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Holy See envoy applauds Pak efforts for peace, harmony

Detailed News On Page-01

Malaysian, Pak Relations on the Moves, says envoy

Detailed News On Page-08

Intellectual Arfa Syeda Zuhara Passes away

Detailed News On Page-02



Bilawal says constitution completed

27th Amendment Bill sails through Senate amid opposition uproar

Presented by law minister, Bill passes after receiving 64 votes; tweaks aim to change military command, judicial structures

MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill on Monday, which aims to overhaul the military and judicial structures, amid the opposition's walkout and protest – tearing their copies. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the 59-clause Bill, which received the required 64 votes (two-thirds majority in the 96-member House). It will now be presented in the National Assembly for voting. No member voted against it – as the opposition opted to boycott. Apart from the treasury members, the Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed Saifullah Abro and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's (JUI-F) Ahmed Khan were among the senators who voted in favour of the amendment. Interestingly, Abro did not partake in the protest as well and later, during his speech, also announced his resignation as a senator. Highlights of new amendment

- Chief of Army Staff to assume role as Chief of Defence Forces
- Field Marshal, Marshal of Air Force, Admiral of Fleet titles to remain for life
- Federal Constitutional Court to be established
- Equal provincial representation approved in Federal Constitutional Court
- FCC empowered to take suo motu notice upon petitions
- Islamabad High Court to have one judge on FCC bench
- President and prime minister to play a key role in judicial appointments
- Supreme Court powers to be reduced, with some authorities shifted to the new court
- Presidential immunity limited if president assumes any public office after tenure
- Judges must serve five years in high court for eligibility of Constitutional Court
- Judicial Commission to decide transfer of high court judges
- Objections on transfers to be reviewed by Supreme Judicial Council

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar congratulated the House on the passage of the historic bill in the Senate. He recalled that former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto had signed the Charter of Democracy, which was also endorsed by all political parties. FM Dar noted that the establishment of a constitutional court had also been

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Abro quits Senate after defying PTI line

"I came here to vote for Asim Munir, not for anyone else," says opposition lawmaker

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Senator Saifullah Abro on Monday resigned from the House after voting in favour of the 27th Constitutional Amendment exclusively for Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the Pakistan Army. "If anyone is mistaken, let me say that I came here to vote for Asim Munir, not for anyone else," he said on the floor of the Upper House of the Parliament. The Senate passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill, which aims to overhaul the military and judicial structures, amid the opposition's walkout and protest. Apart from the treasury members, the Awami National Party (ANP), PTI-backed Abro, and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's (JUI-F) Ahmed Khan were among the senators who voted in favour of the amendment. He said that the Pakistan armed forces inflicted a humiliating defeat on India in May this year, adding: "While India was initially hesitant to accept the defeat. However, the situation was ultimately 'cleared' by the United States President Donald Trump as he showed [ultimate] respect to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir." Abro also emphasised the significance of this

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Briefs

UAE 'probably' won't join Gaza stabilisation force

DNA

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates is not planning to join the international stabilisation force for Gaza because it lacks a clear framework, a senior official said on Monday. "The UAE does not yet see a clear framework for the stability force, and under such circumstances will probably not participate in such a force," Emirati presidential advisor Anwar Gargash told the Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate forum. The US-coordinated international force has been seen as likely to include troops from Egypt, Qatar and Turkey, as well as the UAE. The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said it had received the bodies of 15 Palestinian prisoners under the US-brokered ceasefire exchange deal.

Attack on cadet college foiled in Wana

NEWS DESK

WANA: Security forces on Monday thwarted a terrorist attack on Cadet College Wana in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's South Waziristan district, reportedly carried out by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), security sources said. "A suicide bomber belonging to Fitna al Khawarij detonated explosives at the main gate of the college, injuring six civilians," security sources said in a statement. Fitna al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned TTP. "Swift action by security personnel prevented the attackers from breaching the premises."

2th Amendment

Bilawal has 'buried' his grandfather's Constitution: Asad

FAISAL SHIEKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser on Monday strongly condemned the passage of the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Senate, terming it a "dark day in Pakistan's constitutional and democratic history." Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, Asad Qaiser said that by supporting the 27th Amendment, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has "buried the very Constitution crafted by his grandfather, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto." He accused the government and its allies of trampling democratic values and betraying the legacy of the 1973 Constitution. "The so-called champions of democracy have murdered democracy today," Qaiser remarked. "This amendment does not represent the will of the people. It represents the will of the few who wish to consolidate power and weaken the federation." He said the PTI would resist the amendment at all costs

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JUI-F chief departs for Bangladesh visit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has departed for a visit to Bangladesh, the party's spokesperson confirmed on Monday. According to JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghauri, Maulana Fazlur Rehman will address a series of religious, reformist, and spiritual gatherings during his stay. He will also participate as the chief guest at the International Khatm-e-Nabuwat Conference. The JUI-F chief is also scheduled to attend annual gatherings at various religious seminaries across Bangladesh. In his honour, special receptions will be

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Forces kill 20 terrorists in KP areas

Indian proxy terrorists killed in North Waziristan and Dara Adam Khel, says ISPR

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The security forces have neutralised at least 20 terrorists in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Monday. In a statement, the military's media wing said that the operations took place between November 8-9 against the terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy, Fitna al-Khawarij. The first IBO was conducted in Shawal, North Waziristan district, where troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and killed eight Indian-sponsored khwarij. In another IBO, 12 more khwarij were neutralised after an intense fire exchange in KP's Dara Adam Khel district.

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ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Sarfaraz Ahmad Bugti called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on 10 November 2025. – DNA

PM Shehbaz says

Govt cashless economy Initiatives to ensure sustainable growth

He noted that from the very beginning, his government had prioritized measures to promote digitalization, which were now yielding positive results

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday emphasized that the ongoing initiatives to transform the country into a cashless economy will play a vital role in ensuring sustainable development. Chairing a meeting to review progress on these initiatives, the prime minister directed the relevant authorities to intensify awareness campaigns in rural areas to eliminate the traditional cash-based economy and accelerate the shift towards a fully digital financial system. "The entire world is moving towards a digital economy, and Pakistan must move forward alongside it," the prime minister said. He noted that from the very beginning, his government had prioritized measures to promote digitalization, which were now yielding positive results. He mentioned that for the first time, during the holy month of Ramazan, the government successfully transferred financial assistance to deserving families under the

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Asif dismisses 'propaganda' against PIA's safety

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has dismissed what he termed "baseless propaganda" regarding Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), its flight safety, and operational standards. In a statement on X, the minister said: "Safety is non-negotiable, but unqualified people cannot dictate it in the presence of Pakistani and international regulators." He said that PIA's flight operations strictly adhere to Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) and international safety standards. Asif said the government "fully backs PIA's

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At least 9 killed in Indian explosion

Visuals on local media showed flames and smoke billowing from more than one vehicle in what was described as a congested street located near a metro station in the old part of Delhi

DNA

NEW DELHI: An explosion was reported near the Red Fort in the Indian capital of New Delhi on Monday, in which at least 9 people were killed, local television channels reported. TV channels added that at least 11 people were injured. The Delhi police spokesperson said that the explosion took place in a car and that the exact details of the cause of the explosion were being ascertained. At least six vehicles and three autorickshaws caught fire, Delhi's deputy fire chief said, adding that the flames had been doused by firefighting teams. "We heard a

big sound, our windows shook," one resident, who did not give a name, told NDTV. Police tried to clear crowds that gathered around the site of the incident. Visuals on local media showed flames and smoke billowing from more than one vehicle in what was described as a congested street located near a metro station in the old part of Delhi. According to Indian outlet NDTV, the fire brigade was on site, while The Times of India reported that the fire caused by the explosion engulfed three to four other vehicles. Local TV channels reported that the cities of New Delhi and

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Holy See envoy applauds Pak efforts for peace, harmony

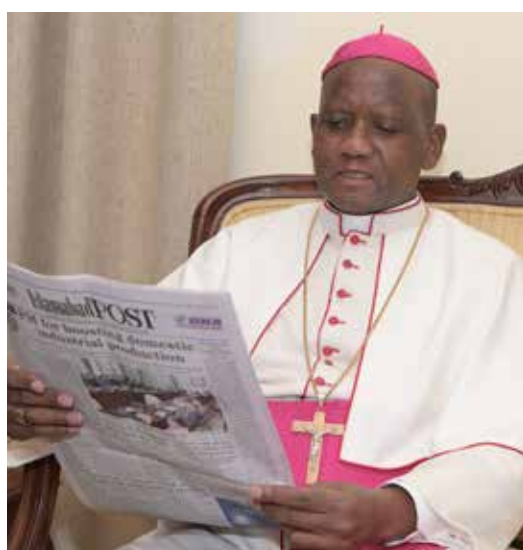
EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Msgr. Germano Penemote, the Apostolic Nuncio to Pakistan, has lauded Pakistan's commitment to peace, security, and interfaith harmony, describing the country as a "land of great potential and hospitality." In an exclusive interview with Daily Islamabad Post, Centreline, and Diplomatic News Agency (DNA), the Holy See envoy reflected on six decades of Pakistan-Vatican relations, the mission of the Catholic Church in the country, and his vision for promoting education, dialogue, and mutual understanding among all faiths. Appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Pakistan in 2023, Archbishop Penemote said his mission has been guided by the core values of Vatican diplomacy—dialogue, compassion, and service to humanity. "The diplomacy of the Holy See, one of the oldest and most respected in history, seeks to promote the common good through understanding and peaceful coexistence," he said. "Since my arrival in Pakistan, I have sought to meet people, listen to their concerns, and work with them for solutions. I have brought neither gold nor silver, but a heart full of esteem and respect for the beloved Pakistani people." The Nuncio emphasized that his efforts are focused on strengthening bilateral ties between the Holy See and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, while supporting the Catholic Church's humanitarian and educational work in the country. "Our institutions



continue to serve all Pakistanis – Muslims, Christians, and people of other faiths – in education, healthcare, and social welfare," he added. "We do not sound trumpets or seek publicity; our mission is quiet but constant – to serve humanity." Reflecting on the long-standing diplomatic ties between Pakistan and the Vatican, Archbishop Penemote said relations have been strong and stable since their formal establishment in 1965. "We are about to celebrate sixty years of the Apostolic Nunciature's es-



tablishment in Pakistan, a symbol of mutual respect and uninterrupted friendship," he said. "The Nuncio has always lived and worked in Pakistan, which speaks to the strength of our relationship." However, he noted the need for a formal legal framework to further facilitate Catholic institutions' contributions to national development. "We hope to conclude a legal agreement that will ensure our schools, hospitals, and social organizations can continue serving all Pakistanis



effectively," he explained. "It is heartening to meet Pakistanis who proudly say they studied at Catholic schools – institutions known for providing quality education and nurturing responsible citizens." One of the Nuncio's most ambitious ideas is the establishment of a Catholic University in Pakistan – a center for inclusive, high-quality education open to students of all faiths.

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Jirga wraps up seven-year-old feud in Katlang

PESHAWAR: A seven-year-old feud in Katlang, a tehsil of Mardan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has finally come to an end through the efforts of a local jirga (council of elders) According to local administration on Monday, during the Jirga both the parties forgave each other and pledged to live together as brothers in peace. The peace jirga was held in the area of Sawalder, where the long-standing enmity, which began after the killing of a student, was resolved. With the mediation of respected elders, both sides took an oath on the Holy Quran, agreeing to end hostilities once and for all. The reconciliation has brought relief to the community, putting an end to years of tension. Famous for its successful reconciliation history, the Sawalder jirga has once again become a symbol of peace and unity in the region.—APP

Cheating attempt foiled at examination center

RAWALPINDI: The inspection teams at the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi have cracked down on exam malpractice, nabbing a student in the act during the ongoing Intermediate Second Annual 2025 exams Controller of Examinations Tanveer Asghar Awan made surprise visits to several exam centers, inspecting security setups, seating arrangements, and staff attendance to uphold strict standards. At Government Graduate College in Satellite Town, a candidate with Roll No. 804637 was caught cheating on his Physics paper. The invigilators seized the evidence on the spot, and a formal case was immediately filed and forwarded to the board's Discipline Branch for further action. "This incident underscores our zero-tolerance stance against cheating," the controller said after the inspection.—APP

Dengue on prowl as 41 new cases reported across KP

PESHAWAR: Dengue cases continue to rise across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the provincial capital Peshawar, as the health department confirmed 41 new cases in the latest report on Monday. According to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department, there are currently 390 active dengue cases in the province. So far this year, a total of 5,497 dengue cases have been reported. During the last 24 hours, 10 new patients have been admitted to various hospitals, bringing the total number of hospitalized dengue patients to 29 across the province. The report further stated that since the beginning of the year, 1,915 patients have been admitted to hospitals, of which 5,105 have recovered, while two deaths have been recorded due to the virus.—APP

Lok Mela continues to cultural vibrant celebrations

4th day concluded with the Lok Virsa Cultural Fusion Night at the Open Air Theatre. Folk artists from Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir presented a collaborative programme featuring regional rhythms, instruments, and dance traditions



ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Natalia A. Baker visits stall of folk craftsmen during her visit to Lok Mela.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lok Virsa's Lok Mela 2025 continued its successful run on Day 4, attracting an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 visitors. Families, students, artisans, tourists, and cultural enthusiasts attended throughout the day, contributing to a vibrant festival environment. A key highlight of the day was the visit of US Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Natalia A. Baker, who toured various artisan stalls and met

with folk craftsmen and performers. She appreciated the diversity of Pakistani craftsmanship and cultural expression. Executive Director Lok Virsa, Dr. Muhammad Waqas Saleem, accompanied the Ambassador and briefed her on the cultural exhibits, artisan traditions, and the significance of Lok Mela as Pakistan's largest folk festival. The 4th day concluded with the Lok Virsa Cultural Fusion Night at the Open Air Theatre. Folk artists from Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir presented a collaborative programme featuring regional rhythms, instruments, and dance traditions. The fusion performance received strong applause and reflected national harmony and cultural unity. Visitors engaged with artisan stalls, regional food courts, cultural pavilions, live craft demonstrations, storytelling sessions, folk theatre, and children's activities. Media personnel, influencers, and cultural bloggers maintained consistent coverage throughout the day. Lok Mela continues until 16 November 2025, open daily from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

KP moves towards digitization: CM

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi on Monday said that all affairs of the province are gradually being moved toward digitalization for better service delivery. Presiding over a meeting here, he said that Digital Payment Act has been prepared and will soon be presented to the cabinet for approval. Under this system, he said all payment transactions between the government, the public, and traders will be made digital. He said the purpose of digitalization is to ensure transparency, convenience, and efficiency in financial matters. So far, 170 different services have been identified to be included in the digital system, and digitalization of 14 different

services has already been completed. These services include property transfer tax, property tax, arms licenses, water charges (Abiana), driving licenses, plot registration, HEC admissions, and hunting license fees, among others. An additional 34 services will be digitized by December 2025, which is expected to save approximately 12.3 billion rupees. The digitalization of all 170 services will be completed by June 2026. The chief minister said a review meeting will be held every two weeks to assess the progress of digitalization. "We will make Khyber Pakhtunkhwa economically self-reliant and a model of modern governance," he added.—DNA

Efforts afoot to provide facilities to farmers

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The district administration Tank is taking tangible measures for ensuring prompt services and facilities to farmers. As part of efforts, Additional Assistant Commissioner Tank, Malik Sajid Ali Khan paid a visit to the Agriculture Extension Department and Model Farm Center located on Mission Road, Tank and inspected departmental performance, staff attendance, and cleanliness arrangements. According to administration, he reviewed the availability of agricultural and pesticide products, tractors and other farming machinery, canola seeds, fertilizers, and other agricultural inputs and facilities provided to farmers. The additional assistant commissioner directed the Agriculture Department's administration to take concrete steps to ensure the provision of improved and quality agricultural services to the public, emphasizing the importance of facilitating farmers through modern agricultural technologies. He added that agriculture was the backbone of the national economy, and bringing improvement in this vital sector was essential for the prosperity of the people.—APP

ECP, CDA discuss FEA, uplift projects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Secretary of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Umar Hamid Khan, met with Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Monday to review ongoing and upcoming construction projects in the capital

The meeting, held at CDA Headquarters, was attended by senior officials from both the ECP and CDA, including CDA Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza and Member Finance Tahir Naeem. Officials discussed plans for the Federal Election Academy and associated office buildings in Islamabad. They were informed that the tendering process

for the projects will begin shortly, with the foundation stone scheduled to be laid soon afterwards. Work on a pre-fabricated gymnasium at the ECP Secretariat is also progressing rapidly. The meeting included a review of fire safety and security measures at the ECP headquarters. Officials said surveys for a fire safety plan have been completed and

its implementation will be prioritised. Chairman Randhawa instructed that ECP representatives be included in all tendering processes and that construction be monitored through CCTV cameras to ensure transparency and quality. He also called for the appointment of focal persons from both organisations to oversee project standards and completion. ECP Secretary Umar Hamid Khan praised CDA's development and beautification initiatives in Islamabad. He said ongoing coordination between the two bodies would help accelerate completion of current projects and facilitate the timely start of new initiatives. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation and ensure smooth execution of development projects in the capital.—DNA



PHA enhancing parks, recreational facilities for citizens

RAWALPINDI: The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi is undertaking a series of measures to beautify public parks and green belts across the city, with a view to providing improved recreational and equity facilities to visitors. A PHA spokesman said on Monday on the special instructions of PHA Director General Rawalpindi Ahmed Hassan Rana, the Authority had intensified horticultural work, including the plantation of seasonal flowers and the upkeep of green spaces. "The addition of fresh blooms and landscaped lawns has enhanced the aesthetic appeal of public parks and is drawing favourable response from visitors," he added.—APP

Immunization drive kicks off in KP

KOHAT: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister (SACM) on Information and Public Relations, Shafi Ullah Jan on Monday formally inaugurated the 12-day National Immunization Campaign here. The campaign, set to run from November 17 to 29, aims to protect children across the province from measles, rubella, polio, and other deadly diseases. The inauguration ceremony was held at the SACM's Office in Kohat under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Rahimullah Mehsud and District Health Officer Dr. Syed Gul Said, who briefed the participants on the field arrangements and health outreach plan.—APP

Renowned literary figure Dr Arfa Sayeda passes away

RENOWNED literary figure and educationist Dr Arfa Sayeda Zehra passed away on Monday, confirmed writer and academic Dr Asghar Nadeem Syed. Dr Zehra was a distinguished scholar known for her contributions to literature, education, and culture. She earned her Master's degree in Urdu from Gov-

ernment College Lahore and later obtained a PhD in History from the East-West Centre, University of Hawaii. She served as the principal of Government



College for Women, Gulberg, Lahore, from 1986 to 2009. Over the years, Dr Zehra became a respected name in academic and cultural circles for her intellect, eloquence, and dedication to education. Fluent in seven languages, she was also a member of several educational, administrative, social, and cultural committees, where she actively promoted learning, dialogue, and inclusion. Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari expressed deep grief over the passing of Dr Zehra, describing her demise as an irreparable loss to Pakistan's academic & literary community.—DNA

آئل اینڈ گیس
ریگولٹری اتھارٹی
حکومت پاکستان

**Oil & Gas
Regulatory Authority**
Government of Pakistan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENTS/HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENTS/HEARING BY THE AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER FINAL / ACTUAL RLNG SALES PRICES FOR CONSUMERS OF SUI SOUTHERN GAS COMPANY LIMITED FOR THE PERIOD APRIL, 2015 TO JUNE, 2022.

The Federal Government of Pakistan has delegated the powers to determine and notify the RLNG Sales Prices for the consumers of SNGPL & SSGCL to Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) under the applicable legal framework. In pursuant to that OGRA had issued the provisional RLNG prices for the consumers of SSGCL for the period effective from April 01, 2015 to June 30, 2022 on monthly basis. The main components of the RLNG Prices are defined as: Delivery Ex. Ship (DES) price, Retainage, Transmission & Distribution Losses, Port/Terminal Charges and other import related cost, PSO/PPL Margin, LSA fee, Exchange Gain/Loss, Cost of Supply SSGCL/SNGPL etc. as approved by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Federal Cabinet and conveyed the same to the Authority in this regard. Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) has submitted RLNG actualization data vide its letter dated 04th November, 2025 along with the working / computations for the relevant financial years with OGRA for determination and notification of final / actual RLNG Sales prices. The details of these price computations are available at OGRA's official website i.e. www.ogra.org.pk along-with monthly summary. The Authority is to determine and notify the final / actual RLNG Prices for the said period, prior to doing this, the Authority invites all interested/affected persons including gas consumers, stakeholders, and general public to furnish their comments, suggestions and intervention before the Authority. All correspondence in this connection may be addressed to Senior Registrar, OGRA and should contain the names and addresses of applicant / interveners. All interventions/comments/suggestions must indicate the way they are likely to be affected by determination of the Authority in this case. Intervention request should be accompanied by an affidavit verifying the contents of the intervention, intervention fee of Rs. 500/- (demand draft in favour of OGRA) and authority letter, if representing an organization. All relevant documents with respect to the matter are available on OGRA's official website which can also be obtained on payment of prescribed charges of Rs. 2/- per page from the office of Senior Registrar, OGRA, Islamabad through given email. For any information required from the Petitioner, please contact:

Mr. Muhammad Asad Mustafa,
General Manager (RA),
Sui Southern Gas Company Limited,
SSGC House, Sir Shah Suleman Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi.
Ph No. 021-99201000
Fax: 021-99231550
OGRA has decided to hold a Public Hearing, in the subject case according to the date, time and venue mentioned below:

Date	Time	Venue
November 20, 2025 (Thursday)	10:30 a.m.	SSGCL Head Office, Karachi.
November 20, 2025 (Thursday)	10:30 a.m.	SSGCL Regional Office Quetta (through Zoom).

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

Senior Registrar,
OIL & GAS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
OGRA Office, 37-Mauve Area, Service Road, South Sector, G-10/4, Islamabad.
Phone: 051-9108889, 051-9108890-98 (Ext-123)
Fax: 051-9244310
Email: registrar@ogra.gov.pk, Website: <http://www.ogra.org.pk>

Public Service Message

PID(I)3913/25

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

National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria
National Day

Nov 04/Italy
Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation
Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia
National Day

Nov 11/Poland
Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan
Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium
Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil
Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
National Day

Nov 18/Oman
National Day

Nov 18/Morocco
Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh
Armed Forces Day

Nov 22/Lebanon
Independence Day

Nov 25/Suriname
National Day

Nov 28/Mauritania
National Day

Nov 28/Albania
Flags Day



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police.....9266044

Motorway Police.9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

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Waylay Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Canth Hospital.....9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343



Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

New UAE ambassador arrives in Pakistan

The arrival of the new ambassador marks another chapter in the longstanding and multifaceted relations between the two brotherly nations



DNA

ISLAMABAD (DNA): The newly appointed Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, His Excellency Maj. Gen. (R) Salem Mohammad Salem Al-Bawab Al-Zaabi, arrived in Islamabad on Monday morning via a Fly Dubai international flight. Ambassador Al-Zaabi succeeds His Excellency Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi, who concluded his successful tenure in Pakistan last month and has since been posted to Egypt. During his term, Ambassador Hamad Al-Zaabi played a significant role in further strengthening the close and brotherly relations between the UAE and Pakistan, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, and people-to-people ties. The arrival of the new ambassador marks another chapter in the longstanding and multifaceted relations between the two brotherly nations. Pakistan and the UAE have enjoyed deep-rooted ties founded on shared values, cultural affinity, and mutual respect. Ambassador-designate Salem Al-Bawab Al-Zaabi is expected to present his credentials to the President of Pakistan in the coming days and begin his diplomatic engagements aimed at further enhancing cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including economy, defence, and regional development.

Celebrating 75 Years of Indonesia-Pakistan enduring trust, friendship

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The historic bond between the Republic of Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan took centre-stage today, as the Indonesian Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo formally inaugurated the Indonesian Expo 2025, held at the prestigious Centaurus Mall. The two-day event (8-9 November) honours the 75-year milestone of diplomatic relations grounded in mutual respect, cultural affinity, and shared ideas of the better world. The opening ceremony was graced by the Honourable former Chairman of the Senate, Mushahid Hussain Syed, as the Chief Guest, alongside Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo and Mdm. Tamara Y. Sukotjo, distinguished members of the diplomatic and business communities, and a large and enthusiastic public audience. "Why hold it in a shopping mall? Because friendship should not stay inside closed halls. It should be celebrated with the people, right here where families, youth, and communities gather," Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo explain the reason behind choosing Centaurus Mall as a venue for the Expo. This is not about protocol, it's about sharing joy, culture, and togetherness between Indonesians and Pakistanis," he continued highlighting deep connections between the two brotherly countries. Moreover, the Embassy's Women Association led by Mdm. Tamara Y. Sukotjo performed an enchanting Indonesian bamboo-made instrument called Angklung, enchanting the audience with its harmonious resonance with popular songs of "I have a dream" and "Dil-Dil Pakistan." "Indonesia has a special place in my heart, as I spent memorable moments in Jakarta as son of the first Pakistani Defense Attache for Indonesia," Senator said in his remarks while wearing Batik outfit gifted by the 7th Indonesian President Joko Widodo. "I also met with Mr. Prabowo Subianto when he was outside the Indonesian cabinet. Even I said to him that he would be the next President of Indonesia," he explained while confirmed strong partnership between the two largest Muslim-majority countries.

The main artistic highlight of the evening was the appearance of the celebrated Indonesian troupe Paguyuban Citra, flown in specially for the occasion. Their performance of Indonesian songs and dances drew sustained applause. The spirit of brotherhood between Indonesia and Pakistan was further manifested when Indonesian and Pakistani dancers joined together in a vibrant rendition of the traditional Indonesian dance Lenggang Jakarta, symbolising inter-cultural unity and shared joy. The Indonesian Embassy encourages all members of the public to attend the second day of the Expo on 9 November 2025, which promises another day of fascinating product displays, cultural activities, live music and business-networking opportunities. "It was an amazing experience to witness the creativity, vibrant culture, and artistic performances of Indonesia showcased at the Expo," Hamza Butt from Rawalpindi commented the Expo 2025. "You have amazing cultural performances that make us feel so close and happy together," said Fatma Khan from Islamabad.

Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference to commence today

The delegation includes Dr. Othman Al-Hakamani, Abdullah Atlas, and Dr. Moeen Al-Madani. Senator Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto and senior officers of the Senate Secretariat warmly welcomed the Saudi delegation

ISLAMABAD: Organized under the auspices of the Senate of Pakistan, the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference will formally begin today (Tuesday). The Senate Secretariat has finalized all arrangements in this regard, while the arrival of delegations in the federal capital has already begun. Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Members of Parliament, and heads of various prominent international organizations from friendly countries have reached Islamabad, while the arrival of other delegations continues. The important Conference, will feature detailed deliberations on the theme Peace, Security, and Development. Heads of parliaments and delegates from significant countries will also share their views. The Conference will be addressed by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, and Speaker National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq. During the Conference, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani will also hold separate meetings with parliamentary leaders of important countries to discuss matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation. The Conference will continue for two days, culminating in the issuance of a joint communique. Parliamentary delegations arriving in Islamabad to participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference include representatives from Rwanda, Guyana, Congo, and Somalia, as well as the President of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), Dr. Tageldin Ibrahim Hamad, affiliated with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC). From Somalia, First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ms. Saadia Yasin Haji, along with her representative team, has reached Islamabad. From Congo, Member of Parliament Mr. Prosper Kasongo Lokali Tunda, and from Guyana, Director of the National Peace Initiative Mr. Aubrey Narine, have also arrived in Islamabad. Delegations from Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kenya, Palestine, Maldives, Malaysia, the Philippines, Serbia, Nepal, Liberia, and Saudi Arabia have also arrived in Islamabad to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference being held from 11-12 November 2025. From Jordan, the delegation includes Deputy Prime Minister Taufiq Krishan, Member of the Upper House Rakan Hama-

deh Al-Fawaz, and accompanying staff. Senior officials of the Senate of Pakistan warmly received the Jordanian delegation. From Azerbaijan, Deputy Speaker of the Milli Majlis Ali Ahmadov; from Uzbekistan, Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Supreme Assembly, Sodik Safoov; and from Cameroon, Member of Parliament Komase Simon Pou, have arrived in Islamabad to attend the Conference. Former President of Guatemala, Jimmy Morales; Deputy Speaker of Kenya, Farah Maalim Muhammad; and Speaker of the Palestinian National Council, Rohi Ahmad Muhammad Fattouh, have also reached Islamabad along with their respective delegations to participate in the Conference. Furthermore, a delegation from Saudi Arabia led by Deputy Chairman of the Shura Council, Abdullah bin Addam Falateh, has arrived in Islamabad. The delegation includes Dr. Othman Al-Hakamani, Abdullah Atlas, and Dr. Moeen Al-Madani. Senator Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto and senior officers of the Senate Secretariat warmly welcomed the Saudi delegation.—DNA

Ayaz expresses sorrow over passing of Dr. Arfa

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the passing of the renowned educationist, scholar and social thinker, Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra. In his condolence message, the Speaker paid rich tribute to Dr. Arfa's invaluable contributions to education, literature and social development. He remarked that her demise marks the loss of a brilliant mind and an intellectual beacon who devoted her life to the pursuit of knowledge, research, and the promotion of critical thought. Ayaz Sadiq said that Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra's remarkable services in the field of education and her lifelong efforts for intellectual and social enlightenment will continue to inspire generations to come. The Speaker extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family and admirers of the late scholar. He also prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the departed soul a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and to bless the bereaved family with patience and strength to bear this irreparable loss.—APP

Pakistani-Kashmiri student competition in Japan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani-Kashmiri student Zujajah Shaikh has triumphed in the prestigious International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot Court Competition round and will represent Japan at the international finals in Hong Kong next year. The competition was held at Utsunomiya University, Japan on November 8-9, 2025. Shaikh, serving as the prosecutor along with her three-member team from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU), showcased exceptional legal skills, eloquence, and a deep understanding of humanitarian law. The jury included Professor William A. Schabas, a globally recognized scholar in international criminal and human rights law and an authority on genocide and humanitarian jurisprudence. Participating teams argued a complex legal case simulating real-world conflict scenarios, acting as both prosecutors and defendants. The APU team's analytical depth, balanced arguments, and strong grasp of IHL principles earned them first place among top universities across Japan. With this victory, the APU team will represent Japan at the 24th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition in Hong Kong in March 2026. This marks the third consecutive year that APU has won the national round.—APP

Misbah welcomes global delegations to ICS

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Chairman Senate and Ambassador to the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference (ISC), Misbah Khar, on Monday welcomed high-level delegations from Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Liberia and Uzbekistan to Islamabad for the ISC meeting. Opening the series of bilateral engagements, Khar received the Saudi delegation, noting the historic and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. She expressed optimism about the Kingdom's prospective membership in the ISC and said both countries share a common vision of peace, dialogue and sustainable global progress. Khar also met Lancen Haddad, Vice President of Morocco, praising Morocco's longstanding partnership and active role within the ISC framework. Vice President Haddad commended Pakistan's initiative in hosting the conference and reaffirmed Morocco's commitment to strengthening parliamentary cooperation. During her meeting with the Liberian delegation, led by Richard Nagbe Koon, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Khar reiterated Pakistan's resolve to promote inter-parliamentary collaboration based on peace, respect and inclusivity. Speaker Koon lauded Pakistan's leadership and expressed Liberia's readiness to contribute to the ISC's objectives. Welcoming Alisher Tukhtaev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan, and his delegation, Khar appreciated Uzbekistan's constructive engagement and the two sides agreed to explore future memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to enhance cooperation and shared development goals. Concluding the day's meetings, Misbah Khar extended Pakistan's warm hospitality to all visiting delegations, expressing confidence that the ISC will strengthen global parliamentary dialogue and serve as a platform for promoting peace, unity and cooperation among nations.—APP

ICCI President for steps to enhance industrial competitiveness

He pointed out that Pakistan's trade and industrial sectors are facing multiple challenges, including high production costs, excessive energy tariffs, complex taxation systems, and heavy duties on raw materials and intermediary goods

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Sardar Tahir Mehmood, has underlined the urgent need for comprehensive measures, supported by a consultative approach and continuity of policy, to enhance Pakistan's industrial competitiveness, productivity, and exports. Talking to various business delegations at the Chamber House on Monday, Sardar Tahir Mehmood stressed that reducing the cost of doing business and bringing down energy tariffs are essential steps toward meaningfully enhancing the country's export potential and attracting investment. He pointed out that Pakistan's trade and industrial sectors are facing multiple challenges, including high production costs, excessive energy tariffs, complex taxation systems, and heavy duties on raw materials and intermediary goods. These factors, he said, are adversely impacting the competitiveness of local industries in both domestic and global markets. The ICCI President emphasized that revitalizing the industrial sector requires predictable, business-friendly, and long-term economic policies developed in close consultation with the private sector. He called on the government to reduce tariffs on industrial inputs and raw materials, simplify tax procedures, and create a stable policy environment that encourages sustainable growth and industrial expansion. He further remarked that the continuity of policies is crucial to maintaining investor confidence and ensuring consistent growth in exports. Frequent policy changes, he said, disrupt industrial planning and discourage both domestic and foreign investors. Sardar Tahir Mehmood also highlighted the importance of energy sector reforms, urging the government to provide affordable and reliable energy to industries. "Without reducing energy costs, it will be difficult for our export-oriented sectors to compete internationally," he warned. He reiterated that ICCI is committed to working closely with the government and all relevant stakeholders to develop actionable strategies that enhance competitiveness, strengthen the export base, and promote industrial revival. The ICCI President concluded by reaffirming that Pakistan's economic future lies in its ability to produce, innovate, and export competitively. For that, he said, there is a dire need for collaborative policymaking, consistent economic governance, and an enabling business environment that empowers the private sector to drive national growth.

Briefs

Pakistan
marble
export to
China on rise

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's overture to introduce a National Marble Policy aimed at tapping the country's vast marble reserves for local use and export promotion, Pakistan's marble is witnessing strong demand from China.

Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC) official told Gwadar Pro that Chinese buyers remain a key destination for Pakistani stone exports, even amid challenges like higher shipment costs. He said the demand from China continues to be resilient, providing Pakistan with a unique opportunity to strengthen its foothold in one of the world's largest stone markets. "Pakistan could capture even greater market share in China and beyond if processing was localised and supported with better infrastructure. Mechanised mining has created a complete value chain – from extraction to processing – which allows our products to compete internationally", he added. With proper finishing and value addition, Pakistani stone could penetrate premium global markets as well. He said kitchen slabs sold in America's outlets retail for thousands of dollars but if Pakistan processes its granite and marble with the right technology, the same demand can be tapped in China and the West. He highlighted that industrial clusters, such as Marble City in Risalpur where 80 units are operational, are playing a central role in making Pakistani stone products export-ready.

RCCI
delegation
visits Uzbek
chamber of
commerce

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The 36th International Achievement Awards and Business Opportunities Conference (IAA & BOC), organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), is set to commence on November 10, 2025, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. An RCCI delegation, led by President Usman Shaukat, has arrived in Tashkent to participate in the prestigious international event. The delegation includes Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former presidents, SCCI President Junaid Altaf, Executive Committee members, and prominent business representatives from various sectors. Over 200 delegates from diverse industries are participating in the conference, which aims to foster international business linkages and explore new trade opportunities. On the sidelines of the event, the RCCI delegation paid a visit to the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce, where discussions were held to enhance mutual cooperation and trade facilitation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Speaking on the occasion, President Usman Shaukat highlighted that RCCI's 36th International Achievement Awards and Business Opportunities Conference continues the Chamber's long-standing tradition of promoting entrepreneurship and global partnerships.

Court Notice

IN THE COURT OF
MUHAMMAD ALI
JUDGE CIVIL/Family
COURT RAWALPINDI

Suit For Recovery Mst. Sadia Suleman etc. Versus Suleman Saleem Khan Notice to Suleman Saleem Khan s/o Muhammad Saleem Khan R/o Walls Agency, General Pressure Cooker, Mohallah Arif Shaheed Road, Wazirabad, District Gujranwala. The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court personally, through counsel or attorney on 11-11-2025 at 9 am avoid ex-parte proceeding.

PIDE urges bold reform
for export revival in Pak

To achieve these outcomes, the PIDE study recommends a comprehensive rationalization of the customs duty structure from five slabs to four (0%, 5%, 10%, and 15%) within five years, alongside a complete phase-out of tariff peaks exceeding 20%.

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A new Policy Viewpoint by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) warns that Pakistan's protectionist and overly complex tariff system is costing the economy billions annually, suffocating industrial competitiveness, and trapping the country in a cycle of inefficiency. Authored by Dr. Uzma Zia, Senior Research Economist at PIDE, the study titled "Rationalizing Pakistan's Tariff Regime for Export-Led Growth" presents a compelling case for urgent, growth-oriented reform of Pakistan's trade and industrial policy framework.

According to the study, Pakistan's tariff regime—dominated by Regulatory Duties (RDs), Additional Customs Duties (ACDs),

and 5th Schedule exemptions—has long protected inefficiency, distorted price signals, and raised production costs. As a result, both manufacturers and consumers face inflated costs, while export-oriented industries are handicapped by an anti-export bias. "Every additional year under the current tariff system slows export growth, raises production costs, and deepens the trade deficit. Pakistan can no longer afford this inefficiency," warns Dr. Zia.

The upcoming National Tariff Policy (NTP) 2025-30 provides a clear roadmap for reform, aiming to eliminate ACDs within four years and RDs within five, while transitioning products from the 5th Schedule to the 1st Schedule. If implemented effectively, PIDE projects that the new policy could increase exports by 10-14%, strengthen industrial competi-

tiveness, and reduce the trade deficit – while lowering inflation through reduced input costs. To achieve these outcomes, the PIDE study recommends a comprehensive rationalization of the customs duty structure from five slabs to four (0%, 5%, 10%, and 15%) within five years, alongside a complete phase-out of tariff peaks exceeding 20%. Duties should be harmonized by product category – lowest on raw materials, moderate on intermediates, and highest on consumer goods – to promote industrial upgrading and attract investment in high-value sectors. In addition, PIDE proposes aligning auto-sector tariffs with competitiveness and consumer choice under the Automotive Industry Development and Export Plan (AIDEP 2021-26), including duty reductions, removal of ACDs and RDs, and allowing controlled import of used vehicles under strict

quality and environmental standards.

The author cautions that resistance from protectionist industries and external shocks, such as commodity price volatility and exchange rate shifts, may slow progress. However, it emphasizes that the cost of inaction is far higher – in lost investment opportunities, stagnant exports, and persistent consumer hardship.

PIDE concludes that Pakistan now stands at a pivotal moment: by embracing tariff rationalization and aligning trade policy with competitiveness and global integration, the country can transition from revenue-driven protectionism to export-led, sustainable growth. n"Tariff reform is not just an economic necessity – it is a national imperative," Dr. Zia affirms. "Simplifying tariffs, eliminating distortions, and aligning policy with long-term growth goals can reshape Pakistan's economic future."

Türkiye embassy honors Iqbal's
148th birth anniversary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: TURKIYE EMBASSY commemorated the 148th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal at our Embassy. We were

pleased to host Mr. Zulfikar Ahmed Cheema, Chairman of the Allama Iqbal Council Islamabad and Mr. Khurshid Ahmed Nadeem, Chairman of the National Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Authority,

who shared inspiring reflections on Iqbal's timeless message. Allama Iqbal's vision continues to guide hearts toward light, wisdom and unity, a legacy that deeply resonates with both Türkiye

and Pakistan. His admiration for Türkiye's struggle and spirit inspired a lasting bond of mutual respect, unity and shared ideals that continue to strengthen our brotherly ties today.

KS relief distributes
180 tons of dates

ISLAMABAD:The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief), in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and its implementing partner Hayat Foundation, successfully distributed 180 tons of dates among flood-affected families across eight districts of Punjab, Pakistan. This initiative aimed to support vulnerable families affected by recent floods by providing them with nutritious food assistance. Dates, being rich in essential nutrients, serve as an excellent source of energy and help improve food security among disaster-affected communities. Under this project, distributions were carried out in eight districts of Punjab Multan, Muzaffargarh, Jhang, Kot Addu, Hafizabad, Rajanpur, Khanewal, and Faisalabad benefiting thousands of families who were severely impacted by floods and displacement. The project reflects the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's unwavering commitment, through KSrelief, to stand with the people of Pakistan in times of hardship and to promote food security, humanitarian relief, and dignity among affected populations.—DNA

Paris Peace Forum 2025: Forging new
coalitions for peace and the planet

M.S.TARIQ USMANI

THE Paris Peace Forum 2025, held from October 29 to 30 at Musée de l'Homme (Palais de Chaillot) in Paris, France, convened global leaders, policymakers, civil society organizations, and journalists to address critical challenges facing the world. This year's forum, themed "New Coalitions for Peace, people, and the planet", provided a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and the advancement of concrete solutions to foster peace and cooperation.

The forum served as a platform for international leaders to address pressing global challenges. It emphasized the need for collective action and cooperation to promote peace, address humanitarian crises, and ensure a sustainable future. The forum's commitment to supporting projects and fostering dialogue underscores its role in driving positive change on a global scale. The agenda of the forum was packed with a diverse range of sessions, workshops, and high-level discussions. Key topics included: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability: Discussions centered on accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement, promoting green technologies, and financing climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Digital Governance and Cybersecurity: Experts explored the challenges of regulating the digital space, combating disinformation, and ensuring cybersecurity while upholding human rights and democratic values. Global Health and Pandemic Preparedness: The forum addressed lessons learned from the recent pandemic, emphasizing the need for strengthening global health systems, equitable vaccine distribution, and early warning systems. Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding: Participants discussed strategies for preventing and resolving conflicts, promoting inclusive governance, and supporting peace processes in various regions. The Paris Peace Forum 2025 yielded sev-

eral significant outcomes, demonstrating its impact on global cooperation and progress. Firstly, there was a noticeable strengthening of international partnerships, with countries and organizations coming together to address shared challenges. Secondly, the forum facilitated the launch of new initiatives and projects aimed at promoting peace, sustainability, and development. Thirdly, it provided a platform for the exchange of innovative ideas and best practices, fostering learning and collaboration among participants. Finally, the event led to concrete commitments and pledges from governments and organizations, driving tangible progress in various areas. At the Paris Peace Forum 2025, a significant emphasis was placed on commitments to climate action. Governments and various organizations pledged increased financial support for climate initiatives, signaling a growing global dedication to addressing climate change. Many entities set ambitious targets for reducing emissions, demonstrating a proactive approach to mitigating the effects of global warming. Furthermore, there were firm commitments to phasing out fossil fuels, reflecting a shift towards sustainable energy sources and a concerted effort to transition away from practices that contribute to environmental degradation. A crucial outcome of the Paris Peace Forum 2025 was the advancement of digital governance frameworks. Discussions and collaborations at the forum resulted in the development of new guidelines and frameworks designed to shape the digital landscape. These initiatives focused on regulating artificial intelligence to ensure responsible development and deployment. Simultaneously, there was a strong emphasis on protecting data privacy, recognizing the importance of safeguarding individuals' information in an increasingly digital world. Furthermore, the forum addressed the urgent need to combat online hate speech, seeking to create a safer and more inclusive online environment. One of the

key achievements of the Paris Peace Forum 2025 was the strengthening of global health partnerships. Participants reached a consensus on the need to enhance collaboration in several critical areas. They agreed to bolster pandemic preparedness efforts, recognizing the importance of being ready for future health crises. There was also a commitment to improving early warning systems, enabling quicker detection and response to potential outbreaks. Moreover, the forum emphasized the need to ensure equitable access to vaccines and medical supplies, highlighting the importance of global solidarity in safeguarding public health. The Paris Peace Forum 2025 played a significant role in supporting peace processes worldwide. The forum served as a valuable platform for ongoing peace negotiations, offering a space for dialogue and diplomacy. It facilitated discussions between conflicting parties, encouraging them to find common ground and work towards peaceful resolutions. Moreover, the event was instrumental in mobilizing resources for peacebuilding efforts, providing financial and technical support to initiatives aimed at promoting stability and reconciliation in conflict-affected regions. The 2025 Paris Peace Forum, held from October 29-30, brought together a diverse group of high-level participants. The event was attended by prominent heads of state and government, including Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, and John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana. Other key figures present were Maia Sandu, President of Moldova, Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of Armenia, and Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania. In addition to these leaders, the forum welcomed other high-profile individuals, such as former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley. The forum's attendees represented a wide array of sectors, includ-

ing governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, all coming together from across the globe. President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron delivered a powerful address, emphasizing the importance of multilateralism, international cooperation and solidarity. The President highlighted the urgency of addressing global challenges and called for collective action to build a more peaceful, sustainable and equitable world. The speech set a tone of optimism and determination, underscoring France's commitment to global leadership and diplomacy. President Emmanuel Macron, during the Paris Peace Forum 2025, emphasized the urgency of climate action on the 10th anniversary of the Paris Climate Accords. He highlighted two crucial international battles on combating methane emissions and phasing out coal. "At the international level, there are two key battles: the battles against methane and the battle against coal", Macron's remarks underscored France's commitment to leading decisive efforts in these areas. The Venue, Palais de Chaillot, provided an impressive setting for the forum. The atmosphere was vibrant and engaging, fostering lively discussions and networking opportunities. The event was well-organized, with seamless logistics and excellent facilities. The presence of prominent figures from various sectors, including heads of state, UN officials, business leaders, and civil society representatives, underscored the forum's significance and influence. The Paris Peace Forum 2025 was a resounding success, providing a crucial platform for addressing pressing global challenges and fostering international cooperation. The forum's outcomes, including commitments to climate action, digital governance frameworks, strengthened global health partnerships, and support for peace processes, demonstrated the power of dialogue and collaboration. As the world faces complex and interconnected challenges, the Paris Peace Forum continues to play a vital role in shaping a more peaceful, sustainable and equitable future.

Amendment
to stabilise
economy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shahid Rashid Butt has expressed confidence that the 27th Constitutional Amendment will help Pakistan restore fiscal balance, strengthen the federation, and create a stable environment for investment and growth. Butt said Pakistan's economy cannot grow under a fragmented governance structure where the centre bears most fiscal responsibilities while provinces run large surpluses without improving public services or expanding their tax base. The amendment can correct these distortions, improve economic discipline, and ensure that national priorities, from defence to debt repayment are adequately funded, he said. Speaking to the business community, he noted that provinces collectively posted hundreds of billions in surplus in FY25 while the federal government struggled to finance development and social programs. A revised resource distribution formula, he said, would ensure fairer allocation of funds and push provinces to mobilise their own revenues, particularly from agriculture and services, sectors long exempt from effective taxation.—APP

Pak China
medical
cooperation
strengthened

DNA

KUNMING- The 2025 China Conference on Holistic Integrative Oncology (CCHIO), held from November 6-9 in Kunming, Yunnan province, concluded as a landmark event in global cancer cooperation, with particular significance for Pakistan through the introduction of Urdu-language clinical guidelines and new regional partnerships. The conference gathered approximately 100 international experts from 50 countries for academic exchange and collaboration. A major outcome was the establishment of the "South Asia and Southeast Asia Medical Education and Healthcare Alliance – Oncology Sub-Alliance", with multiple institutions signing cooperation agreements to enhance cancer care collaboration across the region, according to a Gwadar Pro's report on Monday. Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, President of the China-Pakistan Medical Association (CPMA), highlighted the importance for Pakistan of receiving the Urdu-translated CACA (China Anti-Cancer Association) Guidelines for Cancer Treatment. "For Pakistani clinicians, this translation is a gift – a readily accessible, evidence-based roadmap that will standardize and elevate our clinical practices, directly benefiting patient outcomes across our nation," he stated.

The 27th amendment – a step backwards

THE government's move to push through the 27th Constitutional Amendment appears to be one of the most consequential and controversial constitutional interventions in Pakistan's recent history. Reports suggest that the amendment seeks to abolish the office of the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, creating a new and far more powerful post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Under this arrangement, the CDS would effectively become the supreme head of the armed forces, exercising authority over the Army, Navy, and Air Force an unprecedented concentration of military power in a single office. While the government insists that this change is meant to "streamline command structures" and "ensure coordination among the three services," critics view it as an attempt to militarize the system further, blurring the constitutional separation between civilian and military domains. The creation of such an office, without adequate parliamentary debate or public consensus, risks disturbing the delicate institutional balance that the Constitution seeks to maintain. Equally alarming are the proposed changes to the judiciary, which strike at the very heart of Pakistan's democratic framework. The amendment reportedly seeks to clip the powers of the Supreme Court and establish a new Constitutional Court, which will replace or override some functions of the apex court. Justice Aminuddin Khan is said to be under consideration as the first Chief Justice of this new court. This move, if implemented, would amount to a restructuring of the judicial hierarchy, undermining both the independence and authority of the Supreme Court as the guardian of the Constitution. Understandably, legal experts, senior lawyers, and civil society leaders have sounded the alarm. They have written to Chief Justice, urging him to convene a Full Court meeting to deliberate on the implications of the proposed amendment. Their concern is not misplaced. If passed in haste and without judicial input, the 27th Amendment could deliver a fatal blow to the independence of the judiciary, which is already under immense political and institutional pressure. Adding to the controversy, the opposition has announced a complete boycott of the amendment process, arguing that legislation of such historic significance cannot and should not be passed without consensus. The absence of opposition participation will inevitably rob the process of legitimacy and credibility. Constitutional changes should reflect national consensus, not partisan expediency. Yet, government appears determined to rush the amendment through Parliament, reportedly before November 27, when the current Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee is due to retire—a timeline that raises serious questions about intent and urgency. The haste itself is revealing. Rarely in Pakistan's history has a constitutional amendment been introduced to empower the public, strengthen democracy,

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or improve governance. Most amendments have served the ruling elite political or otherwise. If the 27th Amendment goes through it will once again demonstrate how constitutional engineering is used to consolidate power, not distribute it.

One of the most disturbing elements of the proposed amendment is the provision shielding the President from prosecution, effectively granting lifelong immunity. Such a clause not only contradicts the principles of accountability and equality before the law but also runs counter to Islamic injunctions, which emphasize that no individual is above justice.

Moreover, while the amendment to Article 243, which deals with the command of the armed forces, may appear to have little immediate impact on the daily lives of ordinary citizens, the provisions affecting the judiciary will directly influence the lives of the common people. When judicial independence is compromised, justice becomes selective, delayed, or denied—especially for the poor and marginalized. The ordinary citizen depends on the courts for protection from abuse of power, for the enforcement of fundamental rights, and for the redress of grievances. A weakened judiciary means a weakened democracy, and ultimately, a weakened society.

Sadly, Pakistan's constitutional amendments have almost always been self-serving exercises. No amendment has ever been proposed to eliminate corruption, ensure universal education, or guarantee free healthcare. None have sought to make justice accessible or public service efficient. Instead, amendments have been introduced to extend tenures, neutralize opponents, or legitimize unconstitutional actions after the fact. This pattern continues unabated, eroding the very spirit of constitutionalism.

The 27th Amendment, as it stands, risks plunging Pakistan into another period of institutional imbalance and democratic uncertainty. Rather than focusing on national priorities economic recovery, education reform, poverty alleviation, and governance the state seems preoccupied with political maneuvering and institutional restructuring. The country's constitutional architecture is being reshaped not for the people, but around personalities. If history is any guide, constitutional amendments passed in haste, without consultation or consent, have always led to long-term instability. The 8th and 17th Amendments are stark reminders of how such moves can distort power structures for decades. The proposed 27th Amendment risks joining that ignominious list. It is time for Parliament, the judiciary, civil society, and the media to raise their collective voice. The Constitution is not a tool for convenience it is the sacred contract between the state and its people. Any attempt to weaken its foundations in the name of expediency or reform must be resisted. Pakistan's future depends not on more power for the powerful, but on stronger institutions, an independent judiciary, and a government accountable to the people. The 27th Amendment, as proposed, threatens all three. If democracy is to survive, this amendment must be revisited, debated, and, if necessary, rejected. In the end, the real strength of a nation lies not in its generals or politicians, but in the rule of law and the will of its people.

Did Trump's Second-Term Tariff Crusade Backfire on America?

Qamar Bashir



Trump's signature economic doctrine rested on tariffs – sweeping, unilateral duties imposed on nearly every country trading with the United States. On April 5, 2025, he invoked the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose a 10 percent baseline tariff on virtually all imports, rising to punitive levels against countries with trade surpluses. His justification was moral as much as economic: America, he said, had been “robbed blind,” and now it was time to make offenders pay

WHEN Donald Trump returned to power in January 2025, he came as a man on a mission – a self-proclaimed savior who promised to restore America's greatness by reversing what he called decades of “plunder” by foreign nations and betrayal by domestic elites. His message was sharp, emotional, and divisive: America had been looted by others, invaded by outsiders, and weakened by globalists. His rallying cry – “Stop the plunder, make America win again” – became the cornerstone of his campaign and the moral justification for his economic, immigration, and security agenda. But ten months into his presidency, that crusade appears to have collapsed under its own contradictions. His main policy weapon, tariffs, has crippled rather than strengthened the U.S. economy. His promise to expel immigrants and Chinese students has triggered outrage, legal challenges, and civil unrest. His use of National Guards to quell protests and enforce federal directives has been condemned by constitutional scholars as authoritarian overreach. And his deliberate targeting of Democratic-governed states with funding cuts, while rewarding Republican ones, has deepened America's internal divide. The second Trump presidency, which began with boasts of discipline and destiny, now stands mired in disorder and disbelief. Trump's signature economic doctrine rested on tariffs – sweeping, unilateral duties imposed on nearly every country trading with the United States. On April 5, 2025, he invoked the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose a 10 percent baseline tariff on virtually all imports, rising to punitive levels against countries with trade surpluses. His justification was moral as much as economic: America, he said, had been “robbed blind,” and now it was time to make offenders pay. By July, the Institute for International Economics reported that the U.S. Treasury had collected \$122 billion in new tariffs, with projections of \$300 billion by year's end. The administration celebrated the figure as proof of success. Yet, beneath the headlines, economists saw a darker reality. According to Yale's Budget Lab, the average American household lost \$3,800 in purchasing power due to higher consumer prices, while corporations suffered \$34 billion in combined cost increases and sales losses. Imported machinery, metals, electronics, and everyday goods became more expensive; factories dependent on foreign parts slowed or shut down. Meanwhile, trading partners retaliated. China imposed reciprocal duties and restricted exports of rare-earth minerals, choking U.S. semiconductor and electric-vehicle production. Canada, long the closest ally, saw its aluminum and energy exports to the U.S. plunge by 40 percent. The European Union, facing tariffs averaging 20 percent, redirected nearly \$75 billion in trade toward Asia and Africa. India, another supposed ally, tightened its own import barriers, favoring European suppliers over American ones.

By late 2025, the United States had collected roughly \$300 billion in tariffs but lost more than \$600 billion in trade, investment, and consumer wealth – a net loss twice as large as its revenue. Exporters saw foreign markets evaporate; inflation returned; industrial confidence plunged. The “tariff revolution” that promised to rebuild America instead produced higher prices, weaker factories, and broken partnerships. The very slogan that won Trump re-election – “America First” – had turned into America alone. In October 2025, a federal appeals court ruled that large portions of Trump's tariff regime violated constitutional limits under the IEEPA. The case, now before the Supreme Court, threatens to nullify the program entirely. If upheld, the ruling could force Washington to refund up to \$1 trillion in illegally collected tariffs to importers and foreign companies – turning a perceived fiscal victory into a staggering liability. Abroad, allies have grown disillusioned. Canada, once America's most dependable partner, has frozen joint energy projects and suspended several defense procurement agreements. The European Union has accelerated plans for “strategic autonomy” – reducing reliance on U.S. markets and military backing. Even India, which Trump once courted as a counterweight to China, has shifted toward a more balanced, non-aligned stance. The geopolitical cost of Trump's tariff crusade may, in time, exceed its economic toll. While the tariff policy faltered on the global front, Trump's domestic agenda ignited turmoil at home. His pre-election vow to expel Chinese students from American universities and remove undocumented immigrants from the United States ran into fierce institutional and popular resistance. University presidents, state governors, and business leaders across the country denounced the policy as self-destructive, depriving the nation of talent and labor. Mass arrests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – often televised and heavy-handed – shocked the public conscience. Detention centers overflowed; protests erupted in California, Illinois, Michigan, and New York; and civil-rights groups accused the administration of orchestrating what they called “state-sponsored social division.” Even Republican mayors in Texas and Florida warned that the crackdown had disrupted local economies dependent on migrant workers. The plan to “secure America's borders” has instead fractured its communities, producing social tension, moral outrage, and economic stagnation in key industries like agriculture, construction, and services. Adding to the domestic crisis was Trump's repeated deployment of the National Guard in Democrat-led states, ostensibly to maintain order amid protests and labor unrest. Governors and constitutional lawyers called it an unprecedented intrusion into state sovereignty. Several state legislatures passed resolutions

condemning the federal overreach, while civil-liberties groups filed lawsuits accusing the administration of violating the Posse Comitatus Act. Simultaneously, the White House began punishing Democratic states by withholding federal infrastructure funds while granting bonuses and subsidies to Republican-governed regions. This selective disbursement of national resources has widened America's internal divide, transforming fiscal policy into a partisan weapon. The attempt to project strength has instead exposed weakness – a federal government at war with its own states. Ten months into Trump's second term, nearly every pillar of his campaign stands eroded. The tariffs meant to punish foreign “plunderers” punished American workers and consumers instead. The immigration clampdown intended to restore “law and order” has generated chaos and shame. The National Guard deployments, framed as decisive leadership, now symbolize federal authoritarianism. And the selective funding of states has alienated millions of Americans who feel their taxes are being used to reward political loyalty rather than public need. The economic cost of the tariffs – roughly \$600 billion in losses – combines with the social and political cost of division: a fractured society, disillusioned allies, and a democracy tested at its seams. Even conservative economists concede that the “America First” project has yielded America isolated, economically weaker, and morally diminished. As 2025 draws to a close, the central question remains: Can a nation become great again by taxing its own people, dividing its own states, and alienating its own allies? The numbers answer before the historians can. America collected \$300 billion but lost nearly twice as much in trade, consumer spending, and trust. Its factories are quieter, its allies colder, its campuses emptier. Donald Trump's second term began with roaring confidence and ends, barely a year in, with a silent admission: the slogans that once stirred the crowds – Stop the Plunder, Secure the Border, Restore the Greatness – have fallen flat, leaving behind a trail of broken promises and broken partnerships. All those promises that lifted him to power – tariffs, immigration reform, national security, and federal supremacy – have failed to deliver. Now, as the first year of his presidency closes in turmoil and uncertainty, one question looms large over Washington and the world: does Donald Trump still have the legal, moral, and ethical basis to remain in power? That question may, in the end, define not only his legacy but the fate of American democracy itself.

– 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

From Commander-in-Chief to Prime Minister and President

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Muhammad Ayub Khan was born on May 14, 1907, in the village of Rehana, District Haripur in the North-West Frontier Province (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). After early education, he joined the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in 1926 and was commissioned into the British Indian Army in 2 February 1928. His steady rise through the ranks reflected his discipline...

THERE are some truths in history that rest quietly in the pages of books and official documents. They remain hidden from the public eye, awaiting discovery by those who devote themselves to research. Many episodes of Pakistan's political evolution fall into this category, where the general perception of events does not always align with their factual depth. Among such historical realities lies the multifaceted career of one of Pakistan's most powerful and some extent controversial figures – Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan. Most Pakistanis know him as the first military ruler of Pakistan, the man who imposed the country's first Martial Law and later became its President. Yet few realize that, for a time, Ayub Khan also held the office of Prime Minister – making him one of the rare individuals in the nation's history to simultaneously embody military, executive, and political authority. Muhammad Ayub Khan was born on May 14, 1907, in the village of Rehana, District Haripur in the North-West Frontier Province (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). After early education, he joined the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in 1926 and was commissioned into the British Indian Army in 2 February 1928. His steady rise through the ranks reflected his discipline and administrative ability. When Pakistan came into being in 1947, Ayub Khan was among the senior-most Muslim officers in the Indian Army and was chosen by Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan to serve in Pakistan's newly established military. In January 17, 1951, Ayub Khan was appointed as the Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Army, succeeding General Sir Douglas Gracey, the last British officer to hold that position. This appointment made Ayub Khan the first Pakistani to command the national army. His tenure as Commander-in-Chief lasted until 27 October 1958 – a period during which he gradually became a dominant figure in Pakistan's civil-military structure. The turning point came on October 7, 1958, when President Iskander Mirza abrogated the 1956 Constitution, dissolved the national and provincial assemblies, and declared Martial Law across the country. He appointed General Ayub Khan as the Chief Martial Law Administrator (CMLA), giving him sweeping powers to run the country. According to the Gazette of Pakistan on 27 October 1958,

“President Iskander Mirza has been pleased this twenty-seventh day of October 1958, to appoint General Mohammad Ayub Khan, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Pakistan and Chief Martial Law Administrator, to be the Prime Minister, it is hereby notified that the said General Mohammad Ayub Khan has taken upon himself the execution of the office of the Prime Minister in the forenoon of this twenty-seventh day of October 1958”. Along with that, the President also appointed Lt. General Mohammad Azam Khan, Lt. General W.A. Burki, Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim, Lt. General K.M. Sheikh, Mr. Abdul Qasim Khan, Khan F. M. Khan, Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mr. Muhammad Hafizur Rahman to be Ministers of the Government of Pakistan. According to the archives and newspapers of 28 October 1958, the following President's Proclamation was issued by the President of Pakistan, General Mohammad Ayun Khan: “Whereas by his declaration made at 10 o'clock this night of the 27th of October 1958. Major General Iskander Mirza, lately President of Pakistan, has relinquished his office of President and has handed over all power to me, General Mohammad Ayub Khan, Chief Martial Law Administrator and Supreme Commander of Armed Forces of Pakistan. Now, therefore, I have this same night of the 27th day of October 1958, forthwith assumed the said office of President and have taken upon myself the exercise of the said power and all other powers enabling me in this behalf.” As President of Pakistan (1958–1969), Ayub Khan introduced sweeping administrative and economic reforms. His rule was marked by efforts to industrialize Pakistan, promote infrastructure, and attract foreign investment. His “Decade of Development” from 1958 to 1968 saw significant growth in agriculture, manufacturing, and education. The construction of Mangla and Tarbela Dams, the establishment of new universities, and the promotion of the “Green Revolution” marked this period as one of visible progress. However, his policies also widened the economic gap between regions, giving rise to discontent, particularly in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). During this transitional phase, Ayub Khan concentrated all executive authority in his own hands – simultaneously holding the offices of President, Chief Martial Law Administrator, Command-

er-in-Chief of the Army, and Prime Minister of Pakistan. In 1962, Ayub Khan introduced a new Constitution of Pakistan, replacing the abrogated 1956 version. The new system replaced parliamentary democracy with a presidential form of government, concentrating power in the office of the President – a position he himself occupied. Hence, from 1962 to 1969, Ayub Khan ruled as both the constitutional and executive authority of Pakistan. However, power and popularity seldom walk together for long. The growing political awareness in both wings of the country, the widening regional disparities, and opposition movements led by political figures like Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah and later Zulfikar Ali Bhutto gradually eroded his authority. By early 1969, mass protests and civil unrest had swept the nation, forcing Ayub Khan to resign on March 25, 1969, handing power to General Yahya Khan. Ayub Khan retired from politics and lived quietly until his death on April 19, 1974. He was buried in his native village of Rehana, where his grave remains a symbol of a man who rose from humble beginnings to the highest offices of the state – and whose name continues to provoke debate among historians and political thinkers. Some remember him as the builder of modern Pakistan, a visionary who brought discipline and development. Others recall him as the founder of the military's dominance in national politics and the initiator of a pattern that would recur in Pakistan's history. Yet, the lesser-known fact of his simultaneous control as President, Prime Minister, and Army Chief reveals the full extent of his authority. It was an era when one man governed Pakistan in its entirety – politically, militarily, and administratively. The study of Ayub Khan's rule is not merely a reflection on one man's ambition; it is a mirror to the nation's recurring struggle between democracy and discipline, between elected representation and guided leadership. In revisiting these chapters of history, one realizes that facts often lie beyond the horizon of popular memory. They wait to be rediscovered, not merely to glorify or vilify individuals, but to understand how nations are shaped by the personalities who lead them – for better or for worse.

Briefs

Abro quits Senate after defying PTI line

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diplomatic recognition, stating that the level of respect shown to Field Marshal Munir by the US was unprecedented, surpassing that given to any prime minister in the past. Concluding his speech, Abro announced his resignation from his Senate membership, citing his potential disqualification for defying the party policy on the amendment. He also criticised his party colleagues for their lack of support during a “difficult” personal time. He revealed that during the period of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, his wife was among the 10 members of his family who were arrested, saying that his party did not support him during that phase.

Bilawal has ‘buried’ his grandfather’s Constitution: Asad

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when it comes to the National Assembly, adding that it was the duty of all parliamentarians to defend the Constitution and protect the rights of provinces. “We will not allow anyone to undo the sacrifices made for parliamentary democracy in Pakistan,” he vowed. Qaiser maintained that the 27th Amendment, if enacted, would centralize powers and undermine provincial autonomy, which was achieved after decades of political struggle. He urged all democratic forces to stand united against what he termed an “attack on the spirit of federalism and the Constitution.” “The passage of this bill in the Senate is a sad reflection of how far our political class has drifted from the ideals of Bhutto, Bacha Khan, and other democratic icons,” he concluded.

JUI-F chief departs for Bangladesh visit

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organised in Dhaka, Sylhet, and several other cities, the spokesperson said. Maulana Fazlur Rehman is accompanied by senior JUI-F leaders, including Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Maulana Asad Mahmood, Maulana Saeed Younsaf, and Mufti Ibrar Ahmed.

Asif dismisses ‘propaganda’ against...

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efforts to return the flag carrier to profitability and to expand its network,” adding that the airline’s average daily revenue over the past three days stood at Rs600 million, which he said was achieved through uninterrupted domestic and international schedules. He accused certain elements of spreading “malicious news” to harm national interests and sabotage the airline’s revival. “We have worked tirelessly over the last five years to revive PIA,” the minister added.

At least 9 killed...

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Mumbai were placed on high alert. Earlier today, Indian media claimed that 2,900 kilograms of bomb-making material were seized during a raid in India’s Haryana area. “Officials confirmed that 360kg of suspected ammonium nitrate, along with 2,900kg of IED (improvised explosive device)-making material, including chemicals, detonators, wires, and other bomb-making components, were seized,” The Times of India claimed in its report, adding that two people were arrested. The Red Fort, known in India as the Lal Qila, is a 17th-century, Mughal-era fort located in the old city and visited by tourists throughout the year.

Mikaeel Clinches Third Consecutive ITF Junior Tennis Crown

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s rising tennis sensation Mikaeel Ali Baig continued his stunning run of form, capturing his third consecutive international title after defeating Hamza Roman to win the ITF Pakistan World Junior Tennis Championship J-60 at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex, Islamabad. The week-long event attracted a large pool of talented junior players from China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lithuania, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Nepal, and Pakistan, reflecting the growing global recognition of tennis in the country.

In the Boys’ Singles Final, Mikaeel displayed remarkable composure and precision, dominating both sets with tactical brilliance to seal a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Hamza Roman. The win marked his third straight ITF J-60 singles crown, cementing his reputation as one of Pakistan’s most promising young players and significantly boosting his international ranking. In the Boys’ Doubles Final, Pakistan’s Hamza Roman and Abubakar Talha overcame Mikaeel Ali Baig (PAK) and Kristijonas (LTU) 6-4, 6-4, to claim the doubles title. Hamza’s consistent performances throughout the event—reaching both the singles final and doubles championship—earned him high praise from officials and fans alike. Federal Secretary for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Mohyuddin Wani, graced the closing ceremony as Chief Guest, while PTF President Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi attended as Guest of Honour. They distributed prizes among the winners and runners-up alongside Col. Zia-ud-Din Tufail, Secretary General PTF. The ceremony was also attended by DIG Saleem Marwat (SEVP-PTF), Major Suleman Junaid (SEVP-PTF), Syed Fahim Imam (Chief Marketing Officer, Serena Hotels), Col. Gul Rehman (Director C&S PTF), as well as numerous players, parents, coaches, journalists, and tennis enthusiasts.



es, journalists, and tennis enthusiasts. Mohyuddin Wani congratulated all participants and commended the PTF for successfully hosting international events, assuring continued government support for tennis development in Pakistan. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President PTF, lauded the young athletes for their performances, extending special praise to Mikaeel for his triple-title feat and to Hamza and Abubakar for their doubles success. He added that with Pakistan’s Nadir Mirza, Abubakar Talha, and Mikaeel Ali Baig collectively securing five ITF singles titles in just six months, the country’s tennis future looks brighter than ever.

27th Amendment Bill...

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agreed upon in that charter. Dar said Pakistan achieved a historic victory in the recent war with India. He highlighted that another major amendment pertained to Article 243. “The nation has declared Army Chief Asim Munir a hero following the war with India,” he said. Dar also clarified that the title of Field Marshal had not previously existed in the Constitution. The foreign minister assured the House that the seniority of the incumbent chief justice, along with all other judges, would remain intact. He added that, as promised, the government had first presented the Bill in the Senate. Dar concluded that the constitutional

amendments were aimed at improving the judicial system. Earlier, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Farooq H Naek presented a report of the joint parliamentary committee on the 27th Amendment bill in the Senate, with some tweaks made to the draft approved by the federal cabinet. Bilawal declares Constitution ‘completed’ Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Monday declared the Constitution “completed” with the introduction of the 27th Constitutional Amendment. His remarks come as the ruling coalition passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Senate, with the aim of reforming the military and

judicial structures. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Sindh Wheat Growers Support Programme 2025 in Larkana, Bilawal said the PPP has long advocated for equal provincial representation in the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), similar to the Senate. “There will be no compromise on the equal representation of provinces in the Constitutional Court,” he said. “There will be as many judges from Balochistan as from Sindh. There will be as many judges from Punjab as there will be from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.” The 27th Amendment was passed with 64 votes in the Senate after Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the 59-clause Bill. Apart from lawmakers

from the ruling coalition, the Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed Saifullah Abro and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl’s (JUI-F) Ahmed Khan cast a vote in favour of the amendment. The constitutional amendment would introduce a new position, Chief of Defence Forces, as head of the armed forces. The proposed amendment, in addition to the creation of the FCC, would also reduce certain powers of the Supreme Court, with some shifted to the proposed FCC. The law minister, in the Bill’s text, said that the ruling coalition introduced the tweaks following proposals from political parties and various bar councils for the establishment of an FCC.

UAE raise medal tally to 11 at 2025 World Youth Jiu-Jitsu Championship

BANGKOK: The UAE jiu-jitsu national team, sponsored by Mubadala Investment Co., raised their total medal tally to 11 at the 2025 World Youth Jiu-Jitsu Championship on Sunday in Thailand. The tournament, which has age categories under 16, 18 and 21, began on Nov. 8 and ends on Friday in Bangkok. The girls’ under-16 team added four medals on Sunday, including one silver and three bronze, to the seven medals won by the boys’ team on the opening day. Sara Farook won silver in the 48 kg category, Mathail Alhammedi and Ghiaheeb Alrashdi earned bronze in the 36 kg division, and Maitha Alkarbi claimed bronze in the 40 kg division. The UAE team’s total in the under-16 division now stands at 11 medals, including two gold, three silver and six bronze. Abdulla Al-Zaabi, director of marketing and corporate communications at the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation, praised the team. He said their skill and discipline highlight the continued development of women’s jiu-jitsu in the UAE, supported by the nation’s leadership and the federation’s commitment to nurturing Emirati talent. “This strong start gives us great motivation to maintain our momentum in the under-18 and under-21 categories and to increase our medal tally further,” said Al-Zaabi. — Agencies

Forces kill 20 terrorists in KP areas

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The security forces commenced sanitisation operations to eliminate any other terrorists in the area. The ISPR said that a relentless counterterrorism campaign under the vision “Azm e Istehkam” — as approved by the Federal Apex Committee on the National Action Plan — by security forces and law enforcement agencies will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country. Pakistan has been grappling with rising terror incidents, particularly in KP and Balochistan, since the Afghan Taliban regime took power in 2021. Since then, terrorists have carried out hundreds of cross-border terror attacks in Pakistan, leading to the martyrdom of soldiers and countless civilians, including women and children. During the first eight months of 2025, KP alone recorded over 600 terror incidents, resulting in the martyrdom of at least 138 civilians and 79 police personnel. Pakistan has long urged the Afghan Taliban regime to prevent its soil from being used to launch attacks inside Pakistan. The cross-border terrorism also resulted in tense border clashes between forces from the two neighbouring countries in October. Pakistan struck multiple Taliban posts along the border on October 12 after they, aided by affiliated militants, resorted to unprovoked firing. Pakistan’s retaliatory strikes resulted in the killing of over 200 Afghan Taliban and affiliated militants. As many as 23 Pakistani soldiers also embraced martyrdom during the clashes. Security forces also destroyed terrorists’ multiple strongholds in “precision strikes” in Afghanistan’s Kandahar province and Kabul. The two countries have since stopped hostilities after a ceasefire agreement, requested by the Afghan Taliban regime.

Govt cashless economy Initiatives...

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Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) through digital wallets. The prime minister underscored that a cashless economy would improve governance and significantly curb corruption. He instructed all relevant departments to achieve the set targets within the stipulated timeframe. PM Shehbaz Sharif commended the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of IT, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), State Bank of Pakistan, and other concerned institutions for their satisfactory progress in implementing the cashless economy roadmap. The meeting was briefed on the progress of various initiatives under the Prime Minister’s vision of a cashless economy. It was informed that payments for electricity and gas bills were now being facilitated through RAAST QR codes, enabling billions of rupees in transactions to be conducted digitally. Meanwhile the prime minister was also informed about the progress on the 10 million digital wallets under BISP. “All wallets will be activated by the end of current month and the next tranche will be transferred to the deserving families through these wallets,” the meeting was told.

Lewandowski’s hat-trick inspires Barcelona to victory over Celta Vigo

VIGO: Robert Lewandowski produced a masterclass on Sunday night, netting a brilliant hat-trick to guide Barcelona to a 4-2 win over Celta Vigo at the Estadio de Balaídos, narrowing the gap to La Liga leaders Real Madrid to just three points. The Polish striker opened the scoring in the ninth minute, calmly slotting home a penalty after Marcos Alonso’s handball in the box. Celta responded almost instantly, as Sergio Carreira finished off a quick counter-attack just 22 seconds after Marcus Rashford was denied a one-on-one chance at the other end. Rashford made amends in the 36th minute, delivering a precise cross that Lewandowski volleyed in to restore Barcelona’s lead. However, the hosts struck back again through Borja Iglesias, who curled a sensational effort into the top corner from the edge of the box to make it 2-2 in a thrilling first half. Teen sensation Lamine Yamal put Barcelona back in front during first-half stoppage time, tucking in Rashford’s deflected cross at the far post. Lewandowski completed his hat-trick in the 73rd minute with a smart near-post header from Rashford’s corner — his third hat-trick in La Liga and the 19th of his club career, including 16 during his time in the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund. — Agencies

Carlos Alcaraz beats Alex de Minaur in ATP Finals opener

TURIN: Carlos Alcaraz secured a strong start to the ATP Finals on Sunday, defeating Alex de Minaur in straight sets and keeping his hopes alive for the year-end No. 1 ranking. The Spaniard overcame a turbulent first set to triumph 7-6(5), 6-2 over the Australian in the season-ending event featuring the top eight men’s players. Alcaraz appeared in firm control early in the opening set, breaking De Minaur to love and threatening to go up 5-1. However, De Minaur fought back, saved multiple break points, and eventually forced a tiebreak. Leading 5-3 in the tiebreak, De Minaur saw Alcaraz rally to take the set. The second set saw the 22-year-old dominate, dropping his serve early but winning all remaining games and sealing the victory with a cross-court backhand on his second match point. “This tournament is the best we have on tour, without a doubt. We played against the best players in



the world, which shows how challenging and important this event is,” Alcaraz said after the match. Meanwhile, in the other opening match, two-time champion Alexander Zverev defeated ATP Finals debutant Ben Shelton 6-3, 7-6(6), saving three set points after leading 4-0 in the second set, which extended to 93 points. Alcaraz is in contention with defending champion Jannik Sinner to finish the year as world No. 1. He can secure the top ranking regardless of Sinner’s results if he reaches the final. This victory marked Alcaraz’s first ATP Finals opener win. In group action, Alcaraz joins Taylor Fritz, Alex de Minaur and Lorenzo Musetti—who replaced the injured Novak Djokovic—in the Jimmy Connors group. The Bjorn Borg group features Sinner, Zverev, Shelton and Felix Auger-Aliassime. The top two finishers from each group will advance to the semifinals in Turin on November 16. — DNA

Holy See envoy applauds Pak efforts for peace, harmony

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“A Catholic University would greatly contribute to interfaith dialogue and national cohesion,” he said. “Such an institution could become a regional beacon of knowledge and peace, attracting students from neighboring countries and fostering understanding across cultures and religions.” Discussing the Church’s role in promoting interfaith harmony, the Vatican envoy highlighted the importance of the Second Vatican Council’s Declaration Nostra Aetate, which emphasizes dialogue and friendship between the Catholic Church and non-Christian religions. “This landmark document transformed relations among faiths by promoting respect and collaboration,” he said. “In Pakistan, the Catholic Church continues to uphold these principles

through education, dialogue, and outreach.” He also acknowledged Pakistan’s growing engagement for peace and stability in the region. “Pakistan is increasingly committed to internal and external peace,” he said. “It plays a constructive role in defending oppressed peoples and promoting global stability. This commitment should remain the guiding principle for the country’s future, especially for its youth.”

The Nuncio praised the social and humanitarian services rendered by Catholic institutions across Pakistan. “From St. Patrick’s College in Karachi to La Salle High School in Faisalabad, and from Holy Family Hospital in Karachi to St. Joseph’s Hospice in Rawalpindi, Catholic institutions are serving society selflessly,” he observed. “These schools, hospitals, and shelters provide education and

healthcare to people of all backgrounds, helping to uplift communities and promote social justice.” He commended the work of Catholic sisters and missionaries, including the Sisters of Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Antide Thourret, who serve the poor and sick across the country. “They are the living example of faith in action — dedicating their lives to serving those most in need,” he said. Touching on issues of social justice, environmental care, and sustainable development, Archbishop Penemote said the Church has been proactive in all these areas. “Everywhere I go, I see local Catholic communities planting trees, visiting marginalized groups, and engaging with youth. The Church promotes human dignity and rejects exploitation and discrimination of any kind,” he affirmed. Concluding his remarks, the Nun-

cio offered a heartfelt message of unity and hope to the people of Pakistan. “All Pakistanis — regardless of religion or background — must recognize that they are brothers and children of the same motherland,” he said. “Unity is the victory of a nation. Let peace begin in our hearts, our families, and our communities, and extend to the nation and the world.” He also called upon the youth to act responsibly in the age of social media. “A single word can start a fire,” he cautioned. “Use your voice to build, not to destroy. Be ambassadors of peace and goodwill.” “Pakistan’s values of hospitality, solidarity, and faith are its greatest strengths,” the Vatican diplomat concluded. “With unity, compassion, and dialogue, Pakistan will continue to play an essential role in promoting peace and human dignity across the world. Long live Pakistan!”

6 things we learned from the 2025 WTA Finals in Riyadh

RIYADH: One of the most exciting WTA Finals in recent years wrapped up in Riyadh on Saturday with Elena Rybakina crowned champion at the event for the first time, pocketing a record \$5.235 million in the process — the largest payout in women’s sports history. Here are some of the biggest takeaways from the second staging of a three-year residency for the WTA Finals in the Saudi capital. Rybakina had an up and down season that included a six-month stint without her suspended coach and was the last of the eight singles players to qualify for the WTA Finals, yet somehow she found a way to salvage her year by winning her biggest title since Wimbledon in 2022. The Kazakh played herself into form in the last four weeks of the season, going on an 11-match winning streak across three tournaments, including five consecutive top-10 victories in Riyadh. Despite battling a shoulder issue all week, Rybakina produced 48 aces during the WTA Finals, 28 of which came in the semi-finals and final. She was near-unplayable against world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the championship match — which she won 6-3, 7-6 (7-0) — and will have the rest of the field very worried at January’s Australian Open next season. “Definitely we need to analyze and try to carry the good things for the next big moments,” said Rybakina, 26, who will rise to No. 5 in the world when the new rankings are released on Monday. Sabalenka ends banner year on a losing note. Sabalenka has every reason to board that plane to the Maldives feeling proud of her 2025 campaign. — Agencies

Briefs

PSX gains
1,945 points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) closed on a positive note on Monday as the benchmark KSE-100 index gained 1,945.50 points, a positive change of 1.22 percent, settling at 61,538.41 against 159,592.90 recorded in the previous session. During intraday trading, the index touched a high of 161,881.45 and a low of 160,406.43. According to PSX data, the ready market recorded a turnover of 783.287 million shares as compared to 768.833 million shares traded earlier, while the traded value increased to Rs 36.372 billion from Rs 30.735 billion. The market capitalization also rose to Rs 18.471 trillion from Rs 18.286 trillion. Out of 477 active companies, 292 advanced, 136 declined and 49 remained unchanged. F. Nat. Equities led the volume chart with 73.709 million shares, followed by Kohinoor Spinning with 54.808 million shares and Bank Makramah with 49.120 million shares.—APP

Rupee gains
02 paise
against US
Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 02 paise against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 280.80 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 280.82. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 281.75 and Rs 281.9, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 91 paise to close at Rs 324.93 against the last day's closing of Rs 324.02, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen came down 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.82, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of 96 paise and closed at Rs 369.52 compared to the previous day's Rs 368.56. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal remained unchanged to close at Rs 76.45 and Rs 74.87, respectively.—APP

Gold price
rises sharply
to Rs 429,862
per tola

ISLAMABAD, Nov 10 (APP): The gold and silver rates witnessed a significant increase on Monday, with the price of 24-karat gold tola rising by Rs 7,400 to Rs 429,862, up from Rs 422,462 the previous day, the All Pakistan Saraf-Gems and Jewellers Association reported. Similarly, 10-gram 24-karat gold increased by Rs 6,337 to Rs 368,530, while 10-gram 22-karat gold rose by Rs 5,551 to Rs 337,573. The international gold price moved up by \$74 to reach \$4,075 per ounce. Silver rates also recorded an upward trend, with the 24-karat tola increasing by Rs 115 to Rs 5,209, and 10-gram silver rising by Rs 98 to Rs 4,465. International silver gained \$1.15 to settle at \$49.47 per ounce. The gold rate is based on 24-karat purity at 999 standard, the association added.—APP

Fifth Hajj
conference
& exhibition
opens in Jeddah

ISLAMABAD, Nov 10 (APP): Under the patronage of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the fifth edition of the Hajj Conference and Exhibition opened in Jeddah under the theme "From Makkah to the World". The conference held in cooperation between the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and the Pilgrim Experience Program, one of the initiatives of Saudi Vision 2030, according to Saudi Press Agency (SPA). The event featured the inauguration of the first edition of the History of Hajj and the Two Holy Mosques Forum, organized by the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives (Darrah). The inauguration was attended by ministers, senior officials, representatives of Islamic countries, and heads of Hajj affairs offices.—APP

India sees protest over
pollution, dozens held

The city's air quality index of 345 on Monday ranked as "very poor", compared to ratings of "good" in the category from zero to 50, and "severe" in the range from 401 to 500, according to the Central Pollution Control Board

NEW DELHI: Indian police detained dozens of people during a rare protest at the famed India Gate monument in New Delhi, who were demanding action to curb an annual scourge of toxic air swathing the capital and its surrounding region. Sunday's protest by crowds of all ages holding banners and chanting slogans before police bundled them away was a scarce event, even though Delhi and the national capital region have battled such fumes every winter for years. "We have only one problem, and that is of clean air," said Neha, a mask-wearing protester, who gave only one name. "This problem has been going on for many years, but no action is being taken," she told news agency ANI, in which Reuters has a minority stake. Visuals from the agency showed police dragging protesters, some holding banners that read, "Breathing is killing us," while others chanted slogans such as "Our right, clear air" into waiting buses before they were driven away. The city's air quality index of 345 on Monday ranked as "very poor", compared to ratings of "good" in the category from zero to 50, and "severe" in the range from 401 to 500, according to the Central Pollution Control Board. Police had called for the spot to be vacated as it was not a designated protest site, they told reporters earlier, while opposition leaders criticised the removal of the protesters. "The right to clean air is a basic human right," Rahul Gandhi, leader of the Congress party that has ruled India for much of its history as an independent nation, said on X. "The right to peaceful protest is guaranteed by our constitution. Why are citizens ... peacefully demanding



clean air being treated like criminals?" The Delhi government was taking steps to prevent pollution, said its environment minister, Manjinder Singh Sirsa. "We will continue every possible effort to rid us of pollution," he said in a statement from BJP

Delhi on X. "This is the resolve of our government." The state government is formed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

Winter shrouds the region in a thick haze

as cold, heavy air traps construction dust, vehicular emissions, and smoke, bringing respiratory illnesses for many. Authorities' cloud seeding efforts last month to trigger artificial rain and cut pollution levels failed to produce any rainfall.—Agencies

Bangladeshi workers protest
in Malaysia over unpaid wages

DHAKA, Bangladesh: About 100 Bangladeshi workers who were employed by Malaysian companies rallied Monday to demand unpaid wages, fair compensation and an end to alleged abuse by Malaysian employers. The Migrant Welfare Network, a Bangladeshi migrant group based in Malaysia and Bangladesh, organized the protest at the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka. The demonstrators said the event was organized to protest what they say is widespread mistreatment of migrant workers in Malaysia, one of Southeast Asia's richest nations. They demanded unpaid wages and compensation for 431 Bangladeshi workers they said were exploited by two Malaysian companies, Mediceram and Kawaguchi Manufacturing. The Associated Press could not immediately reach the companies for comment. Many factories in Malaysia and other Southeast Asia countries rely on migrant workers, often from Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal, to fill labor-intensive jobs in manufacturing, plantations or construction. Local workers usually avoid such jobs because of their poor conditions and low wages. The Migrant Welfare Network urged Bangladeshi and Malaysian authorities and international buyers to take immediate action to ensure workers receive wages already owed, fair compensation and "justice for systemic abuses." The group said in statement Monday that a complaint claiming forced labor and neglect has been filed with the Malaysian government against Australian company Ansell, a major customer of Mediceram, which manufactures gloves for medical, industrial and domestic use. A separate complaint was filed against Kawaguchi, which supplied plastic components to large Japanese companies, including Sony Group. In May, around 280 Bangladeshi migrant workers for Kawaguchi demanded hundreds of thousands of dollars in back wages and other money owed to them after the company closed five months earlier. Workers at Kawaguchi's factory in Port Klang filed complaints in Malaysia and Bangladesh claiming the company withheld their wages for up to eight months before closing after Sony and Panasonic Holdings Corp., two of Kawaguchi's main customers, halted orders in response to allegations the workers were mistreated. In the beginning, they used to pay the salary in parts, meaning they would give 500–1000 ringgit (about \$120-\$240) per month as food expenses," said former Kawaguchi employee Omar Faruk, who began working for the manufacturer in 2022. "After withholding the salary, the company started considering shutting down. Later, we filed a complaint at the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia." Harun Or Rasid Liton, who worked at Mediceram, accused the company of not paying despite an order by the Malaysian Labor Court "The court ruled that the company would pay us 1,000 ringgit per month, but the company paid only the first installment and then stopped paying," he said. "Later, we had no choice but to return to Bangladesh. Now we are facing severe hardship in maintaining our families." There have been widespread reports of abuse of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia and disputes between employees and companies have become a diplomatic sore point between Bangladesh and Malaysia. Workers' rights groups have demanded stringent scrutiny on the powerful group of recruitment agencies and middlemen who monopolize such jobs.—DNA

Azerbaijan Army holds
military oath-taking
ceremonies

BAKU: In accordance with the training plan for 2025 approved by Minister of Defense, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, the military oath-taking ceremonies for young soldiers were held in the Azerbaijan Army on November 9, the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC. The ceremonies were declared open after the battle flags were brought to the parade grounds in accompaniment of military orchestras. First, the memory of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, and Martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for Azerbaijan, was honored with observing a minute of silence. Then the National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan was performed. The young soldiers solemnly took the military oath and promised to be loyal to the Motherland Representatives of the Ministry of Defense and commanders of military units spoke at the events and congratulated the young soldiers on this significant occasion and urged them to remain loyal to the Motherland, the state, and the Commander-in-Chief, to serve as exemplary soldiers, to thoroughly learn the secrets of weapons and equipment, to constantly improve combat training, to precisely and promptly fulfill orders of the command staff, and to always be prepared to defend Azerbaijani lands. It was emphasized that the coincidence of the oath-taking ceremony with November 9 — the State Flag Day — is especially valuable and memorable for the personnel, making this day a double celebration for them. The parents of the young soldiers expressed their pride in their children's honorable service to Motherland and thanked the head of state and the leadership of the Ministry of Defense for providing necessary conditions. Then servicemen solemnly marched in front of the grandstand. At the end, concert programs dedicated to the oath-taking ceremony and November 9 — the State Flag Day — were organized for the personnel.—APP

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African Union calls
for urgent action in
insurgency-hit Mali

BAMAKO: The African Union has called for an urgent international response, including intelligence-sharing, to address worsening security conditions in Mali, where insurgents are imposing a fuel blockade and kidnapping foreigners. An Al Qaeda-linked militant group active in West Africa's Sahel region has blocked fuel imports since September, attacking convoys of tankers and creating a shortage that forced schools and businesses to shut. The latest show of force by the group, Jama'at Nusrat Al-Islam wal-Muslimin, has raised concern that it might eventually try to impose its rule over the landlocked country. Western countries including the US, France, Britain and Italy are urging their citizens to leave. In a statement on Sunday, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, chairperson of the African Union Commission, expressed "deep concern over the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Mali, where terrorist groups have imposed blockades, disrupted access to essential supplies, and severely worsened humanitarian conditions for civilian populations." He said there should be "enhanced cooperation, intelligence-sharing and sustained support" for countries in the Sahel affected by violent extremism. He also called for the immediate release of three Egyptian nationals he said were recently kidnapped. JNIM has targeted foreign nationals for kidnapping to finance its operations in West Africa. Reuters reported in October that a deal was reached to free two citizens of the United Arab Emirates in exchange for a ransom payment of roughly \$50 million. Schools re-opened in the capital Bamako on Monday, a Reuters witness said, after being suspended for two weeks because of the fuel shortage.—Agencies

China-
Japan edu
exchange
moot seeks
to deepen
academic
coop

TOKYO: The 11th China-Japan Education Exchange Conference has been held in Tokyo as representatives from over 100 universities and educational institutions gathered to discuss new directions for bilateral educational cooperation. The conference on Sunday, themed "Mutual Learning and Collaborative Innovation — Looking Ahead to the Next Decade of China-Japan Educational Exchange," also attracted nearly 1,000 educators and experts. In his remarks, Zhao Baogang, minister counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Japan, said educational exchange remains a vital and long-term component of China-Japan relations. Currently, around 130,000 Chinese students are studying in Japan, and more than 600 Japanese high schools offer Chinese language courses, he said. Over 9,000 inter-university cooperation agreements have been signed between the two countries, Zhao noted, expressing hope that the conference would inject new vitality into bilateral education ties and contribute to the long-term development of China-Japan relations. Takafumi Yamamoto, associate managing director of the University of Tokyo, emphasized the importance of providing more international opportunities for young students. He noted that cross-border learning and communication broaden academic horizons and enhance mutual cultural understanding, saying that understanding diverse ways of thinking will be a valuable asset for the younger generation.—APP

Jordan sends
aid convoy
to southern
Syria

LONDON: The Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization sent an aid convoy to Syria on Sunday. The JHCO, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs and the Jordan Armed Forces, sent 16 trucks loaded with prefabricated homes, as well as medical supplies and medicines. Hussein Shibli, secretary-general of the JHCO, said the charity partnered with the Helping Hand Foundation, MedGlobal, and Hikma Pharmaceuticals. The Syrian Crescent will distribute the aid in the southern Suwayda governorate and Daraa. The JHCO collaborated with Qatar in September to deliver aid in Suwayda.—APP

Mexico unveils
security
operation
in violent
Michoacan state

MEXICO CITY: The government of Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on Sunday unveiled plans to fight organized crime and improve security in the violence-ridden state of Michoacan after the brazen public assassination of a local mayor sent shockwaves through the country. More than 10,500 members of Mexico's army, air force and National Guard are part of the operation, called the Michoacan Plan for Peace and Justice, to crack down on criminal groups, combat extortion and dismantle drug labs and training camps, officials said at a press conference. The plan implies an investment of 57 billion pesos, Sheinbaum said. Michoacan state has seen new waves of violence after Carlos Manzo, mayor of the city of Uruapan in Michoacan, was shot dead during Day of the Dead celebrations on November 1. Manzo had been an outspoken critic of the federal government for not doing more to confront organized crime. Officials said they will strengthen Michoacan state police and the state attorney general's office. Helicopters, surveillance aircraft and drones are among the technology resources dedicated to the operation. The plan also includes bolstering resources for welfare, agriculture, infrastructure, tourism and employment.—APP

When justice leaves: The silent
suffering of women in Islamabad

RUBAB CHAUHAN

ISLAMABAD :The capital city of Pakistan, a place where the law is expected to protect every citizen equally has, unfortunately, become a city where many women no longer feel safe. When a woman dares to report harassment or assault, her courage is often met with disappointment. Even if she approaches the police late at night, seeking protection or justice, her complaint is rarely taken seriously. Instead of immediate action, she is made to visit the police station repeatedly, explaining her ordeal again and again while the culprit roams free, confident that no one will ever hold him accountable. Weeks pass, yet no progress is made. The victim is told that her application will be sent to the SDPO Office under standard procedures SOP's. It stays there for days, only to be returned with objections and the case goes

back to the police station. By the time weeks have gone by, the woman's hope for justice begins to fade, while the offender walks around with arrogance, believing he is untouchable. What makes this pain even worse is the way society and the police system treat these women. Their character is questioned, their dignity attacked, and their suffering dismissed. Often, police officers advise them to "reconcile," as if peace with the perpetrator is the solution. Yet reconciliation only fuels the offender's confidence, leading him to harass the same woman again knowing that the system will once again fail to act. Many women remain silent not because they don't have the strength, but because they fear the consequences. They want their issue to be resolved quietly, without their family or community finding out. They fear judgment, gossip, and scandal. But even that privacy is denied. Once a complaint is filed, it spreads within the police stations; officers and even unrelated people begin

to talk about her case, turning her pain into public gossip. In a society where a woman's honor is often valued more than her safety, silence becomes her only shield. She endures humiliation to protect her family from shame, while the perpetrator lives freely, protected by a broken system. It is time to ask: If women are not safe in the federal capital, then where are they safe in Pakistan? The Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior must take this issue seriously. Thousands of women work in Islamabad in offices, organizations, and institutions. They are not only supporting themselves but their families too. They deserve security, respect, and justice not endless rounds of police stations and the agony of being unheard. Justice should not demand courage; it should guarantee protection. Until our system stands with victims instead of silencing them, the capital will remain a city of fear not safety.

Briefs

President extends greetings to Poland

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan has extended warm felicitations to the government and people of the Republic of Poland on the occasion of their 107th Independence Day, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties rooted in mutual respect, shared values, and cooperation. In his message, the President noted that since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1962, the friendship between Pakistan and Poland has grown steadily across multiple sectors. "Our partnership continues to flourish through sustained political dialogue, trade and investment, defence collaboration, education, and cultural exchanges," he said. The President also recalled with appreciation the 9th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations held in Warsaw in July 2025, describing it as an important step toward expanding cooperation in new and emerging fields. "The consultations reaffirmed our shared resolve to deepen collaboration in areas such as energy, agriculture, science and technology, migration, and higher education," the President observed.

IHC orders new investigation into Rs1.42bn bitcoin ransom threat

DNA

ISLAMABAD/DUBAI: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered a new investigation into an FIR alleging that an unidentified person demanded 50 bitcoins, valued at over Rs1.42 billion, as ransom from property tycoon Malik Riaz, and threatened harm to his family in Pakistan and abroad if the demand was not met. Court papers show the IHC set aside an order by the Judicial Magistrate (Sec-30) that had dismissed the matter. Justice Muhammad Asif allowed writ petition No 1346/2025, filed by Col (ret'd) Khali-ur-Rehman, and remanded the case for a proper investigation under Section 173 of the CrPC. FIR Number 117/25 was registered on January 29, 2025, under Section 506 of the PPC (criminal intimidation). The case file contains screenshots and email headers referencing Malik Riaz and Bahria Town, alongside the demand for 50 bitcoins accompanied by threats. A cancellation report was prepared on February 4, 2025. Despite the complainant's non-appearance on the date fixed, the trial court proceeded and passed the impugned order. The high court found the process hasty and non-transparent and directed a fresh, lawful inquiry.

Saudi Arabia doubles down on its terms for Israel ties

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is set to visit the White House this month, but despite US President Donald Trump repeatedly touting an imminent breakthrough, diplomats say Riyadh is unlikely to seal any deal to normalise ties with Israel during the trip. The establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia after decades of enmity could shake up the political and security landscape in the Middle East, potentially strengthening US influence in the region. Trump said last month he hoped Saudi Arabia would "very soon" join other Muslim countries that signed the 2020 Abraham Accords normalising ties with Israel. But Riyadh has signalled to Washington through diplomatic channels that its position has not changed: it will sign up only if there is agreement on a roadmap to Palestinian statehood, two Gulf sources told Reuters.

Malaysia deepens engagement with Pakistan's stakeholders

Highlighting the recent official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Malaysia, the High Commissioner described it as highly successful and productive



ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad hosted a graceful Reception to engage with key stakeholders and friends of Malaysia in Pakistan. The event brought together an impressive cross-section of

distinguished guests, including business leaders, representatives from chambers of commerce, government officials, media personalities, and long-standing well-wishers of Malaysia. The gathering served as an important platform to reaffirm the deep-rooted friendship and multifaceted cooperation between Malaysia and Pakistan, reflecting the shared

vision of both nations to further strengthen their bilateral partnership. In his opening remarks, His Excellency Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, warmly welcomed all attendees and expressed heartfelt gratitude for their continued support in promoting Malaysia-Pakistan relations. He noted that the

relationship between the two countries is anchored in mutual respect, shared values, and a common aspiration for peace, prosperity, and progress. Highlighting the recent official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Malaysia, the High Commissioner described it as highly successful and productive. He said that during the visit, both Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Malaysian counterpart reaffirmed their strong commitment to elevating bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in multiple areas of mutual interest. Ambassador Azhar Mazlan underscored that discussions between the two leaders were held in a warm, cordial, and forward-looking spirit, symbolizing the deep trust and understanding that continue to define Malaysia-Pakistan ties. He added that both sides agreed to enhance collaboration particularly in the fields of education, technical and vocational training, and institutional partnerships to boost human capital development in both nations. The reception also provided an excellent opportunity for guests to network, exchange ideas, and explore new avenues for trade, investment, and cultural co-operation. The High Commissioner reiterated Malaysia's firm commitment to continued engagement with its partners in Pakistan, emphasizing that such interactions are vital to achieving shared growth, regional stability, and mutual prosperity.

'Greatest threat to SC'

Ex-judges, lawyers urge CJP to convene full court meeting

Ex-top court judge Mushir Alam, SHC's former judge Nadeem Akhtar, ex-SCBA presidents among signatories

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A group of retired judges and senior lawyers penned a letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi, seeking a full court meeting over the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment. The letter – written by Advocate Faisal Siddiqui and also signed by former Supreme Court's senior puisne judge, Justice (ret'd) Mushir Alam, and ex Sindh High Court senior puisne judge, Justice (ret'd) Nadeem Akhtar – expressed "deep sadness and regret" over what they termed the "greatest threat" to the apex court since its establishment in 1956, arising from the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment. Besides introducing major changes to the military command structure, the proposed amendment also aims to reduce the powers of the Supreme Court, with some authorities shifted to the proposed Federal Constitutional Court. The term of the Federal Constitutional Court chief justice is proposed to be limited to three years, while the court would have equal provincial representation. Senior lawyers Muneer A Malik, Anwar Mansoor Khan, Mu-

hammad Akram Sheikh, Ali Ahmad Kurd, Abid S Zuberi, Kameran Amanullah, Khawaja Ahmad Hosain, Salahuddin Ahmed, and Shabnam Nawaz Awan are among the signatories of the letter. The retired judges and senior lawyers described the proposed amendment as "the biggest and most radical restructuring of the Federal Appellate Court structure since the enactment of the Government of India Act, 1935." They maintained that neither civilian nor military governments in Pakistan's history had ever attempted, let alone succeeded, in relegating the Supreme Court to a subordinate entity or depriving it of its constitutional jurisdiction – something they claimed was being done through the proposed amendment. They urged CJP Afridi to call a full court meeting immediately to discuss the proposed amendment and formulate a collective response to the federal government. They maintained that the Supreme Court "has every right and power to give its input" regarding any constitutional change that affects its structure and authority. In the letter, the former judges and senior lawyers maintained that the proposed amendment is expected to be passed by November 11, 2025, urging the apex court to call a full court meeting immediately.

South Korea special prosecutor indicts ex-president

NEWS DESK

SEOUL: South Korea's special prosecutor on Monday indicted former president Yoon Suk Yeol on additional charges of abusing power and aiding an enemy state related to his short-lived imposition of martial law last year. Yoon attempted to provoke military conflict between South and North Korea in order to declare martial law, a prosecutor's spokesperson told a briefing, citing evidence found on a military official's mobile phone that included some words suggesting potential provocations against North Korea, such as "drones" and "surgical strike". Yoon was removed from office by the Constitutional Court in April and is on trial for insurrection stemming from his failed martial law declaration. If found guilty, he could be sentenced to death. Yoon has said consistently that he never intended to impose military rule but declared martial law to sound the alarm on wrongdoings by opposition parties and to protect democracy from "anti-state" elements. According to the memo, Yoon, former defence minister Kim Yong-hyun, and former military intelligence chief Yeo In-hyung planned to induce a North Korean attack against the South, the spokesperson, Park Ji-young, said. The trio conspired to create tensions in the country as a justification for Yoon to declare martial law, she said.

Senators reach deal that could end govt shutdown

WASHINGTON: US senators reached a bipartisan deal Sunday that would resume federal funding and end a shutdown which has stretched to a record 40 days and forced many government operations to grind to a halt, US media reported. Outlets including CNN and Fox News reported the lawmakers had reached a stopgap agreement to fund the government through January after wrangling over health care subsidies, food benefits and President Donald Trump's firings of federal employees. As news of the major breakthrough emerged, Trump told reporters when he arrived at the White House after a weekend at his Mara-Lago estate in Florida: "It looks like we're getting close to the shutdown ending." The legislative measure is set to get a procedural vote in the Senate later Sunday night. Once it clears the Senate, it would need to pass the Republican-led House of Representatives and then head to Trump's desk for his signature. According to lawmakers, the bill would restore funding for the SNAP food stamp program which helps more than 42 million lower-income Americans pay for groceries. It would also reverse Trump's firings of thousands of federal workers over the past month, and assure a vote on extending health care subsidies that are set to expire at the end of this year. – Agencies

Senator Siddiqui admitted to ICU



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui has been admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) at a private hospital in Islamabad, his family confirmed on Monday. The family said Senator Siddiqui has been undergoing treatment at the hospital in Islamabad for the past few days for respiratory complications. The development came as the upper house of parliament is scheduled to meet today to discuss and pass the 27th Constitutional Amendment bill. Senator Siddiqui, a vocal PML-N stalwart, was expected to cast his vote in today's Senate sitting on the amendment, but he is now likely to miss the session. A day earlier, a joint committee comprising legislators from the Senate and the National Assembly's standing committees on law and justice approved the complete draft of the proposed 27th constitutional amendment. The joint committee session was chaired by Senator Farooq H Naek and MNA Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk. According to the agenda issued for the session, Senator Farooq H Naek will present the standing committee's report on the amendment, while the law minister will move the bill for approval.

Pak Army reconstructs Bajaur mosque

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Army has admirably completed the reconstruction and renovation of the largest Jamia Masjid in Suleman Khel area of district Bajaur, where local residents have expressed deep gratitude for this initiative. According to security sources on Monday, the Jamia Mosque, a historic and central place of worship in Suleman Khel, had been destroyed by terrorists. The Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa took the responsibility of rebuilding and restoring the mosque to its former glory. During the renovation, new carpets, inverters, fans and a solar power system were installed. All necessary facilities have now been made fully operational, ensuring comfort and convenience for worshippers. Local residents expressed heartfelt appreciation for the Pakistan Army's efforts, noting that the mosque holds great historical and spiritual significance for the area. They stated that the attack by extremists had caused severe damage to the structure, including the solar system, doors and windows. "Thanks to the Pakistan Army's timely intervention, the mosque has been beautifully restored and reopened for the community", they said. – APP

Amazon poised to host toughest climate talks

BELÉM: An odor of oil hung over last year's UN climate conference in Baku, capital of fossil fuel-rich Azerbaijan. Starting Monday, the 50,000 participants of COP30 will instead feel the heavy, humid air of the Amazon rainforest in Belém, Brazil, where they face the daunting task of keeping global climate cooperation from collapsing. Unfazed, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva insisted on holding the event here despite a dire shortage of hotel rooms. His aim: to make the Amazon itself open the eyes of negotiators, observers, businesses and journalists - in a city where locals carry umbrellas both to shield themselves from the blazing morning sun and from the tropical downpours that follow in the afternoon. "It would be easier to hold the COP in a rich country," Lula declared in August. – APP

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