Gaza to 285. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has written a letter to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, reiterating Saudi Arabia's support for the Palestinian people, Wafa news agency reported.

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PM tasks Ayaz for consensus

27th Amendment set for smooth passage: Vawda

He also suggested that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) should be taken on board if it is willing to cooperate for the country's stability and progress

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD, Senator Faisal Vawda on Wednesday met Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence to discuss the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment and the overall political situation in the country. JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghauri was also present during the meeting. Both leaders exchanged views on political developments and matters of national importance. Talking to media after the meeting, Senator Vawda expressed confidence that the 27th Amendment would be approved unanimously, saying several amendments were under consideration to create greater synergy among state institutions. He added that the role of the armed forces would be further defined under the new amendment.

Continued on Page 06

MQM demands local Govts autonomy in the 27th Amendment

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Wednesday demanded that local governments be given autonomy in the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment. After the PPP revealed key features of the proposed amendment for which the government sought its support, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said yesterday that the legislation for the tweaks will soon be tabled in Parliament.

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Briefs

FBR extends tax return filing deadline

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has extended the deadline for filing returns manually till November 30, describing it as one of the "special measures" to assist manual income tax filers as part of its ongoing efforts to fully digitise tax operations across Pakistan. A spokesperson said that the decision was taken to facilitate a small number of manual tax filers who "may face" challenges adapting to the digital system. "With the objective of ensuring a smooth transition to the online filing system, the FBR has discontinued manual return filings from Tax Year 2024. Recognising that a small number of manual tax filers may face challenges adapting to the digital system, the FBR has decided to provide special facilitation for such individuals."

Arrest warrants of Omar, Shibli issued

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Wednesday issued arrest warrants for eight PTI leaders, including Asad Qaiser, Shibli Faraz, Omar Ayub and Ali Nawaz Awan, in a case registered under terrorism provisions. Today's hearing was presided over by ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra, with none of the PTI leaders appearing before the court despite being repeatedly summoned. Expressing displeasure over their continued absence, the judge ordered their arrest and directed authorities to produce them before November 11. The hearing was subsequently adjourned until the next date. The case was registered by CTD against the PTI leaders under relevant sections of the anti-terrorism act with charges of involvement in activities falling within the ambit of terrorism-related offences.

27th Amendment

PTI calls it 'robbery of provincial autonomy'

KP CM says provincial rights are non-negotiable; Barrister Gohar calls it attack on federation

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi said on Wednesday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would strongly oppose the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment, terming it an attempt to undermine provincial autonomy guaranteed under the 18th Amendment. "Any move weakening the democratic mandate of the provinces will be resisted," the provincial chief executive said while speaking to journalists outside Parliament House after attending a parliamentary party meeting. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is now seeking a broad political agreement on the proposed constitutional tweaks for establishing a Constitutional Court, and making 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 Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Other proposals included the introduction of executive magistrates, provisions for the transfer of judges, and the removal of protections related to provincial

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Sh. Rashid barred from traveling to Saudi Arabia

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed was barred from travelling to Saudi Arabia for Umrah on Wednesday, despite directives from the Lahore High Court (LHC) allowing him to travel abroad. According to an October 30 court order — a copy of which is available with Dawn — the AML leader's name had been removed from the Exit Control List (ECL), following involvement in several May 9 cases. The court had directed relevant authorities to allow him to travel. However, in a video message posted on the social media platform X, Rashid alleged: "Today, I was stopped from going to Saudi Arabia for Umrah, despite having permission from LHC's Rawalpindi bench under Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan." The AML leader recalled that the "court had directed relevant authorities —

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President meets the Amir of Qatar

Amir of Qatar to visit Pakistan next year

The President conveyed warm greetings and best wishes from the Government and people of Pakistan, expressing deep admiration for Qatar's remarkable progress and visionary leadership under His Highness the Amir

DNA



DOHA: President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari met with His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar in Doha. The Amir welcomed the President and thanked him for his visit. He said Qatar was proud of Pakistan and its achievements, and deeply valued the contribution of the Pakistani community to Qatar's development. His Highness expressed the desire to see their number increase significantly in the coming years. The President conveyed warm greetings and best wishes from the Government and people of Pakistan, expressing deep admiration for Qatar's remarkable progress and visionary leadership under His Highness the Amir. The two leaders reaffirmed the historic and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Qatar, rooted in faith, mutual trust and shared aspirations for peace, prosperity and the advancement of the Muslim Ummah. The President lauded Qatar's growing global role as a centre of dialogue and humanitarian diplomacy, and paid tribute to His Highness's leadership in advocating a ceasefire and humanitarian relief for the people of Gaza. Reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering solidarity, he recalled Pakistan's

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Pak marks major progress in digital sectors: Shaza

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said on Wednesday that Pakistan's telecom and digital sectors had shown impressive growth in recent years, making the country one of Asia's fastest-emerging digital economies. Speaking at the 26th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-26), she said Pakistan had achieved key milestones under its Digital Nation Pakistan agenda. "We now have over 200 million mobile subscribers and 150 million broadband users, showing one of the fastest data adoption rates in Asia," she said. The minister said that data usage in Pakistan had increased by 70% in the past five years, while telecom revenues grew 17% annually, contributing Rs. 1.5 trillion to the national exchequer. "These figures reflect the strength and resilience of our telecom sector," she added. Highlighting the expanding digital economy, she said e-commerce in Pakistan had reached \$7.7 billion and was expected to exceed \$10 billion next year. ICT exports are also rising by nearly 20% each year. She said Pakistan had made notable progress toward digital governance, with 98% of federal government offices now using e-office systems, making governance largely paperless. Over 50 citizen services were currently available online, and the number would rise to 150 by the end of the financial year. Shaza Fatima

said the State Bank of Pakistan's RAAST system had built a strong digital payment infrastructure, and the National Data Exchange Layer—developed with NADRA's support—would launch in December. "This will form the Pakistan Stack, allowing secure data sharing between the public and private sectors and providing citizens with digital identities and lifelong digital services," she explained. She said the country's progress showed its strong policies and commitment to building an inclusive, secure, and innovative digital ecosystem that supports growth and trust. The minister recalled that soon after taking office, the government launched the Digital Nation Pakistan Plan, a roadmap for digital transformation and inclusion. "Earlier this year, we passed the Digital Nation Pakistan Act, which provides a complete framework for our digital journey," she said. Pakistan's transformation, she said, focuses on three areas — society, government, and economy. "Digital has become a part of everyday life, from meeting basic needs to ensuring national security," she said. Under the Connect 2030 Vision, Pakistan aims to increase nationwide internet speed to 100 Mbps, expand fiber connectivity, free up 1,000 MHz of spectrum, and align its 5G rollout with global standards. "These steps could bring billions of dollars in economic benefits over the next four years," she said. Shaza said the government's main goal was to ensure digital

inclusion so every citizen could benefit from modern technology, regardless of location. "Digital transformation is about improving people's lives through better governance, economy, and public services," she said. "For us, it's not just about technology—it's about trust," she added. "Only when citizens trust digital systems can we ensure cybersecurity and provide high-quality services." She said inclusion, transparency, and efficiency were the key pillars of a digital society. "Going digital ensures no one is left behind, builds trust between government and citizens, and improves governance," she explained. The minister said that under the Prime Minister's leadership, the government was pushing toward a cashless economy. "The Prime Minister personally chairs meetings to reduce cash usage and promote digital payments," she said. She mentioned major policy steps such as the Digital Nation Pakistan Act and Right-of-Way reforms, which removed all fees on fiber deployment nationwide. "With one directive from the Prime Minister, Pakistan became a Right-of-Way charge-free country," she said. She said the 5G Spectrum Policy was in its final stage and would soon lead to the auction of over 600 MHz spectrum to enhance 3G and 4G services and prepare for 5G. She added that frameworks for Mobile Virtual Network Operators and infrastructure sharing had been approved, while satellite internet regulations were nearing completion.—DNA



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Railway, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi checking the standard of food at shops during his visit to Faisalabad Railway Station.

Senate Committee delegation calls on KP CM

PESHAWAR: A high level delegation of Senate Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination called on Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi on Wednesday. The delegation discussed a range of issues related to governance, economic co-operation and coordination among the provinces. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on matters including on free inter-provincial movement of wheat. Speaking on the occasion, the CM underlined the need for mutual understanding and continued cooperation among provinces to find a lasting solution to the wheat supply issue. Commending the role of the Senate Committee members, the Chief Minister described them as true representatives and ambassadors of the people of KP. He appreciated their efforts to promote inter-provincial harmony and strengthen the Federation through dialogue and co-ordination. The delegation included Senators Dilawar Khan, Mohsin Aziz, Naseema Ehsan, Nasir Mahmood, Hidayatullah Khan, Niaz Ahmad and Musaddiq Masood among others. Adviser to CM on Finance Muzammil Aslam, Secretary Food Shah Mahmood and senior government officials also attended the meeting.—APP

Minister vows to strengthen irrigation system across KP

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Riaz Khan, Wednesday said that concrete steps are being taken to establish an efficient and modern irrigation system across the province. He said that all projects of the Irrigation Department are aimed at ensuring the welfare and development of the people. He stated that a zero-tolerance policy against corruption is being strictly implemented in the province. The minister expressed these views during his visit to the Warsak Dam on Wednesday, where Secretary Irrigation Muhammad Ayaz, the Chief Engineer, and relevant officials were

also present. The Project Director briefed the minister in detail about various aspects of the "Remodeling of Warsak Canal System" project and informed him that around 78 percent of the work has been completed so far. Riaz Khan inspected the under-construction 5-kilometer-long Auxiliary Tunnel and Pump House and was apprised of the ongoing construction progress, technical aspects, project utility, cost and challenges being faced. The minister said that completion of the Remodeling of Warsak Canal Project would not only irrigate thousands of acres of agricultural land in Peshawar and Nowshera,

but would also significantly increase water flow and resolve irrigation shortages faced by farmers. He added that the construction of dams and irrigation projects would not only address water scarcity but also create new opportunities in agriculture, energy, tourism, and employment, ultimately strengthening the provincial economy. Riaz Khan directed the authorities not to compromise on construction quality and to take prompt measures to resolve any issues hindering the project. He emphasized that the public should have no complaints regarding the functioning of the Irrigation Department.—APP

Himmat Card Phase-III launched in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: The Phase-III of the Himmat Card Programme for persons with disabilities was launched at a ceremony organised by the Department of Social Welfare and Baitul Mal Punjab on Wednesday. Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Baitul Mal Sohail Shaukat Butt as chief guest distributed assistive devices among 65 persons with disabilities, and Himmat Cards among 45 beneficiaries. The devices included tricycles, electric and manual wheelchairs and other mobility aids. Member of the National Assembly Tahira Aurangzeb also participated in the event. Addressing the ceremony, Sohail Shaukat Butt said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was taking practical steps to serve the people. The provincial government, he said, had set a target of distributing Himmat Cards to 200,000 persons with disabilities next year. He noted that 65,000 individuals received Himmat Cards and assistive devices last year, while the number rose to 100,000 this year. Under the programme, Rs10,500 is paid to each beneficiary on a quarterly basis. MNA Tahira Aurangzeb said the chief minister was "the voice of the oppressed class", and that supporting vulnerable segments of society was vital for creating an inclusive and humane community. Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danial Chaudhry, MNAs Zahra Fatima and Huma Chughtai, Punjab Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan, MPA Tahira Mushtaq, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hassan Waqar Cheema, Director Social Welfare Rawalpindi Muhammad Shahid Rana and other officials attended the ceremony.—APP

Commissioner reviews progress on projects in RYK

RAHIM YAR KHAN, Nov 05 (APP): Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Musarat Jabeen visited Rahim Yar Khan District Headquarters and presided over a high-level meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office Committee Room. During the visit, she reviewed the progress of the under-construction DC Office building, the foundation of the Assistant Commissioner Complex, and other ongoing development projects. The Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the district's overall administrative and developmental performance. Deputy Commissioner Rahim Yar Khan Zaheer Anwar Jappa, along with District Police Officer Irfan Ali Samo, briefed the Commissioner on law and order, administrative affairs, public

welfare initiatives of the Punjab Government, ongoing development projects, and overall departmental performance. Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Musarat Jabeen emphasized that the district administration must maintain law and order and promote religious harmony through close coordination with religious scholars. She warned that no group or individual would be allowed to challenge the writ of the state. The Commissioner further directed full compliance with government guidelines on prescribed organizations and the relocation of illegal Afghan residents. She said that under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the government is committed to public welfare and improving citizens' quality of life. She stressed that all departments must fulfill their responsibilities

with dedication and accountability. The Commissioner instructed the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners to increase visits to educational institutions and health centers to ensure 100% staff attendance and the provision of quality public services. Musarat Jabeen also directed strict monitoring of all entry and exit points of the district to prevent smuggling and ensure effective law enforcement. She ordered consultations with traders and the public before conducting anti-encroachment operations to make markets spacious and accessible. She further stressed the need to improve the performance of WASA, ensure basic municipal services, and continue the "Suthra Punjab" cleanliness campaign effectively.—DNA

ISSI hosts U.S C d'A Natalie for roundtable on Pak-U.S ties

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a Roundtable discussion with Ms. Natalie A. Baker, U.S. Charge d'Affaires of the United States of America to Pakistan, on "Recent Developments in the U.S.-Pakistan Relationship under the Trump Administration." Other participants included former Ambassadors and senior diplomats, heads of think tanks, academics, practitioners, and area experts. In his remarks, Director General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted that Pakistan and the United States share a long, resilient relationship that has evolved through cooperation and divergence but remained vital for both sides. He added that, notwithstanding the constraints and challenges, the partnership has been adaptable, and helpful in advancing shared goals of peace, stability, and prosperity. During 2025, the relationship has entered an entirely different phase shaped by a range of factors — including a new Administration in the U.S., a rapidly transforming global environment, and Pakistan's salience in the recent developments in South Asia, West Asia, and the Middle East. Under the second Trump Administration, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood underlined, ties have entered a pragmatic phase with convergence on enhanced counter-terrorism cooperation, peace in Afghanistan, and crisis prevention in South Asia. He emphasized growing economic engagement, with U.S. investments in Pakistan's energy, minerals, agriculture, and IT sectors, and highlighted initiatives such as a Pakistan-U.S. Education and IT Corridor, and DFC cooperation. He expressed optimism about expanding collaboration in technology, education, climate resilience, sustainable development, and people-to-people bonds. In this new phase, he stressed the importance of moving away from the cyclical pattern of the past and ensuring a broad-based, multifaceted, and sustainable relationship in the future. During the wide-ranging exchanges, the participants underscored importance of a deeper, forward-looking partnership built on shared goals of peace, prosperity, and regional stability. The Q&A session also focused on a range of subjects — including enhanced bilateral economic collaboration, situation in Afghanistan; peace, security and strategic stability in South Asia; conflict in the Middle East; and developments in Asia-Pacific. In the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman of the Board of Governors, ISSI, presented the Institute's memento to the Guest Speaker, followed by a group photo.—DNA

Govt to modernize Islamabad's solid waste management system: Tariq

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Wednesday announced that the Capital Development Authority (CDA), in collaboration with the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC), will provide free public Wi-Fi at 30 designated locations across Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Wednesday told the National Assembly that comprehensive steps were being taken to modernize and improve the solid waste management system in the Federal Capital. Responding to a Calling Attention Notice regarding the lack of a scientific waste disposal system in the capital, he said the Capital Development Authority (CDA) was actively implementing reforms to strengthen waste management in both urban and rural areas. He informed the House that under CDA's supervision, sanitary workers collect solid waste from residential areas, which is first deposited at the I-11 Waste Transfer Station and later transported — in coordination with the Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) — to Noser, Rawalpindi, for final disposal. The minister said that although some complaints had been received from rural areas, the government had decided to outsource the system under an integrated plan to enhance efficiency and service delivery. He added that, unlike previous efforts, the current initiative focuses on upgrading the system in line with modern environmental standards. Dr. Tariq reaffirmed the government's commitment to regulating unplanned growth in rural areas and ensuring that residents there also receive the same municipal services available in urban sectors. He said the goal was to fully modernize Islamabad's waste management system within a year,

with all feasibility studies and technical evaluations already completed. Highlighting his long association with the capital, Dr. Tariq said he remained in close contact with the CDA and relevant departments to resolve public complaints effectively. "I have never covered up the challenges facing Islamabad," he said. "There are issues in rural areas, but we are taking solid steps to fix them. The government will not deny its shortcomings — it will correct them." Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Wednesday announced that the Capital Development Authority (CDA), in collaboration with the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC), will provide free public Wi-Fi at 30 designated locations across Islamabad. Responding to questions during the National Assembly's question hour, he said the selected sites include Metro Bus stations from Pak Secretariat to Peshawar Mor (14 stations) and from Faiz Ahmed Faiz to GT Road (seven stations), CDA Hospital, Japanese Park, Lake View Park, Daman-e-Koh, Fatima Jinnah Park, Sunday Bazaars in G-6 and H-9, as well as commercial centers in sectors F-6 and F-7. "The 30 initial locations were chosen due to their high public activity, and we intend to add more sites going forward," he added. He said the service, costing around Rs3.5 million per month, would be provided free of charge to citizens on a pilot basis. "Depending on public feedback and the success of this initiative, it will be expanded to more areas in the next phase," the minister said. Tariq Fazal said the CDA and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration regularly receive public suggestions through social media and the CDA website, which would help guide the project's expansion.

CDA to build 20 water tanks, 100 recharge wells

These measures are part of the CDA's broader strategy to promote sustainable water management and ensure long-term water security in the federal capital

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has approved a comprehensive plan to construct 20 water tanks and 100 recharge wells across different areas of Islamabad to address alarming decline in the city's groundwater levels. According to a written reply submitted by the Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control in the Nation-

al Assembly, potential sites for the water tanks and recharge wells have been identified, while final locations will be confirmed after detailed technical evaluation. Under the plan, the construction of 20 water tanks will be completed within six months, while 100 recharge wells will be developed in two months. The initiative is aimed

at reducing the risk of flash floods during heavy rains, replenishing the depleting underground water table, and improving rainwater storage capacity for multiple purposes. These measures are part of the CDA's broader strategy to promote sustainable water management and ensure long-term water security in the federal capital.—DNA

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria
National Day

Nov 04/Italy
Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation
Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia
National Day

Nov 11/Poland
Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan
Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium
Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil
Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
National Day

Nov 18/Oman
National Day

Nov 18/Morocco
Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh
Armed Forces Day

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National Day

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Cantonment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343



Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General United Business Group, former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman D Watson Group Zafar Bakhtawari hosted dinner in honour of Raja Ishtiaq, a renowned figure of the UK. Former Senator Lt. General @ Abdul Qayyum was also among the guests of honour. CDA Mazdoor Union leader Ch. Muhammad Yasin, Zahid Bakhtawari, Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar M Bhatti, former Dy Attorney General Raja Khalid, and officers of Islamabad Capital Territory Police also attended the dinner. Zafar Bakhtawari welcomed the guests and lauded services of Raja Ishtiaq. DNA

NUML signs 3 MoUs to enhance industry-academia linkages

Rector NUML, Maj Gen Shahid Mahmood Kayani HI(M) (retd), emphasized that such partnerships play a vital role in equipping students with the skills and exposure needed to meet market demands and contribute effectively to Pakistan’s knowledge-based economy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern Languages (NUML) signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with SysReforms International, Shaor, and Ezitech Institute to strengthen academia-industry collaboration, enhance student employability, and promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The MoUs were signed by Brigadier Muhammad Rafiq Khan, Director General NUML, along with Brigadier (Retd.) Zafar Jamil, CEO SysReforms International; Mr. Jawad Janjua, Founder and CEO Shaor; and Mr. Ibrahim Shah, CEO and Founder Ezitech Institute.

Speaking on the occasion, Rector NUML, Maj Gen Shahid Mahmood Kayani HI(M) (retd), emphasized that such partnerships play a vital role in equipping students with the skills and exposure needed to meet market demands and contribute effectively to Pakistan’s knowledge-based economy. He further added that NUML is committed to expanding its industrial collaborations to ensure its graduates are professionally competent and ready for future challenges. The MoU with SysReforms International aims to jointly implement IT Bootcamps and develop commercial, market-driven training ventures that enhance employability and contribute to the growth of Pakistan’s IT exports. The collaboration will

focus on areas such as training delivery, certification pathways, infrastructure and technology sharing, and research and innovation. Under the MoU with Shaor; a project of Al-Qawi Steel Industries, Dsportshub (Pvt) Ltd, and Superior Plastics (Pvt) Ltd, Islamabad, both parties have agreed to promote and carry out collaborative activities in areas of mutual interest. Shaor will facilitate NUML students and alumni by providing internships, placements, and job opportunities in the industry and corporate sector. It will also offer capacity development programs, while NUML, in collaboration with Shaor, will take measures to promote an entrepreneurial culture among

its students. Similarly, the MoU with Ezitech Institute is designed to provide NUML students and alumni with industry exposure through internships and job placements. NUML will support Ezitech in identifying potential students for these opportunities and will work jointly for the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation on campus. These partnerships mark another significant step in NUML’s ongoing commitment to bridge the gap between academia and industry, ensuring that its graduates are equipped not only with theoretical knowledge but also with the practical skills and professional mindset required to excel in today’s competitive job market.

PIDE hosts seminar on automotive value chains in Pakistan

However, this growth largely benefits firms that successfully diversify and upgrade, while others remain locked in dependency cycles

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), under its RASTA Competitive Grants Programme, organized a seminar on “Automotive Value Chains in Pakistan” featuring Dr. Muhammad Shafaat Nawaz, RASTA Fellow and Fulbright Scholar, moderated by Dr. Usman Qadir, Senior Research Economist and Director (CITDE), PIDE. Dr. Nawaz presented findings from his doctoral research on OEM-mediated Global Production Networks (GPNs) in Pakistan’s automotive industry – a study funded jointly by the Fulbright Program (U.S. Department of State), PIDE’s RASTA CGP Round 4, and the American Association of Geographers. His research redefines how Pakistan integrates into global value chains and intro-

duces the concept of OEM-mediated GPNs, where Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) act as intermediaries between global lead firms and local suppliers, shaping industrial outcomes, technological upgrading, and regional development. Drawing on 72 interviews, a survey of 319 local firms, and advanced network analysis, Dr. Nawaz revealed that three Japanese firms – the “Big Three” – dominate 99% of Pakistan’s passenger car market and 89% of light commercial vehicles, creating a highly oligopolistic structure. The tractor segment is equally concentrated, with two firms controlling 99% of production, while Atlas Honda retains about 67% of the motorcycle market. These OEMs, operating as subsidiaries, partners, or licensed producers, have enabled Pakistan’s entry into global value chains but have also restricted innovation, exports, and research autonomy.

Unlike other developing economies that attract high-value global suppliers such as Bosch or Denso, Pakistan’s auto sector lacks indigenous R&D and technology transfer linkages. Dr. Nawaz classified local firms into three main categories: captive vendors, bound by low-value repetitive contracts; emerging suppliers, who gain autonomy through international certifications like IATF 16949 and participation in global trade exhibitions; and aftermarket producers, who perform low-technology subcontracting for local markets. His analysis demonstrated that a one-unit increase in OEM business share leads to a 0.09-unit rise in annual business growth, statistically significant at the 0.001 level. However, this growth largely benefits firms that successfully diversify and upgrade, while others remain locked in dependency cycles.

Embassy of Portugal brings Portuguese cinema to Pakistan

The fourth edition of European Film Festival 2025 organized by EU Delegation in Pakistan, celebrates the diversity, creativity, and storytelling traditions of European cinema

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The Embassy of Portugal in Islamabad is set to participate in the European Film Festival (EUFF) 2025, with the screening of two acclaimed Portuguese films “A Sea of Trash” and “Snu” in Islamabad and Karachi “A Sea of Trash” (directed by Tania Paiva, 2019), an inspiring short environmental documentary that follows Portugal’s volunteer initiative “Sea’s Brigade” as they clean 45 kilometers of coastline, raising awareness about marine pollution and the power of community action will be screened in Islamabad on 7-8 November 2025. The feature film “Snu” (directed by Patricia Sequeira, 2019) tells the remarkable true story of Snu Abecassis and Francisco Sá Carneiro, a couple who risked everything for love and ideals in post-revolutionary Portugal. This historical drama and romance will be screened in Karachi on 16 November 2025. The fourth edition of European Film Festival 2025 organized by EU Delegation in Pakistan, celebrates the diversity, creativity, and storytelling traditions of European cinema. Taking place across Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore throughout November, the festival features award-winning films, documentaries, and short features from across Europe. It will be hosted at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad; the Karachi Film School; and the Alhamra Arts Council, Lahore, from 7 to 23 November 2025.

CDA chief, IG discuss law, order situation in Federal Capital

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held between Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and Inspector General of Islamabad Police, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, at the CDA Headquarters on Wednesday regarding the law and order situation in the Federal Capital and ensuring fool proof security arrangements. During the meeting, IG Islamabad Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi briefed on the measures taken to further improve the law and order situation in the City and for making foolproof arrangements for crime prevention. IG Islamabad Police said that protecting the lives, property, and honor of the citizens of Islamabad is their top priority and Islamabad Police is working day and night to ensure this. He mentioned that Islam-

abad Safe City has been established according to contemporary requirements and modern standards. In this regard, a mechanism for monitoring all major roads, centers and sectors of the City through Safe City cameras and modern technology has been put in place. He added that timely actions are being taken against criminal elements to control crime. Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized that special monitoring of Islamabad’s entry and exit routes should be ensured and patrolling across the City should be increased. He said that a zero-tolerance policy should be adopted for maintaining law and order in Islamabad and against criminal elements. Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner directed that integrated coordination with all relevant departments and law enforcing agencies should be enhanced to make security in Islamabad further foolproof.



Pakistan delegation explores cooling tech

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Atif, Consul of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai, led a trade delegation to the 5th International Air Conditioning, Heating, Ventilation, Refrigeration and Cold Chain Expo (RACC2025) held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, China. The delegation comprising four Pakistani traders sought to explore the latest industrial technologies and source air conditioning systems, heating products, accessories and compressors from international suppliers. According to a Gwadar Pro’s report, Consul Atif joined other dignitaries in inaugurating the opening ceremony by participating in the traditional button-pushing ceremony, symbolizing the start of the international event. The consul pointed out that the active participation of the Pakistani consular delegation demonstrated Pakistan’s commitment to enhance economic and trade relations with China. The Pakistani delegation’s focused engagement in identifying advanced cooling technologies and establishing supply chain partnerships with Chinese manufacturers aligned with Pakistan’s infrastructure development needs in climate control and cold chain logistics. The co-operation forms part of a broader effort to enhance industrial collaboration under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. The exhibition presented a comprehensive picture of the green and intelligent transformation of the refrigeration and cold chain industry, showcasing global advancements in sustainability and smart technology. The event featured 607 exhibiting enterprises from the United States, Japan, Dubai and other countries and regions, covering 50,000 square meters of exhibition space. The expo attracted 41,012 visitors, including 2,507 international buyers from 106 countries and regions across five continents. —APP

Stone-hearted son in handcuffs after father’s murder

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police’s Tarnol police station team, in collaboration with the Homicide Investigation Unit (HIU), arrested two suspects involved in the murder of a man in the jurisdiction of Tarnol police station. An official told on Wednesday that the arrested accused include the victim’s son, Suleman Khan alias Jabar Khan, and his accomplice Abdullah, who were wanted for killing his father, Hayat Khan, by opening fire with a pistol. He said police teams used advanced technical tools and scientific investigation methods to trace and arrest the culprits. The murder weapon a pistol was also recovered during the operation. _APP

Briefs

Naqvi pays surprise visit to NADRA center

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a surprise visit to the NADRA Center at Fahad Town and the Regional Passport Office in Dera Gujran, Shalimar, Lahore, on Wednesday. During the visit, the minister reviewed the process of issuing national identity cards, other official documents, and passports. He also interacted with citizens present at both offices to inquire about the quality of services being provided. Minister Naqvi listened to public complaints and issued on-the-spot instructions for their resolution. In one case, he directed officials to immediately process the documents of an elderly woman in a wheelchair without delay. He further ordered that special persons should be provided dedicated assistance and their matters handled on priority. Citizens told the minister that they did not have to wait long for passport processing, and that their turn usually came quickly. They also appreciated the cooperative attitude of the staff and said they received proper guidance during the process. Emphasizing efficient service delivery, Mohsin Naqvi instructed staff to expedite work related to ID cards and documents. He said citizens should not face any difficulty in obtaining their documents and that the delivery of passports and other papers must be ensured within the prescribed timeframe. The minister also directed that the work of every citizen visiting NADRA centers and passport offices should be completed within the stipulated time.—APP

Aleem reviews progress on Islamabad–Murree Expressway

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, on Wednesday visited the Islamabad–Murree Expressway to inspect the ongoing development works and review final preparations for the project's completion. The Minister expressed satisfaction over the significant progress and commended the National Highway Authority (NHA) team for upgrading the Islamabad–Murree Expressway to international standards, said a press release. He noted that the Expressway, which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year to the country's most popular hill station, has been modernized to provide a safer, smoother, and more comfortable travel experience. Abdul Aleem Khan highlighted that the entire Expressway has been illuminated with a state-of-the-art lighting system, ensuring better visibility and safety for travelers at night. He added that safety measures have been further enhanced with the deployment of Motorway Police, who will ensure smooth traffic flow and assist commuters throughout the route. The Minister mentioned that new, fully equipped rest areas have also been established to offer necessary facilities and comfort to travelers.—APP

ANF seizes 144 kg of hashish

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered 144 kilograms of hashish during an intelligence-based operation in District Khyber, the Force's spokesman said on Wednesday. Acting on credible information regarding the presence of narcotics, a team of the ANF Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Station raided a dumping site where the drugs had been concealed among rocky terrain. The spokesman said the consignment belonged to notorious drug traffickers hailing from the Afridi tribe.—APP



ISLAMABAD: A painter making beautiful paintings on different enclosures at newly named Hill View Park to Emirates Park, with the support of United Arab Emirates in Federal Capital.

Pak to revamp PARC under Chinese-backed plan

PARC Chairman Dr Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi briefed participants on a joint study by MARA and CAAS, which examined the performance and capacity of PARC, the National Agricultural Research Centre and affiliated institutes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is moving ahead with a major restructuring of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) under a Strategic Reform and Cooperation Plan developed with China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. The plan aims to modernise PARC's operations, strengthen agricultural research capacity, and align Pakistan's food

security efforts with global scientific standards. As per details, the reform framework proposes turning PARC into an innovation-driven institution through the creation of Technology Transfer Units across major research centres, a National Agricultural Technology Transfer Centre, and regional demonstration hubs. These measures are intended to improve farmers' productivity through wider technology adoption and value addition in agriculture. A high-level meeting chaired by Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana

Tanveer Hussain on October 31 reviewed the Chinese-backed proposal. PARC Chairman Dr Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi briefed participants on a joint study by MARA and CAAS, which examined the performance and capacity of PARC, the National Agricultural Research Centre and affiliated institutes. Rana said the government would implement the recommendations "in letter and spirit" to make PARC a hub of agricultural advancement. He directed the formation of a high-level implementation committee to oversee execution with de-

fined milestones and accountability mechanisms. The reform aligns with the broader Action Plan to Foster an Even Closer China–Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era (2025–2029), which promotes cooperation in crop cultivation, livestock development, seed technology, drip irrigation and agro-processing. The overhaul of PARC is seen as a key step toward building a technology-driven agricultural partnership under the China–Pakistan cooperation framework, the report added.

Pakistani record-breaking Gemstone to debut at 8th CIIE

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani jewelry brand will present its Guinness World Records-certified 3,051-carat kunzite for the first time in China at the 8th China International Import Expo (CIIE), running from November 5 to 10, according to a report carried by China Economic Net (CEN) on Wednesday. The gemstone, recognized as the world's largest unenhanced gem-quality kunzite crystal, represents one of the most anticipated debuts at this year's show. Guinness world record-breaking kunzite to be showcased by Pakistani brand at the 8th CIIE, photo provided by WINZA Pakistani brand WINZA, participating for the seventh year in a row, brings extraordinary kunzite sourced from northern Pakistan. The stone exemplifies the brand's century-long heritage, which is rooted in the legendary Chaudhry family of Pakistan. Maintaining a vertically integrated business model, WINZA oversees the entire process from mining and cutting to artistic creation, ensuring what the company describes as a "mine-to-masterpiece" standard. Specializing in colored gemstones and bridal jewelry, the brand combines traditional Pakistani craftsmanship with contemporary design. According to Mr. Aqeel Chaudhry, Chairman and CEO of WINZA, the company's strategic focus on the Chinese market has yielded remarkable returns, with annual sales growth averaging 30% since its first participation in CIIE. China's share of the brand's global sales has surged from about 20 percent seven years ago to more than 50 percent today. By providing a stable and expanding marketplace, CIIE has enabled international companies like WINZA to navigate global market volatility and achieve sustained growth, underscoring the critical role of the expo in fostering open cooperation and shared prosperity.—APP

20 new dengue cases reported in ICT

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad has accelerated field operations and monitoring efforts to control dengue outbreaks as seasonal cases continue to emerge. During the past 24 hours, field teams conducted fogging operations at 916 identified locations marked as dengue-prone zones. In addition, they inspected 38,391 sites across various sectors and union councils as part of routine surveillance. The report confirmed 20 new dengue cases, with 10 cases each reported from urban and rural areas. Currently, 48 patients are under treatment at different hospitals in Islamabad. Health authorities are closely monitoring their condition while ensuring proper implementation of dengue treatment protocols. The report further mentioned that larva detection teams carried out inspections at multiple residential, commercial, and public sites. During the inspections, 271 locations tested positive for dengue larvae, while 2 sites were found negative. To eliminate mosquito breeding sources, the administration completed anti-dengue spraying at 1,014 houses, offices, and public spots during the day. Officials said that special instructions have been issued to field teams to ensure daily monitoring of all reported hotspots. The adminis-

tration emphasized that negligence in implementing the dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) would not be tolerated. Meanwhile, the district control room continues to operate round-the-clock to receive public complaints and emergency alerts. Citizens have been urged to immediately report any dengue-related issues, water stagnation, or mosquito breeding sites to the control room for swift action. An official of the district administration stated that collective public participation is vital to control the spread of dengue. "Residents should cooperate with field teams, keep their surroundings clean, and ensure there is no standing water inside or outside their homes," the statement said. The administration added that ongoing field operations will continue until the risk of dengue transmission is reduced. Health teams are also conducting awareness activities in schools, markets, and residential areas to educate citizens about preventive measures. Furthermore, district health officials have advised citizens to cover water containers, dispose of garbage properly, and use mosquito repellents. The cooperation of residents, they said, remains essential for sustaining the progress of anti-dengue operations across Islamabad.—APP

PNCA hosts musical cultural evening

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), under the National Heritage and Culture Division, Government of Pakistan, hosted a vibrant "Musical Cultural Evening" at its premises in Islamabad to commemorate Tree Plantation Day 2025. The event brought together senior government officials, ambassadors, and diplomatic representatives from numerous countries, symbolizing a shared commitment to environmental preservation, cultural diplomacy, and artistic collaboration. The evening was graced by the presence of Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Minister of State, Mr. Huzaifa Rehman, Parliamentary Secretary, Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, Federal Secretary, Mr. Asad Rehman Gilani, and Director General PNCA, Mr. Ayub Jamali. Also in attendance were ambassadors and diplomatic representatives from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, China, the Philippines, Turkmenistan, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Türkiye, who joined Pakistan's dignitaries and artists in celebrating the nation's cultural diversity and its enduring commitment to environmental sustainability. The event celebrated the harmony between culture and nature through the universal language of music and dance, highlighting the power of the arts to inspire environmental awareness and social responsibility. The evening featured a captivating lineup of performances, including traditional Santoor and Violin recitals, as well as Kabab and Medley Dance presentations. These performances beautifully intertwined Pakistan's regional melodies, classical rhythms, and folk expressions—illustrating the country's rich cultural heritage while conveying a message of ecological harmony. Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives expressed their deep appreciation for the performances and the event's theme.—DNA

Forestry leaders from 20 countries unite

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Over 120 forestry experts and officials from 20 Asia-Pacific countries have gathered in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to address deforestation, biodiversity loss, and the growing impact of climate change on forest ecosystems. The five-day meeting aims to strengthen regional cooperation and policy action under the theme "Healthy Forests Feed the Future." The Thirty-First Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) and Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2025 began in Chiang Mai on November 3, hosted by Thailand's Royal Forest Department in

collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, said a FAO press release received here. The event, running through November 7, focuses on the role of forests in food security, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience. According to FAO, forests support the livelihoods of more than 22 million people in the region, providing food, fuel, and income while maintaining soil fertility, water cycles, and pollination systems. They also serve as carbon sinks, contributing to the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the

FAO report "The State of the World's Forests 2024" warns that forest ecosystems face increasing threats from land conversion, urban expansion, wildfires, and unsustainable exploitation. These pressures are reducing biodiversity and undermining vital ecosystem services, putting millions of rural livelihoods at risk. Opening the conference, Royal Forest Department Director General Nikorn Siratochananon said Thailand's experience in sustainable forest management demonstrates the importance of conserving forests for livelihoods and food security. "This platform allows us to share experiences and reinforce our shared commit-

ment to protect forests as a source of life," he said. FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Alue Dohong, highlighted the direct connection between forests and food systems. "Healthy forests are the backbone of healthy food systems," he noted, adding that forests supply wild foods and support agriculture through soil protection and water regulation. The Chiang Mai meeting also features the launch of a joint FAO–CIFOR–ICRAF report titled "Agroforestry for Wood Production – Insights from Multifunctional Smallholder Tree Farming Systems in Asia and the Pacific.—DNA

Exports reach \$10.448 b in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The country's merchandise exports reached to \$10.448 billion during the first four months (July–October) of the current fiscal year (2025–26), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Wednesday. According to the PBS data, the exports showed a decline of 4.04 percent when compared to exports of \$10.888 billion during July–October of last fiscal year (2024–25). On the other hand, imports into the country increased by 15.13 percent, rising from \$20.003 billion last year to \$23.030 billion during July–October (2025–26). Based on the figures, the trade deficit during the first four months was recorded at \$12.582 billion against the deficit of \$9.115 billion last year, showing an increase of 38.04 percent. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports in October 2025 decreased by 4.46 percent to \$2.849 billion compared to \$2.982 billion in October 2024. The imports, however, witnessed an increase of 20.18 percent, rising from \$5.040 billion to \$6.057 billion during the same period. On a month-on-month basis, the exports from the country increased by 14.01 percent when compared to \$2.499 billion during September 2025. The imports grew by 3.57 percent compared to \$5.848 billion in September 2025, PBS reported.—DNA

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Germany, KSA dedicated to progress and prosperity

MICHAEL KINDSGRAB

THIS year, we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the reunification of Germany. For me, this moment holds deep personal significance. When Germany was reunified in 1990, I was serving in Warsaw, Poland, in the midst of a momentous period in Europe. From that vantage point, I could see firsthand the rapid unfolding of history – events that would forever change not just Germany but the entire continent. The fall of the Berlin Wall was not just the collapse of a physical barrier between East and West Germany, but also a symbol of the end of a division that had lasted more than four decades. It represented a triumph of hope, of courage and of the unbreakable will of people yearning for freedom and unity. But this unity did not come easily. It was the result of historical events that were transformed, through wise and patient diplomacy, into a stable regional order under the shared vision of integrated security. It was a process that demanded courage and patience from all sides, a spirit of cooperation that continues to guide us today. With this experience in our hearts and minds, we are happy about recent progress achieved in the Middle East – after so many dark days the region has had to face. We very much welcome the constructive and active role being played by Saudi Arabia in the international effort to bring about peace, stability and security. And Germany will stay engaged as well – be it in Syria, Gaza or Yemen. The recent meeting of the Munich Security Conference hosted by Saudi Arabia in AIUla underlines the potential for cooperation between our two countries in making the region more peaceful, secure and prosperous. At the bilateral level, we continue to witness an ever-increasing number of high-level visits, including the visit of President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to Saudi Arabia in February 2025 – the first official visit by a German head of state to the Kingdom. Economically, German companies continue to play a pivotal role in shaping the development of Saudi Arabia's key sectors. Today, more than 850 German businesses operate in the Kingdom, making a significant contribution to the realization of Vision 2030. Whether it is rid-

IslamabadPOST

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 142

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394

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



ing the new Riyadh Metro aboard a Siemens train, strolling through parks designed by German architects or generating green hydrogen in Neom using Thyssenkrupp Nucera's technology, the examples of successful German-Saudi economic collaboration are abundant. Numerous new German headquarters have opened in Saudi Arabia and, with the frequent business delegations visiting the Kingdom to explore market opportunities, we expect many more to follow. These achievements would not be possible without the support of our institutional network in the Kingdom, which includes the German Chamber of Commerce, the German Society for International Cooperation and H2-Diplo Office, the German International Schools in Riyadh and Jeddah, the Goethe Institute, and the German Academic Exchange Service. Our extensive institutional framework strengthens our collective efforts to advance shared goals and build long-lasting partnerships with Saudi counterparts across various sectors.

Together with Saudi Arabia, we share a vision for a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future for the Middle East. Together, we strive to make this vision a reality. To tackle the challenges of our time, we must embrace bold ideas and invest in innovation, transformation and energy security. Our energy future must be secure, environmentally sustainable, climate-conscious and accessible to all. Technology will lie at the heart of most solutions to today's global challenges and, to bring these solutions to life, we must push the limits of technological innovation, moving from the experimental stage to scalable, real-world applications – a goal both Germany and Saudi Arabia are committed to achieving.

We are happy about recent progress achieved in the Middle East – after so many dark days the region has had to face. In this context, I am proud to share that the German government has committed more than €2 billion (\$2.3 billion) to fusion energy technology with the goal of building the world's first fusion reactor in Germany. This commitment underscores Germany's long-standing dedication to high-tech solutions and innovation. High-tech has also always been a strong core of German-Saudi cooperation, particularly in the energy sector, and I am confident that our collaboration will continue to expand, as Saudi Arabia also makes significant investments in research and development in this crucial field. We believe that nurturing our strong, multifaceted relationship, built on mutual respect and shared interests, is key to addressing the challenges of our time and ensuring peace and stability for all. With our joint dedication to progress and prosperity, we are confident that the partnership between Germany and Saudi Arabia will remain a cornerstone for peace, innovation and shared success in the years ahead.

– Michael Kindsgrab is the German Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

America Takes the War to Space

Qamar Bashir



This push for supremacy, however, reverberates across the globe. Both China and Russia are likely to interpret the relocation as an escalation, a signal that Washington intends not only to defend but to dominate space. In Beijing, strategists will now argue for accelerating their own projects—the expansion of the Tiangong space station, lunar base collaboration with Russia, and the deployment of anti-satellite systems along a new orbital belt. Moscow, despite economic strain, will double down on asymmetric tactics: jammers, interceptors, and cyber weapons designed to offset America's technological...

WAR on Earth has long been fought on land, at sea, and in the air. But as technology races ahead, the next battleground is now being drawn in the heavens. The United States perceives a grave and growing threat from its rivals—China, Russia, and other emerging powers—who are not only expanding their space exploration programs but militarizing them at unprecedented speed. In Washington's eyes, the very tools that connect, navigate, and defend the modern world—satellite constellations, communications relays, GPS systems, and orbital sensors—are increasingly vulnerable to attack. This sense of urgency has propelled President Donald Trump's decision to relocate the U.S. Space Command headquarters to Huntsville, Alabama, transforming the region into the new nerve center of America's celestial defense. For the Pentagon, the decision is not a mere administrative reshuffle. It represents a strategic and philosophical realignment. The world's most powerful nation now regards outer space as a war-fighting domain—an extension of terrestrial and aerial combat zones. American defense planners see satellites not as passive instruments but as vital organs of national security. Every missile, aircraft, and ground force relies on precise satellite data. If adversaries can disable or destroy those orbiting assets, they could blind, silence, and paralyze the U.S. military in one swift strike. The Space Force's 2025 threat report catalogued chilling scenarios: China's ground-based laser systems capable of damaging satellite sensors, Russia's experiments with orbital nuclear devices, and coordinated cyberattacks designed to cripple entire satellite networks. The anxiety stems not only from the weapons themselves but from the philosophy driving them. Beijing and Moscow have made no secret of their intent to challenge what they see as America's monopoly in space. China's military planners call it the “ultimate high ground.” In recent years, the People's Liberation Army has launched a series of maneuverable “inspection satellites” that can approach, shadow, and potentially interfere with other countries' spacecraft. U.S. generals warn that China is already testing “dogfighting satellites” capable of close-range engagement. Russia, though economically constrained, remains dangerous because of its advanced missile and nuclear technology. Intelligence reports claim Moscow is developing a nuclear-powered satellite capable of disabling hundreds of orbiting systems in a single burst. Together, these developments have convinced U.S. leaders that the next great confrontation may not unfold over oceans or deserts, but in orbit hundreds of kilometers above Earth. The relocation of Space Command to Alabama is therefore meant to consolidate America's research, development, and operational capacity under one fortified roof. Huntsville—long known as “Rocket City”—already houses NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, the Army's Space

and Missile Defense Command, and hundreds of aerospace contractors clustered around Redstone Arsenal. Bringing Space Command there creates a synergy unmatched anywhere in the world. It fuses civilian innovation, private-sector speed, and military precision in one ecosystem designed to protect American interests in the final frontier. As President Trump put it bluntly, “Whoever controls space controls the future of warfare.” Economic logic bolsters the move. Huntsville offers lower construction and living costs than Colorado Springs, where the command is currently based, and its infrastructure is largely ready for expansion. Thousands of engineers, technicians, and scientists already live and work in the region, giving the government immediate access to an experienced workforce. Supporters argue that by co-locating Space Command with missile-defense and aerospace research institutions, the U.S. can shorten decision loops between designers, operators, and warfighters. This integration, they say, will save taxpayers money in the long run while making the country's defense network more agile and efficient. Critics, however, warn that uprooting a functioning command could disrupt operations and drain experienced personnel unwilling to relocate. Colorado has even filed a lawsuit, calling the transfer a political punishment for its mail-in voting laws. Yet, despite the controversy, construction plans are advancing swiftly, and Huntsville is already being reimagined as the capital of America's space defense. Beyond logistics, the move carries profound symbolism. It signals that the United States no longer sees space as a neutral, peaceful domain but as contested terrain where deterrence must be built through strength. The philosophy behind this shift is rooted in the classic deterrence doctrine: to prevent war, one must prepare overwhelmingly for it. By consolidating its command structure and integrating advanced missile-defense research with satellite operations, Washington hopes to ensure that any attack on its space assets would be futile or self-destructive. In the words of a senior Pentagon official, “Dominance in orbit is not a luxury—it's survival.” This push for supremacy, however, reverberates across the globe. Both China and Russia are likely to interpret the relocation as an escalation, a signal that Washington intends not only to defend but to dominate space. In Beijing, strategists will now argue for accelerating their own projects—the expansion of the Tiangong space station, lunar base collaboration with Russia, and the deployment of anti-satellite systems along a new orbital belt. Moscow, despite economic strain, will double down on asymmetric tactics: jammers, interceptors, and cyber weapons designed to offset America's technological edge. The result could be a renewed space race—not a race of discovery, as in the 1960s, but one of deterrence and destruction.

The United States still leads the world in both civilian and military space capabilities. It maintains more than 240 military satellites, compared to about 110 for Russia and 80 for China. Its private sector, led by companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin, gives it unmatched launch capacity and innovation speed. Yet the gap in offensive and defensive technologies is narrowing. China's experiments in robotic satellite repair and proximity operations have dual-use potential; the same technology that can fix a satellite can also disable one. Russia's tests of direct-ascent anti-satellite missiles in recent years have already generated clouds of debris, proving its readiness to weaponize space despite the risks.

By moving Space Command to Alabama, Washington hopes to stay ahead of this curve—to preempt rather than react. But dominance comes with responsibility. The militarization of space risks shattering the fragile web of cooperation that has made orbital exploration possible. The International Space Station, lunar missions, and satellite networks depend on an understanding that space remains a shared domain. If the great powers begin treating orbit as a battlefield, the consequences could be catastrophic. A single detonation could scatter thousands of fragments, rendering entire orbital paths unusable for decades and threatening the very satellites that sustain global communication, weather forecasting, and navigation.

The relocation may, therefore, mark both an opportunity and a danger. It could make America's defenses stronger, more efficient, and more integrated, deterring hostile powers from taking reckless actions. Or it could provoke a self-perpetuating cycle of mistrust, leading to a new kind of arms race beyond Earth's atmosphere. The choice will depend on whether the United States uses its superiority to impose rules and foster restraint, or to seek absolute dominance.

For now, Huntsville stands as the new frontier of American military power—a city where rocket engineers, defense analysts, and policy strategists converge to safeguard the sky above. The move embodies America's resolve to defend its assets and maintain technological supremacy, but it also raises an existential question: can humanity survive another battlefield, one that floats silently in the dark vacuum of space? If history is any guide, every weapon once built has eventually been used. The hope is that this time, wisdom will rise faster than gravity—and that the race for the stars will end not in destruction, but in the preservation of peace on the only planet we call home.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)

Former Press Minister,
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Zohran Mamdani and the Reawakening of American Conscience

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The echoes of this moment stretched beyond America.

Across the Atlantic, in London, another Muslim leader, Sadiq Khan, has been serving as mayor with dignity and resolve. Like Mamdani, Sadiq Khan has repeatedly voiced his support for the oppressed people of Gaza and condemned the use of state power against innocent civilians

NEW YORK—the city of towering skyscrapers, dazzling lights, and unceasing motion—remains a symbol of ambition and endurance. Rising proudly along the banks of the Hudson River, its skyline stands as a monument to human aspiration, its streets humming with life from every corner of the world. For many, a visit to America feels incomplete without setting foot in New York. It is here that the world gathers to witness the shimmering brilliance of Times Square, the enduring grandeur of the Statue of Liberty, and the solemn site where once stood the Twin Towers, now reborn as the World Trade Center. The city's rhythm, its blend of resilience and diversity, mirrors the very spirit of modern civilization. In recent months, however, New York became the center of global attention not for its cultural vibrancy but for a political contest that spoke volumes about the conscience of its people. The mayoral election, already significant in the city's history, took on new meaning when a Muslim candidate, Zohran Mamdani, emerged as a leading contender. His candidacy represented not just another democratic exercise, but a test of the American ideal of equality and freedom. Standing against entrenched power and prejudice, Mamdani's campaign became a beacon of hope for those who believe that character, not creed, should define leadership. The election took a dramatic turn when U.S. President Donald Trump openly intervened, endorsing his preferred candidate and attempting to influence the outcome. Through statements circulated in the press, Trump warned that if his supported candidate failed to win, New York could face difficulties in securing federal funds—an unmistakable threat aimed at coercing the city's voters. Such remarks were widely criticized across political and media circles for under-

mining the democratic process. Yet, the people of New York, renowned for their independence of spirit, refused to yield to intimidation. They understood that democracy must not bow before fear, and that leadership built on integrity must prevail over politics driven by arrogance. Zohran Mamdani's victory was therefore far more than a personal triumph—it was a collective statement of conscience. It proved that even in an age of rising intolerance, the moral fiber of ordinary citizens remains unbroken. Mamdani, known for his outspoken opposition to Islamophobia and his courageous stance on global injustices—particularly the ongoing tragedy in Gaza—had already drawn attention for his unwavering principles. His election as mayor sent a message not only to Washington but to the entire world; that humanity cannot be silenced, and that the voice of justice, however inconvenient to the powerful, will continue to be heard. For President Trump and his administration, Mamdani's success was hard to digest. The idea of a Muslim leading America's most prominent city was at odds with the divisive narrative they had long cultivated. But the people's decision shattered that narrative. In rejecting fear and hatred, New Yorkers reaffirmed the foundational values upon which their nation was built—the belief that every individual, regardless of religion or ethnicity, has the right to lead and to serve. The echoes of this moment stretched beyond America. Across the Atlantic, in London, another Muslim leader, Sadiq Khan, has been serving as mayor with dignity and resolve. Like Mamdani, Sadiq Khan has repeatedly voiced his support for the oppressed people of Gaza and condemned the use of state power against innocent civilians. His principled stance,

however, once drew the wrath of President Trump, who during his recent visit to the United Kingdom expressed his desire that Sadiq Khan not be invited to the state reception held in his honor. It was a gesture of personal disdain that reflected a broader discomfort with Muslim leaders who dared to challenge narratives of aggression and injustice. Yet, both Khan and Mamdani represent a growing generation of leaders unafraid to speak the truth, no matter how uncomfortable it may be for those in power.

The New York election, in essence, rekindled faith in the democratic spirit. It reminded the world that real democracy lies not in slogans or ceremonies but in the courage of ordinary people to stand for what is right. Power, for all its might, cannot silence the conscience of a free people. When citizens rise above prejudice, they breathe life back into the ideals of equality, justice, and liberty. The triumph of Mamdani, therefore, was not merely a political event—it was a moral awakening.

In the quiet reflection that followed the celebrations, one could sense that something profound had occurred. The people of New York, through their ballots, had reaffirmed that honor and dishonor rest in the hands of Allah alone. No earthly authority, no political office, and no intimidation can alter the truth decreed by the Divine. History bears witness that when arrogance collides with righteousness, it is always the latter that prevails. Thus, beneath the glittering skyline of New York, among the bustling crowds and bright lights, a deeper truth shone through; that power is transient, but principles endure. The New York mayoral election did not just choose a leader—it restored faith in the human spirit. It reminded the world that the conscience of a city, and indeed of a nation, can still rise above fear. In the end, power lost—and the people won.

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Amir of
Qatar to visit
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strong condemnation of Israel's aggression against Qatar and its continued diplomatic support for Qatar's sovereignty at international fora. The Amir expressed satisfaction at the recent Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defence agreement and said it was a welcome and timely step that should have happened earlier. He noted that Pakistan holds a unique position as a country maintaining strategic ties with China, the West and the Gulf states at the same time. Both leaders discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in political, economic and cultural spheres. The President offered to expand collaboration in defence and defence production, to which the Amir responded positively, saying he would instruct the relevant authorities to initiate discussions with Pakistan immediately. The President also proposed enhancing cooperation in agriculture and food security. The President welcomed enhanced Qatari investment in Pakistan and expressed confidence that bilateral collaboration would continue to grow under His Highness's leadership. He also commended the contributions of the Qatar Fund for Development, the Education Above All Foundation, and other Qatari humanitarian initiatives, paying special tribute to Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser and Her Excellency Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al Thani for advancing education and cultural exchange. President Zardari appreciated Qatar's role in hosting and facilitating the UN-led Doha Process meetings on Afghanistan, including the first and second rounds held in May 2023 and February 2024, which have supported international coordination on humanitarian, development and security issues.

PTI calls it
'robbery of
provincial...

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shares in the NFC Award. Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar said on Tuesday that the government was currently in discussion with its major coalition partner, the PPP, and would also take other allied parties — including the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), the Awami National Party (ANP), and the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) — into confidence before finalising the draft. Speaking to reporters today, Chief Minister Afridi said the amendment amounted to a "robbery of provincial autonomy." "We will oppose the 27th constitutional amendment. It is a direct attack on the rights of the federating units," he said. "PTI has always stood as the guardian of democracy and the Constitution." Afridi said the federal government owed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa its due financial share. "Under the NFC Award, KP's share is 19.4%. Our rightful amount exceeds Rs7.5 billion," he said, adding that provinces must receive the resources defined under the 18th Amendment.

Sh. Rashid
barred...

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who were present in the hearing — to comply and strictly adhere to the directives, yet I have been told that I can not go." Rashid alleged that two airport officers told him he "could not go and refused to obey the court order". Rashid vowed to file for contempt of court against airport officials before Justice Khan, adding that "in a country where even a high court order is not valid, you can only really look to God for help." In the Oct 30 court order, it was notified that "name of the petitioner (Sheikh Rashid) with the consent of concerned authorities has been removed from the exit control list (ECL)." The court noted that, "Anti-terrorism court Rawalpindi had issued general order for impounding of passports relating to the persons facing trial under Section 28-A ATA, 1997, but at present respondents have no objection on going of the petitioner to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah."

Pakistan's Marathon Star
Mukaty Makes History

Training up to 80 km a week, Mukaty maintains a disciplined regimen of road runs, structured workouts, and strict nutrition. He credits ACTIVIT and its CEO Rizwan Aftab Ahmed for their unwavering support — from tailored nutrition and performance scans to race sponsorships and recovery assistance

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: At just 23, Karachi-based runner Amin Mukaty is emerging as one of Pakistan's brightest long-distance prospects. Clocking an impressive 2:48:47 at the 129th Boston Marathon, he became Pakistan's fastest male finisher — and now aims to complete the Six World Marathon Majors, putting Pakistan firmly on the global running map. Once struggling with stage 2 obesity, Mukaty's journey began in 2016 as a personal fight for fitness that evolved into a lifelong passion for running. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, his dedication intensified, transforming him from a casual jogger into a serious athlete. His breakthrough came at the 2021 Istanbul Marathon, where he became the youngest Pakistani to break the three-hour mark, finishing in 2:59:55. Since then, Mukaty has completed three of the six majors — Berlin 2023 (2:46:30), Chicago 2024 (2:44:32), and Boston 2025 (2:48:47). Next on his list are London (April 2026), New York (November 2026), and Tokyo (March 2027). If successful, he will become the youngest Pakistani ever to earn the prestigious Six Star Finisher title. Training up to 80 km a week, Mukaty maintains a disciplined regimen of road runs, structured workouts, and strict nutrition.



He credits ACTIVIT and its CEO Rizwan Aftab Ahmed for their unwavering support — from tailored nutrition and performance scans to race sponsorships and recovery assistance. "Their support turned

my dream into reality," Mukaty said. At Boston 2025, 13 Pakistani runners finished under four hours, with Mukaty leading the contingent. Reflecting on his achievement, he said: "Heartbreak Hill couldn't

break my heart. Boston tested my limits, but I rose to the challenge." His message to Pakistan's youth is simple yet powerful: "Focus on your health. Running changes lives — once you start, you'll love it."

Haris Rauf handed
two-match suspension

Right-handed pacer will now miss Pakistan's ODI matches against South Africa

DNA

DUBAI: Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf has been suspended for the next two ODIs against South Africa for breaching the ICC code of conduct during the Super Four game against India in the Asia Cup on September 21, the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed on Tuesday. The ICC confirmed the disciplinary outcomes from the Asia Cup 2025 fixtures between India and Pakistan, with sanctions issued following hearings conducted by members of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees.

According to the press release issued by the cricket governing body, Rauf received two demerit points and a 30% match fee fine for conduct that "brought the game into disrepute" during the India-Pakistan final on 28 September. He had earlier been fined and given two demerit points for the same offence in the 14 September group match. The latest ruling raised his total to four demerit points, triggering two suspension points under the ICC Code of Conduct

and resulting in a two-match ban, the press release stated. Rauf will now miss Pakistan's ODI matches against South Africa scheduled for 4 and 6 November. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan received an official warning and one demerit point for the same breach. The controversy arose from an official complaint by the BCCI regarding the players' actions during the Asia Cup Super Fours match in Dubai in September. The incidents that caught attention on social media involved Farhan's celebration after his half-century and Rauf's gesture toward some fans while fielding, drawing discussion among cricket followers. In the 14 September match, India's Suryakumar Yadav was similarly found guilty of conduct bringing the game into disrepute and fined 30% of his match fee, along with two demerit points. For the 21 September encounter, Indian bowler Arshdeep Singh was cleared of an alleged charge under Article 2.6 regarding obscene or insulting gestures, and no sanction was imposed.

Spain wins
gold in trials

RIYADH: The first day of the 2025 UCI Urban Cycling World Championships kicked off on Tuesday at Boulevard City in Riyadh, marking the Kingdom's first-ever hosting of the event. The championship is organized by the Saudi Cycling Federation under the supervision of the Ministry of Sport. The event runs until Saturday, November 8, featuring more than 230 male and female cyclists from over 40 countries, including a lineup of top international cycling stars. On the first day of the championship, Spain claimed first place and the gold medal in the Trials Mixed Team category, delivering an outstanding performance that combined strength, precision, and balance. Germany secured second place and the silver medal, while France took third place with the bronze in a highly competitive and energetic atmosphere featuring some of the world's leading cycling athletes. — APP

Trinidad fishermen
fear the sea

The fishers eyed the Venezuelan coast, about a dozen kilometers (seven miles) away, as they discussed their dilemma

CEDROS: A stone's throw from Venezuela, in the eye of a political storm fueled by a US naval deployment, fishermen from the archipelago of Trinidad and Tobago fear getting caught up in the tumult. Between Venezuelan military preparations in response to muscular US "provocation" on the one hand, and Trinidad-backed American strikes on alleged drug boats on the other, people who normally ply their trade in the sea told AFP they are keeping a low profile. In Cedros, a village in the extreme southwest of the island of Trinidad, a group of them chatted in hammocks on the beach, their boats unusually idle. The fishers eyed the Venezuelan coast, about a dozen kilometers (seven miles) away, as they discussed their dilemma. Barefoot and dressed in shorts, Kendrick Moodee told AFP he and his comrades were taking "a little more caution," with the Venezuelan coast guard "a bit tense" these days. There has been closer policing, the 58-year-old said, of fishing in Venezuelan territorial waters where boats from Trinidad and Tobago were previously left to operate undisturbed. Several Cedros fishermen said Venezuelan patrols have been violently repelling Trinidadian vessels, and beatings and extortion have increased. Their territory curtailed, the fishermen have seen their yields and income dwindle.

Iranian
volleyball
star Saber
Kazemi
dies at 26

TEHRAN: Iran's sports community is mourning the death of Saber Kazemi, a young up-and-coming volleyball star, who passed away early Wednesday at the age of 26. Kazemi had been hospitalized in Tehran in recent days after suffering a severe brain condition. Despite continuous medical efforts to restore brain function, he was declared brain dead and passed away early this morning. Kazemi, who was set to play for Qatar's Al Rayyan club this season, suffered the brain complication on October 17 while recovering in a swimming pool. He was transferred from Doha to Tehran on October 27 with the coordination of Iran's Volleyball Federation and a medical team. His death has plunged Iranian volleyball and sports fans into deep grief. — Agencies

27th
Amendment
set for
smooth...

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Vawda said the amendment could be passed within a week, emphasizing the importance of national consensus. He also suggested that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) should be taken on board if it is willing to cooperate for the country's stability and progress. He further said that the PPP will be on board adding the PPP is the custodian of the Constitution and has rendered a number of sacrifices. He hoped at the end of the day all parties shall be on board and put their weight behind the amendment. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has assigned National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq the crucial responsibility of developing consensus among political parties for the 27th Constitutional Amendment, well-informed sources told Geo News on Wednesday. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is now seeking a broad political agreement on the proposed constitutional tweaks for establishing a Constitutional Court and making certain changes to the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

MQM
demands
local Govts..

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MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar presented his party's demand today while addressing a press conference in Islamabad, alongside party leader Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui. "The important thing that we also said at the time of the 26th Amendment, that our constitutional amendment package be included," he said, referring to its agreement with the PML-N to empower local governments. "But it did not happen," Sattar lamented. He asserted that after provincial autonomy was granted under the 18th Amendment of 2010, the "next step naturally is local autonomy, so it's turn must come". "This should also be included in the 27th Amendment," the MQM-P leader added. The politician contended that Article 140A of the Constitution needed to be amended so that laws enacted by the local governments would not contradict it. Meanwhile, about the proposed Constitutional tweaks, Siddiqui said: "We are only telling the key features, and have presented what the government told us and what we understood."

FIA denies
travel ban
at Karachi...

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Punjab and other provinces. The spokesperson explained that immigration checks and profiling had been made more effective only in specific cases. "This step has been taken purely to protect innocent citizens from the agent mafia," the official stated. The officials detailed that agent mafia used to misguide people to travel to a foreign country and then board them on ships. According to FIA officials, individuals travelling abroad for the first time — especially those not belonging to Sindh — undergo additional verification before departure. "Passengers who offer satisfactory explanations and proper documentation face no difficulty," the spokesperson assured. They added that the policy applies particularly to those who choose Karachi airport over their nearest airports. Such travellers are asked to clarify their choice of departure point before being cleared.

Israel
returns
bodies
of 15
Palestinians

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In the letter, the Saudi Crown Prince said his nation remained committed to the Palestinians' pursuit of an independent state. He added that Saudi Arabia would work with international partners to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches Gaza and that Palestinian tax revenues withheld by Israel are released.



ISLAMABAD: President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Senior Vice President of FIFA, H.E. Shaikh Salman Ebrahim Hamid Al Khalifa, presenting a football to Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at Aiwan-e-Sadr. — DNA

No deal yet on EU climate targets as COP30 looms

EU countries have been haggling for months over two separate targets for slashing greenhouse-gas emissions: one for 2035 that they must bring to the UN climate talks, and the other for 2040

BRUSSELS: The European Union's member states have not yet reached an agreement on key emissions targets before the UN's COP30 summit in Brazil, and ministers will meet again on Wednesday to thrash out a deal, according to Brussels officials. EU countries have been haggling for months over two separate targets for slashing greenhouse-gas emissions: one for 2035 that they must bring to the UN climate talks, and the other for 2040. But talks in Brussels ended on Tuesday without an accord, and a European Council spokesperson saying "the negotiations will continue all night". "Ministers will reconvene tomorrow morning at approximately 9:00 am (0800 GMT)," the spokesperson told reporters. EU officials have stressed the importance

of the talks, which come ahead of the COP30 summit next week in Brazil. French Environment Minister Monique Barbut had warned that turning up empty-handed to the summit would spell "disaster" for the EU. 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 per cent compared to 1990 levels. But after blazing a trail, the EU's political landscape has shifted right, and climate concerns have taken a backseat to defence and competitiveness — with concerns in some capitals that greening Europe's economy is harming growth. "It's very, very difficult," said an EU diplomat, summing up the state of play in Brussels late Tuesday.

Denmark, which holds the bloc's rotating presidency, was understood to be working hard to win over Italy, one of the countries most sceptical of the proposed targets. The most urgent challenge for ministers is to reach a unanimous deal on an EU emissions target for 2035, known as a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which Paris Agreement signatories are supposed to bring to the COP30. "I want our heads of state and government to go to Brazil with a very strong mandate, a clear leadership role for Europe," German Environment Minister Carsten Schneider said. The EU also hopes 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 stride towards net zero. But member states have yet to endorse that next step, which would require sweeping changes to industry and daily life at a time of growing concern over adverse impacts on Europe's economy. Spain and the Nordic countries support the 2040 proposal, as does Germany, with some caveats. But Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Italy remain opposed, citing risks to their industrial sectors. Heavyweight France, meanwhile, has kept observers guessing on its position — demanding guarantees its nuclear sector would not lose out under green transition plans and wiggle room on emissions should Europe's forests absorb less carbon than expected. — Agencies

Briefs

Germany says 18 held after probe of online fraud

WIESBADEN, Germany: Eighteen people have been arrested following a German-led internationally coordinated investigation of online fraud and money laundering networks that used payment service providers, German authorities said on Wednesday. A total of 44 suspects, including six former employees of large German payment service providers, are believed to have taken part in the scheme, which involved stealing the credit card details of some 4.3 million people across 193 countries, German police and prosecutors said. The suspects partly used phishing to steal individuals' data and then created subscriptions for recurring bills on fake porn and dating services, all with support from payment firms, racking up more than 300 million euros in damages, they said.

The sprawling nature of the case highlights the blurring intersection between the worlds of cybercrime and white-collar crime, the officials told a press conference in the western German town of Wiesbaden.

"What initially looked like small debits turned out to be a global business model with professional structures," said Daniel Theesklaf, the head of Germany's Financial Intelligence Unit. "We can see what financial crime looks like in 2025. It is international, it is digital, and it is collaborative." **APP**

German nurse given life sentence for killing 10 patients

AACHEN, Germany: A German court on Wednesday ordered a life jail sentence to a palliative care nurse for the murder of 10 patients and attempted murder of 27 others with lethal injections. The court in the western city of Aachen found the 44-year-old man guilty of the offenses committed between December 2023 and May 2024 in a hospital in Wuerselen near Aachen. The court also determined that the offenses carried a "particular severity of guilt" which should bar him from early release after 15 years, normally an option in such cases. The man, who has not been publicly named, was accused by prosecutors of playing "master of life and death" over those in his care. His defense had demanded an acquittal at the trial which began in March. Prosecutors said he injected the mostly elderly patients with large doses of sedatives or painkillers, with the simple aim of reducing his workload during night shifts. **APP**

Ivory Coast detains senior opposition official

ABIDJAN: Ivory Coast authorities have detained a senior aide to opposition leader Laurent Gbagbo, accusing him of having called for an uprising ahead of last month's presidential polls, the prosecutor said on Wednesday. Damana Pickass was detained near Abidjan on Tuesday, prosecutor Oumar Braman Kone said in a statement. Pickass is the chief coordinator of the Common Front, which groups the two main opposition parties headed by Gbagbo and former Credit Suisse CEO Tidjane Thiam. Both Gbagbo and Thiam were barred from standing in October 25 presidential polls that saw 83-year-old President Alasane Outtara secure a fourth term in the world's top cocoa producer. The Front had called for demonstrations in the run-up to the election to denounce the exclusion of its candidates, despite the government banning rallies by parties not taking part in the vote. Another protest is planned for Saturday. Kone said that political figures including Pickass had "called for a popular uprising and the overthrow of the Republic's institutions." Those calls "resulted in acts of violence that threatened national security," he added. Gbagbo's party denounced the arrest as the "ongoing persecution of the opposition." **APP**

Canadian HC, Punjab governor calls for promoting bilateral ties

Canadian High Commissioner Tariq Ali Khan reiterates his commitment to promote bilateral relations, including trade, between Pakistan and Canada

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner Tariq Ali Khan meets with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan. Bilateral relations were discussed in the meeting. Detailed discussions on promoting bilateral relations in the sectors of agriculture, renewable energy, dairy and poultry. Governor Punjab congratulates and wishes Canadian High Commissioner on assuming responsibilities in Pakistan. Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that there are good relations between the two countries; there is a need to further expand the relationship through trade. There are vast investment opportunities in Pakistan in the dairy, meat, agriculture and textile sectors, he added. Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that a large number of Pakistanis living in Canada are contributing to the economy. Canadian High Commissioner Tariq Ali Khan reiterates his commitment to promote bilateral relations, including trade, between Pakistan and Canada.



Belgium probes drone sightings after flights halted overnight

BRUSSELS: Belgium authorities on Wednesday investigated drone sightings that halted air traffic overnight at several airports, as flights resumed after hundreds of passengers were left stranded. The main airport in Brussels and another in Liege had to suspend arrivals and departures late Tuesday for several hours after suspected drones were spotted nearby. Dozens of passenger and cargo flights were cancelled and some 500 passengers forced to spend the night at Brussels Airport in the Belgian capital. Belgium's interior minister Bernard Quintin said that investigations were underway to try to identify how many drones were involved in the latest such incident in Europe and who was behind them. The government was set to hold an emergency meeting of its national security council on Thursday to discuss the disruptions. "The recurrence of drone-related incidents directly affects the security of our country," Quintin wrote on X. "We must act in a calm, serious and coordinated manner." The interruptions came after a recent spate of mysterious drone incidents targeting airports and sensitive military locations in several European countries, including Germany and Denmark. Suspicions have swirled over potential Russian involvement in increased drone activity across Europe, with tension high as the war in Ukraine drags through its fourth year. Over the weekend, Belgian authorities reported drone activity over the Kleine-Brogel military base, where a number of US nuclear weapons are believed to be stored. A spokesman for air traffic controller Skeyes told AFP that flights had been able to restart by the early morning after the interruption. Some 400-500 passengers had to spend the night at Brussels Airport because of the sightings, airport spokeswoman Ariane Goossens told AFP. "The situation will return to normal during the day" as flights restart, she said. A spokesman for Liege airport – a major freight hub that operates many overnight flights – said the incidents were "worrying for national security". Flights were able to start again at the airport in the early hours of Wednesday after a six-hour hiatus, spokesman Christian Delcourt said. Several Belgian media reported that drones were also seen again near the Kleine-Brogel military base on Tuesday evening, but that was not confirmed by authorities. Defence Minister Theo Francken earlier refused to point the finger at Russia for the weekend sightings near the base, but said that they appeared to be a coordinated operation carried out by "professionals". "They are trying to sow panic in Belgium," Francken told local media. "This is destabilisation." Military intelligence was conducting an investigation into the sightings to try to determine who was responsible. **Agencies**

Sugarcane crushing to commence from Nov 15: Rana

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain Wednesday said that the sugar crushing season across the country will commence from November 15 in order to ensure the proper rate of return of the growers as well as maintaining the smooth supply of commodity. The decision to effect was taken in the meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board, which met here under the chairmanship of Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, said a press release. The delegation of the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) led by Chaudhary Zaka Ashraf, along with Cane Commissioners from all provinces, and representatives from the Ministry of Industries and Production, Ministry of Commerce, and other relevant stakeholders attended the meeting. After detailed consultations, it was decided that the sugar crushing season across the country will commence from November 15, 2025. The minister said that the decision has been made after comprehensive consultations with all provinces and the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association to ensure that sugarcane growers do not face any difficulties. The minister emphasized that strict action will be taken against any sugar mill that fails to start crushing on the prescribed date. He added, "Payment of dues to the farmers will be ensured before the commencement of crushing. The government is making all decisions in the best interest of farmers to prevent their exploitation." He also highlighted that timely crushing will not only facilitate sugarcane growers but also ensure the smooth and timely availability of sugar in the market. He said that this decision has been taken in the interest of farmers and to guarantee the timely supply of sugar in the market. The participants of the meeting welcomed the decision and appreciated the government's timely intervention. Rana Tanveer Hussain directed provincial authorities to ensure strict monitoring of all sugar mills to safeguard the rights of farmers. **DNA**

Nepal registers 125 parties for post-uprising polls

KATMANDU: Nepal's Election Commission said on Wednesday that 125 political parties had registered to contest the first parliamentary polls since a mass uprising in September ousted the government. Many are established parties, but some of the movements vying for seats in the March 2026 vote were formed by youth activists who helped launch the anti-corruption protests that shook the country earlier this year. "We are working with a belief that all political parties and citizens are eager to bring a new leadership to the country through the election," commission spokesman Narayan Prasad Bhattarai told AFP. Registration remains open for another two weeks. The final list, including the exact number of new parties and those associated with youth groups, will be released after the November 18 deadline. The September protests, triggered by a brief ban on social media, quickly morphed into a nationwide movement against economic hardship and government corruption. **APP**

ICCI urges govt to foster authorities, entrepreneurs coop culture

The ICCI President reaffirmed the Chamber's support for the tyre dealers and vowed to raise the issue at all relevant forums, calling for an end to unwarranted harassment of traders

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), on Wednesday urged the government to adopt consultative and business-friendly policies to strengthen the economy and foster a culture of respect and cooperation between authorities and entrepreneurs. Addressing a delegation of the Islamabad Tyres Association, led by its President Riaz Khan, President ICCI Sardar Tahir Mehmood Sardar emphasized that the business sector is the primary stakeholder in the country's economic progress, as it pays substantial taxes and fulfills all legal obligations. Yet, he regretted, it is not given the due respect and facilitation it deserves, a trend that is discouraging and detrimental to economic growth, said a press release. The delegation briefed the ICCI President about an incident in which officials of the Customs Enforcement Department raided five tyre shops in Islamabad's Blue Area during late-night hours. The officials reportedly seized all the tyres, sealed the shops, and behaved in an intimidating and disrespectful manner, without presenting valid grounds or following due process. The Association representatives clarified that the seized goods were fully legal and accompanied by proper documentation. However, the customs staff ignored their explanations and proceeded with the seizure, which they said reflects a trend of harassment of law-abiding businesses. The delegation warned that such actions not only demoralize legitimate traders but could also deter investment and jeopardize the broader economic environment. ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood urged the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to take immediate notice of such high-handed actions by field formations. He urged that enforcement agencies must engage with respective business associations prior to conducting inspections or raids, in order to maintain transparency and build trust. He further remarked that ICCI is fully committed to advocating for the rights of the business community and promoting a conducive environment for trade and industry. However, clampdowns on compliant businesses would result in counterproductive outcomes, including loss of confidence, decline in revenue generation, and disruption of the economic revival process. The ICCI President reaffirmed the Chamber's support for the tyre dealers and vowed to raise the issue at all relevant forums, calling for an end to unwarranted harassment of traders. He also urged the government to adopt consultative and business-friendly policies to strengthen the economy and foster a culture of respect and cooperation between authorities and entrepreneurs. **DNA**

Sudanese describe mass rapes while fleeing El-Fasher

TAWILA: Sudanese mother Amira wakes up every day trembling, haunted by scenes of mass rapes she saw while fleeing the western city of El-Fasher after it was overrun by paramilitaries. Following an 18-month siege marked by starvation and bombardment, El-Fasher – the last army stronghold in the western Darfur region – fell on October 26 to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which have been at war with the military since April 2023. Reports have since emerged of mass killings, sexual violence, attacks on aid workers, looting and abductions in a city where communications have largely been cut off. "The rapes were gang rapes. Mass rape in public, rape in front of everyone and no one could stop it," Amira said from a makeshift shelter in Tawila, some 70 kilometers (43 miles) west of El-Fasher. The mother of four spoke during a webinar organized by campaign group Avaaz with several survivors of the recent violence. Avaaz gave the survivors who participated in the webinar pseudonyms for their safety. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said more than 300 survivors of sexual violence had sought care from its teams in Tawila after a previous RSF assault on the nearby Zamzam camp, which displaced more than 380,000 people last spring. "The RSF have carried out widespread sexual violence across towns and villages in Sudan to humiliate, assert control and to forcefully displace families and communities from their homes," Amnesty International warned in April. The rights group has documented conflict-related sexual violence by both the army and RSF – particularly in the capital Khartoum and Darfur – and denounced "over two decades of impunity for such crimes, particularly by the RSF." In Korma, a village about 40 kilometers northwest of El-Fasher, Amira said she was detained for two days because she could not pay RSF fighters for safe passage. Those unable to pay, she said, were denied food, water and the ability to leave, and mass assaults took place at night. "You'd be asleep and they'd come and rape you," she said. "I saw with my own eyes people who couldn't afford to pay and the fighters took their daughters instead. They said, 'Since you can't pay, we'll take the girls.' If you had daughters of a young age, they would take them immediately." Sudan's state minister for social welfare, Sulmah Ishaq, told AFP that 300 women were killed on the day El-Fasher fell, "some after being sexually assaulted." The General Coordination for Displaced People and Refugees in Darfur, an independent humanitarian group, had documented 150 cases of sexual violence since the fall of

El-Fasher until November 1. "Some incidents occurred in El-Fasher and others during the journey to Tawila," Adam Rojal, the organization's spokesman, told AFP. Last week, the UN confirmed alarming reports that at least 25 women were gang-raped when RSF forces entered a shelter for displaced people near El-Fasher University in the city's west. "Witnesses confirmed that RSF personnel selected women and girls and raped them at gunpoint," Seif Magango, spokesperson for the UN human rights office, said in Geneva. Mohamed, another survivor who joined the Avaaz webinar from Tawila, described how women and girls of all ages were searched and humiliated in Garni, a town between El-Fasher and Tawila. "If they found nothing on you, they beat you. They searched the girls, even tearing apart their (sanitary) pads," he said. In Garni, before reaching Korma, Amira said that RSF leaders would "greet people," but as soon as they left, the fighters who stayed behind began torturing them. "They start categorising you: 'You were married to a soldier.' 'You were affiliated with the army,'" she said. She also described seeing men slaughtered with knives by RSF fighters. "My 12-year-old son saw it himself, and he is now in a bad psychological state," she said. **Agencies**

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Trump to meet Syrian president at White House

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump plans to meet with Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa at the White House on Monday, press secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Tuesday at a press briefing. Since seizing power from Bashar Assad last December, Al-Sharaa has made a series of foreign trips as his transitional government seeks to re-establish Syria's ties with world powers that had shunned Damascus during Assad's rule. Trump has sought good relations with Al-Sharaa. In June he revoked most US sanctions against Syria, and Trump met with the Syrian leader when he visited Saudi Arabia last May. "When the president was in the Middle East, he made the historic decision to lift sanctions on Syria to give them a real chance at peace and I think the administration, we've seen good progress on that front under their new leadership," she said. **APP**

Iraq PM seen as election frontrunner, seeks a second term

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani has cast himself as the leader who can finally make the country a success after years of instability, and has moved against established parties that brought him to power as he seeks a second term. Buoyed by signs of rising public support ahead of a November 11 parliamentary election, an increasingly confident Al-Sudani is running against key members of a grouping of parties and armed groups that originally tapped him for the job. Campaigning on improving basic services and presenting himself as the man who can successfully balance ties with both Washington and Tehran, he says he expects to get the single-largest share of seats. Many analysts agree that Al-Sudani, in power since 2022 and leader of the Construction and Development Coalition, is the frontrunner. However, no party is able to form a government on its own in Iraq's 329-member legislature, and so parties have to build alliances with other groups to become an administration, a fraught process that often takes many months. **APP**

UN chief decries 'continued violations' of Gaza ceasefire

DOHA, GAZA: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday warned against violations of the ceasefire in Gaza that halted two years of devastating war in the Palestinian territory. Addressing reporters on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, Guterres said he was "deeply concerned about the continued violations of the ceasefire in Gaza. They must stop and all parties must abide by the decisions of the first phase of the peace agreement." Israel handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians on Monday, the Red Cross said, a day after militants returned the remains of three hostages. Israeli officials identified the three as soldiers who were killed in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023 that triggered the war in Gaza. The armed wing of Hamas said it had found the body of an Israeli soldier who had been held hostage by Palestinian militants in Gaza. Hamas said the body was found in Shejaia, an eastern suburb of Gaza City in an area still occupied by Israeli forces, after Israel granted access to the location for teams from Hamas and the International Committee of the Red Cross. For each Israeli hostage returned, Israel has been releasing the remains of 15 Palestinians. With Monday's return, the bodies of 270 Palestinians have been handed back since the start of the ceasefire. Only 78 of the Palestinian bodies returned so far have been identified. Forensic work is complicated by a lack of DNA testing kits in Gaza. **APP**

Briefs

69 illegal
Afghans
detained

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police shifted 69 Afghan nationals unlawfully residing in Pakistan during a grand search and combing operation conducted in the jurisdiction of Sabzi Mandi police station, aimed at curbing criminal elements and strengthening security across the federal capital. An official told APP on Wednesday that prior to the operation, police teams were properly briefed on the security plan. A total of 221 individuals, 65 shops, 31 vehicles and 43 motorcycles were checked during the operation, while 69 Afghan nationals lacking legal documents were detained and shifted to the police station for legal proceedings. The operation was conducted under the supervision of SSP Operations Muhammad Shoab Khan, following the special directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi to ensure public safety. Senior police officers including SP Saddar, SP Industrial Area Zone, SDPO Shahzad Town Circle, along with ladies police personnel, also participated in the search and combing drive. Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Muhammad Jawad Tariq said that the purpose of such operations is to tighten the security cordon around criminal elements and enhance overall security arrangements in Islamabad. He added that indiscriminate action against criminals, land grabbers, drug traffickers and illegal residents will continue. – Agencies

Trump,
Modi speak
frequently

DNA

NEW DELHI: United States President Donald Trump speaks often with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and trade teams from both countries continue to hold talks, the White House said on Tuesday. "The president and his trade team continue to be in very serious discussions with India," White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told reporters. "I know the president has great respect for Prime Minister Modi, and they speak pretty frequently." Trump said last week in South Korea that he wanted to reach a trade deal with India – signalling a thaw in relations that soured to their lowest point in decades after the US president doubled tariffs on Indian imports to 50 per cent as punishment for India's purchases of Russian oil. Indian refiners cut Russian oil imports after Washington imposed sanctions last week on Moscow's top two crude exporters, Rosneft and Lukoil. Earlier this month, Trump claimed that Modi has agreed to cut Russian oil imports – something New Delhi has not commented on.

Trump foe Mamdani becomes
next mayor of New York

The 34-year-old election winner was born in Uganda to a family of Indian origin and has lived in the United States since he was seven, becoming a naturalized US citizen in 2018

DNA

NEW YORK: Zohran Mamdani's election as New York mayor caps an extraordinary rise for the leftist local lawmaker who emerged from relative obscurity to lead a super-charged campaign for the US megacity's top job. Since his surprise victory in the Democratic Party primary in June, New Yorkers have become used to seeing his bearded, smiling face on television – and on badges proudly worn by his supporters. The 34-year-old election winner was born in Uganda to a family of Indian origin and has lived in the United States since he was seven, becoming a naturalized US citizen in 2018. He is the son of filmmaker Mira Nair ("Monsoon Wedding," "Mississippi Masala") and Mahmood Mamdani, a professor and respected Africa expert – leading some of his detractors to call him a "nepo baby." He followed a path paved by other youngsters from elite liberal families, attending the elite Bronx High School of Science followed by Bowdoin College in Maine, a university seen as a bastion of progressive thought. Under the alias "Young Cardamom," he ventured into the world of rap in 2015, influenced by hip-hop group "Das Racist," which had two members of Indian origin who played with references and tropes from the subcontinent. Mamdani's attempt to break into the competitive world of professional music did not last, with the performer-turned-politician calling himself a second-rate artist. He took an interest into politics when he learned that rapper Himanshu Suri, who performed under the alias Heems, was supporting a candidate for city council – and joined



that campaign as an activist. Mamdani went on to become a foreclosure prevention counselor, helping financially struggling homeowners avoid losing their homes. He was elected in 2018 as a lawmaker from Queens, a melting pot of predominantly poor and migrant communities, representing the area in the New York State Assembly.

Who is Mamdani?

DNA

NEW YORK: Zohran Kwame Mamdani[c] (born October 18, 1991) is an American politician and the mayor-elect of New York City. A member of the Democratic Party and the Democratic Socialists of America, he has served since 2021 as a member of the New York State Assembly from the 36th district, representing the Queens neighborhood of Astoria. Mamdani was born in Kampala, Uganda, to academic Mahmood Mamdani and filmmaker Mira Nair. The family immigrated to South Africa when he was five years old and then to the United States when he was seven, settling in New York City. Mamdani graduated from the Bronx High School of Science and received a bachelor's degree with a major in African studies from Bowdoin College in Maine in 2014. After working as a housing counselor and hip-hop musician, Mamdani entered local New York City politics as a campaign manager for Khader El-Yateem and Ross Barkan. He was first elected to the New York State Assembly in 2020, defeating five-term incumbent Aravella Simotas in the Democratic primary. In October 2024, Mamdani announced his candidacy for mayor of New York City in the 2025 election.

Islamabad
court acquits
PTI's Azam
Swati

Judge Afzal Majoka dismisses two cases against PTI leader registered under Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Wednesday acquitted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Senator Azam Swati in two cases related to controversial tweets. The cases against Senator Azam Swati were initiated in November 2022, after the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing arrested him over tweets considered offensive towards the military leadership. Following the formation of the National Cybercrime Investigation Agency (NC-CIA) in April 2025, the cases were transferred to the new body for further proceedings. According to the FIA, Swati's tweets were part of a "malicious campaign" aimed at spreading unrest and discrediting state institutions for "ulterior motives". – DNA

Bitcoin plunges
below \$100,000

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Bitcoin tumbled sharply on Tuesday, falling more than 6% to slip below \$100,000 for the first time since June, as broader risk-off sentiment rippled through financial markets. Major US stock indexes also dropped, with tech and chip stocks particularly weak, after Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley CEOs warned that equities may be due for a pullback. The cautious mood sent Treasury yields lower, while the US dollar climbed to a four-month high against the euro, adding pressure on risk assets, including cryptocurrencies. The drop in bitcoin highlights growing investor caution in the face of tightening monetary conditions and market volatility, prompting some traders to reduce exposure to high-risk assets. The bank CEOs warned at an investment summit in Hong Kong of the prospect of a stock market correction of more than 10% over the next two years. Shares of Nvidia were down 4%, while an index of semiconductor stocks also fell 4%. Shares of Palantir Technologies PLTR.O dropped more than 8% despite the data analytics provider reporting strong quarterly results. The company, which has more than doubled in value this year, forecast fourth-quarter results above market expectations as the rapid adoption of artificial intelligence is boosting demand for its services. "Big Short" investor Michael Burry, known for his successful bets against the US housing market in 2008, has placed bearish bets on Nvidia and Palantir, according to a regulatory filing on Monday. The S&P 500 fell more than 1% and the Nasdaq dropped more than 2%. The Nasdaq is still up about 21% for the year so far. "The market's been moving higher as warranted from an earnings standpoint, but at some point ... it seemed like it was kind of positioning for a risk-off pullback even on the slightest disappointment," said Keith Buchanan, senior portfolio manager at Global Investments. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 251.44 points, or 0.53%, to 47,085.24, and the S&P 500 fell 80.42 points, or 1.17%, to 6,771.55, and the Nasdaq Composite fell 486.09 points, or 2.04%, to 23,348.64.

Pak calls for countering
disinformation

Amanat Ali, who is the press counsellor at Pakistan's Mission to the UN, warned that the deliberate distortion of facts to mislead populations, malign nations, and erode confidence in the multilateral institutions has now become systematic

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has voiced concern over the strategic use of information manipulation by occupying powers to obscure realities, justify repression, and delegitimize struggles for self-determination, and called for combating this drift. "Through internet shutdowns, restrictive media laws, and digital surveillance, these powers seek to silence dissent and manufacture a false narrative of stability," Pakistani delegate Amanat Ali told the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee, which deals with special political and decolonization matters. Speaking in a debate on "Questions relating to Information" he said that this systemic information repression conceals human rights violations and is antithetical to international law and the moral responsibilities of member states. Amanat Ali, who is the press counsellor at Pakistan's Mission to the UN, warned that the deliberate distortion of facts to mislead populations, malign nations, and erode confidence in the multilateral institutions has now become systematic. Pakistan, he said, be-

lieves that timely and impartial dissemination of information is critical to promoting the UN's principles, purposes and initiatives – to be achieved only with accuracy and integrity of information. "Where information should serve humanity and foster understanding, its misuse corrodes public trust, sows polarization, and weakens multilateral cooperation," the Pakistani delegate said. "Pakistan hopes to reinforce the belief that information is not merely a commodity, but also a public good and more importantly a shared responsibility." Pointing out that the advent of artificial intelligence and generative technologies has added both promise and peril to the digital landscape, Amanat Ali said these tools could strengthen governance, if ethically guide. "But when weaponized, they hone the power to deceive and distort reality," he said, adding, "Left unchecked, these tools can magnify lies with impunity". The Pakistani delegate also underscored the need to address digital disparities. "Without equitable access to information technologies, the promise of digital transformation will remain uneven, excluding vast segments of humanity from access to innovations and opportunity. "Bridging this divide is indispensable for achieving an inclusive digital economy and realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," he added. Pakistan, he said, attached great importance to upholding multilingualism and cultural diversity, underscoring that UN's message must reach people in the languages they understand and trust. – Agencies

Typhoon
death toll
tops 100
in the
Philippines

MANILA: The death toll from Typhoon Kalmaegi in the Philippines climbed past 90 on Wednesday as the devastating impact on hard-hit Cebu province became clearer after the worst flooding in recent memory. Floodwaters described as unprecedented had rushed through the province's towns and cities a day earlier, sweeping away cars, riverside shanties and even massive shipping containers. On Wednesday, Cebu spokesperson Rhon Ramos told AFP that 35 bodies had been recovered from flooded areas of Liloan, a town that is part of provincial capital Cebu City's metro area. The grim news brought the toll for Cebu to 76. Earlier in the day, national civil defence deputy administrator Rafaelito Alejandro confirmed at least 17 deaths in other provinces. "It was the major cities that got hit (with floods), highly urbanised areas". – APP

Saudi Arabia's request to buy F-35
jets 'clears' key Pentagon hurdle

A sale would mark a significant policy shift, potentially altering the military balance in the Middle East

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: The Trump administration is considering a Saudi Arabian request to buy as many as 48 F-35 fighter jets, a potential multi-billion-dollar deal that has cleared a key Pentagon hurdle ahead of a visit by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, two sources familiar with the matter said. A sale would mark a significant policy shift, potentially altering the military balance in the Middle East and testing Washington's definition of maintaining Israel's "qualitative military edge." Saudi Arabia made a direct appeal earlier this year to US President Donald Trump and has long been interested in Lockheed Martin's (LMT.N), opens new tab fighter, one of the people and a US official said. The Pentagon is now weighing a potential sale of 48 of the

advanced aircraft, the US official and the person familiar with the talks told Reuters. The size of the request and its status have not been previously reported. The US official and a second US official, who acknowledged the weapons deal was moving through the system, said no final decision has been made and several more steps are needed before the ultimate nod, including further approvals at the Cabinet level, sign-off from Trump and notification of Congress. The Pentagon's policy department worked on the potential transaction for months, and the case has now progressed to the secretary level within the Defense Department, according to one of the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The Pentagon, White House and State Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A Lockheed Martin spokesperson said military sales are government-to-government transactions and the matter is best addressed by Washington.

Pakistan Int'l Airlines flight
disruptions continue

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) aircraft engineers' protest has entered its second day, as dozens of flights in Karachi were delayed on Tuesday, with several cancelled outright, leaving scores of passengers stranded. A dispute between Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) management and its aircraft engineers has brought flight operations to a near standstill, as engineers stopped issuing safety clearances, leaving several aircraft parked on the ground and passengers stranded across major airports. Sources said the protest has thrown the schedule into disarray. After about 8pm on Monday, none of PIA's international flights managed to take off, and dozens of domestic and outbound services have since been delayed or cancelled. The airline's management has begun taking

disciplinary action against the engineers, according to Society of Aircraft Engineers of Pakistan (SAEP) sources. Six aircraft engineers posted at Peshawar airport have been transferred to Karachi, the sources said. They insisted the engineers are not on strike – they're reporting for duty and clearing only the aircraft they believe are fit to fly. Anything they don't consider airworthy won't get clearance, they added. The management, they claim, is trying to push approvals through pressure and intimidation. As part of a backup plan, PIA brought in engineers from a private company, but they managed to clear only two flights, the SAEP sources said. At least 55 flights were affected on Monday, with five cancelled across the Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad airports, they said. Twelve international flights were also disrupted, putting passengers in a difficult spot. A large number of them are Umrah pilgrims.

Google aims to make Pakistan
export hub, says Aurangzeb

Govt to privatise PIA by year-end, says finance minister



DNA

KARACHI: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday hailed the launch of Google Chromebook assembly line in Pakistan and said that the tech giant intends to make Pakistan an export hub, highlighting the country's growing potential in the technology and maritime sectors. Speaking at the Future Summit in Karachi, the finance minister emphasised the need to equip youth with digital and technical skills to help them capture higher-value opportunities in coding, blockchain, and AI-driven sectors. Pakistan's first Google Chromebook assembly line was

launched on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Khan, who termed it "a defining moment" in the country's digital transformation. "Google's plan to establish Pakistan as an export hub aligns with our vision for AI-driven growth. There are vast opportunities to expand the blue economy," Aurangzeb said. Aurangzeb said that Pakistan's economy is moving in the right direction and emphasised that sustainable growth can only be achieved through production-driven development. "The private sector plays a vital role in economic progress. Our focus will remain on the IT and maritime sectors to transform Pakistan into an export-oriented economy," he stated. Aurangzeb said that international rating agencies have acknowledged Pakistan's economic improvement, while global institutions have also recognised the country's macroeconomic stability. "Corporate profits have increased by 9%," he added. The minister said the government has expanded the tax net to enhance national revenue, resulting in an additional 900,000 tax filers. "Digitisation will bring transparency to the economy. EGYR has also requested to learn from our FBR reforms," he remarked. He stressed that structural reforms are essential for long-term economic stability and said the government will continue to provide an ecosystem that leverages recent diplomatic successes.

NOVEMBER 2025

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