



Islamabad POST

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Rwanda keen to expand ties with Pakistan: envoy

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Nancy Pelosi says she is retiring soon

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Pakistan urges India to end IWT suspension

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Meets Iranian speaker

Pak, Iran Pledge to strengthen ties for global peace

Prime Minister fondly recalled the deep-rooted historical, religious, and cultural bonds between the two neighboring countries

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to strengthening brotherly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, underscoring the shared vision of both countries for global peace, regional stability, and unity of the Muslim Ummah. He expressed these views during a meeting with H.E. Dr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament (Islamic Consultative Assembly), who called on him along with a high-level delegation in Islamabad. Welcoming the visiting dignitary, the Prime Minister fondly recalled the deep-rooted historical, religious, and cultural bonds between the two neighboring countries. He reiterated that Pakistan and Iran have always stood by each other in difficult times and continue to advocate peaceful dialogue and diplomacy for the resolution of regional and global disputes. The Prime Minister extended his highest regards to His Eminence, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and Iranian President Masoud Pzeshkian, describing them as strong voices for peace and Muslim unity. He said both Pakistan and Iran have suffered immensely due to terrorism but remain firm in their resolve to combat the menace and promote prosperity and cooperation across the region. "Pakistan and Iran, as two brotherly Muslim countries, share a steadfast commitment for global peace and unity of the Muslim Ummah," the Prime Minister remarked, adding that Islamabad is keen to deepen collaboration in areas of mutual interest including trade, energy, and economic development.

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Trump says 'open' to considering lifting Iran sanctions

APP

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said Thursday that Iran has asked for heavy US sanctions against Tehran to be lifted – and that he is open to having a discussion about it. "Frankly, Iran has been asking if the sanctions could be lifted. Iran has got very heavy US sanctions, and it makes it really hard," Trump said during a dinner with Central Asian leaders. "I'm open to hearing that, and we'll see what happens, but I would be open to it." Western countries, including the United States, have long accused Iran of seeking to acquire atomic weapons, while Iran insists its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. Tehran has been reeling under years of international sanctions, especially after the United States in 2018 withdrew from an international nuclear accord with Tehran and reimposed tough punitive measures. In mid-June, Israel launched an unprecedented bombing campaign against Iran, triggering a war which saw the United States join briefly with strikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

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Baku : Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir also present.

President expresses sorrow over mosque explosion in Jakarta

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed deep sorrow and concern over the tragic explosion at a school mosque in Jakarta during Friday prayers, which left several people injured. The President conveyed his sympathies to the government and people of Indonesia and prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the incident. President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with Indonesia in the fight against terrorism and extremism, noting that Pakistan has itself suffered greatly and rendered immense sacrifices in this struggle.

Continued on Page 06

FO rejects Indian allegations of Pakistan nuclear tests

PAKISTAN on Friday said it had not conducted any nuclear tests after May 1998, rejecting Indian allegations of clandestine nuclear activities as "baseless and malicious". Foreign Office (FO) Spokesman Tahir Andrabi, responding to a question from Dawn, said, "For the record, Pakistan's last nuclear tests were conducted in May 1998. Our position on nuclear testing is well established and consistent." Pakistan has maintained a self-imposed moratorium on nuclear testing since its last series of tests

Continued on Page 06

Friendship strengthened

Pakistan, Azerbaijan to further strengthen multi-layered coop

The Prime Minister felicitated the Government and people of Azerbaijan on the Victory day which is observed to commemorate historic victory in the 44 day long Karabakh Liberation War against Armenia

BUREAU REPORT

BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev at Presidential Palace of Azerbaijan on Friday. Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir was also present in the meeting. The Prime Minister thanked the President of Azerbaijan for extending invitation to attend the celebration of victory day of Azerbaijan. The Prime Minister felicitated the Government and people of Azerbaijan on the Victory day which is observed to commemorate historic victory in the 44 day long Karabakh Liberation War against Armenia. He reiterated that the Victory of Azerbaijan served as a beacon of hope for oppressed people striving for self determination including the

people of Indian Illegally Occupied in Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine. The two leaders reviewed the whole range of bilateral relationship and agreed to further strengthen their multi-layered cooperation in the fields of political, Trade and Investments, Energy, Connectivity and Defence. The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended an invitation to President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to visit Pakistan at his earlier convenience which he graciously accepted. The Prime Minister appreciated President Aliyev for signing the historic peace agreement with Armenia earlier this year. President Ilham Aliyev thanked Pakistan for its consistent support to Azerbaijan in its just struggle against illegal occupation of Karabagh region. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting regional stability in South Asia.

Briefs

Russia lawmakers due next week for ISC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In another step aimed at strengthening bilateral parliamentary relations, Russia will send a high-level delegation to Islamabad next week. Representatives from both houses of the Russian parliament will attend the upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) in Islamabad on November 11-12. Seasoned politicians will co-lead the delegation: Senator Konstantin Kosachev, Deputy Speaker of the Russian Federation Council (the upper chamber of the Russian parliament), and Mr. Aleksandr Babakov, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma (the lower chamber of the Russian parliament).

DPM satisfied over positive momentum in Pak-US ties

DNA

ISLAMABAD: U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker called on Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday. The DPM/FM noted with satisfaction the positive momentum in Pak-US relations. Discussions also covered the efforts of US & Arab-Islamic countries to promote peace and stability in Palestine and the wider Middle East.

Holiday Notice

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

Mediators fully endorsed Pakistan's stance

Pakistan delegation hands over evidence during talks with Afghan Taliban: FO

The Spokesperson said the President also urged enhanced global cooperation aimed at achieving social justice, equality, human dignity, expansion of social protection and emphasized the need for a fair, inclusive and reformed global financial architecture to support social development, especially development of the global south

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan delegation engaged in talks with Afghan Taliban had handed over its evidence-based, justified and logical demands to the mediators in Istanbul on Thursday with the singular aim to put an end to cross border terrorism, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said. During his weekly press briefing here on Friday, he told that Pakistani delegation's talks with Afghan Taliban regime commenced in Istanbul with the presence and participation of the mediators. He said, "The mediators fully endorsed Pakistan's stance on the basis of the evidence provided by our side, as well as on the basis of the tenets of international law and principles." "The mediators are discussing Pakistan's

demands with Afghan Taliban delegation point by point," he said adding "Any other information being circulated on the social media particularly from Afghan handlers, Afghan accounts is either pure speculation or deliberate disinformation. We request that such false information may please be disregarded." Briefing about the visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to Doha from November 3 to 6, he said the President attended the World Summit for Social Development hosted by the state of Qatar. He said the summit convened world leaders with the aim to rebuilding global efforts towards achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals. Upon its conclusion the summit adopted the Doha political declaration. "In his important address to

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Commander of Defence Forces' title on the cards as part of reforms

New title is being considered under proposed amendment to Article 243 of Constitution

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The introduction of a new designation named "Commander of Defence Forces" (CDF) is under consideration in the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment as part of key defence reforms... The new title is being considered under the proposed amendment to Article 243, aimed at ensuring greater coordination and unified command among the three armed services. The move is said to have been inspired by lessons drawn from recent Pakistan-India war scenarios and the evolving nature of modern warfare that demands an integrated operational response. Although the official draft of the 27th Constitutional Amendment has not surfaced, its main points have come to light, including the proposal to tweak Article 243. Article 243 states that "The Federal Government shall have control and command of the Armed Forces" and "the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces shall vest in the President", among other things. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif recently said that consultations were underway for amendments to the law that governs armed forces. "Consultations on amending Article 243 are ongoing [...] defence requirements have changed," the minister told Geo News on November 5.

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Constitutional Court to start with 'seven judges retiring at 68' under proposed 27th Amendment

Justice Aminuddin Khan likely to be appointed as the first chief justice of the Constitutional Court

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to establish a Constitutional Court under the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment, initially comprising seven judges, in what officials sources describe as a major step toward reforming the country's judicial structure. According to the informed sources, the idea of setting up a Constitutional Court was originally part of the Charter of Democracy (CoD) signed between the

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KP facing threats cross-border aggression: Kundi

Responding to questions, the Governor said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had hosted millions of Afghan refugees for decades, extending hospitality and shelter, but regrettably, Afghan nationals have been found involved in several terrorist incidents. He stressed that strict action must be taken against those who do not respect Pakistan's Constitution and laws

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the province continues to face serious challenges from India-backed terrorists and cross-border aggression. He said that due to its proximity and shared borders with Afghanistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains heavily affected by such threats. "There seems to be no alternative to intelligence-based operations for the complete eradication of terrorism," he emphasized. The Governor was speaking to participants of the 27th National Security Workshop from the National Defence University (NDU) during their study visit to the Governor's House, Peshawar on Friday. The delegation was led by Major General Muhammad Raza, Director General of the Institute of Strategic Studies and Research Analysis

(ISSRA). The participants included members of parliament, academia, bureaucracy, business community representatives, and civil society members. Governor Kundi welcomed the visitors and briefed them on the overall security situation in the province, including the merged tribal districts, as well as issues related to natural resources and economic development. Responding to questions, the Governor said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had hosted millions of Afghan refugees for decades, extending hospitality and shelter, but regrettably, Afghan nationals have been found involved in several terrorist incidents. He stressed that strict action must be taken against those who do not respect Pakistan's Constitution and laws. Highlighting the province's development needs, Governor Kundi said peace and stability are essential

for investment and progress. He said that the province faces severe challenges from climate change, citing recent cloudbursts and glacial outbursts as alarming signs. The Governor pointed out that although the tribal areas have been merged into the province, administrative, financial, and regional challenges still persist. He lamented that despite Khyber Pakhtunkhwa being the largest producer of electricity, no major dam has been constructed after Tarbela, which could have helped in water conservation and power generation. Emphasizing tourism potential, Governor Kundi said that the province's rich historical and religious heritage offers vast opportunities for promoting tourism. "By developing the tourism sector, we can ensure peace and prosperity in the province," he concluded.—APP

Railways to invest Rs 100b in upgrading 18 branch lines

LAHORE:Pakistan Railways (PR) plans to spend approximately Rs. 100 billion on rehabilitation of 19 branch lines across its network to ensure a safe and reliable journey for passengers and enhance inter-provincial connectivity and urban rail transport. According to documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the department plans to spend Rs. 98.58 billion on upgradation of 19 branch lines across the four provinces with a total length of 2,479 kilometres. Out of this allocation, Rs. 44.411 billion will be spent in Punjab, Rs. 35.955 billion in Sindh, and Rs. 17.217 billion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Under the plan, eight branch lines will be rehabilitated in Punjab, including 78km Shahdara-Narowal with an estimated cost of Rs. 3,909 million, 62km Narowal-Sialkot line with a spending of Rs. 3,705 million, 370km Raiwind-Kasur-Pakpattan line with an allocation of Rs. 10,709 million, 220km Qila Sheikhupura-Jarawal-Shorkot line at a cost of Rs. 5,669 million, 147km Shorkot-Jhang-Sargodha line with an estimated cost of Rs. 7,351 million, 167km Sargodha-Malikwal-Lalamusa line with a cost of Rs. 6,432 million, 68km Chak Jhumra-Shahinabad line with a cost of Rs. 3,699 million.—APP

Jazz highlights role of AI

ISLAMABAD:In a year defined by escalating climate challenges, Jazz has been recognized at the 3rd SDPI Sustainability Awards for its pioneering Early Warning System (EWS) — a digital solution that turns mobile technology into a life-saving network. The company received the Award for Disaster Resilience and Climate Risk Management from Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, during the 28th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) hosted by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here Friday. Developed in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and supported by GSMA's Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation (M4H) program, the Jazz EWS has emerged as a digital shield for millions. By sending geo-targeted alerts in real time, the system has reached over 50 million people across Pakistan giving families precious minutes to move to safety, safeguard their homes, and protect their livelihoods when floods, heatwaves, or other natural disasters strike. Zaheer Mehdi, Group Chief

Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Officer at Jazz, said, "Behind every alert sent is a story of a life protected, a family given time to act. This recognition from SDPI honors the purpose that drives us, using connectivity to care. Through our partnership with NDMA and GSMA, we're ensuring that no one is left unprepared when disaster strikes, and that technology serves as a source of safety, not just convenience." The recognition coincided with Jazz's active participation in the SDPI 28th Sustainable Development Council, held under the theme "Sustainable Development in the Emerging World [Order]." The conference brought together policymakers, development practitioners, and thought leaders to explore pathways for resilience amid global uncertainty and climate disruption. During the event, Zaheer Mehdi delivered opening remarks at the Policy Dialogue on "Telecom and the Digital Future of Pakistan: Artificial Intelligence, Connectivity, and the Frontiers of Development." He underscored that telecom remains the backbone of Pakistan's digital transfor-

mation, calling for responsible and inclusive AI integration to drive equitable progress, said a news release. "At Jazz, our mission is simple, to improve lives and livelihoods through technology," he noted. "That means providing affordable access, building trust through responsible data use, and equipping Pakistanis with digital skills so our nation becomes a creator in the global digital economy, not merely a consumer." Adding to Jazz's representation, Fatima Akhtar, Head of Communications & Sustainability, joined a high-level roundtable on "Anticipating Tomorrow: Forging Pakistan's National Strategy for Proactive Disaster Risk Reduction." She emphasized that public-private partnerships and technology-driven awareness can empower communities to act before crises escalate, turning preparedness into a shared social responsibility. Through initiatives like the Early Warning System and continued participation in national climate and policy dialogues, Jazz reaffirms its commitment to putting people at the heart of digital progress.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: U.S Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker called on Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Devsinc founder Usman joins Forbes Business Council

ISLAMABAD: Usman Asif, Founder and CEO of Devsinc, a Pakistan-grown global technology services company, has been inducted into the Forbes Business Council, one of the world's most influential communities for accomplished entrepreneurs, business owners, and industry leaders. Out of more than 900 Forbes Business Council members worldwide, only 11 represent Pakistan, and notably, just four are from the IT sector. Usman Asif's inclusion underscores Devsinc's global stature and reflects the growing recognition of Pakistan's technology leadership on the international stage. "The Forbes Business Council provides a powerful platform to amplify Pakistan's potential in the global technology and innovation ecosystem," said Usman Asif. "We look forward to contributing insights and opening more pathways for collaboration and growth." The Forbes Business Council comprises a curated network of global leaders who are shaping the future of business and innovation across North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Membership to the council is extended only after following a rigorous evaluation of professional accomplishments, industry impact, and leadership excellence. Council members include founders, CEOs, and innovators from high-growth technology, investment, and consulting firms influencing global markets and policy conversations.—APP

Lahore 2nd most polluted city, Karachi 4th as smog intensifies

LAHORE: Air pollution levels have surged to alarming levels across Pakistan's major cities, with Lahore and Karachi among the most affected as South Asia continues to grapple with severe environmental degradation. According to the latest Air Quality Index (AQI) report, Lahore has been ranked the second most polluted city in the world, while Karachi stands at fourth place. The air quality in both cities has been declared "hazardous" to human health. In Lahore, the AQI recorded 291 particulate meters — a level considered ex-

tremely dangerous. Environmental experts warned that the intensity of smog in the city is steadily increasing, triggering a rise in respiratory infections, throat irritation, and eye diseases among residents. The Environment Department has urged citizens to stay indoors whenever possible and to wear protective masks when going outside. Experts also emphasized the need for urgent measures to control emissions from vehicles, industries, and crop residue burning, which are key contributors to the worsening air quality. Meanwhile, in Qabula Sha-

rif, heavy smog has enveloped the city, mainly due to black smoke emitted from brick kilns and factories. Local residents reported breathing difficulties and a sharp rise in eye and respiratory illnesses. Citizens expressed concern over what they termed as the Environment Department's inadequate response, calling for immediate and effective action to curb pollution and protect public health. Officials said monitoring teams have been directed to intensify inspections and ensure strict implementation of anti-smog regulations across Punjab.—APP

Peshawar's second-hand wool markets bring hope, livelihoods

PESHAWAR: As the cold winter breeze sweeps through Peshawar's narrow alleys, the centuries-old Jehangirpura and Qissa Khwani bazaars once again come alive with the colours of wool jackets, coats, and sweaters hanging in every stall and salesman's shoulders, becomes a key source of livelihoods. Among the many vendors of wool shawls, sweaters, jackets and coats calling out to customers, 30-year-old Malayar Shah stands out not just for his warm smile but for his quiet determination, vowing to bring positive changes in the lives of his family through hard work. Every morning before dawn, Malayar starts his motorcycle from his

home town Pabbi Nowshera and rides toward Jahangirpura bazaar, a place that has become both his workplace and his refuge. He spends his day arranging piles of second-hand wool jackets and coats, and sweaters hanging in every stall and salesman's shoulders, becomes a key source of livelihoods. Among the many vendors of wool shawls, sweaters, jackets and coats calling out to customers, 30-year-old Malayar Shah stands out not just for his warm smile but for his quiet determination, vowing to bring positive changes in the lives of his family through hard work. Every morning before dawn, Malayar starts his motorcycle from his

Rs.300 per sale, he dreams of one day saving enough to open a small shop of his own near Qissa Khwani Bazaar. As winter sets in in the city of artisans, these readymade garments markets become a lifeline for both vendors and shoppers coming here from across KP. Low-income families, daily wage earners, farmers, drivers, underpaid employees and middle-class buyers crowd the narrow lanes, hunting for good-quality used jackets and sweaters imported mostly from Europe, Japan, and the United States. "People trust second-hand garments," said shopkeeper Waheed Khan, who has worked in Jehangirpura for two decades.—APP

Graduation ceremony of No 61 Combat Commanders' course held

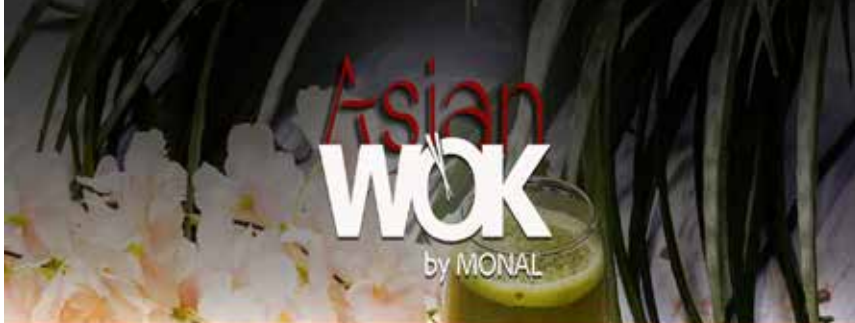
DNA

ISLAMABAD: Graduation Ceremony of No 61 Combat Commanders' Course was held at PAF Aero space power Centre of Excellence. Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Asim Rana, Air Officer Commanding, Central Air Command was the Chief Guest on the occasion.



In his address to graduating officers, the Chief Guest lauded the exceptional dedication, professionalism and perseverance displayed by the course participants. He emphasized that combat readiness remains the cornerstone of PAF's operational doctrine and that realistic, adaptable & technology-driven training was essential to maintain the Force's decisive edge. He

highlighted that PAF Aero space power Centre of Excellence continues to serve as the cradle of tactical brilliance, where cutting-edge concepts of air combat are tested, refined and translated into doctrine. Expressing satisfaction over the high professional standards achieved by the institution, the Chief Guest remarked that all schools within PAF ACE were working in perfect harmony to produce combat leaders who could harness modern technologies and integrate them across multiple domains. Reflecting on the visionary leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, the Chief Guest noted that PAF is undergoing a remarkable transformation under the guidance of its leadership. He further said that the comprehensive modernization drive initiated by the Air Chief has ushered in an era of unprecedented growth focusing on indigenization, network-centric operations, artificial intelligence integration and enhanced jointness across air, cyber and space domains. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Chief Guest awarded trophies and certificates to the officers who distinguished themselves through their outstanding performance during the demanding course. Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for Best Overall Performance among Combat Pilots was awarded to Wing Commander Ikrash Munir Awan, while Air Officer Commanding Air Defence Trophy for Best Overall Performance among Combat Controllers was awarded to Squadron Leader Javed Iqbal. The ceremony marked the culmination of an intensive and high-tempo training program designed to forge the next generation of combat leaders for Pakistan Air Force. Senior military officers, field commanders and instructors from various PAF formations attended the ceremony, underscoring the significance of this milestone event in the Force's operational calendar.—APP



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria National Day

Nov 04/Italy Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia National Day

Nov 11/Poland Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus National Day

Nov 18/Oman National Day

Nov 18/Morocco Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh Armed Forces Day

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Nov 28/Albania Flags Day



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Islamabad Metropolitan

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Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

75th Years of Indonesia-Pakistan

Enduring Trust and Friendship

ISLAMABAD: Artists from Indonesia presenting a culture show on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day of Indonesia, 80th Anniversary of the Indonesian Armed Forces and 75 years of Indonesia-Pakistan bilateral relations. DNA

Govt committed to empowering SMEs through tech: Haroon

Haroon Akhtar Khan highlighted that Pakistan was playing a leading role in promoting SME cooperation among D-8 countries. The SME representatives appreciated the Ministry of Industries and Production’s efforts and expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan for their initiatives to uplift the SME sector

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan said here on Friday that the government was committed to empower Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through technology and innovation. The special assistant was speaking at a meeting with representatives of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) clusters from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) here, according to press release issued by Ministry of Industries and Production. Among others, the meeting was also attended by Acting CEO SMEDA Ms. Nadia, Additional Secretary for Industries and Production, and the Director General to the SAPM. During the meeting, Akhtar Khan shared the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for Micro, Small, and Me-

dium Enterprises (MSMEs). He stated that the Prime Minister envisions aligning SMEs with modern technology to enhance productivity and competitiveness. “Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif believes that small businesses are the backbone of economic growth, employment generation, and export promotion,” he said, emphasizing that the Prime Minister was committed to empowering women through entrepreneurship and skill development to achieve inclusive economic progress. Khan noted that no country can achieve sustainable economic development without strengthening its small and medium enterprises. He said the government was facilitating SMEs through banks and collaborating with international consultants to introduce best practices. Haroon Akhtar Khan highlighted

that Pakistan was playing a leading role in promoting SME cooperation among D-8 countries. The SME representatives appreciated the Ministry of Industries and Production’s efforts and expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan for their initiatives to uplift the SME sector. He also underscored that the provision of Islamic banking facilities, financial support, and funding mechanisms will ensure SME growth. SMEDA, he said, will continue to provide technical assistance and technology upgradation to SMEs, enabling them to compete regionally and globally. He praised the performance of SMEs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa despite numerous challenges and directed that co-ordination with the provincial government be enhanced for the establishment of new

industrial estates in the region. He further instructed SMEDA to provide engineers and designers to assist SMEs in improving product design and value addition. “The promotion of SMEs will strengthen Pakistan’s economy and create employment opportunities for the youth,” he added. During the meeting, SMEDA informed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Mobilink, enabling online bank registration through smartphones for SMEs. Representatives from the SME clusters emphasized the need for government support for the furniture sector in KPK and pointed out the immense export potential of the province’s honey industry. Khan assured that SMEDA will extend facilitation for honey production and packaging improvements.

Amjad Gill assumes DG PSB additional charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD: The Joint Secretary Sports of the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Amjad Gill, has assumed the additional charge of Director General Pakistan Sports Board (PSB). According to official details, the IPC Ministry assigned the additional charge to Amjad Gill following the departure of Pakistan Sports Board Director General Yasir Pirzada to Saudi Arabia for participation in the Islamic Solidarity Games 2025. During this period, Amjad Gill will oversee all administrative and operational matters of the Pakistan Sports Board until Yasir Pirzada’s return.

Weekly inflation down by 0.59 pc

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), decreased by 0.59 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on November 6, 2025, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review was recorded at 333.55 points, down from 335.53 points last week. On a year-on-year basis, the SPI increased by 4.18 percent. The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16-100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group (up to Rs17,732) decreased by 1.04 percent, falling to 327.73 points from 331.18 points last week. The SPI for

consumption groups of Rs17,733-22,888; Rs22,889-29,517; Rs29,518-44,175; and above Rs44,175 also fell by 0.93 percent, 0.74 percent, 0.66 percent, and 0.44 percent, respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 18 (35.29%) items increased, 12 (23.53%) items decreased, and 21 (41.18%) items remained unchanged. The major commodities registering an increase during the week included eggs (2.40%), bananas (2.32%), firewood (1.61%), diesel (1.12%), beef (0.93%), tea prepared (0.92%), petrol (0.91%), bread (0.55%), wheat flour (0.34%), powdered milk (0.31%), and cooking oil 5-litre tin (0.21%). Items showing a decline in prices included tomatoes (37.93%), onions (4.88%), garlic (3.23%), pulse gram

(1.58%), chicken (0.68%), sugar (0.64%), gur (0.60%), pulse masoor (0.55%), and LPG (0.15%). On a year-on-year basis, major increases were observed in the prices of ladies sandal (55.62%), sugar (43.67%), gas charges for Q1 (29.85%), wheat flour (19.50%), gur (18.88%), firewood (14.25%), beef (14.09%), vegetable ghee 2.5kg (11.53%), onions (11.22%), vegetable ghee 1kg (9.79%), and diesel (9.29%). Commodities witnessing a year-on-year decline included garlic (33.54%), pulse gram (29.82%), electricity charges for Q1 (26.26%), potatoes (22.32%), tomatoes (19.69%), tea (17.79%), pulse mash (15.52%), chicken (15.16%), LPG (9.14%), and pulse masoor (4.95%).—APP

JS Bank recognized for the Best Private Banking in Pakistan by Global Finance

This recognition further strengthens JS Bank’s position as a trusted financial partner and reflects its continued growth in the wealth management space. The Bank remains focused on enhancing its private banking offering by combining high-touch advisory with cutting-edge digital capabilities to serve clients both in Pakistan and abroad

ISLAMABAD: JS Bank, one of the fastest growing banks in Pakistan, has been recognized for the Best Private Banking in Pakistan in Global Finance’s “World’s Best Private Banks 2026” awards. The annual awards highlight institutions that deliver exceptional service, innovation, and expertise in wealth management and private banking across global and regional markets. Global Finance, a New York-based financial publication, is a trusted authority in the global banking and finance industry. Its annual awards are among the most respected in international banking, identifying institutions that demonstrate excel-

lence, innovation, and leadership in their respective markets. JS Bank’s Private Banking division is renowned for its customer-centric approach, offering personalized financial solutions tailored to meet the evolving needs of high-net-worth clients. The Bank brings together deep market expertise, trusted advisory, and a focus on building long-term relationships through integrity and innovation. Sharing his thoughts on the award the Chief Operating Officer, Atif Salim Malik said “JS Bank being recognized as the Best Private Bank in Pakistan by Global Finance is another testament to our strive to deliver ex-

cellence. We believe in building value that lasts through personalized advisory, innovative digital solutions, and a steadfast commitment to our clients’ success. Our private banking journey is guided by the vision to bring global standards of wealth management to Pakistan.” This recognition further strengthens JS Bank’s position as a trusted financial partner and reflects its continued growth in the wealth management space. The Bank remains focused on enhancing its private banking offering by combining high-touch advisory with cutting-edge digital capabilities to serve clients both in Pakistan and abroad.—APP

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Briefs

NA spokesman
denies
reports of CDA
expulsion from
Parliament
House

ISLAMABAD: A spokesman for the National Assembly Secretariat on Thursday dismissed reports about the CDA's expulsion from Parliament House, describing them as baseless. In a statement, he clarified that the only personnel withdrawn from Parliament House were members of the CDA's janitorial staff. The spokesperson further emphasized that all other CDA officers and employees continue to perform their duties at Parliament House without interruption. A significant portion of the CDA's janitorial staff was absent from Parliament House. Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, referred the issue to the Finance Committee. Following deliberations, the Committee resolved to terminate the services of the CDA's janitorial staff and launch an open tender process, according to the National Assembly spokesperson. The spokesperson stated that all parliamentary parties are represented in the Finance Committee. The decision to remove the CDA's janitorial staff was taken unanimously. A total of thirteen firms participated in the open tender, with the winning company already engaged in providing services to other government institutions. The new arrangement is projected to save the National Assembly around 100 million rupees annually.—APP

Chinese,
Pakistani
firms ink
pact to boost
mining sector

ISLAMABAD: Chinese mining company Guangdong Handar and Pakistan's Sanjrani Mining Company (SMC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Guangzhou, China. It is aimed at deepening cooperation on mineral extraction and processing in Balochistan, Handar said in an announcement, according to a Gwadar Pro's report. Under the agreement, the two companies will establish a joint venture, tentatively named Pak-Handar Mining Services and Management Company, to offer mining services, invest in resource extraction projects, and modernise mineral processing in Pakistan's southwest region, the Chinese company said. Guangdong Handar will provide technical expertise and management support, while SMC leverages its local network and assets. The deal was signed in Guangzhou by former Senate chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, SMC's chairman, and Liang Fa, rotating general manager of Guangdong Handar. SMC, headquartered in Balochistan, holds significant copper, coal, marble, and onyx assets and has a track record of local resource development. Pakistan is currently seeking global investment to modernise its mining sector, which aligns with its participation in the Belt and Road Initiative.—APP

All ICT law
libraries
converted to
e-libraries:
Tarat

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar informed the Senate on Friday that all law libraries within the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) had been digitized and converted into e-libraries to facilitate lawyers and litigants. He said that the initiative was part of broader reforms aimed at improving access to justice and capacity building for legal professionals across the country. The minister clarified that the Access to Justice Programme, launched in 2001 with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was a funded programme based on a soft loan, which continued for several years and was extended for five more before it formally concluded in 2018.—APP

Strategic dimensions of air
and aerospace power mulled

Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd), former Director CASS, examined the psychological mechanisms that influence public opinion and political decisionmaking in contemporary warfare, drawing lessons for doctrine, training, and leadership in a multidomain environment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, hosted a Roundtable Conference on "Psychological & Strategic Layers of Air & Aerospace Power" on 23rd October 2025. The event brought together senior practitioners and scholars to discuss how doctrine, leadership, and emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), space systems, and Electronic Warfare (EW) are redefining the balance of power in South Asia. CASS, as an independent think tank, continues to facilitate academic and strategic dialogue on evolving dimensions of national and regional security, fostering insight into the future of air and aerospace power in South Asia. The moderator, Air Vice Marshal Nasser ul Haq Wyne (Retd), Director CASS, set the stage by emphasising that contemporary air and aerospace operations demand not just technological superiority, but also clarity of doctrine and psychological readiness. He observed that leadership, training, and decision-loop compression are now the true determinants of victory, especially in an era where rapid information cycles can shape perceptions as much as performance. In his keynote address, Air Marshal Zulfikar Ahmed Qureshi (Retd), President of the Centre for Character & Leadership Development (JCCL) at PAF Academy, highlighted that contemporary air and aerospace power extends far beyond aircraft and missiles, with true advantage resting in doctrine, employment strategy, training, and clarity of leadership, reinforced by emerging domains such as space, cyber, electronic warfare, and artificial intelligence. These elements, he noted, compress the OODA loop, enabling faster and more decisive action. He emphasised that sovereign nations prosper when



they secure their citizens, and the Pakistan Air Force, as the bastion of aerospace power, plays a vital role in achieving national security objectives. Air power, he concluded, remains remarkably cost-effective through its decisive effects rather than its material value. The second keynote speaker, Air Marshal Farooq Habib (Retd), former Director CASS, examined the psychological mechanisms that influence public opinion and political decisionmaking in contemporary warfare, drawing lessons for doctrine, training,

and leadership in a multidomain environment. He stressed the importance of resilience training for leaders operating under degraded, ambiguous, and deceptive conditions through scenario-based exercises. He also emphasised the need to educate the public to withstand an adversary's kinetic and non-kinetic efforts for psychological dominance. Furthermore, he advocated that leaders possess a firm grounding in the social sciences, align political objectives with coercive strategy, and institutionalise information op-

erations expertise within air operations planning. In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd), President CASS, thanked the speakers for their strategic insights and operational perspectives. He remarked that as warfare expands into new domains—cyber, space, and information—the psychological component of deterrence is becoming as vital as technological strength. He reaffirmed CASS's commitment to advancing dialogue on doctrines that blend intellect, innovation, and resolve in support of Pakistan's national security

Ihsaan discusses
textiles coop with Dutch
investors delegation

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan held a meeting with a high-level delegation from Bedding house and Invest International (The Netherlands), to discuss deepening bilateral cooperation in sustainable textiles, circular economy initiatives, and investment partnerships. The delegation was led by Ms. Henriëtte van Beynum, CEO of Bedding house, accompanied by Mr. Boudewijn Mol, Director, and Ms. Sandra Bruinse, Impact and ESG Advisor at Invest International, said a release issued here on Thursday. The Coordinator to Prime Minister warmly welcomed the delegation and appreciated the Netherlands' role as Pakistan's second-largest

export market in the European Union and fifth globally, noting the steady growth of bilateral trade. He commended Bedding house for its long-standing sourcing relationship with Pakistan's textile sector, which currently exceeds 30 million annually, and for its commitment to sustainability, ethical sourcing, and circular textile practices. The Coordinator welcomed Beddinghouse's decision to establish a permanent sourcing office in Pakistan, describing it as a strong vote of confidence in the country's textile sector and skilled workforce. He assured full facilitation from the Ministry of Commerce and related institutions to support this initiative. Mr. Khan highlighted that Pakistan's certification, com-

pliance, and labor rights frameworks are not only aligned with EU market standards but are also a national priority to ensure responsible and sustainable production. During the meeting, discussions focused on sustainability and circularity in textile production, including Beddinghouse's plan to launch a pilot project on textile waste reuse in collaboration with a local enterprise. The company aims to transfer technology, strengthen supplier partnerships, and enhance traceability in the value chain through its local presence. Mr. Khan emphasized that Pakistan and the Netherlands share a common vision of promoting environmentally responsible growth and innovation. He invited Invest

International to explore co-financing models and partnerships in recycling, renewable energy for industrial use, and capacity-building initiatives within Pakistan's textile sector. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to building a sustainable, circular textile ecosystem that not only enhances bilateral trade and investment but also contributes to job creation, technology transfer, and environmental stewardship. The meeting concluded with mutual appreciation and optimism for strengthening Pakistan-Netherlands economic ties, advancing sustainability goals, and positioning Pakistan as a leading hub for ethical and circular textile production in the region.—DNA

CDA chief reviews
sectors development
progress

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting regarding sectors development was held at the CDA Headquarters on Friday, chaired by Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa. The meeting was attended by CDA Board Member Admin & Estate Talat Mahmood, Member Finance Tahir Naeem, Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza, Member Planning and Design Dr. Khalid Hafiz, Member Environment Esfandiyar Baloch, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon along with relevant officers from the Engineering, Environment, Planning, and Estate Wings. The relevant officers briefed Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa on the progress made in sectors development. During the meeting, it was decided to form a working group to expedite development work in the sectors and remove obstacles hindering progress. Similarly, a separate working group was also formed for the upgradation of old developed sectors. The purpose of forming the working group is to develop a comprehensive plan for the restoration and improvement of old sectors, which will include infrastructure rehabilitation, horticulture and landscaping and the provision of modern facilities. During the meeting, the relevant officers briefed Chairman CDA on the ongoing development work in Sector C-14, informing him that work on the Road Infrastructure (TST) in Sector C-14 is progressing rapidly. Similarly, horticulture work and internal electrification on the service road of Sector C-14 are also ongoing.—DNA

Gold price
remains
unchanged

ISLAMABAD: The price of per tola 24 karat gold remained unchanged in the local market on Friday and was sold at Rs423,062, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also stayed firm at Rs362,707, while 10 grams of 22 karat gold were traded existing rates of Rs332,493. In the international market, the price of gold was traded at \$4,007 per ounce, showing no change from the previous day's rate. Likewise, the price of per tola 24 karat silver remained stable at Rs5,112, while 10 grams of silver were sold at Rs4,382. The international silver rate was recorded at \$48.50 per ounce, with no variation.—APP

Rupee gains 03
paise against US
Dollar

03 paise against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 280.82 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 280.85.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 282.6 and Rs 282.85, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 66 paise to close at Rs 324.02 against the last day's closing of Rs323.36, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.83, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of Rs 1.63 and closed at Rs 368.56 compared to the previous day's Rs 366.93.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal declined by 01 paise each to close at Rs 76.45 and Rs 74.87, respectively.

IRSA releases
118,200
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 118,200 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 56,400 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1539.53 feet which was 137.53 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 29,800 cusecs and 65,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1229.60 feet, which was 179.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 3,400 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively.—APP

RDA warns citizens
against illegal sale,
purchase of plots

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has issued a strong warning to the public to stay alert against illegal advertisements, sales, and purchases of plots in the University Town housing scheme, following numerous complaints received from citizens. Acting on the directives of the Secretary, Housing,

Urban Development and Public Health Engineering (HUD&PHE) Department, RDA took serious notice of the matter after receiving multiple public grievances against the scheme. Director General RDA, Kinza Murtaza, has formed a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the alleged irregularities in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. To prevent further unlawful activities, the authority has also requested the Deputy

Commissioner Rawalpindi to block the CNIC numbers of the owner and sponsor of University Town through NADRA. Additionally, RDA has directed a ban on all land transfers, sales, and purchases associated with the developer. The authority has further recommended that the names of the scheme's owner and sponsor be placed on the Exit Control List (ECL) and an FIR be lodged against them. The public has been cautioned not to invest in University Town, located in Mouza Bajnial, Service M-2, Tehsil and District Rawalpindi, until its legal status is verified. RDA urged citizens to confirm the authenticity of any housing scheme through its official channels before making any investment to avoid potential financial loss.



ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in final preparation for the different enclosures and pavilions at Lok Virsa.

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Peace with Israel would open new path for Lebanon

KHALED ABOU ZAHR

IN 2000, after 22 years of occupation, Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon. Following this swift withdrawal, Israel's proxy, the South Lebanese Army, collapsed and let the Iran-backed group, Hezbollah, take control of its territories. It was hence Hezbollah, not the Lebanese state, that took over. Israel's unilateral withdrawal, ordered by Prime Minister Ehud Barak, ended a very costly presence with no significant gains. During its occupation, Israel lost about 1,000 men and the financial cost was in the billions of dollars. Barak wanted to do the same in Gaza and, in October of the same year, the Second Intifada started. It was Ariel Sharon who in 2005 disengaged Israel from Gaza, with Hamas taking over. In both theaters, Israel's unilateral withdrawal reduced the intensity of conflict but left Hezbollah and Hamas in real control.

In Lebanon, despite a few skirmishes, Hezbollah and Israel respected certain rules of engagement, such as the UN-demarcated Blue Line, as well as ensuring any retaliation was proportional and localized. This lasted until 2006, when Hezbollah followed Hamas and decided to join the war, and then again in 2023. Without going back through all the events, the Israeli withdrawal empowered Hezbollah from the start. Indeed, Hezbollah was the instrument that pushed the Israelis out, giving the group a savior and hero status, which subsequently put it above the Lebanese state and every other sovereign institution. Meanwhile, the Shebaa Farms, from which Israel did not withdraw and which also involves Syria, gave Hezbollah the technicality it needed to stay armed and claim there were still occupied Lebanese lands and that it was the only deterrent against Israel.

In a way, Israel has chosen its enemies. In 1982, it chose Hezbollah over the Palestinian and Arab resistance, and it also chose again in Gaza when it cornered Yasser Arafat in 2004. Yet, just as in 2006, it has been capable, when its enemies cross the red line, of inflicting a heavy toll. In 2024, the offensive was different, more reminiscent of 1982, when it expelled the Palestine Liberation Organization. It was no longer about punishment for crossing a red line, but the much more strategic decision of destroying Hezbollah. Following the heavy losses Hezbollah endured and its weakened state, this allowed a new leadership in Lebanon to potentially fill this vacuum and put forward a plan for Hezbollah's disarmament, something many Lebanese look forward to. It is time to end the role of a proxy that should never have been above the state and should never have had the power to make decisions of war and peace.

This is exactly why President Michel Aoun's statement this week that there

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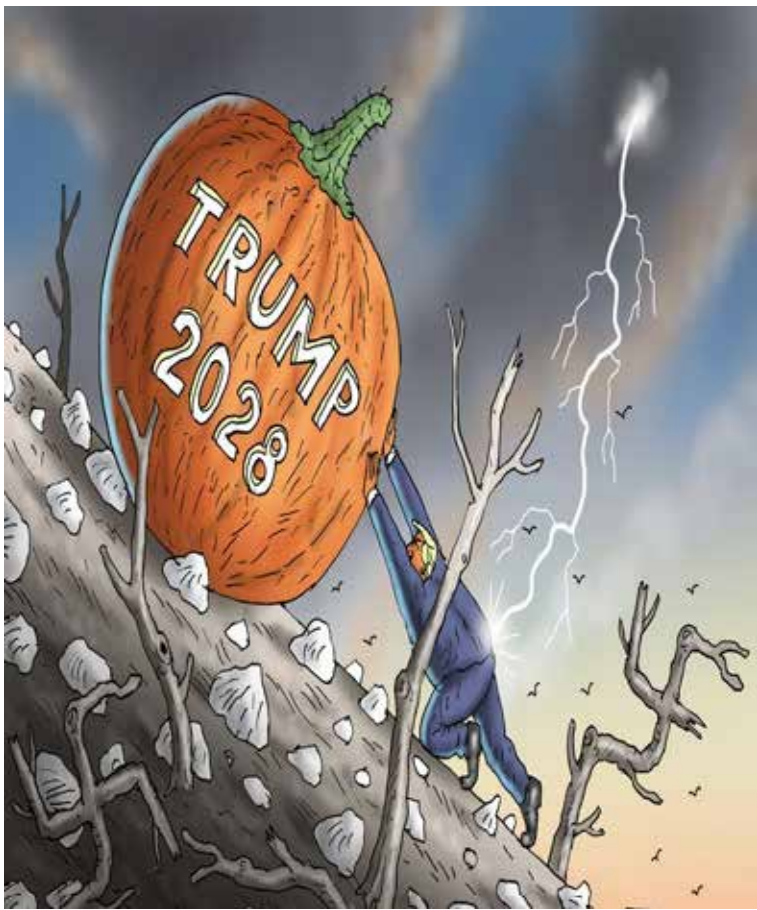
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is no choice but to negotiate with Israel using diplomatic language is important. There is indeed no way of regaining Lebanese sovereignty without the state holding the files of any remaining occupied territory. Hezbollah had a clear agenda not to solve any pending border issues, as it validated its status as a resistance force. It abused this position to control the entire country. Hence, if Aoun is capable of taking over this file and negotiating a solution for all pending territorial disputes, whether in the Mediterranean or the Shebaa Farms, this removes all the cards that Hezbollah gained in 2000 and puts the state back in the decision-making seat. The same should be done with Syria. If this process is successful, then instead of selecting its enemy, Israel will be able to have relations with Lebanon similar to those it has with Jordan or Egypt. Moreover, as Syria's new leadership has openly stated its willingness to negotiate with Israel, and with the fact that Damascus' control over Lebanon no longer exists, this opens another huge opportunity for Lebanon to bring things to a settlement and achieve peace. This is achievable peace, not a temporary truce. Both Israel and Lebanon should be keen to seize this opportunity. Aoun also stated his commitment to the Mechanism Committee, established in 2024. This Lebanese military body currently coordinates with Israel on border security and territorial issues and it operates under UN mediation. Morgan Ortagus, the deputy US special envoy to the Middle East, mentioned the possibility of including civilians in the Mechanism Committee. The important thing is to initiate these negotiations and not have any Hezbollah-linked military or civilian personnel involved. The Lebanese state has a historic opportunity to seize the decision of peace or war. It is time the state took full responsibility for these files and that the army became the only defender of the country's borders. It is time to end the role of a proxy that should never have had the power to make decisions of war and peace. We do not know how long these negotiations might take and the Lebanese state needs to regain its decision-making on many other files. Therefore, it is also extremely important that the disarmament of Hezbollah is not linked to these negotiations. Indeed, we can expect very tough negotiations from the Israeli side and Tel Aviv will certainly not make easy concessions to Lebanon. As a starter, it will probably remind everyone that the decapitation of Hezbollah allowed the Lebanese president to push forward with the reconquering of sovereignty. As a result, Hezbollah no longer presents a deterrent or offers any advantage. It is finally being seen for what it is: an agent of destruction representing foreign interests on Lebanese soil. Hence, its disarmament needs to take place regardless of any border dispute with Israel. Aoun will need regional and international support to conclude these negotiations successfully and to encourage both sides to finalize an agreement as quickly as possible. This potential peace agreement would be a huge achievement and a steppingstone toward Lebanon fully regaining its sovereignty. Aoun's declaration showed courage. Let us hope it will be achieved. This would mean a new path for Lebanon, one that – for the first time in a very long while – would allow the country to regain agency. It is filled with opportunity and prosperity.

– Khaled Abou Zahra is the founder of Space Quest Ventures, a space-focused investment platform. He is CEO of EurabiaMedia and editor of Al-Watan Al-Arabi

The Strategic Value of Modesty

Air Marshal (R) Shahid Akhtar Alvi



Modesty also brings practical rewards. Time not spent on publicity is spent on preparation. Money saved from self-projection goes into training and systems. When projection is not the goal, rivalry fades and ambition stays honest. Across the border, one sees a different temperament. The Indian Air Force often speaks of its achievements with confidence, while the PAF has chosen a quieter path marked by discipline and self-assurance.

Its composure in tension and restraint in success have earned it respect, even from those who rarely admit it

HAVING lived through decades of service, I have seen times when doing one's duty was reward enough. Today, in much of the world around us, the act itself feels incomplete unless someone is watching. In this culture of constant display, strength has become noisy and has overpowered humility, once a defining attribute of men of excellence. While in a profession built on speed, power and precision, modesty seems almost out of place, yet within the Pakistan Air Force it remains one of its defining virtues. Behind the roar of jet engines lies a way of life that values modesty after success and reflection after victory. Greed, ostentatious living and false projection have quietly crept into our social fabric. A growing distance now separates those in authority from the people they serve. Much of this behaviour is a residue of the colonial mindset, where power was meant to be displayed rather than shared. Over time, this attitude has filtered into our institutions, creating competition where there should have been collective purpose. There are, however, examples within our own system that show a different way, where confidence grows from competence and modesty gives strength its credibility. The Pakistan Air Force stands among them. Despite belonging to a profession driven by precision and speed, it has preserved a culture of restraint and respect. This balance between excellence and humility has kept it close to its people and true to its mission. From the first day at the academy, every cadet is reminded that arrogance kills and overconfidence blinds. Flying requires confidence, yet it leaves no room for arrogance. When a crew chief salutes a pilot before taxiing out, the gesture carries a weight of history and a silent understanding that it could be his last. It embodies friendship, trust and the knowledge that skill alone does not control fate. In close air combat, survival may hinge on a fraction of a second. Every pi-

lot knows that in those moments, it is only God who keeps him safe, and that real mastery begins with humility before that truth. The same humility is seen on the ground. It is not uncommon for a base commander to sit with technicians under the wing of an aircraft being repaired in the evening, discussing a snag or sharing a cup of tea. Principal staff officers still dine at the airmen's mess, a quiet tradition reminding everyone that respect flows both ways. During the 1965 war, when Indian aircraft attacked a base as one of ours was taxiing out, the crew chief threw himself over the pilot to shield him from strafing. He survived only by seconds, but his instinct said everything about comradeship and selflessness. Perhaps that is why, after Marka-e-Haq, the Pakistan Air Force quietly began reviewing lessons, identifying weaknesses and preparing to overcome deficiencies. This habit of turning from success to self-examination keeps the organisation sharp and united.

In national life, noise too often counts for more than results. We have begun to judge leadership by visibility rather than delivery. From politics to public offices, image often overshadows performance. In such an environment, modesty is mistaken for weakness and self-promotion passes for power. The Air Force shows otherwise: real strength is often silent. Few stories show this better than that of Air Marshal Nur Khan. During the war, he flew an unarmed aircraft into enemy territory and never spoke of it again. The service remembered him even though he never mentioned what he had done.

Modesty also brings practical rewards. Time not spent on publicity is spent on preparation. Money saved from self-projection goes into training and systems. When projection is not the goal, rivalry fades and ambition stays honest. Across the border, one sees a different temperament. The Indian Air Force often speaks

of its achievements with confidence, while the PAF has chosen a quieter path marked by discipline and self-assurance. Its composure in tension and restraint in success have earned it respect, even from those who rarely admit it. For Pakistan as a nation, this attitude holds a wider lesson. Confidence built on modesty earns respect, while empty noise soon loses it. When our institutions and leaders begin to value quiet competence over constant display, the national image gains dignity. As Pakistan faces economic strain and political fatigue, modesty can offer balance. A government confident enough to admit limits gains public trust. Officials who listen to their specialists make better decisions. When modesty guides those in authority, it reduces the urge for showmanship that drains energy and resources.

True education, too, should build pride in honest effort and the quality of one's work. Yet some elite schools now reward display and entitlement, not discipline. This mindset distances young people from their faith's teaching that God loves those who walk humbly upon the earth. Across the board—pilots, professionals, teachers and students—modesty can steady our society. The PAF's story is filled with men and women who worked hard, adapted and delivered results without fanfare. This steady commitment, more than any single victory, defines its strength. It explains how the force has stayed grounded while touching the sky. We live in a world that listens first to the loudest voices, yet lasting change comes from those who work quietly. The Pakistan Air Force's way is more than a professional habit; it is a national lesson. Modesty gives strength its clarity. Real power shows itself through what is achieved, not through what is said.

– The writer is a former Ambassador and a retired senior Pakistan Air Force officer.

The Immigrant Who Rewrote America's Political Destiny

Qamar Bashir



Mamdani's win has triggered more than political ripples; it has ignited a national awakening. Across the United States, from Chicago to San Francisco, young South Asians, African Americans, Latinos, and Arab-Americans have found new hope. His unapologetic independence has inspired debates on the corrosive influence of foreign lobbies and corporate donors in American politics

A New chapter has been written in the political and administrative history of the United States – one authored not by an old establishment figure, but by a 34-year-old South Asian whose intellect, integrity, and irresistible smile conquered one of the most challenging cities in the world: New York. Zohran Mamdani's victory as Mayor is not just a political triumph; it is a moment of moral reawakening for America – a reminder that the nation still rewards courage, clarity, and conviction over color, creed, or capital. Born in Kampala, Uganda, raised in a South Asian family, and educated in the United States, Mamdani's rise is nothing short of revolutionary. In a city long ruled by power brokers, media barons, and billionaires, he stood alone – an immigrant's son knocking on every door of every borough, shaking every hand, and smiling through every insult hurled his way. With unshakable composure, he challenged the system and charmed New Yorkers of every race and religion.

His campaign was a marathon of endurance. While others relied on corporate donors and media machinery, Mamdani relied on people. He walked the streets of Queens and Harlem, crossed Brooklyn bridges, spoke in Bronx parks, and listened to the working poor – the forgotten backbone of the city. Against him stood a coalition of multimillionaires, landlords, and political veterans, supported by powerful lobbying groups that had long influenced New York's policies. Even in the face of personal attacks – accusations of “communism,” threats to his safety, and attempts to question his loyalty – he never lost his calm. His reply was always the same: “My loyalty rests with New York and the United States – not with any foreign power.” When asked whether he would visit Israel after his victory – as every other mayoral candidate promised – Mamdani's answer shocked the establishment. “Why should I?” he said. “My duty is to the people of New York – to every Jew, Muslim, Christian, and atheist who calls this city home. My allegiance is to America.”

His words, honest and unvarnished, unleashed a storm. Traditional media branded him anti-Israel, while social media – the new voice of conscience – hailed him as a patriot unafraid to speak truth to power. For the first time, a mainstream U.S. politician publicly rejected the unspoken rule that loyalty to Israel was a test of American legitimacy. In many ways, Zohran Mamdani is the mirror America needed. His victory exposed the fault lines between old-

guard politics and the emerging conscience of a new generation. He represented the immigrant who built this nation yet was too long kept away from leading it. He reminded America that New York – the city that welcomed Italians, Irish, Jews, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Pakistanis, and Bangladeshis – owes its greatness to its diversity. During his victory speech, his voice carried both gratitude and defiance: “New York was built by immigrants, and today, it is led by one.” That line alone set the tone for a new political age. Mamdani promised affordable housing for all New Yorkers, a moratorium on rent increases, fare-free buses, and city-run grocery stores to fight inflation. He vowed to make public services not a privilege but a right. Critics dismissed these pledges as utopian. But Mamdani replied with characteristic wit: “Every day I will wake up to make New York better than it was yesterday.”

His agenda reflects the deep inequities that define the modern metropolis. In 2025, median rent in Manhattan surpassed \$5,000 a month – a record high. More than 60,000 New Yorkers sleep in shelters nightly, while the city's billionaires doubled their wealth since 2020. Mamdani's victory came as a moral revolt – a democratic uprising against profit-driven governance. Even President Donald Trump, when asked about Mamdani's win, could not resist commenting. “He's a communist,” Trump said, half-smiling. “He'll fail, and that will only help Republicans.” Yet, observers noted the unease behind his humor – a recognition that a formidable force had entered the national arena. Trump, a master of populist energy, recognized in Mamdani a younger reflection of his own political magnetism – only directed by conscience rather than ego. In the weeks following the election, the White House reportedly tried to assess how to handle the new mayor who refused to be co-opted. Mamdani, however, made his position clear: “I will cooperate with Washington if Washington cooperates with New York's people. My loyalty is to my voters, not to the corridors of power.”

He stood unshaken even when both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi mocked him publicly for his promise to honor international warrants for their arrest should they enter New York. Netanyahu had sneered, “He'll never be mayor,” and Modi dismissed him as irrelevant. Yet, the ballots proved otherwise – the people of New York had spoken. Mamdani's win has triggered more than political ripples; it

has ignited a national awakening. Across the United States, from Chicago to San Francisco, young South Asians, African Americans, Latinos, and Arab-Americans have found new hope. His unapologetic independence has inspired debates on the corrosive influence of foreign lobbies and corporate donors in American politics. A recent independent survey by the Pew Research Center showed that 68% of Americans now believe politicians should prioritize domestic welfare over foreign alliances – a shift many attribute to Mamdani's rhetoric and example. Conversations once whispered in private – about AIPAC funding, media bias, and political coercion – are now part of mainstream discourse. For decades, America's unquestioned alignment with Israel – despite global condemnation of its actions in Gaza – was seen as untouchable. But Mamdani's stance has torn that veil. His refusal to visit Israel, his insistence on compassion for both Jews and Palestinians, and his commitment to New York's multicultural reality have forced the nation to rethink where its moral compass truly points. Political analysts across U.S. networks now call Zohran Mamdani “the Obama of a new era.” Like Barack Obama's 2008 rise, Mamdani's victory carries symbolic power – proof that the American dream, though battered, still breathes. He may not seek the presidency soon, but many already whisper that history has found its next great contender. If an African-American from Chicago could rise to the presidency in 2008, why not a South Asian from Queens in the decade ahead? His journey embodies the American ideal – not of inherited privilege, but of earned respect.

In an age of polarization, Mamdani offers something rare: a unifying moral vision that transcends political lines. He speaks not as a partisan but as a citizen-leader who loves his city more than his career. His victory reminds America that greatness lies not in dominance but in decency – not in fear, but in faith. As the confetti of his triumph settles over the streets of New York, one truth rings clear: the son of immigrants has rekindled the immigrant spirit of America. And if his light continues to rise, he may yet illuminate the path to a better nation – one where every child, regardless of origin, can dream not just of belonging, but of leading.

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

Briefs

Pak, Iran Pledge to strengthen ties for...

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Dr. Ghalibaf, while expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister, government, and people of Pakistan, lauded Pakistan's principled stance and support during the recent Iran-Israel conflict. He said that the solidarity shown by Pakistan during the 12-day confrontation was deeply valued by the Iranian leadership and people. He reaffirmed Iran's determination to further strengthen bilateral ties and enhance cooperation with Pakistan in economic, trade, and parliamentary domains. The Iranian Speaker also conveyed a message of goodwill and friendship from President Masoud Pazeshkian and thanked Pakistan for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi, also attended the meeting.

Trump says 'open' to considering lifting...

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The 12-day war with Israel, which prompted an Iranian response with missile and drone strikes, derailed nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington which had begun in April. Trump said that Iran had once been the "bully of the Middle East" but no longer had the "possibility of nuclear weapons." The Republican president, who returned to office in January, has repeatedly said the strikes obliterated Iran's nuclear program, but the full extent of the damage remains unknown. In September, the United Nations reinstated sanctions against Tehran under the so-called "snapback" mechanism after Britain, France and Germany triggered the process. Those measures bar dealings linked to the Islamic republic's nuclear and ballistic missile activities. Oman, which has hosted several rounds of US-Iran nuclear talks, has called on both sides to return to negotiations.

Pakistan delegation hands...

FROM PAGE 01

the summit, the President of Pakistan raised the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and the imperative of the realization of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. The President underscored that people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are facing Indian state sponsored terrorism for decades," the Spokesperson explained. He said the President also called out India for deliberately violating international law by breaching the Indus water treaty, describing it as a direct threat to regional stability and an act that deprived millions of Pakistanis of their right to water which undermined Pakistan's sovereignty and endangered the livelihood of its people. The President also condemned the Israeli aggression against Palestine.

Commander of Defence Forces'...

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"This entire process will be carried out through mutual consultation," said the defence minister, whose party, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), attempts to amend the Constitution for the second time during its ongoing tenure. The Pakistan Peoples Party, which rejected most of the proposed amendment of the 27th Constitutional Amendment, has also hinted at tendering conditional support to amend Article 243 of the Constitution. Addressing a presser after an hours-long Central Executive Committee (CEC) late on Thursday, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that his party authorised him to extend conditional.

Pakistan backs US-drafted resolution on lifting sanctions

"The delisting of President al-Sharaa and Interior Minister Khattab should help give the Syrian people the greatest chance"

UNITED NATIONS: With Pakistan supporting, the UN Security Council Thursday adopted a draft resolution to remove Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa and Interior Minister Anas Khattab from the Da'esh and Al-Qaeda sanctions list. The US-drafted resolution received 14 votes in favour to none against, with China abstaining. Sharaa was named transitional president after leading an offensive that ousted Bashar al-Assad in December 2024, ending 13 years of devastating civil war. He was under UN sanctions as the leader of the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), which was formerly linked to al-Qaeda. The US removed HTS from a list of foreign terror groups in July. The 15-member Council's vote came ahead of Sharaa's visit to the White House on Monday and talks with President Donald Trump. United States Ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz welcomed the adoption of the resolution, saying, "With the adoption of this text, the Council is sending a strong political signal that recognizes Syria is in a new era," he said.

"The delisting of President al-Sharaa and Interior Minister Khattab should help give the Syrian people the greatest chance." But China's Ambassador to the UN Fu Cong argued that the resolution failed to address the "the legitimate concerns of all parties". "The sponsor did not fully heed the views of all members and forced the Council to take action even when there were huge differences among Council members in an attempt to serve its own political agenda," said Fu, referring to the US. "China stands ready to work with the international community to continue to play a constructive role in achieving security, stability, and development in Syria at an early date," he added. Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia emphasized that the "resolution reaffirms the Security Council's commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic." "We expect that these fundamental principles will be adhered to by all members of the international community, including Israel, which continues to play by its own

rules and occupy part of Syria's sovereign territory, including the Golan Heights," he said. Pakistan's UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad also welcomed the resolution, praising its adoption as step on Syria's journey ahead – presenting "immense opportunities", as well as challenges. The Pakistani envoy expressed hope the Government would continue to centralize its authority and address security challenges, ultimately helping Syria to emerge as one of the world's strong and prosperous nations. Pakistan, he said, had always emphasized upon the need for providing sanctions relief to allow for Syria's reconstruction and reintegration with the international community, while also facilitating sustained dialogue and engagement. "The Syrian people have suffered for more than a decade of conflict, chaos and civil war," he told the Security Council. "Today's vote is a welcome step by this Council to signal the support of the international community towards helping the Syrian people transition into a new phase of their politi-

cal journey through a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process. Ambassador Asim Ahmad warned of the terrorist threat, noting the presence of foreign terrorist fighters continues to threaten security in the country. "We hope that the Syrian authorities will extend and consolidate centralized authority and stabilize the situation across the country by taking measures necessary to address the security concerns." Syria hailed the UN Security Council's decision to remove President al-Sharaa and Interior Minister Khattab from the sanctions list, calling it further proof of Damascus's growing diplomatic legitimacy. In a statement on X, Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani said: "Once again and not for the last time, Syrian diplomacy reaffirms its active presence and its ability to make steady progress in removing obstacles and paving the way toward a more open and stable Syrian future." Syria expressed its "appreciation to the US and friendly nations for their support to Syria and its people". – **Agencies**

Three killed in new US strike on alleged drug boat

WASHINGTON: US forces on Thursday struck another alleged drug trafficking boat in the Caribbean, killing three people, Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth said, bringing the death toll from Washington's controversial anti-narcotics campaign to at least 70. The United States began carrying out such strikes – which experts say amount to extrajudicial killings even if they target known traffickers – in early September, taking aim at vessels in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific. The US strikes have destroyed at least 18 vessels so far – 17 boats and a semi-submersible – but Washington has yet to make public any concrete evidence that its targets were smuggling narcotics or posed a threat to the United States. Hegseth released aerial footage on X of the latest strike, which he said took place in international waters like the previous strikes and targeted "a vessel operated by a Designated Terrorist Organization." The video showed a boat

traveling through the water before exploding into flames. "Three male narco-terrorists – who were aboard the vessel – were killed," Hegseth said, without any further identifying information. "To all narco-terrorists who threaten our homeland: if you want to stay alive, stop trafficking drugs. If you keep trafficking deadly drugs – we will kill you," he wrote. Like some previous videos released by the US government, a section of the boat is obscured for unspecified reasons. President Donald Trump's administration has built up significant forces in Latin America, in what it says is its campaign to stamp out drug trafficking. So far it has deployed six Navy ships in the Caribbean, sent F-35 stealth warplanes to Puerto Rico, and ordered the USS Gerald R Ford carrier strike group to the region. The governments and families of those killed in the US strikes have said many of the dead were civilians – primarily fishermen.

French biathlete Simon handed six-month ban, still eligible for Winter Olympics

Ban prohibits Simon from participating in competitions organised by FFS or IBU

DNA

PARIS: DFrench biathlete Julia Simon has been handed a six-month competition ban by the French Ski Federation (FFS), but the 29-year-old will be able to compete in next year's Milano Cortina Winter Olympics, the sports body said on Thursday. Simon, who won the overall World Cup title in 2023 and holds 10 world championship gold medals, was also fined 30,000 euros (\$34,986.00) by the FFS National Disciplinary Committee. The decision follows her credit card fraud and theft conviction last month. Simon was sentenced to a three-month suspended prison term and fined 15,000 euros (\$17,493.00). The ban prohibits her from participating in competitions or training sessions organised or authorised by the FFS or IBU.

PM praises role of AFC in football development

The Prime Minister welcomed the AFC President and praised the role of the AFC under the leadership of Shaikh Salman Ebrahim Hamad Al Khalifa in the development of the game of football in Asia

ISLAMABAD: President Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President and FIFA Senior Vice President Shaikh Salman Ebrahim Hamad Al Khalifa called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Thursday and discussed matters related to football. The Prime Minister welcomed the AFC President and praised the role of the AFC under the leadership of Shaikh Salman Ebrahim Hamad Al Khalifa in the development of the game of football in Asia. The Prime Minister, while highlighting the government's initiatives for the promotion of sports in the country, said that the government was striving to provide equal opportunities to the youth in all sports, including football. He reiterated his commitment to the development of football in Pakistan, making it an important hub for the game of football in the region and establishing an autonomous and merit-based football federation. The Prime Minister expressed keen interest in cooperation between Pakistan and the AFC in the development of football in Pakistan, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, provision of coaches and referees, establishment of stadiums, national training centers and talent pathways. The Prime Minister also expressed his desire to host AFC matches in Pakistan. Shaikh Salman Ebrahim Hamad Al Khalifa thanked the Prime Minister for his excellent hospitality and reiterated the AFC's support for the development of football in Pakistan. – **Agencies**

Constitutional Court to start with 'seven judges...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan Peoples Party and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz in 2006. The proposal has now been revived as part of the broader constitutional reform package under discussion between the coalition partners. As per the proposed plan, the retirement age of judges of the Constitutional Court will be 68 years, three years higher than that of the Supreme Court judges, who currently retire at 65. Justice Aminuddin Khan is likely to be appointed as the first Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court. The court will not be housed in the Supreme Court building; instead, two options are under consideration for its location. One proposal suggests housing the court in the existing Islamabad High Court (IHC) building, and shifting the IHC back to its old premises in Sector G-10. The second, and reportedly more probable, option is to set up the Constitutional Court in the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) building. In that scenario, the Federal Service Tribunal (FST) would be relocated to one floor of the same building. Sources said among the seven initial judges, five were likely to be selected from the current Supreme Court constitutional bench. In addition, some high court judges – particularly from the Balochistan High Court and Sindh High Court – are also being considered for elevation to the new court. Officials said the proposed Constitutional Court would deal exclusively with the constitutional matters, helping reduce the Supreme Court's workload and ensure faster adjudication of constitutional disputes – an idea long envisaged in the CoD but never implemented until now.

President expresses sorrow over mosque...

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He added that terrorism has also left a deep mark on his own life, having lost close family members to acts of terror. He said such personal loss strengthens his resolve to work for peace and to stand firmly against extremism in all its forms. The President said that Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with Indonesia and the international community in its commitment to defeat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

FO rejects Indian allegations of Pakistan..

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conducted in response to India's nuclear tests. However, Pakistan has not signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, retaining the flexibility to resume testing if its security environment, particularly vis-à-vis India, deteriorates. "Pakistan has been supporting United Nations General Assembly resolutions calling for a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. In contrast, India's abstentions on these resolutions reflect its ambiguous and questionable intentions on future nuclear testing," Andrabi said. The statement came after India cited an earlier remark by former US President Donald Trump, who, in a 2019 interview with CBS's 60 Minutes, had claimed that "Pakistan's been testing" nuclear weapons, a statement Islamabad had earlier chosen not to respond to to avoid offending Washington. However, the FO broke its silence after India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) referenced Trump's comment at a media briefing on Friday. India's MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "Clandestine and illegal nuclear activities are in keeping with Pakistan's history, that is centered around decades of smuggling, export control violations, secret partnerships, AQ Khan network and further proliferation. India has always drawn the attention of the international community to these aspects of Pakistan's record. In this backdrop, we have taken note of President Trump's comment about Pakistan's nuclear testing."

Noman Ali nominated for ICC Player of the Month Award for October 2025

South Africa's Muthusamy and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan also nominated for same award

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan's spinner Noman Ali has been nominated for the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Player of the Month Award for October 2025. The international cricket body also nominated South Africa's all-rounder Senuran Muthusamy and Afghanistan's premier leg-spinner Rashid Khan for the same award. The No 3-ranked ICC Men's Test bowler claimed 14 wickets at an average of 23.07, further cementing his reputation as one of the most consistent spinners in world cricket. In the first Test in Lahore, Noman produced a match-winning spell, securing his third 10-wicket haul in Test cricket with figures of 6/112 and 4/79, leading Pakistan to a 93-run victory. In the Rawalpindi Test, he remained effective with four wickets and also contributed 17 runs with the bat, finishing as the highest wicket-taker of the series. Meanwhile, South Africa's Senuran Muthusamy was exceptional in his side's drawn Test series against Pakistan.

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ISLAMABAD: Pakistan rich tourism & diverse culture has received an overwhelming response on the second day of the World Travel Market (WTM) London 2025. "Pakistan's joint pavilion has been thronged by thousands of potential tourists and international tour operators during the first two days of the exhibition," said the premium tourism promotion organization of Pakistan. According to the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, the Pakistan Tourism Pavilion was established at the WTM London 2025 in collaboration with the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) with representation from Punjab Tourism, Sindh Tourism Development Corporation (STDC), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA), Gilgit-Baltistan Tourism Department and the private sector. Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana, Managing Director, PTDC, stated that "Pakistan is blessed with a great inventory of tourism attractions for inbound tourists from across the world. Participation in mega events like WTM greatly helps to build the image of Pakistan as a tourist-friendly destination." Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Prime Minister's National Coordinator on Tourism, appreciated the efforts of PTDC and all co-exhibitors and said that "such joint participation strengthens Pakistan's tourism marketing outreach through social net-

Pakistan gets overwhelming response

Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana, Managing Director, PTDC, stated that "Pakistan is blessed with a great inventory of tourism attractions for inbound tourists from across the world

works, B2B meetings, partnerships and media engagement. It also provides valuable insights into the global travel industry to harness endless opportunities for Pakistan's tourism sector." "Embellished with the vibrant regional colors of Pakistan, the pavilion attracted a large number of travel enthusiasts, representatives of international travel companies, media personnel and vloggers. The pavilion was adorned with eye-catching promotional materials including brochures, pamphlets, posters and large LED screens showcasing the rich cultural and landscape diversity of Pakistan," the press release added. WTM London is one of the largest travel shows in the world introducing global travel buyers to thousands of destinations. – **APP**

Doha summit ends with call to turn social pledges into action

Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed said the outcome reflects the urgency expressed by civil society, trade unions, community leaders, businesses and youth representatives throughout the week

UNITED NATIONS: The Second World Summit for Social Development concluded in Doha on Thursday with calls for countries to move swiftly from commitments to implementation, ensuring that the Doha Political Declaration delivers measurable progress on poverty reduction, decent work and social inclusion. Speaking at the closing press conference in Doha, President of the UN General Assembly Annalena Baerbock said the summit marked a "deliberate shift" from identifying gaps to acting on proven solutions. "Copenhagen taught us 30 years ago that social development and inclusion are essential for strong societies," she said. "We promised to leave no one behind. Social development is not a 'nice to have' nor an act of charity.

It is in the self-interest of every country," She warned that hunger and poverty today are not caused by scarcity, but by conflict, inequality and political failures, stressing: "One of the biggest problems is not money as such. It is rather how it is invested." More than 40 Heads of State and Government, over 230 ministers and senior officials, and nearly 14,000 attendees took part in the Summit. Pakistan was represented by President Asif Ali Zardari. Alongside the formal plenary and roundtable discussions, more than 250 "solution sessions" were held to exchange practical approaches to expanding social protection, improving access to healthcare and education, and supporting work that provides dignity. Deputy Secretary General

Amina Mohammed said the outcome reflects the urgency expressed by civil society, trade unions, community leaders, businesses and youth representatives throughout the week. "The message has been clear: people expect us to deliver answers, not simply declarations," she said. "The Doha Political Declaration is not a document for the shelves. It is a commitment to place people at the centre of sustainable development." She emphasized that implementation must now focus on accelerating poverty reduction, creating real jobs and ensuring no one is left behind. "We have opened the door in Doha. Now we must walk through it together." Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif

Al-Thani of Qatar said hosting the Summit reflects her country's conviction that equality, dignity and inclusion are essential to peace and prosperity. "Investing in people is the most sustained investment a nation can make," she said, noting Qatar's social spending at home and international development partnerships abroad. She stressed that the priority now is to ensure that commitments move off the page and into policy, supported by international cooperation and innovative financing. "The outcomes of this Summit provide a strong foundation," she said. "What matters most now is implementation." Regional economic commissions said they will assist countries in translating commitments into practical measures. – **Agencies**

Briefs

Delay and Detention Certificates binding on all port operators

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan, in a significant judgment, has ruled that all port and airport operators – including terminal operators – are legally bound to honor Delay and Detention Certificates and refund demurrage charges to the concerned importers or exporters. According to the written judgment approved for reporting, the decision was authored by Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui in an appeal filed by Shaheen Airport Services (SAPS) against M/s Yasir Traders, Arms and Ammunition Dealers & Importers, Peshawar. The court held that under Section 14A(2) of the Customs Act, 1969, if a Customs officer – not below the rank of Assistant Collector – issues a Delay and Detention Certificate confirming that the delay did not occur due to any fault of the importer, the terminal operators are mandatorily required to “entertain” and act upon such certificates. The judgment clarified that the term “entertain” does not merely mean to receive the certificate but to process it and provide an effective outcome, ensuring that demurrage or detention charges are refunded accordingly. Justice Siddiqui further observed that any refusal by a port or terminal operator to comply with such certificates constitutes a violation of law and may attract penalties or punishment under Section 156(1)(7A) of the Customs Act.—APP

Cameroon's Biya sworn in for 8th term

YAOUNDÉ: Paul Biya, who has been president of Cameroon for 43 years, was sworn in on Thursday for an eighth term, after a contested election that sparked mass protests and subsequent repression in which several demonstrators died. 92-year-old Biya, the world's oldest head of state, won the October 12 with 53.7 percent of the vote, according to official results, against 35.2 percent for his main challenger, former government minister Issa Tchiroma Bakary. He was sworn in at a ceremony in parliament in Yaounde for a new seven-year term at the helm of the central African country. “I will spare no effort to continue to be worthy of this trust,” Biya told the gathering attended by local political figures but no foreign leaders. “I fully understand the gravity of the situation our country is going through. I understand the number and severity of the challenges we face and I understand the depth of frustrations and the scale of expectations,” he continued. Tchiroma, a former Biya ally turned opposition figure, stirred unexpected enthusiasm among young voters eager for change and continues to insist he is the true winner of the ballot.—APP

Pak-Türkiye, pledge tech-driven disaster cooperation

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Turkish delegation led by Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya, Minister of Interior of the Republic of Türkiye visited the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Headquarters to explore technology-driven collaboration and strengthen Pakistan-Türkiye partnership in disaster preparedness and climate resilience. The delegation, led by Ali Hamza Pehlivan, President of AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Türkiye), received a comprehensive briefing on NDMA's technology-driven transformation in disaster management, highlighting advancements in early warning systems, real-time data integration, and risk-informed preparedness strategies. Minister of State for Interior Talat Chaudhary also accompanied the delegation. Chairman NDMA Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik highlighted the Authority's evolving role as the lead national coordinating body for disaster risk management. He emphasized NDMA's strategic shift from a reactive response system to a proactive, anticipatory model focused on preparedness and resilience.—APP

Pakistan, Azerbaijan share deep sense of brotherhood

Seminar held to mark anniversary of Azerbaijan's Victory Day

ISLAMABAD, Nov 06 (DNA):Pakistan, Azerbaijan reaffirm deep cultural and diplomatic bonds on Victory Day Seminar held here to marks five years of Azerbaijan's triumph, calls for stronger cooperation in education, trade, and defense. The seminar, titled “Azerbaijan-Pakistan Friendship: The Fifth Anniversary of Victory Day,” was held . The event celebrated Azerbaijan's victory over Armenia in the 2020 conflict and underscored the long-standing friendship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Among the speakers were former Acting Foreign Secretary Ambassador Naela Chohan, former Director of the Foreign Service Academy Dr. Taraq Waheed, Samir Ahmedli, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Azerbaijan, Rear Admiral Syed Faisal Ali Shah (Hilal-e-Imtiaz Military), and Asif Tan-

veer Awan, Research . Speakers noted that formal diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan were established in 1991, following Azerbaijan's independence from the Soviet Union. However, they highlighted that the people of both countries share centuries-old cultural, spiritual, and linguistic connections that go beyond politics or diplomacy. The panelists reiterated Pakistan's consistent support for Azerbaijan, especially during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and in response to Armenian aggression. They recalled that Pakistan had raised its voice at international forums in support of Azerbaijan's position, including during the Khojaly massacre. Similarly, Azerbaijan has continuously backed Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir issue. Reflecting on the 2020 war, speakers said that

renewed hostilities began in September that year and continued for 44 days, concluding in November with Azerbaijan's military success. They described the victory as a demonstration of the unity and resilience of the Azerbaijani people. The commemoration, they said, was a tribute to those who lost their lives defending their homeland. Participants stressed that remembering such national sacrifices is vital for strengthening unity and national resolve. They emphasized the importance of countering global silence on ongoing conflicts in Kashmir, Palestine, Gaza, and other occupied territories, urging strong and more coordinated international advocacy for oppressed communities. The speakers affirmed that Pakistan and Azerbaijan share a deep sense of brotherhood founded on faith, solidarity, and mutual trust. Pakistan, they said, has extended unwavering support to Azerbaijan without seeking any strategic or economic gain. They also underlined the need to expand cooperation in multiple sectors, including education, trade, culture, and defense, to further enhance bilateral relations. Both nations, they concluded, should continue to work closely in regional and global platforms to promote peace, development, and shared prosperity. The seminar concluded with a joint reaffirmation of friendship between the two countries and a commitment to further strengthening ties through cultural and academic exchanges, defense collaboration, and people-to-people contact.—APP

erhood founded on faith, solidarity, and mutual trust. Pakistan, they said, has extended unwavering support to Azerbaijan without seeking any strategic or economic gain. They also underlined the need to expand cooperation in multiple sectors, including education, trade, culture, and defense, to further enhance bilateral relations. Both nations, they concluded, should continue to work closely in regional and global platforms to promote peace, development, and shared prosperity. The seminar concluded with a joint reaffirmation of friendship between the two countries and a commitment to further strengthening ties through cultural and academic exchanges, defense collaboration, and people-to-people contact.—APP

China tech transfer driving Pakistan economic development

DNA

BEIJING: China's accelerated technology transfer is driving Pakistan's rapid economic development and significantly enhancing its synthetic national power. In recent years, technology transfers in multiple fields such as energy, industry, agriculture and information technology have yielded remarkable results. This was stated by Prof. Cheng Xizhong, Senior Research Fellow at the Charhar Institute, a non-governmental Chinese think-tank on diplomacy and international studies based in Beijing. Talking to APP, he said that in the energy sector, China has transferred technologies in clean energy such as solar, wind and nuclear power to Pakistan, yielding positive results in multiple aspects. Particularly, with the construction of Pakistan's nuclear power projects as the carriers, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) has promoted the development of local supporting industries and supported the improvement of manufacturing capabilities of local enterprises. For instance, in the construction of the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP), a number of technological innovations have been implemented, driving the technological upgrading of relevant local industries.

Prof Cheng said that relying on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan has established the cross-border carbon sink trading platform, introduced leading Chinese photovoltaic enterprises to build industrial parks, driven the development of the local new energy equipment manufacturing industrial chain, and created

more than 200,000 green jobs.

With the transfer of China's solar energy technology, the installation cost of solar power generation systems in Pakistan has dropped significantly, making solar energy a more economically viable energy option and benefiting the general public, he added. About the industrial sector, he said that during the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Chinese enterprises have established industrial parks in Pakistan, helping the country improve industrial production efficiency. For instance, Pakistan's automotive industry is introducing Chinese electric vehicle technology to set up electric vehicle manufacturing plants. Highlighting technology transfer in the agricultural sector, he said that China has helped Pakistan improve agricultural production efficiency. Chinese experts have promoted Pakistan's agricultural development through technical guidance, variety improvement and other methods, ensuring food security and driving rural economic growth. He said that China has transferred technologies in information technology sectors such as artificial intelligence and telecommunications to Pakistan, boosting the development of Pakistan's digital economy. Chinese enterprises including Huawei and ZTE have played a crucial role in expanding Pakistan's digital communications, improving digital access to millions of Pakistanis. Additionally, by transferring AI technologies, promoting research cooperation, and supporting AI-driven startups, China has helped Pakistan's young generation establish a foothold in this revolutionary field and enhanced Pakistan's technological exports, he added.

UN chief admits world has 'failed' on 1.5°C limit

ISTANBU :UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that the world has failed to prevent global temperatures from breaching the critical 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) threshold, warning a temporary overshoot is now inevitable. “The hard truth is that we have failed to ensure we remain below 1.5 degrees,” Guterres told leaders at the Belem Climate Summit in Brazil. “Science now tells us that a temporary overshoot beyond the 1.5 limit – starting at the latest in the early 2030s – is inevitable.” The UN chief warned even temporary breaching would have “dramatic consequences,” exposing billions to unlivable conditions. Guterres said the World Meteorological Organization confirmed emissions reached another record high last year and continued rising in 2025. Current national climate plans would lead to above 2.0 degrees of warming even if fully implemented, he said, calling this outcome “moral failure – and deadly negligence.” Despite acknowledging clean energy progress, with renewables overtaking coal as the world's largest electricity source and investors pouring \$2 trillion into clean energy in 2024, Guterres said the obstacle is “political courage,” noting that scientists say it is still possible to keep the 1.5-degree goal “within reach.” “Too many leaders remain captive to these entrenched interests,” he said, noting fossil fuels still receive vast subsidies and political support while companies spend billions on lobbying, “deceiving the public, and obstructing progress.” Guterres urged countries to accelerate fossil fuel phase-out, reach net zero by 2050, and achieve sustained net-negative emissions to pull temperatures back below 1.5°C before the century's end. He demanded that developed countries mobilize \$300 billion annually and demonstrate a “clear and credible path” to reaching \$1.3 trillion yearly in climate finance for developing countries by 2035, as agreed at COP 29 in Azerbaijan's capital Baku. “Let us be clear: the 1.5°C limit is a red line for humanity,” Guterres said. “No one can bargain with physics. But we can choose to lead – or be led to ruin.” The two-day summit in Brazil's northern city brings together heads of state and government, ministers, and leaders of international organizations to discuss urgent climate change issues and commitments. The summit is part of the official events of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30), which will take place from Nov. 10 to 21.—APP

UK grandmother leaves Indonesia death row to return home

DENPASAR: Two British drug convicts including a grandmother on death row left a Bali jail on Thursday, as part of a deal to send them home on humanitarian grounds. Indonesia has some of the world's toughest drug laws, but has moved to release more than half a dozen high-profile detainees in the last year, including a Filipina mother on death row. Lindsay Sandiford, 69, was sentenced to death on the tourist island of Bali in 2013 after she was convicted of trafficking drugs. She will be repatriated along with Shahab Shahabadi, 36, who was serving a life sentence for drug offences after his arrest in 2014. Both were presented before the media in a handover ceremony at Kerobokan jail, with Sandiford covering her face. I Nyoman Gede Surya Mataram, an official from Indonesia's law and human rights ministry, said their “detention will be moved to the United Kingdom” under the bilateral deal. “For Lindsay and Shahab, after we hand (them) over to the United Kingdom government, (they) are fully responsible for the legal decision that will be given there but still respecting our legal decision.” Nyoman added that both prisoners are due to take off on a Qatar Airways flight after midnight to London via a transit in Doha. - Health problems - Sandiford wound up behind bars in Indonesia after customs officers found cocaine worth an estimated \$2.14 million hidden in a false bottom in her suitcase when she landed in Bali in 2012. Sandiford admitted the offences but said she had agreed to carry the narcotics after a drug syndicate threatened to kill her son. The repatriation comes after Indonesia's senior law and human rights minister, Yusril Ihza Mahendra, signed a deal with British foreign minister Yvette Cooper last month for the transfer of Sandiford and Shahabadi. Both prisoners are suffering from severe health problems.—APP

Mexico's Sheinbaum steps up cartel fight

MEXICO CITY: The cold-blooded murder of a crusading Mexican mayor, who hunted drug traffickers from a helicopter, has put pressure on President Claudia Sheinbaum to step up her fight against the country's notorious cartels. Outraged by the killing of Carlos Manzo, the 40-year-old mayor of the city of Uruapan in Michoacan state, dozens of protesters set fire to public buildings over two days of demonstrations across the region. Manzo, who shot to fame chasing gang members from the air in a cowboy hat, was gunned down at a public event Saturday marking Mexico's Day of the Dead. In just over a year as mayor in the country's avocado-growing heartland, he became known as the “Mexican Bukele” after El Salvador's popular gang-busting president Nayib Bukele. His death stoked anger towards regional authorities, accused of failing to support him in the fight against the region's myriad cartels.—APP

Nancy Pelosi says she is stepping down

WASHINGTON: Nancy Pelosi, a towering figure in US politics and the first woman to serve as speaker of the House of Representatives, announced on Thursday that she will step down at the next election. Admired as a master strategist with a no-nonsense leadership style that delivered consistently for her party, the 85-year-old Democrat shepherded historic legislation through Congress as she navigated America's bitter partisan divide. In later years, she became a key foe of President Donald Trump, twice leading his impeachment and stunning Washington in 2020 when images of her ripping up his speech to Congress were beamed on live television around the world. “I want you, my fellow San Franciscans, to be the first to know I will not be seeking reelection to Congress,” she said in a video statement pointedly aimed at her hometown constituents. “With a grateful heart, I look forward to my final year of service as your proud representative.” Pelosi - whose term ends in January 2027 - was the first woman to lead a major political party in the US Congress. Despite entering political office later in life, she quickly rose through the ranks to become a darling of liberal West Coast politics and, eventually, one of the most powerful women in US history. She is in her 19th term and has represented her San Francisco area district for 38 years. But her fame centers especially on her renowned skills at the national level, leading her party for two decades. As House speaker for eight years, she was second in line to the presidency, after the vice president, including during Trump's chaotic first term. She was revered for her ability to corral her often fractious caucus through difficult votes, including Barack Obama's signature Affordable Care Act and Joe Biden's infrastructure programs.—DNA



IHC serves show-cause to Customs' officials

ISLAMABAD: A division bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday issued a show-cause notice to the Collector Customs and Member Legal Customs for contempt of court in a case related to the vehicle seized by Customs from a citizen in Islamabad being used by the Commissioner Inland Revenue in Karachi. The court also sought an inquiry report along with an affidavit from the Collector Customs on the order to remove the original number plate of the vehicle and install a fake one.—APP

US president says Kazakhstan to join Abraham Accords

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that Kazakhstan will join the Abraham Accords to have normalised relations between Israel and Muslim-majority nations. The announcement came after Trump said he had held a call with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. “We will soon announce a Signing Ceremony to make it official, and there are many more Countries trying to join this club of STRENGTH,” Trump wrote on Truth Social. The Kazakh government said in a statement that the matter was in the final stage of negotiations. “Our anticipated accession to the Abraham Accords represents a natural and logical continuation of Kazakhstan's foreign policy course – grounded in dialogue, mutual respect, and regional stability,” it added. Kazakhstan already has full diplomatic relations and economic ties with Israel, meaning the move would be largely symbolic, something Secretary of State Marco Rubio pushed back against on Thursday. “It's an enhanced relationship beyond just diplomatic relations,” he said. “It is... with all the other countries that are part of the accord. You're now creating a partnership that brings special and unique economic development on all sorts of issues that they can work on together.” Trump met with Tokayev alongside four other Central Asian leaders from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan at the White House on Thursday as the US seeks to gain influence in a region long dominated by Russia and increasingly courted by China.—APP

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FASHIONSHOW

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The Niftysphere Institute of Arts & Designing proudly presents Season 4 of its Fashion Show – “Cultural Colors”, to be held on **November 13 at the Movenpick Hotel, Islamabad.**

This grand event celebrates creativity, culture, and craftsmanship, featuring three unique fashion themes – Denim, Mughal, and Batik. The Batik segment is presented in collaboration with the Embassy of Indonesia, highlighting the beauty of Indonesian textile traditions. The fashion show will showcase the final-year student collections, where students will walk the ramp wearing their own creative designs inspired by these cultural themes. The evening will be graced by representatives from more than 30 embassies, federal ministers, the Ministry of National Heritage & Culture, renowned designers, and media personalities. This event reflects Niftysphere Institute's ongoing commitment to promoting cultural diplomacy, student empowerment, and international collaboration through art and design.

Niftysphere Institute of Arts & Designing is a proud partner of PTCL and Ufone under their initiative “Ba Ikhtiyar”, a program aimed at creative skill development and community engagement. Through this partnership, Niftysphere Institute provides professional training to students, enabling them to apply their artistic and design skills in real-world projects. Recently, the Group CEO of Ufone presented a recognition award to Mr. Usman Shah, CEO of Niftysphere Institute of Arts & Designing and Honorary Advisor to the Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture, in appreciation of the institute's valuable contribution and collaboration. This partnership reflects Niftysphere's dedication to empowering youth through design education, innovation, and industry linkage.

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Briefs

Trump says
expects int'l
stabilization
force in Gaza
'very soon'

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said Thursday he expects a US-coordinated international stabilization force to be on the ground in Gaza "very soon," following two years of war in the territory between Israel and Hamas. The multinational force – likely to include troops from Egypt, Qatar, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates – is part of Trump's post-war governance plan for Gaza.

The plan helped lead to a fragile ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian militant group on October 10, but the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has not abated.

"It's going to be very soon. And Gaza is working out very well," Trump said at a White House function with Central Asian leaders.

"You haven't been hearing too much about problems, and I'll tell you, we've had countries that have volunteered if there's a problem with Hamas." The force is supposed to train and support vetted Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip, with backing from Egypt and Jordan. It also will be tasked with securing border areas and preventing weapons smuggling to Hamas, which triggered the conflict with its October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

On Wednesday, the United States circulated a draft UN Security Council resolution to partner nations aimed at shoring up Trump's plan, including by greenlighting the international force. Washington's UN envoy Mike Waltz shared the draft with the 10 elected Security Council members and several regional partners – Egypt, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Turkey – a spokesperson for the US mission said in a statement. A vote has not yet been scheduled. According to diplomatic sources, several countries have indicated their willingness to participate in the force, but insist on a Security Council mandate before actually deploying troops into the Palestinian territory. – Agencies

Rwanda, Pakistan strengthen trade ties through virtual business forum

Envoy highlights Rwanda's investment potential, calls for stronger South-South cooperation

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD, Rwanda's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Hare-rihana Fatou, reaffirmed her country's readiness to support all private-sector ventures between Pakistan and Rwanda during a virtual business meeting jointly organized by the Rwanda High Commission in Pakistan and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB). Participants from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Rwanda's Private Sector Federation (PSF), Rwanda Development Board, and Pakistan's Trade Development Authority (TDAP) exchanged views on emerging opportunities and practical steps to expand bilateral trade.

The High Commissioner welcomed dignitaries including the Director General (Africa) from Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DG Africa from Rwanda, the Director of TDAP, officials from MINICOM, RDB, and members of the diplomatic and business community. In her remarks, the envoy described the meeting as "another important step toward strengthening and fostering our partnership in trade and commerce between two friendly countries." He said that the High Commission's new mission focuses on creating direct linkages between entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers of both nations.

"The idea behind organizing this meeting in collaboration with RRDB is to create an excellent platform to share information, explore new areas of cooperation, and build sustainable business partnerships that will drive mutual growth and prosperity," she stated. Highlighting Rwanda's potential, she said the country offers a business-friendly environment, modern infrastructure, political stability, and consistent GDP growth, making it a gateway to East Africa. "Rwanda is emerging as a regional hub for trade and investment, and we welcome Pakistani investors to explore opportunities in our growing market," he added. The High Commissioner also noted Pakistan's strengths, describing it as a "large and dynamic country with a population of 250 million, skilled workforce, and expanding industrial base." She said both sides can collaborate in agriculture, information technology, artificial intelligence, pharmaceuticals, healthcare,



textiles, and tourism. Expressing optimism about the outcome of the meeting, she said, "I am confident that today's discussions will serve as a bridge connecting our business communities to share experiences and establish concrete ventures that will yield tangible results." Concluding her address, the envoy extended heartfelt appreciation to the organizers, partners, and participants for making the event successful. "Let us continue to build strong business linkages that enhance trade and commerce between Rwanda and Pakistan and usher in a new era of collaboration," he said. Pakistani envoy in Rwanda is H.E. Mr. Naeem Ullah Khan in his address stated that Pakistan greatly values its ties with Rwanda and is keen to invite Rwandan companies to invest in Pakistan, and Pakistani companies to explore business opportunities in Rwanda. He emphasized that the Pakistani mission in Kigali is actively assisting both Pakistani and Rwandan businessmen to build contacts, explore investment prospects, and

deepen bilateral economic cooperation. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Atif Ikram Sheikh said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Rwanda, a fast-growing African economy with immense potential for bilateral trade and investment. He made these remarks while addressing a Pakistan-Rwanda Virtual Business Meeting, organized by the High Commission of Rwanda in Islamabad. The event was aimed at strengthening bilateral commercial ties and exploring new opportunities for cooperation in trade, investment, and technology.

Atif Ikram Sheikh lauded the initiative of the Rwanda High Commission, describing it as a timely and valuable step to connect the business communities of both countries. "Pakistan values its relations with Rwanda and considers it an important partner under its 'Look Africa Policy.' Both nations are resilient and possess tremendous untapped potential for mutual growth," he said.

The FPCCI President noted that there is huge scope for cooperation in agriculture, healthcare, textiles, and information technology sectors, adding that joint ventures in these areas could lead to sustainable economic benefits for both sides. "We should promote business-to-business linkages and encourage private sector engagement to transform our excellent political relations into strong economic partnerships," he emphasized. TDAP Director General Abdul Karim called for the reduction of non-tariff barriers to enhance market access and underscored the importance of sustained engagement through trade fairs and single-country exhibitions. He also announced Pakistan's intent to organize a dedicated trade exhibition in Rwanda to showcase Pakistani products and services. A representative of the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) also addressed the session, highlighting Rwanda's favorable investment climate and inviting Pakistani businessmen to explore opportunities in manufacturing, agriculture, renewable energy, and IT. He specifically mentioned prospects for collaboration in solar energy systems and light manufacturing, which align with Rwanda's sustainable development goals. Similarly, a representative of the Rwanda Business Forum underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral trade ties and called for regular business exchanges, trade fairs, and sectoral cooperation.

Pakistan, EU explore stronger collaboration

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Union, Rahim Hayat Qureshi, on Thursday met with Andreas Schwarz, Head of Cabinet to EU Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation, Ms. Eva Zaharieva, to discuss advancing Pakistan-EU cooperation in science, research, and innovation. The meeting focused on strengthening the Pakistan-EU knowledge partnership under the Horizon Europe framework, enhancing collaboration through intergovernmental scientific organizations under the umbrella of science diplomacy, and fostering closer linkages between the startup ecosystems of both sides. Ambassador Qureshi underscored Pakistan's commitment to expanding partnerships in knowledge-based sectors and innovation-driven growth. Both sides agreed to explore mechanisms for greater participation of Pakistani institutions in EU research initiatives and to facilitate exchanges between entrepreneurs and innovators. The discussion reaffirmed mutual interest in leveraging innovation and technology as key drivers for sustainable development and inclusive growth. – DNA

Pakistan pushes India to end Indus Water Treaty suspension

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: A senior Pakistani diplomat voiced great concern in the UN Security Council on Thursday over the deliberate weaponization of shared natural resources, citing in this regard the unilateral suspension of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty by India earlier this year, as he called for New Delhi's early return to compliance to the pact.

"Such acts do not just harm one country; they weaken confidence in international water law and set a precedent for resource-based and driven coercion elsewhere," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said, while highlighting the crucial issue in the 15-member Council. India suspended the major, World Bank-mediated treaty governing water sharing of six rivers in the Indus basin between the two countries after the Pahalgam incident in April. In a wide-ranging discussion on climate and security, the Pakistan envoy called India's unilateral action a "textbook example" of deliberate weaponization of shared natural resources.

"For more than six decades," Ambassador Asim Ahmad said, "This Treaty has stood as a model of cooperation, ensuring equitable and predictable sharing of the Indus Basin's waters between Pakistan and India, even in times of war. "India's unlawful unilateral decision to suspend this framework undermines the letter and spirit of the Treaty, threatens ecosystems, disrupts data-sharing, and endangers the lives of millions who depend on the Indus river water system for food and energy security, for their survival," he added. "This

should be of grave concern for every member of this Council and for the international community as a whole." Pointing out that no provision of the Indus Waters Treaty permits unilateral suspension or modification, the Pakistani envoy said, "The Court of Arbitration's 2025 award reaffirmed the continuing validity of the Treaty and its dispute-settlement mechanisms, upholding Pakistan's position that all issues must be resolved within its legal framework."

"We therefore expect full respect for the Treaty and an early return to compliance and normal functioning through the established channels". The Council's debate coincided with International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

In order to address the environmental impacts of armed conflict and climate driven security risks, Ambassador Asim Ahmad called for focusing on prevention and early resolution of conflicts. Environmental considerations could be integrated into UN peace operations and political missions, where relevant, he said, referring to Pakistan's work in this field in peacekeeping missions. "These actions should be embedded in planning, budgeting, and mandate design." The Pakistani envoy also underscored the need for upholding international law, especially international humanitarian law, including the obligations for parties to distinguish between civilian and military objectives, to take care to spare civilians, and to avoid methods of warfare expected to cause widespread, long-term, and severe damage to the natural environment. In addition, he called for promoting coherence in the UN system, with greater coordination among UN Country Teams as well as with relevant regional and international bodies.

SIC chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza arrested in Faisalabad

PTI's ally was wanted in multiple cases linked to vandalism during to May 9 violent protests

FAISALABAD: Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza was arrested by Islamabad police early Friday morning and later handed over to Faisalabad police. He was subsequently shifted to Faisalabad Central Jail. Sources said Raza was wanted in several cases related to vandalism and violent protests against state institutions and had already been convicted by an anti-terrorism court. He had been sentenced in connection with the May 9 riots but had been absconding since then, they added. Police said Raza was presented before a court, which ordered his transfer to Faisalabad Central Jail. A special anti-terrorism

court (ATC) in Faisalabad had convicted Raza along with several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including Omar Ayub, Shibli Faraz, Zartaj Gul in connection with a case registered in the aftermath of the May 9, 2023, violence at the Civil Lines Police Station.

The convicts were handed up to 45 years of imprisonment in several cases linked to the violent protests.

The May 9, 2023, events refer to the violent protests that broke out in several parts of the country following the arrest of the PTI founder and saw attacks on public properties and military installations, including Corps Commander House Lahore, also known as Jinnah House. The riots were triggered by the arrest of ex-premier Khan from the premises of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in a graft case. Several PTI leaders and workers were released on bail after their arrests, while many still remain behind bars. – DNA

EU states on edge over migrant burden-sharing

BRUSSELS: Which EU countries face the most pressure from migration? The question is proving deeply divisive as capitals scramble to agree by year-end how to redistribute at least 30,000 asylum seekers across the bloc.

The 27-nation European Union adopted a sweeping overhaul of its migration policies in 2024, soon to come into force. A key element is a new "solidarity" system for managing asylum seekers, aimed at easing the burden on frontline countries such as Spain, Greece and Italy.

The idea is broadly speaking to sort member states into different categories:

– Those deemed by Brussels to be under "migratory pressure", based on criteria such as the number of irregular arrivals and sea rescue operations. – Other countries, which will be required to either take in a share of asylum seekers from countries under pressure, or provide them with financial support amounting to 20,000 euros (\$23,000) per person. There the trouble begins: how to decide who qualifies as "under pressure".

"You can see in the political rhetoric that everyone feels that they are under migratory pressure," said a source within the European Commission, which is tasked with sorting countries into categories. Member states are lobbying hard to influence the methodology used. – Agencies

US set for travel chaos

WASHINGTON: Travelers across the United States prepared on Thursday for potential chaos ahead of widespread flight cancellations ordered by authorities due to the federal government shutdown. On Friday, airlines will begin implementing a 10-percent reduction in flights in 40 high-traffic areas of the country, complying with a Federal Aviation Administration order made on safety grounds. The shutdown has left tens of thousands of air traffic controllers, airport security staff and others without pay, causing personnel shortages. On Thursday, more than 4,000 flights were delayed, with 96 cancellations, according to the tracking service FlightAware, with travelers facing long lines at security checkpoints.

Major airports were impacted, with travelers at Boston and Newark airports facing average delays of more than two hours, and those at Chicago's O'Hare and Washington's Reagan National more than an hour. Authorities said they wanted to act before an accident occurred. "We're not going to wait for a safety problem to truly manifest itself, when the early indicators are telling us we can take action today to prevent things from deteriorating," said FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford. The measures come as the country enters its busiest travel time of the year, with the Thanksgiving holiday just weeks away. The new cancellations could affect thousands of flights every day. Flight reductions will begin at four percent on Friday and rise to 10 percent, media outlets reported. Flight reductions are set to hit some of the country's busiest airports, including in Atlanta, Newark, Denver, Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles. Implementing the order on short notice will be a challenge for airlines, which operate complex networks that rely on many moving parts and personnel.

United Airlines and Delta, two of the country's largest carriers, have said they are complying with the order but that it would not affect their international routes. United added that "hub-to-hub" flying would also not be affected, indicating cancellations might hit more local routes. Federal agencies across the United States have been grinding to a halt since Congress failed to approve funding past September 30, with some 1.4 million federal workers, from air traffic controllers to park wardens, still on enforced leave or working without pay. Many in high-stress aviation-related jobs are now calling in sick and potentially working second jobs in order to pay their bills, US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on Wednesday. – APP

US influencers falsely associate Mamdani with Islamic State group

DNA

WASHINGTON: DUS right-wing influencers falsely linked New York's mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani to the militant Islamic State (IS) group, amplifying a fabricated statement that garnered millions of views on social media, researchers said on Thursday. Mamdani – the first Muslim and South Asian elected to lead America's largest city – secured a decisive victory this week in the face of fierce attacks on his policy proposals and religious background. A slew of anti-Mamdani accounts on the Elon Musk-owned platform X have circulated a statement purportedly from IS titled "Operation Manhattan Project", which alluded to an attack in New York City on Election Day against what it called "American aggression". Among the influencers who linked the fake communique to Mamdani was Laura Loomer, a conservative influencer who has Trump's ear. "The Muslims can't think of a better way for the Muslims to celebrate the victory of a Muslim mayoral candidate today than by committing an ISIS (Islamic State) attack

in NYC," Loomer wrote in a post on X that racked up more than 200,000 views.

Other conservative accounts cited the purported statement to falsely claim that the militant group had endorsed Mamdani as mayor. The posts collectively amassed millions of views across the platform.

The purported letter, which displayed the logo of the IS-affiliated Amaq News Agency, was fabricated, according to multiple researchers including the disinformation watchdog NewsGuard.

Meili Criezis, an American University academic, told the watchdog that the supposed communique did not bear the hallmarks of other statements that emanated from Amaq. "Amaq is used [by the IS] to share news and claim responsibility for attacks," Criezis said. "It doesn't make threats like what is stated in the screenshots."

The Information Epidemiology Lab, another research group, also said the circulated communique "sharply" diverged from established IS "media practices in language, style, formatting, and distribution". The fabricated statement appeared to first surface on the far-right message board 4chan, a known haven for conspiracy theories.

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