



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Ishaq Dar urges Strengthening of multilateralism

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Pak raises alarm at UN over Afghan arms' stockpiles

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Pak, China vow to further cement ties

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Speakers' conference

'Lasting peace only possible by reining in terrorist groups'

Premier Shehbaz says militant groups continue to imperil peace within Afghanistan and beyond its borders

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged Kabul to rein in militant groups including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) operating from Afghan soil, framing it as the prerequisite for durable peace in the region. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Parliamentary Speakers' Conference on Tuesday, he said a stable Afghanistan is essential for connectivity, growth and prosperity. "Afghanistan must realise that lasting peace can only be realised by reining in TTP and other terrorist groups operating from Afghan territory," he said. The prime minister noted Pakistan has faced disturbances "both internally and externally" but remained steadfast in pursuing peace and tranquillity. Recalling the conflict with India earlier in the year, calling it an "unprovoked aggression on the eastern front in May", he said Pakistan's "highly professional armed forces" mounted swift land and air operations that thwarted enemy designs and demonstrated an "iron resolve" to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity. "Having won the war, we now need to win the peace through sincere and honest efforts," he added. He warned that militant groups continue to imperil peace within Afghanistan and beyond its borders. Referring to last month's attacks on Pakistani border posts from the Afghan side, he said the response was "firm and decisive," intended to deliver an unforgettable lesson to those who targeted Pakistan. The prime minister appreciated facilitation by friendly countries, Qatar and Turkiye, in talks between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban authorities, and reaffirmed Pakistan's "abiding commitment" to peace and security through a constructive regional role. His remarks come as bilateral talks have been suspended at an impasse between Pakistan and Afghanistan. On Friday, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said negotiations between Pakistan and Afghanistan had been

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PM Shehbaz strongly condemns Indian-backed terrorist attack

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday strongly condemned the terrorist attacks carried out in the federal capital's G-11 Judicial Complex (Katcheri), describing it as a heinous acts of terror orchestrated by Indian-backed proxies operating from Afghan soil. The PM expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives and prayed for the elevation of ranks of the martyrs and patience for their families. "My heartfelt sympathies, as well as those of the entire nation, are with the families of the martyrs," he said in a news release from the Prime Minister's Office. PM Shehbaz Sharif also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured and directed the authorities concerned to ensure the best possible medical treatment for them. Condemning the "Indian-sponsored terrorist proxies," the prime minister said that targeting innocent Pakistani citizens through cross-border terrorism was an abhorrent and cowardly act. "These attacks are a continuation of India's state-sponsored terrorism aimed at destabilizing Pakistan," he added. The PM revealed that while Indian-backed militants struck in Islamabad,

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a Family Photo at the Inter-parliamentary Speakers Conference in Islamabad on 11 November 2025. - DNA

President, PM discuss terror attack, 27th amendment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held an important meeting on Tuesday to discuss the recent terror attack in Islamabad that claimed several lives and left many injured. The meeting took place at Aiwan-e-Sadr, where both leaders expressed deep concern over the deteriorating security situation in the federal capital and directed the law enforcement agencies to ensure foolproof security arrangements. They also reviewed the initial investigation reports and emphasized the need to bring the perpetrators and their facilitators to justice. The President and Prime Minister agreed that no one would be allowed to disrupt peace in the country and reiterated the government's resolve to eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

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Turkish military cargo plane crashes

DNA

ANKARA: A Turkish C-130 military cargo plane crashed in Georgia after taking off from Azerbaijan on Tuesday, prompting Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan to offer condolences for "our martyrs" as search and rescue crews headed for the scene. Turkiye's defence ministry announced the crash, near Georgia's border with Azerbaijan, and said it was coordinating with Georgian authorities to reach the site. While finishing a speech in Ankara, Erdogan was handed a note by his aides, after which he said he was saddened to hear about the plane's crash. "God willing, we will overcome this crash with minimum hardships. May God rest the soul of our martyrs, and let us be

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Law Minister tables draft

27th Amend. set to sail thru the National Assembly

Experts term it reversal of the 26th amendment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly session was adjourned on Tuesday without the passage of the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill, which was expected to be sailed through, a day after its approval by the Senate. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar tabled the key legislation in the lower house of parliament, seeking major judicial and military reforms with a two-thirds majority. The 59-clause amendment, passed by the Senate on Monday, seeks to overhaul the country's military and judicial structures. It was moved by the law minister and secured 64 votes in the 96-member House, with no votes against it, as opposition lawmakers boycotted the proceedings and tore up their copies in protest. Apart from treasury members, ANP's senators, PTI-backed Saifullah Abro, and JUI-F's Ahmed Khan also supported the bill. In a surprise move, Abro refrained from joining the protest and later announced his resignation from the Senate. The lower house session, scheduled for 11:00am, began half an hour late with prayers offered for

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Govt mulls 28th amend, says Sanaullah

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah has said that the government plans to introduce the 28th Constitutional Amendment after the passage of the 27th Amendment. Sanaullah said the upcoming amendment would focus on matters related to education, population, and local governments (LGs). The Senate on Monday passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill, which aims to overhaul the military and judicial structures, amid the opposition's walkout and protest. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the required 64 votes (two-thirds majority in the 96-member House).

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Terror attacks possible in other cities as well

Defence minister says keeping hopes for successful dialogue with Taliban regime futile amid "state of war"

ABID LATIF

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday warned that Pakistan was fully capable of delivering a befitting response to cross-border terrorism, slamming the Afghan Taliban regime for allowing terror to spill into Islamabad after a deadly suicide blast claimed 13 lives. He said that terror attacks were possible in other cities as well. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the attack took place at 12:39pm, when the suicide bomber targeted a police vehicle after failing to enter a District and Sessions Court in the federal capital. "We are in a state of war. Anyone who thinks that the Pakistan Army is fighting this war only in the border areas along Afghanistan or in the remote regions of Balochistan should take the suicide attack in Islamabad as a wake-up call," the defence czar wrote in a post on X. Calling the fight against terrorism a war for all of Pakistan, Asif said the

armed forces were providing the nation with a "sense of security" through their sacrifices. In the aftermath of the attack, the defence minister expressed doubts over the prospects of successful negotiations with the Afghan Taliban regime. "The Kabul leadership can stop terrorism in Pakistan, but bringing this war to Islamabad carries a message from Kabul," he wrote. Speaking to journalists separately in the federal capital, the defence minister said that Islamabad was expecting such an attack as a pressure tactic. "The terrorist attack in Islamabad has sent us a message: all your areas are within our reach," he added. However, Asif vowed that Pakistan would not tolerate terrorism in either border or urban areas, saying that the country would respond strongly to terrorist attacks. Today's suicide attack in Islamabad was the first in the federal capital in three years, with the last suicide attack occurring in December 2022.

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Briefs

Romania offers condolences

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Romania in Islamabad has issued a statement expressing its profound sorrow and solidarity with Pakistan following the deadly bomb explosion outside the city's district courts on Tuesday. In an official message, the Embassy conveyed its "deepest condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives" in what it described as a "tragic" and "heartbreaking tragedy." The statement also extended wishes for a "swift recovery to all those injured" in the blast, which shook the capital and caused numerous casualties. "In this time of sorrow, our thoughts and solidarity are with the people and authorities of Pakistan as they face the aftermath of this heartbreaking tragedy," the Embassy's message concluded.

Turkish, Egyptian FM's to discuss Gaza

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: The foreign ministers of Turkey and Egypt will discuss the Gaza ceasefire and international efforts to rebuild the enclave once the war is over during talks in Ankara, a Turkish foreign ministry source said. The source said Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan would host Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty for Wednesday's talks on the possible next phases of the US-brokered ceasefire agreement. Fidan would "state that, despite Israel's violations, the Palestinian side is adhering to the conditions of the ceasefire and managing the process in a positive way", the source said, adding Fidan would also note the need for world powers to help rebuild the enclave and repeat Turkey's offer to play a role in such efforts.

27th Amendment

PTI chief says govt attempting to create 'another elite class'

Latif Khosa lambasts PPP for shelving legacy of late ZA Bhutto

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly deliberated on the contentious 27th Constitutional Amendment bill on Tuesday - a day after the government succeeded in manoeuvring it through the Senate - with PTI's Barrister Gohar Ali Khan accusing the government of attempting to "create another elite class". Speaking after Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, who presented the bill in the lower house of Parliament, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan condemned the 27th Amendment. He said that "with the passing of this amendment, democracy here will only exist in name", adding that his party "will not accept" it. It was a disservice to the "constitutional oath", he decried. "When you take the oath, you vow to exercise responsibility and honesty for the good of the people and democracy," Gohar added.

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Sangjani rally case

ATC orders blocking Omar, Zartaj passports

Court also issues non-bailable arrest warrant for PTI's Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court in the federal capital on Tuesday ordered blocking the passports of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Omar Ayub and Zartaj Gul while also issuing a non-bailable arrest warrant of party's

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At least 13 martyred in Islamabad 'suicide blast'

Police say explosion occurred in a car parked outside facility

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A powerful suicide blast ripped through a congested area outside a local Kachehri (court) in Islamabad on Tuesday afternoon, killing at least 13 people and injuring 40 others, including policemen, lawyers, and petitioners. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi confirmed the casualties, saying the attack occurred at 12:39 p.m. when a suicide bomber targeted a police vehicle after failing to enter the courthouse. The explosion took place in one of the most crowded parts of the capital, where chronic traffic jams and haphazard parking have long posed serious security risks. Cars are routinely parked on both sides of the road and even on pedestrian pathways near the court complex.

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Locals said there was no traffic police presence at the time of the attack, and that it often takes hours to cross the area because of double and wrong parking. The congestion provided the bomber ample time and opportunity to execute the attack. Witnesses described scenes of chaos as windows shattered and thick smoke engulfed the area. "The blast was so strong that it shook nearby buildings," said one lawyer who narrowly escaped. The Kachehri premises were immediately evacuated, and court proceedings suspended.

Police, rescue, and forensic teams reached the site shortly after the incident. The deceased and injured were shifted to PIMS Hospital, where an emergency was declared. Sources later confirmed that the head of the suspected bomber was recovered from the site. Preliminary intelligence reports suggest the attack was orchestrated by India-backed terrorists in coordination with Fitna al-Khawarij, a proxy network of the Afghan Taliban. The incident followed closely on the heels of Monday's assault on Wana Cadet College in

South Waziristan, where security forces foiled another terrorist attempt, killing two attackers. Pakistan continues to face a surge in terrorist incidents, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, since the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in 2021. Officials say cross-border infiltration and rising militancy remain major security concerns. Authorities have vowed a thorough investigation and reassessment of security protocols in Islamabad, particularly around sensitive installations and judicial complexes.



ISLAMABAD: Bomb disposal squad busy in clearing the area after suicide bomber blew himself in front of the district courts, on Tuesday. - DNA

Cadet college operation: 'All students, staff rescued'

After rescuing students and staff, forces to conclude operation to clear terrorists in building, say security sources

DNA

WANA: DSecurity forces have successfully rescued all students and teachers from Cadet College Wana under attack by a group of terrorists as the clearance operation entered the conclusive phase on Tuesday, security sources said. According to security sources, the operation will now be carried out comprehensively to its logical conclusion. The cautious approach was necessary due to the presence of Afghan Khawarij

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Kundi vows to boost trade through Wakhan Corridor

CHITRAL: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said that the government is seriously working to promote trade through the Wakhan Corridor, calling it a landmark initiative that will open new avenues of economic growth and connectivity for Chitral and the entire country. Addressing a massive joining rally in Drosh Chitral, Governor Kundi said the Wakhan Corridor project is not merely a regional development scheme but a strategic trade route that can transform Pakistan's economic future. "This project will usher in a new era of prosperity, linking Pakistan with Central Asia and enhancing cross-border trade opportunities," he said. He added that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has always prioritized Chitral's development, considering it integral to Pakistan's progress. PPP Central General Secretary Humayun Khan, Provincial President Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, former Federal Ministers Najmuddin Khan and Malik Azmat Khan, former Provincial Minister Saleem Khan, and former MPA Ghulam Muhammad also addressed the gathering. During the event, Tehsil Nazim Drosh Shahzada Khalid Pervaz, former MPA Ghulam Muhammad, and over two dozen representatives from different union councils and political parties announced their decision to join the PPP, leaving the PTI and other groups. Governor Kundi reaffirmed that the PPP is also pursuing the Chakdara-Lower Dir-Chitral Road project, which he termed a vital link for regional uplift and connectivity. He lauded the people of Chitral for their enduring support to the Bhutto family and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.—APP

Rs12,000 monthly stipend for 5,000 visually impaired persons

LAHORE: The Punjab government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, has introduced a significant support package to enhance the financial security and social inclusion of visually impaired citizens across the province. A spokesperson for the Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Department announced that the Chief Minister has approved a monthly stipend of Rs. 12,000 for 5,000 registered visually impaired beneficiaries, in line with existing rules and regulations. The spokesperson also highlighted that provincial authorities had successfully concluded negotiations with representatives of visually impaired protestors. Following directives from Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Sohail Shaukat Butt, senior officers from the department engaged with the protestors, and Director General Social Welfare Tariq Qureshi personally met their representatives to address their concerns.—APP

Lok Mela captivates massive audience with qawwali night

Adding a diplomatic dimension to the celebrations, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, visited Lok Mela 2025 and expressed his appreciation for Pakistan's rich cultural heritage

ISLAMABAD: Lok Mela 2025 continued to enchant audiences on its fifth day, drawing an exceptional turnout of over 200,000 visitors. The festival grounds were alive with color and culture as families, tourists, students, artisans, and enthusiasts participated in diverse activities, exhibitions, and live performances. The highlight of Day 5 was the much-anticipated Qawwali Night, held at 7:00 PM at the Open Air Theatre. The Sharafat Sher Ali Khan Qawwal Group delivered a spiritually uplifting performance featuring classical qawwalis, devotional kalam, and traditional harmonium and tabla arrangements. Their grand finale earned a standing ovation, making it one of the most memorable cultural evenings of the festival. Adding a diplomatic dimension to the celebrations, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, visited Lok Mela 2025 and expressed his appreciation for Pakistan's rich cultural heritage. He interacted with artisans, enjoyed the Qawwali performance, and commended Lok Virsa's efforts in promoting cultural diversity and strengthening people-to-people ties. Visitors also explored artisan stalls featuring pottery, textiles, ajrak printing, embroidery, lacquer work, jewelry, and woodcraft. Provincial pavilions representing Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir remained vibrant with live demonstrations and regional showcases. Media engagement was equally strong, with Qawwali Night trending on social



media and receiving widespread coverage from bloggers, influencers, and local

television channels. Lok Mela continues daily until 16 November 2025, from 10:00

AM to 10:00 PM at Lok Virsa, Shakarparian, Islamabad.—DNA

Bugti vow to ensure investment-friendly environment

QUETTA: Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti reaffirmed the Balochistan government's commitment to fostering a secure and investment-friendly environment to attract investment in the province. The Chief Minister presided over the 8th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBoIT), held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. The meeting was attended by senior officials including Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary Babar Khan, BBoIT Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar, CEO Qaim Khan Lashari, and other key stakeholders. In the meeting, several strategic decisions were taken to enhance trade and investment across the province. The meeting has approved the Bostan Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Council, aimed at strengthening coordination between the provincial government and Chinese investors, particularly under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. "The activation of Special Economic Zones will generate employment and boost the local economy," Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti added.—APP

Empowering creators with safer, smarter tools on TikTok

ISLAMABAD: TikTok recently announced a comprehensive set of new features designed to make its platform safer, more supportive, and empowering for all users. TikTok has been empowering creators with safety and productivity tools in Pakistan so that they are able to focus on creating, connect with their fanbase, and feel more like they are in control. These features help to protect creators from unwanted behaviour, while enabling creators to better manage content and audience interactions. TikTok has launched Creator Care Mode, a feature aimed at

enabling Pakistani creators to have a better experience governing their comments sections. Once activated, creator care mode automatically hides comments that are abusive, harassing, or obscene, with an emphasis on comments that the creator has reported or deleted in the past. This gives creators relief, so they do not have to spend more time moderating their comments than they do creating videos. The feature is backed by smart technology that learns from every creator and uses patterns to ensure a safer, more positive community space. Another useful tool in-

troduced for creators is Content Check Lite, available only through TikTok Studio on the web. This feature allows creators to see whether their videos may have limited reach, such as not appearing on the For You page, so they can change them before they post. By identifying the possible issues early, creators can make necessary changes to ensure their content aligns with the Community Guidelines while maintaining creative freedom. In addition, the platform now offers Creator Inbox, a professional messaging hub that has quick-response templates and separate folders for unread.—APP

KP to observe Antimicrobial Resistance week

PESHAWAR: The Technical Working Group (TWG) on Antimicrobial Resistance for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has decided to actively observe the International Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) week from November 18 to 24, 2025 under the theme, 'Act Now, Protect our Present, secure our Future'. According to a press release issued here, all District Health Officers, Medical Superintendents and Directors of MTI hospitals are directed to actively observe the week for creating awareness among masses about AMR. The AMR week will commence through organizing an awareness walk involving clinical staff, paramedics and community under the leadership of a senior official at district level.—APP

Dengue infections on rise across Multan district

MULTAN: Dengue infections are climbing across Multan district, straining hospital wards and prompting an intensified anti-larva campaign as authorities race to contain the mosquito-borne disease. Local hospitals have reported a sharp rise in admissions over the past week, while district health teams say they have identified and treated thousands of breeding sites. Nishtar Hospital, the region's largest tertiary care facility, reported that twelve patients tested positive for dengue and 29 were probable cases whose lab results were still pending with 41 beds are occupied out of total 70 so far in it. PPP MNA Ali Kasim Gilani on X account said on Tuesday that as many as 30 cases of dengue have reported in his constituency in a single day and he had written to DC Multan, Wasim Hamid Sandhu to take precautionary measures to safeguard

people from the disease. Private hospitals and clinics in the district are also witnessing a large cases of probable dengue patients these days. District health officials told a separate meeting that 92 confirmed dengue cases have been recorded in Multan so far this year. Anti-dengue teams have killed larvae at nearly 3,989 locations and identified about 2,195 hotspots across the district; roughly 352 field teams are now engaged in indoor and outdoor surveillance and eradication work. Special Secretary (Health and Population) Muhammad Shahbaz Hussain described the campaign as being scaled up to achieve "100 percent coverage" of identified sites. At Government Shehbaz Sharif Hospital, authorities say a dedicated dengue counter has been activated to triage suspected cases and fast-track basic testing and care, while public notices urge residents to follow dengue

SOPs. The DHQ administration has also been coordinating with Nishtar and other government clinics to distribute patient load. Clinicians warn that diagnostic delays are worsening the pressure on wards. Medical staff at Nishtar and other facilities say samples are sometimes routed through central laboratories even though point-of-care machines (Cell Max) are available, producing lagged results and delaying platelet monitoring and treatment for suspected cases. Hospital sources have urged faster lab turnaround to prevent complications. Officials have also taken legal action against private businesses: five FIRs were filed after dengue larvae were found at three restaurants and two factories, and more than 120 notices have been issued to entities failing to implement preventive measures. Public health teams repeatedly warned residents to drain standing water, cover tanks.—APP

Balochistan expands free treatment plan for chronic diseases

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has announced a major expansion of its Cancer and Deadly Diseases Treatment Plan, making it the first province to offer comprehensive, free-of-cost treatment for a wide range of life-threatening illnesses, including several major cancers. This landmark initiative is part of a public-private partnership between the provincial government under the vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and the global pharmaceutical leader Roche Pharma. Under the expanded program, patients across Balochistan will now receive completely free treatment for several high-cost and debilitating diseases, including multiple sclerosis, Hemophilia, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), Diabetic Macular Edema, Breast, Liver, and Lung Cancers. This initiative marks a paradigm shift in the province's healthcare system, ensuring that no citizen is denied life-saving treatment due to financial constraints. The formal launch of the expanded project, titled the Chief Minister's Initiative for Treatment of Cancer and Deadly Diseases Expansion Project, was finalized during a high-level meeting at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. The session was chaired by Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, with participation from senior officials of the Health Department and representatives from Roche Pharma. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Secretary Health Balochistan Muhammad Dawood Khilji and Managing Director Roche Pakistan Hifza Shamsi, cementing the partnership. Speaking at the occasion, Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar praised the leadership of CM Bugti and described the initiative as a revolutionary milestone in public welfare. "The project for free treatment of cancer and deadly diseases is an extraordinary milestone for public welfare," Bakht Muhammad Kakar said. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to raising healthcare standards to international levels through strategic collaborations with global organizations, ensuring access to modern treatment and care facilities for all.—DNA

Shehersaaz RWHUs to boost sustainable education in schools

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: Shehersaaz, a leading community-driven sustainable development organization, marked the successful completion of its progressive program through a special ceremony in Rawalpindi. The event celebrated the formal handover of Rainwater Harvesting Units (RWHUs) to the administration of 18 government schools, underscoring Shehersaaz's commitment to creating safe, resilient, inclusive, and sustainable educational spaces. Tariq Mehmood, CEO - District Education Authority, Rawalpindi, shared his remarks, highlighting the initiative's key achievements and emphasizing the importance of sustainable education and community participation. Dr. Beenish, Project Manager, then presented the PROGRESSIVE initiative under the PUCCAR project, followed by an interactive Q&A session with Mr. Abdullah, On-Site Engineer, where they shared perspectives, challenges, and major milestones of the project. A major highlight of the ceremony was the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with principals of the 18 participating



schools, formalizing their commitment to maintaining and supporting the newly installed RWHUs and other sustainability initiatives. Implemented in partnership with UN-Habitat and the Adaptation Fund, the program has transformed schools into hubs of resilience and sustainability. By actively engaging school principals, teachers, students, local communities, and trusted vendors, the initiative

integrates climate-friendly solutions such as rainwater harvesting, urban farming, and energy-efficient interventions, fostering environmental awareness and long-term responsibility among students. The handover was followed by Shehersaaz's 29th anniversary cake-cutting ceremony, celebrating nearly three decades of shaping urban life in Pakistan. Attendees also participated in a group photo and luncheon, recognizing the organization's enduring

commitment to sustainable urban development, climate adaptation, and progressive education initiatives. The event reflected Shehersaaz's vision of socially responsible, environmentally conscious, and resilient communities. Through PROGRESSIVE and other initiatives, Shehersaaz continues to lead the way in creating smart, sustainable, and inclusive cities for future generations.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

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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

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ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi being briefed about blast during his visit to local Kachehri . Chairman CDA / Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa and IGP Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi also present.

NUML, ANF join hands to raise drug abuse awareness

Dr. Muhammad Riaz Shad, who also heads NUML's Anti-Drug Committee (ADC), highlighted that the use of drugs destroys the peace, purpose, and productivity of life

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An awareness seminar on drug prevention and rehabilitation was organized at the National University of Modern Languages by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) North, led by Regional Commander Brigadier Hassan Abbas. The session aimed to educate students, parents, and faculty members about the growing menace of drug addiction and collective efforts required to eliminate it. Director General NUML, Brigadier Muhammad Rafiq Khan, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Muhammad Riaz Shad, parents, faculty members, and a large number of students attended the seminar. Regional Commander ANF (North), Brigadier Hassan Abbas, in his keynote

address, elaborated on the three primary domains of ANF operations. He informed the audience that nearly 350 metric tons of narcotics are destroyed annually as part of ANF's enforcement efforts. Brigadier Hassan cautioned that synthetic drugs pose a growing and severe threat to society and have become a significant challenge for both parents and law enforcement agencies. "Drug addiction has unfortunately turned into a business that destroys health and benefits the drug mafia," he remarked. He identified vapes, VELO, and cigarettes as gateways to drug addiction and stated that ANF, in collaboration with the government and international partners, is taking measures to ban such gateway products. He also emphasized the need to strengthen family communication and parental engagement to

safeguard youth from this social evil. In his address, Dr. Muhammad Riaz Shad, who also heads NUML's Anti-Drug Committee (ADC), highlighted that the use of drugs destroys the peace, purpose, and productivity of life. He stressed that substance abuse is particularly dangerous for students, affecting them socially, psychologically, and financially. Dr. Shad noted that combating this menace demands collective will and community participation. He further shared that NUML, through its Anti-Drug Committee, is actively addressing this challenge by organizing awareness seminars, counseling sessions, collaborating with ANF and relevant government agencies, offering psychological support services, and engaging students in constructive and healthy activities. Dr. Zara Kiran, Psychologist

and Medical Officer at the ANF Rehabilitation Centre, delivered a comprehensive technical presentation. She briefed participants about ANF's rehabilitation facilities, which provide free-of-cost treatment and counseling, and highlighted the Youth Ambassador Program, encouraging students to take proactive roles in promoting a drug-free environment. The event also featured an interactive Question-and-Answer session, where students and parents raised insightful queries regarding prevention strategies, rehabilitation options, and the psychological aspects of addiction. At the conclusion of the seminar, a memento was presented to Brig Hassan, followed by an awareness walk joined by students, faculty members, and ANF representatives, reaffirming their collective resolve to build a drug-free society.

Sahiwal Power Plant adopts Eco-Friendly operations

ISLAMABAD: In the midst of Punjab's worsening smog crisis, the China-operated Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant, built under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is emerging as an environmental ally. Partnering with the Punjab Environment Protection Department, the 1,320 MW plant has kept its emissions far below national and international limits by using advanced technologies such as Electrostatic Precipitators (ESP) and Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) systems. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday According to the Pakistan Environmental Quality Standards (PEQS) report for October 2025, the plant's carbon monoxide emissions stand at 125 mg/nm —well within the global range of 100–150 mg/nm . Sulfur dioxide emissions are recorded at just 65 mg/nm compared to the international range of 50–600 mg/nm , while nitrogen oxide levels remain at 180 mg/nm , also within acceptable limits. Since becoming operational in 2017, the \$1.8 billion project—developed by Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy Limited—has consistently maintained emissions lower than those allowed by the World Bank, EU, and Japan. Plant official Umair told Gwadar Pro that a Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) has been installed to track particulate matter in real time. "We also work with an EPA-certified third-party environmental monitoring firm to ensure full compliance with our Environmental Monitoring Plan," he said, adding that an Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station keeps constant checks on air quality. To further curb pollution during smog season, the plant has replaced internal fuel-powered transport with electric vehicles, cutting greenhouse gas and particulate emissions. It has also launched a large-scale plantation campaign within and around its premises to boost green cover and improve local air quality. By combining strict emission controls, electric mobility, and continuous environmental monitoring, the Sahiwal Power Plant stands out as a model of sustainable industrial operation under the CPEC framework.—APP

Ceramic works exhibition Aatish by Nabahat Lotia at PNCA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), National Heritage & Culture Division, presented "Aatish", a solo exhibition of ceramic works by eminent artist Nabahat Lotia, curated by Mariam Ahmed. The exhibition was inaugurated by M. Ayub Jamali, Director General PNCA, on Tuesday, 11th November 2025, at Gallery No. 3, National Art Gallery, PNCA, Islamabad. The exhibition showcased Nabahat Lotia's lifelong engagement with clay and nature, reflecting over three decades of artistic exploration. With 18 solo exhibitions to her credit, the artist has collaborated closely with traditional potters across Pakistan to preserve and evolve local pottery practices. Her recent book, "Pottery Traditions of Pakistan," chronicles this rich journey and underscores her commitment to safeguarding cultural heritage. Speaking about the exhibition, Mariam Ahmed, Curator- Director Visual Arts Division, said, "Nabahat Lotia's work is a testament to her dedication to her craft and her deep connection with nature. 'Aatish' is a celebration of the transformative power of art and the enduring legacy of Pakistan's pottery traditions." Speaking about her creative process, Lotia remarked, "Nature is my inspiration, and my work has always been in harmony with it." Aatish – meaning "fire" – celebrated the transformative power of flame in shaping clay into works of art, symbolizing endurance, change, and renewal. In conjunction with the exhibition, PNCA will also host a Ceramic Workshop by Nabahat Lotia from 12th to 14th November 2025, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at PNCA, Islamabad. The workshop will offer hands-on learning experiences, including kiln firing, and will provide all necessary materials for participants. The exhibition "Aatish" will remain open to the public until 20th November 2025, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Saturday closed) at the National Art Gallery, PNCA, Islamabad.—DNA

ICCI, IPO drive trademark protection for businesses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted a pivotal meeting with Chairman Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) Pakistan, Farrukh Amil, to explore avenues of collaboration between government and the private sector for promoting awareness on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and trademark registration. The meeting underscored the importance of IPR in enabling entrepreneurs and businesses to compete effectively in global markets. During the meeting, it was agreed that ICCI and IPO Pakistan would jointly organize a seminar on IPR awareness, which would be addressed by the Federal Minister for Commerce and senior IPO officials. The seminar aims to engage a large number of business community members to highlight the strategic significance of intellectual property protection and trademark registration both locally and interna-

tionally. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman IPO Pakistan Farrukh Amil emphasized that IPR education can transform Pakistan's youth's creative potential into a powerful driver of innovation and economic growth. "By introducing IPR education, we can cultivate a culture of creativity, protection, and profitability," he said, adding that protecting creative ideas through trademark, copyright, and patent registration helps individuals prosper while fueling national economic development. He particularly highlighted the importance of trademark registration, stating that in today's globalized economy, brand identity and product authenticity are critical for business expansion. "Registering trademarks locally and internationally safeguards businesses against imitation, builds consumer trust, and opens new export opportunities," he remarked. ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to promoting IPO's ob-

jectives within the business community. "Intellectual property protection is vital for modern business competitiveness. We are fully prepared to play a leading role in spreading IPR awareness and will support initiatives that educate entrepreneurs about its practical benefits," he stated. He further announced that ICCI plans to launch a comprehensive awareness campaign in collaboration with IPO and establish a dedicated IPO Help Desk at the Chamber to assist traders and industrialists in registration matters, including trademarks, patents, and copyrights. "The ICCI believes that intellectual property protection is not only vital today but will be indispensable in the future of modern business," he added. IPO Director General Noman Aslam appreciated ICCI's proactive role and stated that the IPO would arrange the visit of a senior IPO official to ICCI every week to brief members about intellectual property laws, registration processes, and associated advantages to ensure maximum compliance.

Pakistan, Malaysia enjoy cordial longstanding ties

ISLAMABAD: Deputy President of the Malaysian Senate, Datuk Nur Jazlan bin Tan Sri Mohamed, who is in Islamabad to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference Tuesday called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at the Parliament House. Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy cordial and longstanding relations rooted in mutual trust, respect and shared values, said a news release. He emphasized that stronger parliamentary cooperation would further consolidate bilateral relations and open new avenues for institutional engagement. The Speaker extended an invitation to his Malaysian counterpart to undertake an official visit to Pakistan. Highlighting the vast potential for collaboration between the two countries, he said that Pakistan and Malaysia could greatly benefit from enhanced cooperation in education, tourism, halal food and palm oil sectors. He underscored the importance of promoting people-to-people contacts and trade linkages, terming them essential for strengthening bilateral ties. The Speaker also said that the Gwadar Port has the potential to serve as a regional hub for connectivity and economic cooperation, offering mutual benefits to both nations. Ayaz Sadiq expressed concern over the misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the growing menace of fake news and misinformation on social media platforms. He called for a coordinated global approach to address these emerging challenges and curb negative propaganda.—DNA

CJP leads deliberation for E-Court System across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: In order to make justice delivery more transparent and citizen-centric, the Chief Justice of Pakistan chaired a high-level policy meeting Tuesday to steer progress on the automation and digitization of courts across Pakistan. The Chief Justice emphasized that the digital transformation of the justice sector - from District Courts to the Supreme Court - is a citizen-centric reform aimed at ensuring accessibility, transparency, and efficiency. While the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) will steer this reform initiative, all the stakeholders will be taken on board in order to make it inclusive and sustainable. Briefing the participants, the Secretary, Ministry of IT & Telecommunication, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting justice-sector digitization, while the Chairman, Pakistan Digital Authority, outlined protocols for data governance and cybersecurity. It was informed that the Federal Government has prioritized nine sectors, including Law and Justice, in its National Digital Masterplan, with the objective to digitize and re-imagine the existing processes, ensuring improved service delivery. To ensure system design aligns with judicial needs and is response, the Chief Justice desired the Federal Judicial Academy to conduct series of Focus Group Discussions, bringing together experts from Pakistan Digital Authority and justice sector stakeholders for structured engagement. Following these consultations, the Ministry of IT will finalize a checklist, documenting baseline requirements, including infrastructure readiness and connectivity standards. Reaffirming the judiciary's modernization agenda, the Chief Justice noted that by August 2026, all courts across Pakistan will be solar-powered and equipped with e-libraries, women facilitation centers, and clean drinking water facilities. He underscored that the next major milestone is the establishment of a fully integrated E-Court ecosystem, linking all tiers of the judiciary through secure digital platforms. The session was attended by Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar, Chairman, National Judicial Automation Committee, Haroon Rasheed, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, Syed Ali Zafar, Senior Advocate Supreme Court, in the capacity of representative of SCBA, Zarrar Hasham Khan, Secretary, Ministry of IT & Telecommunication, Dr. Sohail Munir, Chairman, Pakistan Digital Authority, Sohail Laghari, Registrar, Supreme Court, Fakhar Zaman, Director General (Reforms), Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat, Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan and senior officers from the Supreme Court and the Ministry of IT & Telecommunication.—DNA

Briefs

BS Program
classes
started in
IMCG I-8/3

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) I-8/3 organized an orientation session for the inaugural batch of its BS English program. The college students can have BS degree program English classes now onwards. The event was graced by Mr. Shahid Mehmood Abbasi, Director Colleges along with Riffat Jabeen, Director Academics and Fasiha Fayyaz Khan, Deputy Director Quality Assurance of Federal Directorate of Education. Members of the Quaid-i-Azam University Affiliation Committee, including Prof. Dr. Irfan Zia Qureshi, Imran Sadiq Ramzan Khan and Raja Qamar Rasheed Satti were also attended this session. The ceremony commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by a welcome address by Prof. Najmun Nisa, Principal IMCG I-8/3. She extended warm greetings to the distinguished guests and newly enrolled students and expressed her gratitude to the Federal Directorate of Education, Quaid-i-Azam University, and the college administration for their collaboration in launching the BS English program, emphasizing that it will meet the academic aspirations of students from nearby areas.

Pindi reports
10 dengue
cases during
last 24 hours

RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority Rawalpindi has released its daily dengue prevention brief showing 10 new cases during the last 24 hours. According to the report, a total of 22,563 patients have been screened in Rawalpindi district's hospitals, resulting in 1,498 confirmed cases of which 25 confirmed cases currently admitted. This year no deaths have been recorded. Vector surveillance teams have checked 6,435,995 houses, identifying 210,336 positive houses, and 1,871,987 spots with 28,828 positive, leading to the detection of 239,164 total larvae. Punitive actions against larva detection and dengue SOPs violation include 4,826 FIRs, 1,937 seal.—APP

Lawyers
condemn
Islamabad
court blast

ISLAMABAD: The legal fraternity on Tuesday strongly condemned the explosion outside the Islamabad district courts, urging strict action against those responsible and calling for unity to safeguard the Constitution and the judiciary. Speaking to the media outside the Supreme Court Tuesday, senior lawyers expressed deep concern over the prevailing national situation and emphasized the need for solidarity among all segments of society. Senior lawyer Hamid Khan said the country was passing through a critical phase and stressed that all institutions and citizens must work together to protect the Constitution. He denounced the blast outside the courts and expressed grief over the tragic incident. Former Attorney General Munir A. Malik said the entire nation mourns the loss of lives in the incident and stands in solidarity with the victims' families. Later, former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Abid Zuberi, addressed a press conference where he presented a resolution condemning the terrorist attack in the strongest terms and demanding that the perpetrators be brought to justice. The lawyers collectively reiterated their firm resolve to defend constitutional supremacy, uphold the independence of the judiciary, and promote unity and peace in the country. ings, 3,730 challans and fines of Rs.11,424,007.—APP

Peace, security, uplift
interconnected: Gilani

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Peace, security and development are inseparable pillars of progress, Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani emphasized while delivering his address at the inaugural session of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference. "Without peace and security, no nation can build; and without development, peace remains fragile" he remarked. The landmark Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference in formally started in Islamabad, which brought together parliamentary leaders from across the world under the theme "Peace, Security and Development." Welcoming the delegates on behalf of the Parliament and the people of Pakistan, the Chairman Senate said he was privileged to host this historic gathering in the nation's capital. He expressed profound gratitude to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for gracing the event as Chief Guest, terming his presence a reflection of Pakistan's commitment to dialogue, cooperation, and multilateralism. Chairman Gilani described the conference as a defining moment in the evolution of parliamentary diplomacy, uniting parliaments from both the Global North and the Global South under one roof to deliberate on shared challenges and collective solutions. Highlighting the contemporary global context, he noted that the world today faces unprecedented instability driven by wars, economic shocks, climate change, and rapid technological disruptions. "Peace is unravelling before us — from Gaza to Sudan to Occupied Kashmir," he said, adding that in such testing times, parliaments must serve as guiding lights, promoting understanding and cooperation across divides. He underscored the need for a broader and inclusive understanding of security that encompasses economic and climate resilience, environmental sustainability, food and water security, and digital integrity. Citing Pakistan's negligible contribution to global



emissions yet disproportionate vulnerability to climate change, he termed it "a moral and practical imperative" for parliaments to act collectively before the cost becomes unbearable. Reaffirming Pakistan's enduring commitment to global peace and security under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, the Chairman recalled Pakistan's role as a frontline state in the fight against terrorism and its significant participation in United Nations peace-keeping missions. He noted that despite provocations on Pakistan's eastern and north-western borders, the country had demonstrated maturity and restraint. "We have consistently extended the hand

of dialogue, for peace is a two-way street that requires reciprocity," he said. Chairman Gilani said that decades of parliamentary experience had strengthened his belief that sustainable progress and security are interdependent, and that this understanding had inspired him to convene the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference to promote shared dialogue on pressing global issues. He emphasized that parliaments are not bystanders in the pursuit of peace and prosperity but "drivers of trust, builders of consensus, and voices of the people when the world grows uncertain." Calling for practical outcomes from the conference, he urged delegates to move beyond promises and share bold, implementable

solutions that reflect the diverse experiences of participating nations. Concluding his address, Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani quoted Pakistan's first woman Prime Minister, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto: "Leadership is about the strength of one's convictions, the ability to endure the punches, and the energy to promote an idea." He said, "Let this gathering be remembered for the conviction it inspires, the partnerships it forges, and the clarity of purpose it establishes. The world is watching — let us lead with unity, vision, and courage." The Chairman Senate extended his best wishes to all delegates for a productive conference and a pleasant stay in Islamabad.

Misbah lauds Gilani's
leadership, diplomatic foresight

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), Ms. Misbah Khar, Welcomes Global Parliamentary Leaders at the Inaugural ISC in Islamabad Ambassador of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), Ms. Misbah Khar, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished parliamentary delegations participating in the Inaugural ISC, hosted by the Senate of Pakistan in Islamabad. Addressing an august gathering that included the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Honourable Chairman Senate, and parliamentary leaders from across the world, Ms. Misbah Khar described it as "a privilege and a great honour to host such a distinguished assembly of global legislators in Islamabad." She noted that the gathering reflected "a shared belief that constructive engagement, not division, must guide the way toward peace," adding that the presence of speakers and delegates from different continents symbolized the world's collective resolve to address global challenges through dialogue, cooperation, and partnership. Highlighting the vision behind the ISC, Ms. Khar said the forum was conceived earlier this year under the leadership of Honourable Chairman Senate, Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, when over 45 Speakers of Parliaments from around the world came together to lay its foundation. "The belief was simple," she said, that parliaments the true voice of the people must take the lead in shaping a , safer, and more prosperous world." She lauded Chairman Gilani's leadership and diplomatic foresight, noting that "his experience as a former Prime Minister and Speaker gives him a unique understanding of how diplomacy and democracy reinforce one another. Through his vision, the ISC has transformed from an idea into a reality a bridge connecting nations and people through dialogue and trust." Referring to the Conference theme, "Peace, Security, and Development," Ms. Khar said these were "not separate goals, but interdependent pillars of global stability," underscoring that the ISC's guiding principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and shared values are actionable commitments that define how parliaments can help shape a more equitable world order. She reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to constructive engagement and multilateral cooperation, stating that the country "remains a peace-loving and forward-looking nation that believes in inclusivity, dialogue, and bridge-building among civilizations." Ms. Khar emphasized that the Islamabad Communiqué would serve as a roadmap for practical parliamentary collaboration that promotes justice, ethical governance, and shared progress. "While global challenges ranging from conflicts and economic instability to climate change and inequality are immense," she said, "they also present opportunities for partnership and collective resilience." "Pakistan's own experience—its sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, its resilience in the face of natural disasters, and its pursuit of inclusive development reminds us that nations grow stronger when they share lessons and support one another," she remarked. Concluding her address, Ms. Misbah Khar described the conference as "not merely an event, but the beginning of a shared journey toward a fairer, safer, and more sustainable world." She expressed confidence that the deliberations in Islamabad "will serve as a transformative step toward strengthening global parliamentary diplomacy," and called upon participants to make the ISC "a lasting bridge between continents founded on dialogue, justice, and mutual progress." "Together," she concluded, "let us ensure that the work we begin here lights the path toward a world defined not by fear or division, but by hope, solidarity, and collective responsibility."—DNA

Tarar mourns Senator
Siddiqui's passing

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the passing of Senator Irfan Siddiqui, a man of clear conscience and a sincere, loyal companion of the party, is an irreparable loss to the nation's intellectual and literary circles. In his condolence message, the minister stated that Siddiqui's literary insight and gentle nature will forever be cherished. He said Irfan Siddiqui's life was defined by knowledge, character, and service, and that he was a symbol of guidance, kindness, and patience. The nation will continue to draw strength and inspiration from his character. Tarar noted that Senator Siddiqui's passing is a major intellectual and moral loss. He described him as a guiding light in literature, a loyal companion, and a humble, soft-spoken leader whose life and character will remain a source of inspiration for future generations. He added that Siddiqui's kind smile, intellectual depth, and unwavering patience will forever be remem-

bered. Calling him a true patriot and a man of remarkable sincerity toward the party, Tarar prayed that Allah grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. Tarar said Senator Siddiqui was among the longtime companions of his grandfather, the former President of Pakistan. News of his passing has brought profound sorrow to their hearts, and the grief of his family is shared as their own. He emphasized that Siddiqui's love for knowledge, his grace, and his dignified manner will always be remembered. "We mourn the loss of an elder, a teacher, and a cherished family companion who was a constant source of wisdom and affection. Irfan Siddiqui was not only a close associate but also an intellectual companion to my grandfather, the former President of Pakistan. His passing leaves behind a void that can never truly be filled. In this moment of sorrow, his family's grief is our family's grief. May Allah grant him forgiveness, mercy, and the highest place in Jannah," Tarar said.—APP

Murder in Madrassa,
accused acquitted by SC

Finding that the prosecution failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt, the court acquitted Fazal Mahmood and ordered his immediate release if not wanted in any other case

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has acquitted Fazal Mahmood, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment for allegedly killing a student at a seminary in Karachi, granting him the benefit of doubt. The verdict, authored by Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, was delivered by a three-member bench comprising Justice Athar Minalallah, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, and Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan. According to the written judgment published on the

Supreme Court's website, the case was registered in 2015. The FIR stated that a student, Raziullah, was found dead in a seminary room, allegedly struck on the head with a cement block. Fazal Mahmood, who was missing from the scene, was nominated as a suspect on suspicion. In 2019, a sessions court sentenced him to death, a punishment later converted to life imprisonment by the Sindh High Court. During proceedings before the Supreme Court, defense coun-

sel Ambreen Anwar Raja argued that the case was entirely circumstantial, with no eyewitnesses. She said the allegation was based on the weak "last seen together" evidence, while the CCTV footage was unreliable — lacking a forensic report, showing no clear visuals, and being corrupted by a computer virus. Additional Prosecutor General Sindh Khadim Hussain contended that the accused lived in the same room as the deceased and his disappearance after the incident indi-

cated guilt. The apex court, however, held that the case was purely circumstantial, the "last seen" evidence was weak, the CCTV footage incomplete and unreliable, and the recovered knife unrelated to the medical evidence. The court also noted that the motive was unproven. Finding that the prosecution failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt, the court acquitted Fazal Mahmood and ordered his immediate release if not wanted in any other case.—DNA

No penalty
on govt
employees
without
formal inquiry

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has ruled that no punishment — whether minor or major — can be imposed on a government employee without a formal inquiry, terming such action unconstitutional. In a written judgment released for reporting, the apex court set aside a Lahore High Court decision and ordered the reinstatement of Hafiz Abdul Rauf, an officer of the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation Limited (PASSCO). The verdict was issued by a two-member bench headed by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah in Civil Petition No. 1729-L/2017. Hafiz Abdul Rauf had been serving as a Project Incharge at PASSCO when he was dismissed in 2009 on charges of forgery without any inquiry. The Lahore High Court later converted his dismissal into compulsory retirement, which he challenged before the Supreme Court. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, authoring the judgment, observed that an inquiry is not a mere formality but a vital element of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 9, 10A, and 14 of the Constitution, ensuring life, fair trial, and human dignity.—APP

Inter-
provincial
coordination
to tackle
water scarcity

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Task Force on Water Scarcity on Tuesday agreed to strengthen inter-provincial coordination and adopt data-driven strategies to ensure equitable distribution of water and protect national food security. The decision was made during a high-level meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, in Islamabad. Senior officials from the Ministries of Water Resources, National Food Security, and Planning, as well as representatives from WAPDA, provincial irrigation departments and water management authorities, attended the session. The Task Force reviewed current and projected water availability for the upcoming Rabi and Kharif crop seasons, alongside data on inflows from India and their variation in recent years. Participants expressed concern over the accelerating depletion of groundwater and its adverse implications for agricultural productivity and food security.—APP

Benefit of Doubt:
SC acquits 2 men
in murder case

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has acquitted two men, Muhammad Waseem and Muhammad Akram, in a murder case, granting them the benefit of doubt. The verdict, authored by Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, was delivered by a three-member bench comprising Justice Athar Minalallah, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, and Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan. The appeal was filed against a Lahore High Court (Rawalpindi Bench) judgment that had upheld the life imprisonment of both convicts. According to the judgment available on the Supreme Court's website, a sessions court in Dina had initially sentenced the two men in 2019 to life imprisonment under Section 302(b) of the Pakistan Penal Code and imposed a fine of Rs. 500,000 each as compensation. The FIR, lodged in 2018 by complainant Aqib Shehzad, alleged that his father, Raja Maqsood Ahmad, was killed by Muhammad Waseem, Muhammad Akram, Nauman, and Mehran using axes and clubs. After a detailed hearing, the Supreme Court observed that the incident occurred at night, but the investigating officer neither seized the alleged light source (a bulb) nor inspected it. The court noted discrepancies in witness statements, doubts regarding the recovery and forensic examination of the alleged murder weapon, and the absence of any independent witness during the recovery process. The bench remarked that when such doubts exist in the prosecution's evidence, granting the benefit of doubt to the accused is their legal right, not a concession. The court held that the prosecution failed to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt and, therefore, acquitted Muhammad Waseem and Muhammad Akram.—DNA

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A blast that exposes Islamabad’s security and governance Failures

THE deadly suicide blast outside the District Courts in Islamabad’s G-11 sector on Tuesday, which claimed over a dozen lives and left scores injured, is a grim reminder of the worsening security and administrative chaos in the federal capital. Beyond the immediate tragedy, the attack lays bare systemic failures from urban planning negligence and ineffective policing to the alarming encroachment of lawlessness in key residential and public spaces. The G-11 District Courts area has long been a picture of congestion and disorder. Cars are parked haphazardly on both sides of the narrow roads, leaving little space for movement. Traffic remains clogged for hours, while the absence of traffic police has turned the vicinity into a chaotic zone. It is precisely this environment of disorder that allowed the suicide bomber to carry out his attack with ease, blending into the crowd and parking chaos. When law enforcement abandons routine enforcement of basic regulations like traffic control, it inadvertently opens the door for tragedy. The choice of location itself is questionable. The district courts were previously located in F-8 – another residential area – and were shifted to G-11, yet the same fundamental problem persists: the courts remain embedded within residential neighborhoods. This poses not only a continuous security risk to residents but also to judges, lawyers, and petitioners. Sensitive installations such as courts should never be placed in congested or residential zones where security screening is minimal and public access is uncontrolled. Unfortunately, the government has failed to relocate these crucial facilities to safer, purpose-built premises, despite years of warnings and repeated incidents. The larger issue, however, is one of policing and governance. Islamabad Police, despite their considerable manpower and resources, seem more focused on protecting the powerful than maintaining public safety. In recent years, the city has witnessed a steady rise in street crimes, drug trafficking, and unregulated construction – all under the police’s watch. The G-12 sector, adjacent to the site of the blast, has virtually turned into a no-go area. It is known to house drug dealers and criminal elements, many of whom operate with impunity. Reports indicate that even police

Pakistan’s First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 146

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personnel avoid entering the area, which has become a haven for illegal occupants, many of them Afghan refugees and other settlers. The Capital Development Authority (CDA) also bears a heavy share of the blame. It has consistently failed to get the G-12 land vacated despite multiple directives and promises. The unchecked spread of illegal settlements there not only compromises the city’s planning but also poses serious security risks. The presence of unregulated dwellings and undocumented residents makes surveillance difficult and gives militant networks room to operate or find shelter. If Islamabad’s security is to be truly improved, the state must take decisive steps to vacate and regularize G-12 and surrounding sectors. Similarly, Sector G-14/1 presents an equally alarming situation. Despite the passage of more than four decades since its acquisition by the Federal Government Employees Housing Foundation (FGEHF), the sector remains largely occupied by land grabbers, illegal occupants, and influential individuals who continue to defy eviction orders. Over the years, the area has also become home to a significant number of Afghan settlers and criminal elements, further complicating the security landscape. The failure of successive administrations and the housing foundation to develop G-14/1 has effectively turned the sector into a lawless pocket in the heart of the federal capital. The absence of government oversight and civic management has allowed unregulated construction, drug dens, and other illicit activities to take root. Local residents and commuters have repeatedly complained about rising thefts, harassment, and the free movement of suspicious individuals, yet law enforcement agencies rarely intervene. Moreover, there is an urgent need to reform Islamabad’s policing and administrative framework. The police must be equipped and instructed to focus on public security, not VIP protocol. A city that hosts the country’s most important institutions cannot afford complacency or weak enforcement. Routine patrolling, strict traffic control, and modern surveillance systems must be implemented, particularly around sensitive installations. The Islamabad district courts bombing was not just a terrorist act – it was a reflection of how urban neglect, poor planning, and administrative indifference can converge to deadly effect. It is a warning to policymakers that security is not achieved by issuing condemnations after every attack but by ensuring that governance functions effectively every day. If Islamabad – the supposed face of the nation – cannot guarantee safety to its citizens in its own judicial heart, what message does it send to the rest of the country? The government must act swiftly and decisively – relocate the courts to safer premises, reclaim G-12 from illegal control, and overhaul the capital’s policing system. Anything less would be a betrayal of the victims who paid with their lives for the state’s negligence.

The Possibility of US-China Understanding

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



A key factor in this transformation lies in changes in U.S. foreign policy across the Trump and Biden administrations. During Trump’s first term, Washington launched a policy of direct strategic competition with China, seeking to curb its economic and technological rise through tariffs and sanctions. This represented a shift from engagement to containment. Biden maintained similar objectives but pursued them through alliances, framing the conflict as “the West versus China.” From Beijing’s perspective, both administrations reinforced the idea that the US viewed China as its principal...

THE US-China relationship has entered a new and complex phase defined by both confrontation and resilience. Despite repeated cycles of trade disputes and geopolitical friction, the two powers continue to demonstrate a structural need to maintain relative stability. The current state of relations between the world’s two largest economies reflects a paradox: economic tensions are intensifying, yet diplomatic engagement persists, suggesting an underlying recognition in both Washington and Beijing that outright hostility would be mutually destructive. In early October, the United States and China entered another trade war this time the second within six months—marked by new export restrictions and threats of unprecedented tariffs. Nevertheless, these economic clashes have been followed by efforts to re-stabilize ties. For instance, after the 2023 Chinese high-altitude balloon incident, both governments moved quickly to de-escalate tensions, highlighting a shared interest in preventing crises from spiraling out of control. These trends indicate that while the relationship has transformed from one of interdependence to strategic competition, it has not descended into irreparable antagonism. A key factor in this transformation lies in changes in U.S. foreign policy across the Trump and Biden administrations. During Trump’s first term, Washington launched a policy of direct strategic competition with China, seeking to curb its economic and technological rise through tariffs and sanctions. This represented a shift from engagement to containment. Biden maintained similar objectives but pursued them through alliances, framing the conflict as “the West versus China.” From Beijing’s perspective, both administrations reinforced the idea that the U.S. viewed China as its principal adversary, leaving little room for compromise. However, in Trump’s second term, a broader recalibration has taken place. His “Liberation Day” tariffs targeted not just China but over 100 countries, including close allies. The U.S. has also pressured European partners to bear more responsibility for their own defense, indicating a pivot from a “U.S. and allies versus China” framework to a more unilateral “U.S. versus the world” approach. This shift has paradoxically created a small opening for U.S.-China cooperation, as Beijing no longer feels exclusively targeted within U.S. global policy. Historically, Washington and Beijing have demonstrated the capacity to collaborate despite differences. In the 1970s, they cooperated against the Soviet Union; after the Cold War, they worked together to promote globalization and economic integration. But as the world has turned away from globalization, the foundation of their cooperation has eroded. The current U.S. approach rejecting the old liberal inter-

nationalist order and embracing economic nationalism could, ironically, pave the way for a new equilibrium between the two nations. The growing friction between the U.S. and China is not solely the result of hostile policies but of deeper structural shifts. The liberal international order that once underpinned global trade and integration has become unsustainable. China’s rise under this order challenged its liberal foundations, as Beijing’s state-led economic model diverged sharply from Western capitalism. Meanwhile, the United States failed to manage the domestic social and economic disruptions caused by globalization, resulting in widespread political backlash and a retreat toward protectionism. Both countries are now moving away from economic interdependence. In the United States, both Democrats and Republicans have rejected the old model of liberal internationalism, favoring industrial policy and economic nationalism instead. Neither Washington nor Beijing now sees efficiency or interdependence as a sufficient reason to rely on the other’s financial systems, supply chains, or technologies. This process of deglobalization is irreversible; both sides can only adapt. Despite U.S. export controls, especially in high-tech sectors like semiconductors, China has shown resilience. It continues to make technological advances, maintain steady economic growth, and even leverage its control over critical resources such as rare-earth materials to influence global markets. This growing confidence allows China to focus more on internal development and less on reacting to U.S. pressure. Such structural rebalancing offers an opportunity for both countries to reassess their assumptions. Beijing could reconsider whether Washington’s goal is to contain its rise, while the U.S. could reexamine its belief that China seeks to overthrow American global leadership. A shift in these narratives could create the groundwork for more stable and pragmatic relations. For the relationship to stabilize, both nations must rebalance their economic dependence. For decades, China relied heavily on U.S. finance, technology, and markets, while the United States benefited from China’s low-cost manufacturing. This asymmetric arrangement fueled tensions as the U.S. trade deficit grew and Chinese dependency deepened. The decoupling process that began even before the 2018 trade war has accelerated, forcing both economies to diversify and seek greater self-reliance. A sustainable relationship requires redefining interdependence. Rather than complete separation or unrestrained integration, both countries could pursue selective cooperation in areas of mutual benefit, such as green technology, electric vehicles, and clean energy. Balanced investment in these sectors would ensure that each side benefits

more equally from trade, reducing the perception of exploitation or dependence. On the geopolitical front, recalibration is equally vital. U.S. reconnaissance missions and freedom of navigation operations near China’s coast—though justified as legal and necessary for regional reassurance—heighten the risk of confrontation. The U.S. could ease tensions by reducing the frequency of such operations and instead rely on advanced satellite surveillance. This would allow Washington to uphold security commitments while minimizing the chance of military incidents. The Taiwan issue remains the most sensitive flashpoint. A path toward de-escalation could involve reciprocal actions: Washington could reaffirm its opposition to Taiwanese independence, while Beijing could scale back military exercises and increase cross-strait exchanges. This would give both sides time to pursue peaceful dialogue and prevent conflict. Such restraint aligns with Trump’s broader foreign policy vision of seeking peace in protracted disputes rather than direct confrontation. For the first time in decades, both the United States and China are driven by nationalist ideologies. Trump’s “Make America Great Again” and Xi Jinping’s “Chinese Dream” of national rejuvenation embody parallel quests for greatness. These visions need not be inherently conflicting. If both countries focus on internal renewal rather than external dominance, they may find space for coexistence. Trump’s “America First” approach, for instance, has at times coincided with a less interventionist stance in regions like the South China Sea. Although neither power can cripple the other’s economy, both possess tools to inflict serious harm if competition remains unchecked. Thus, managing rivalry through balanced interdependence, defined red lines, and diplomatic engagement is essential. A stable equilibrium would allow both nations to compete without crossing into destructive hostility. The U.S.-China relationship now stands at an inflection point. Decades of engagement have given way to strategic competition, but outright confrontation remains avoidable. The conditions for a recalibration are favorable: both sides have experienced the costs of excessive rivalry; both recognize the limits of decoupling, and both face domestic imperatives to focus on internal stability and growth. The upcoming meeting between President Trump and President Xi Jinping in South Korea symbolizes a critical opportunity. It could mark the beginning of a “cool but cooperative” phase one where the United States and China acknowledge their differences yet commit to coexistence. The outcome of this engagement will not only shape bilateral ties but also define the global order in the post-globalization era.

Between Truth, Theatre and Political Ambition

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



India’s opposition parties, once the conscience of the nation, have turned into passive spectators. The media, which once celebrated the truth, now serves as an amplifier for political fiction. A few days ago, another such film was released—this time titled “The Red Fort Blast”. The tragedy that unfolded near Delhi’s Red Fort Metro Station on November 10, 2025, left eight innocent...

IN the 1980s, Indian cinema held a unique charm that transcended boundaries and classes. Films of that era were creative and full of imagination, mirroring reality, with story writers, lyricists, and directors serving as the true masterminds behind their success. Watching movies on VCRs was a modest yet delightful pastime for families. Children would memorize dialogues, adults would hum the songs, and the silver screen would reflect emotions that resonated with real life. It was a time when storytelling mattered, creativity was genuine, and cinema served as a bridge of culture and sentiment. But as time went on, the heart of Indian cinema began to fade. The stories lost their soul, the direction became superficial, and films that once mirrored society’s aspirations turned into tools of manipulation and propaganda. Today, the decline of Indian films is not just a matter of art losing its essence—it is a reflection of how politics has swallowed creativity. The scriptwriter, director, and producer of India’s latest “blockbusters” is none other than Narendra Singh Modi. His films are no longer about love, sacrifice, or humanity; they are crafted to exploit emotions, ignite hatred, and convert tragedy into political mileage. These films usually premiere right before elections, ensuring that fear replaces reason and manipulation overshadows morality. The irony is that most of Modi’s election-season films have flopped miserably, but the cost of their failure is measured not in box-office returns, but in human lives. And whenever his cinematic politics falls flat, Pakistan becomes the convenient villain in the script. India’s opposition parties, once the conscience of the nation, have turned into passive spectators. The media, which once celebrated the truth, now serves as an amplifier for political fiction. A few days ago, another such film was released—this time titled “The Red Fort Blast”. The tragedy that unfolded near Delhi’s Red Fort Metro Station on November 10, 2025, left eight innocent people dead

and more than two dozen injured. The sorrow of those who lost their loved ones is immeasurable, yet their grief has been turned into a political screenplay. As facts began to surface, glaring contradictions appeared between what eyewitnesses described and what the government declared. Eyewitnesses claimed that the car involved in the explosion was a Suzuki Maruti. One of them, who helped rescue victims, even shared this detail in a viral video. Early local reports also confirmed it. But soon, the official narrative changed—the Home Minister, supported by the “Godi” media, confidently asserted that the vehicle was a Hyundai i20. The National Investigation Agency and the National Security Guard were immediately deployed to investigate what was now branded the “Hyundai i20 blast.” Strangely, not a single frame of CCTV footage has been released to the public to verify the claim. The mismatch between ground reality and the government’s version has raised uncomfortable but necessary questions; Was evidence tampered with? Were witnesses silenced? Why does the truth need to be hidden if there is nothing to hide? Then comes the issue of the car’s ownership—a mystery in itself. Some reports suggest the vehicle was registered to a man named Nadeem from Faridabad, while others name Salman, who allegedly sold it recently but whose name still appeared on the registration certificate. Yet the official version abruptly introduced a third name—Tariq from Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir. Overnight, the story jumped from Haryana to Kashmir, invoking memories of Pulwama 2019, as if the script demanded an emotional trigger. No clear proof, no verified trail, only sensational claims. The orchestrated confusion created by shifting names and locations appears deliberate, serving a single political objective—to stir fear and win votes. The nature of the blast itself remains unclear. Was it a terror attack or an accidental CNG explosion?

Early responders suspected the latter, but before forensic reports could confirm anything, the media had already branded it terrorism. In genuine terror operations, perpetrators escape; in this case, all occupants of the car perished instantly—an unusual pattern that often appears in fabricated operations. The death toll was quickly fixed at eight, and silence followed. No subsequent updates, no detailed investigation, only an echoing narrative that suited political needs. History bears witness that whenever facts contradict the ruling party’s narrative, the script is swiftly rewritten. From staged encounters to communal flare-ups, the pattern remains consistent; invent an enemy, inflame emotions, and harvest votes. This manufactured fear serves multiple purposes—it stokes Islamophobia, maligns Kashmiri citizens, distracts the public from real issues like inflation and unemployment, and inevitably points a finger at Pakistan. It is a cycle where tragedy is commodified, truth is suppressed, and humanity is sacrificed at the altar of politics. What is most painful is not merely the deceit but the desensitization of society. Twenty-six families have been shattered, eight lives have been lost forever, and yet the national discourse revolves around political strategy rather than compassion or accountability. These victims deserved justice, not propaganda; truth, not manipulation. But in Modi’s India, even grief has become a staged act, and the lines between cinema and statecraft have blurred beyond recognition. India once taught the world that films could heal, unite, and inspire. Today, its ruling establishment uses them to divide, deceive, and dominate. When art becomes a weapon and politics becomes theatre, the nation loses both its moral compass and its creative soul. The Red Fort Blast, like many of Modi’s pre-election productions, may win temporary applause from blind followers, but it will ultimately be remembered as another flop—both at the box office of truth and in the conscience of humanity.

Briefs

'Lasting peace only possible by reining...'

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suspended, with "no programme for the fourth round of talks". The two sides had opened a third round in Istanbul on Thursday to ease tensions after last month's deadly border clashes, following an earlier five-day engagement that produced a last-minute interim agreement. Asif thanked Türkiye and Qatar for their "sincere efforts" to mediate, saying the facilitators had done their best but ultimately lost hope.

PM Shehbaz strongly condemns...

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the same network operating from Afghan territory had also attacked innocent children in Wana. "No condemnation is enough for these attacks being carried out from Afghan soil under Indian patronage," he said. Shehbaz Sharif reiterated that the blood of innocent Pakistanis would not go in vain. "We will continue our war against terrorism until the last terrorist of the so-called 'Fitna-e-Hindustan' and 'Fitna-e-Khawarij' is eliminated," he vowed. The PM directed the concerned institutions to conduct a thorough investigation into the incidents and ensure that the perpetrators and their facilitators are brought to justice.

Cadet college operation...

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inside the college and the paramount need to ensure the safety of the cadets' lives, sources added. "Operation will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated," the security source added. Speaking to journalists earlier, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi confirmed that at least three people were martyred during the ongoing operation. "Terrorists tried to take people hostage inside the cadet college but did not succeed," he said, adding that attackers were in contact with their handlers in Afghanistan. A day earlier, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that Indian-backed terrorists attacked Cadet College Wana, with security forces eliminating two attackers and trapping three inside.

Govt mulls 28th amend...

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It will now be presented in the National Assembly for voting today. According to the NA's agenda issued late Monday night, the session will begin at 11am. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar is scheduled to table the bill in the lower house for approval. He went on to say that the idea of establishing Constitutional Courts was first discussed in the Charter of Democracy (CoD) jointly signed by PML-N and PPP in 2006, and that the proposal had previously stalled during the 26th Amendment.

Terror attacks possible...

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However, other parts of the country, particularly the bordering provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, have seen a sharp increase in terror attacks since the Afghan Taliban grabbed power in 2021. The cross-border attacks from Afghanistan resulted in intense clashes between the forces from Pakistan and Afghanistan last month. Pakistan killed over 200 Taliban fighters and India-backed militants in retaliatory actions after they resorted to unprovoked firing along the border. The two countries agreed to a fragile ceasefire after week-long clashes, but failed to finalise its details during several rounds of negotiations that collapsed last week.

Trump threatens \$1 billion action as BBC apologises

“Consequently, the BBC has caused President Trump to suffer overwhelming financial and reputational harm”

LONDON: US President Donald Trump threatened the BBC with a billion-dollar lawsuit Monday as the broadcaster apologised for editing a speech that gave the impression he urged "violent action" ahead of the 2021 assault on the US Capitol. In a letter seen by AFP, Trump's lawyers gave the British broadcaster until Friday to fully retract the documentary containing the edit, apologise and "appropriately compensate" the president "for the harm caused". If the BBC does not comply "President Trump will be left with no alternative but to enforce his legal and equitable rights... including by filing legal action for no less than \$1,000,000,000 (One Billion Dollars) in damages," it said.

"The BBC is on notice. PLEASE GOVERN YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY." The BBC director general and the organisation's top news executive resigned Sunday over the row, after accusations that a documentary by the Panorama programme last year featured extracts from a speech by Trump that were edited in a misleading way. The BBC said that it would "review" the letter from Trump's legal team. It also issued a public apology for the editing. Trump's supporters rioted at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021 in a bid to overturn the certification of his 2020 US presidential election defeat by Democrat Joe Biden.



But the letter from Trump's legal team said the BBC edit gave a "false, defamatory, malicious, disparaging, and inflammatory" impression of what he said in his speech outside the White House. It appeared he had told supporters he was going to walk there with them and "fight like hell". The president also told the audience in the intervening period: "We're going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women."

"Due to their salacious nature, the fabricated statements that were aired by the BBC have been widely disseminated throughout various digital mediums, which have reached tens of millions of people worldwide," the letter said. "Consequently, the BBC has caused President Trump to suffer overwhelming financial and reputational harm."

A spokesman for Trump's legal team confirmed a letter had been sent to the BBC and said: "President Trump will continue to hold accountable those who traffic in lies, deception, and fake news."

Trump has been accused of launching a number of previous lawsuits to stifle US media, including against broadcasters ABC and CBS, and the New York Times. The latest controversy has reignited a debate over the British broadcaster, which is cherished by many but has faced long-standing accusations of bias from both ends of the political spectrum. – Agencies

Sinner opens ATP Finals title defense by beating Auger-Aliassime

To also claim the year-end No. 1 ranking, Sinner needs to win the season-ending event for the top eight players and hope Carlos Alcaraz doesn't reach the final

TURIN: Jannik Sinner got his title defense at the ATP Finals off to a solid start before his home fans with a 7-5, 6-1 win over Felix Auger-Aliassime on Monday. To also claim the year-end No. 1 ranking, Sinner needs to win the season-ending event for the top eight players and hope Carlos Alcaraz doesn't reach the final. No. 8-ranked Auger-Aliassime appeared slowed by a left calf issue that arose near the end of the first set. He was twice treated by a trainer during the second set. "It was very tough until 6-5 and then he had a physical issue," said Sinner, referring to when he broke the Canadian's serve to close out the first set. Sinner won the title in Turin last year without dropping a set and hasn't lost at the event since the 2023 final to Novak Djokovic. There was a sign held aloft in the crowd that labeled Sinner "Italian pride" and

Sinner was serenaded with a soccer-like chant of "Ole, ole, ole. Sin-ner, Sin-ner" during his on-court post-match interview. "It's a special tournament and place for me," he said. Sinner has won all four of his meetings with Auger-Aliassime this year, including a US Open semifinal and the recent Paris Masters final. Sinner and Alexander Zverev lead the Bjorn Borg group with one win each after Zverev beat Ben Shelton on Sunday. The top two finishers in each group advance to the semifinals. Sinner won 89 percent of the points when he put his first serve in, claiming 32 of those 36 points. "I have a very difficult group, with people who serve really, really strong," Sinner said. "You need to remain focused practically the entire match because the moment you concede a break it's tough to come back." Fritz beats wea-

ry Musetti Earlier, Taylor Fritz beat late entry Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 6-4. Unlike Musetti, who was making his debut, Fritz has pedigree in the tournament after reaching the final last year and the semifinals on debut in 2022. He'd also spent the past week preparing on the indoor court.

"A very important one to win I would say if I want to make it out of the group," Fritz said. "He plays quite different with the slices and everything. So it took me some time to get used to it. 'I was able to avoid getting broken early in the match when he had some chances. Then I feel like I kind of got into the match more... I thought I played really well.'" Musetti was a late replacement for Djokovic, who withdrew with an injured shoulder after beating the Italian in the Athens final on Saturday. Musetti arrived in Turin only on Sunday but couldn't ride his hometown crowd's support. "I couldn't be at 100 percent in shape, especially physically," Musetti said. "Mentally, I'm really glad that I'm here. I'm super proud of myself, of my team, of what we achieved. Today, I tried to fight with what I had." – Agencies

Naveed Alam honoured with best coach award

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex held a heartfelt farewell ceremony in honour of Muhammad Naveed Alam, recognising his decades of invaluable service to the sport.

Naveed Alam was presented with the Best Squash Coach Award and a Lifetime Family Membership for his outstanding dedication to the promotion and development of squash in Pakistan, said a press release.

The awards were presented by Lt Commander Muhammad Umar, who praised Naveed Alam's tireless commitment to nurturing talent and elevating the sport.

"He worked selflessly, never caring about day or night. His only focus was to promote squash from the Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex platform. His discipline, hard work, and passion are truly commendable," Lt Commander Umar said.

Squash legend Jahangir Khan also presented the Best Coach Award, acknowledging Naveed Alam's remarkable contributions to the sport. "Naveed Alam's work has been exceptional and deeply impactful," said Jahangir Khan.

"He has played a vital role in promoting squash through the Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex and in developing new champions for Pakistan."

During his illustrious coaching career, Naveed Alam has trained and mentored several top national and international players, including Huzaifa Ibrahim (US Junior Champion), Zaynab Khan (National Women's Champion), and Huzaifa Shahid (multiple international title winner).

In addition to his coaching excellence, Naveed Alam has also served as Tournament Director, successfully organising numerous national and international squash events at the Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex. – APP

Head Coach Tahir Zaman's absence creates stir in national Hockey team

LAHORE: Players of the national hockey team have expressed disappointment over the unavailability of head coach Tahir Zaman ahead of an important series, sources told Geo News on Tuesday. According to player sources, the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) and coach Tahir should have resolved the matter through mutual understanding, as the team benefits significantly from the presence of the head coach. Sources added that the head coach should have shown flexibility regarding player matters. The uncertainty over his availability until a few hours before departure had a negative impact on the team's preparations. The players reportedly felt that instead of demanding players be dropped for arriving late to camp, penalties could have been imposed. For the sake of the country, differences could have been set aside before such an important series. Sources revealed that Zaman had initially requested action against two players for reporting late to camp, but PHF officials prevented the removal of the players ahead of the crucial series. Instead, the PHF imposed fines on all latecomers. Disagreements between PHF officials and Tahir Zaman over this matter eventually led to the coach's resignation. Meanwhile, Mohammad Usman has been appointed head coach for the Bangladesh tour, while Tahir Zaman will also be unavailable for the Spain tour, sources confirmed. The PHF has indicated that a foreign coach will be hired for the upcoming Pro Hockey League. The first match between Pakistan and Bangladesh will be played in Dhaka on November 13. The winner of the series will qualify for the World Cup qualifiers. – Agencies

John Cena beats Dominik Mysterio to win Intercontinental gold and Grand Slam glory

John Cena Makes History, Wins Intercontinental Championship to Complete WWE Grand Slam, Defeats Dominik Mysterio on Raw, Cements Legacy as One of Wrestling's Most Decorated Legends Ahead of Farewell Tour

BOSTON: John Cena achieved a historic milestone on Monday night by defeating Dominik Mysterio to capture the Intercontinental Championship during the latest episode of WWE Raw. The victory officially crowns Cena as the 25th Superstar in WWE history to complete the prestigious Grand Slam – holding the WWE, Intercontinental, United States and Tag Team Championships at least once in his illustrious career. Mysterio entered the bout as the reigning Intercontinental Champion, having held the title since WrestleMania earlier this year. The match was fiercely contested, featuring high drama and several controversial moments – including a submission attempt that went unnoticed by the referee. Despite Mysterio's underhanded tactics, Cena maintained his composure and ultimately turned the tide in his favor. The decisive moment came when Mysterio attempted a Frog Splash, only for Cena to counter with his trademark Attitude Adjustment, securing the three-count and the championship. This match carried extra significance for Cena, who had never before competed for the Intercontinental title on television. His prior attempts came only at untelevised house shows, making Monday's clash a long-awaited and perhaps final opportunity as the 48-year-old legend approaches the twilight of his career. Mysterio had attempted to derail Cena's farewell run by taunting him ahead of the contest, claiming superiority over the 17-time world champion. WWE executive Paul "Triple H" Levesque later made the match official, setting the stage for a showdown that concluded with



Cena's emotional triumph. With this victory, Cena joins an exclusive list of Grand Slam Champions that includes Shawn Michaels, Triple H, Kane, Chris Jericho, Kurt Angle, Eddie Guerrero and several other WWE icons. The accomplishment cements Cena's legacy as one of the most decorated performers in professional wrestling history, combining longevity, versatility, and excellence across multiple championship divisions.

The win also marks the beginning of a new tournament to determine Cena's final opponent in what has been billed as his farewell tour – a fitting tribute to a career defined by resilience, respect, and record-breaking success. – APP

Concentration of corporate power a 'huge' concern: UN rights chief

Turk did not mention any company by name. But he spoke just days after Tesla shareholders endorsed a pay package that could reach \$1 trillion for its chief executive Elon Musk – already the world's richest person and owner of social media platform X

GENEVA: A few tech giants accumulating massive power coupled with artificial intelligence is posing huge global rights challenges and needs regulation, the UN human rights chief told AFP in an interview. Amid increasing worries over threats to democracy and with a growing number of countries at risk of sliding towards autocracy, Volker Turk said a key concern was the seeming unbridled power of a small number of technology companies. In an interview this week at the UN rights office overlooking Lake Geneva, he pointed to how seven or eight big tech companies now boast more wealth than the entire economies of even industrialised nations. "They have amassed an immense amount of power," he said. "And power, we all know, if it is not circumscribed by rule of law, by international rights law, can lead to abuse. "It can lead to an exercise of powers to sub-

jugate others." The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said he was deeply "worried that corporate power, if it's not constrained by the law and by international rights standards, is going to be a huge issue for us". "It's an area where I think we as the human rights community will have to focus much more."

Turk did not mention any company by name. But he spoke just days after Tesla shareholders endorsed a pay package that could reach \$1 trillion for its chief executive Elon Musk – already the world's richest person and owner of social media platform X.

Other high-profile tech figures like Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos also figure among the world's wealthiest people. Turk this year voiced alarm to the UN Human Rights Council over the influence wielded by "unelected tech oligarchs". They "have our data: they

know where we live, what we do, our genes and our health conditions, our thoughts, our habits, our desires and our fears", he told the UN's top rights body.

"The way they know how to manipulate us." The fact that tech titans are racing to roll out generative artificial intelligence tools adds to the concern of many experts.

"Generative AI can have huge potential to resolve some of the biggest problems that we face, but we also can see the shadow side," Turk said. He highlighted the impact AI-enhanced social media could have on election campaigns and other democratic processes. It can be "extremely manipulative", he warned, and "can distort voices, distract people from real life... the real issues". Turk cautioned that "AI that is unregulated can be a huge source of distraction, which then takes away the political energy that we need in order to actually

fight autocratic tendencies, to push back on lack of control". At the same time, AI is being used for "distorting reality", he said, adding he did not want to say it was creating alternative realities, "because they are not realities. It is fake". And they are not harmless, he warned. "The right to truth, the right to science are fundamental issues," Turk said.

With the UN climate conference under way in Brazil, he also decried the harm from climate change disinflation.

"I'm shocked to hear leaders talk about climate denial again, when we all know that we are already overshooting the goal that was set 10 years ago with the Paris Agreement," he said. "What are we thinking? What are we doing to our children, our grandchildren, future generations?" he asked. "There will be questions asked about accountability in the future, but then it's too late." – Agencies

PTI chief says govt attempting to create...

FROM PAGE 01
Speaking about the proposal to establish a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), he recalled that "this was also a part of the agenda for the 26th Amendment last year". He claimed that the government had declared it "unconstitutional" back then. "The head of state was issuing orders from Baku and so we are labelling this the Baku amendment," Gohar continued, apparently referring to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presiding over a federal cabinet meeting – which approved the amendment – via a video link from Baku. Barrister Gohar recalled that "when the current government first came into power, the first thing they did was amend the National Accountability Ordinance," claiming that they got "rid of all corruption cases filed against them" by doing so. "Now, on their way out, they want to give themselves immunity and hold themselves above the law," he alleged.

ATC orders blocking Omar...

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Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram in Sangiani rally case. Giving the directives, ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra ordered the authorities to present a report after blocking the PTI leaders' passports and adjourned the hearing till December 3. The development adds to the existing legal woes of the former ruling party whose founder, Imran Khan, along with senior leaders such as Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Yasmin Rashid and other, remain behind bars over alleged involvement in various untoward incidents, including the May 9 riots. The said case is linked to a power show held by the PTI in September 2024, seeking the release of Khan from Rawalpindi Adiala jail.

27th Amend. set to sail...

FROM PAGE 01
PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui, who passed away on Monday night. Speaking on the floor of the NA, Tarar said: "[The] Senate has passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill with a two-thirds majority. In the joint parliamentary committee, the opposition should also have attended the session." During his speech, the opposition benches staged a strong protest over the 27th Constitutional Amendment and raised slogans. "World over, constitutional benches handle matters related to the Constitution... judicial appointments are made through judicial commissions. In Pakistan, we have established a proper procedure and removed the powers of suo motu action in this bill," said the law minister while explaining the 27th Amendment.

President, PM discuss...

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During the meeting, President Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz also discussed the upcoming 27th Constitutional Amendment and its passage from the National Assembly. Both leaders exchanged views on political consensus and co-ordination with parliamentary allies to ensure smooth approval of the amendment. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening democratic institutions and promoting national unity in the face of emerging security and political challenges.

Turkish military...

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with them through our prayers," he said. Erdogan, his office and the ministry did not say what caused the crash, and they did not provide the number of casualties. Local media said, without citing numbers, that there were both Turkish and Azeri personnel on board. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said he had spoken by phone to his Georgian counterpart, adding the Georgian minister was en route to the crash site.

Briefs

Lebanon releases Qaddafi from prison on bail

BEIRUT: Lebanon released Hannibal Qaddafi, the son of deposed Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, on bail on Monday after nearly a decade in prison, his lawyer told AFP. “We left, he is free,” Laurent Bayon said, hours after Qaddafi’s bail of \$900,000 was paid. The younger Qaddafi, 49, was accused of withholding information about the 1978 disappearance of Lebanese Shiite cleric Mussa Sadr in Libya, but never put on trial. He was two years old at the time of Sadr’s disappearance. “The bail was paid this morning,” Bayon had told AFP earlier on Monday. “Hannibal Qaddafi will finally be free. It’s the end of a nightmare for him that lasted 10 years.” In October, a judge ordered Qaddafi’s release against bail set at \$11 million, which was reduced to \$900,000 last week after an appeal by his defense team. A Lebanese judicial source confirmed earlier on Monday that the bail was paid and said Qaddafi’s legal team had been completing release procedures. Bayon said his client was set to leave Lebanon for a “confidential” destination, adding that he holds a Libyan passport. “If Qaddafi was able to be arbitrarily detained in Lebanon for 10 years, it’s because the justice system was not independent,” Bayon said. He said his client’s release reflected a restoration of judicial independence under Lebanon’s reformist government that was formed in January. —APP

Modi opens giant India-funded hydropower project

NEW DELHI: India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi, together with Bhutan’s King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, inaugurated on Tuesday the Punatsangchhu II Hydroelectric Project, a giant Indian-funded hydropower plant. The project, situated along the Punatsangchhu River, has a generation capacity of 1,020 MW and is currently the largest fully operational hydropower plant in the Himalayan kingdom, where electricity is the primary export commodity and a major source of revenue. Bhutan is one of the few countries where nearly all electricity generation comes from renewable sources — 99 percent of which is hydropower. Almost all of it is exported to India. “Taking this progress forward, another major step is being taken today. A new hydroelectric project of over 1,000 MW is being launched, which will increase Bhutan’s hydropower capacity by nearly 40 percent.” —APP

Macron to meet Palestine’s President

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron will meet Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas in Paris on Tuesday to discuss the “full implementation” of the Gaza ceasefire agreement, the Elysee said. The meeting comes a month into a fragile truce between Hamas and Israel, following two years of war triggered by the Palestinian militant group’s October 7, 2023 attack against Israel. Abbas, 89, is the longtime head of the Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited control over parts of the West Bank and is being considered to assume governance in Gaza under the deal. The two leaders “will discuss the next steps in the peace plan, particularly in the areas of security, governance and reconstruction,” said the French presidency. Brokered by US President Donald Trump, the October 10 ceasefire has been tested by fresh Israeli strikes and claims of Palestinian attacks on Israeli soldiers. Trump said last week he expected an International Stabilization Force tasked with monitoring the ceasefire to be in Gaza “very soon.” —APP

Pak, China envoys meet to fortify all-weather partnership

The Ambassador underlined the importance of expanding institutional linkages between policy institutions, launching structured youth exchanges, strengthening think-tank cooperation and collaboration to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2026

DNA

BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan pays courtesy call on Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China. The Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Khalil Hashmi paid a courtesy call on Tuesday Liu Haixing, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC). The Ambassador conveyed warm greetings and best wishes from the leadership and people of Pakistan, and congratulated the Minister on assuming office. He reaffirmed Pakistan’s strong commitment to deepening the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and to advancing practical cooperation, communication and exchanges between political parties, and people-to-people connectivity. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the growing momentum of Pakistan-China relations, marked by high level visits, steady progress towards China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0, industrial cooperation, agriculture, digital technology, and green development. The Ambassador underlined the importance of expanding institutional linkages between policy institutions, launching structured youth exchanges, strengthening think-tank cooperation and collaboration to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2026. The Ambassador also handed over congratulatory letter from Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister addressed to him. The Minister welcomed the Ambassador’s visit and appreciated Pakistan’s longstanding and ironclad friendship with



China. Expressing willingness to further strengthen practical cooperation, he conveyed keenness to align CPEC 2.0 with 5E’s framework (Exports, e-Pakistan, Environment; Energy and Infrastructure; Equity & Empowerment) of Pakistan and contribute to the successful implementation of ‘Uraan Pakistan’.

The Minister affirmed that the IDCPC will continue to serve as a bridge for strengthening mutual trust and supporting the broader objectives of the China-Pakistan all-weather partnership. The two sides also discussed further fortifying Pakistan-China ties in light of opportunities arising from implementation of

15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) of China, recommendation for which were recently released by the Communist Party of China Central Committee in its Fourth Plenary Session. The International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) is the CPC’s principal organ for managing international political exchanges.

Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan cooperate in water resource management

BISHKEK: Kyrgyz Minister of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic Bakyt Torobaev participated in the 7th meeting of the Joint Kyrgyz-Uzbek water management commission, held in Manas, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic reports. During the meeting, the parties discussed pressing issues of bilateral cooperation, including the rational use of water resources, ensuring water and energy security in the face of climate change, and regional development prospects. Bakyt Torobaev noted that relations between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have reached the level of strategic partnership based on mutual trust, respect, and support. “Thanks to the decisive political will of our presidents, Sadyr Zhaparov and Shavkat Mirziyoyev, complex issues, including state border matters, were successfully resolved, strengthening trust and good-neighboring relations between our peoples,” the minister emphasized. Kyrgyzstan, located at the headwaters of the region’s main waterways, consistently fulfills its obligations to provide downstream countries with the necessary water supplies, contributing to maintaining food and environmental security in Central Asia. “We view water not as a subject of disagreement, but as the basis for mutual understanding, friendship, and sustainable development,” Torobaev noted. To enhance the effectiveness of cooperation, the Kyrgyz side proposed: the introduction of drip and automated irrigation in border areas; the creation of a “Green Belt of Friendship” along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border to restore forests and combat desertification; further development of cooperation between authorized government agencies in the water and energy sector. Furthermore, it was noted that the implementation of major projects such as the construction of the Kambarrata-Ata Hydroelectric Power Plant No. 1 and the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway opens up vast opportunities for strengthening the energy potential and transport connectivity not only of the two countries but of the entire region. Following the meeting, the parties confirmed their readiness to further strengthen cooperation and implement new joint initiatives. “I am confident that our joint efforts will ensure the sustainable development and prosperity of our countries,” emphasized the head of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Agriculture. —APP

Bangladesh verdict against Hasina likely late Nov

DHAKA: A verdict in ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina’s closely watched crimes against humanity trial is expected later this month, Bangladeshi prosecutors said Tuesday. Confusion over the timing of the verdict arose after the trial ended last month, when a hearing was set for November 13 But Thursday’s hearing was only “to announce the date of the verdict,” said Gazi Monowar Hossain Tamim, prosecutor at Bangladesh’s International Crimes Tribunal. “Based on our previous experience, the court might take another week or so to deliver the verdict,” Tamim said. “We want to make it clear that the court is set to fix the date of the verdict on November 13.” Bangladesh has been in political turmoil since a deadly uprising toppled Hasina’s autocratic government in August 2024. Violence has marked the campaign trail for elections expected in February 2026. Hasina, 78, has defied court orders to return from India to attend her trial on charges of ordering a deadly crackdown in a failed attempt to suppress the student-led uprising. Her trial in absentia, which began on June 1, heard months of testimony alleging she ordered mass killings. According to the United Nations, up to 1,400 people were killed between July and August 2024. Prosecutors have filed five charges, including failure to prevent murder, amounting to crimes against humanity under Bangladeshi law. They have sought the death penalty if she is found guilty. Hasina has denied all the charges and called her trial a “jurisprudential joke.” Her co-accused include former interior minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal — also a fugitive — and former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who is in custody and has pleaded guilty. Hasina’s outlawed Awami League called for a nationwide “lockdown” on Thursday, and security agencies in Bangladesh have been placed on alert. —APP

Rupee gains 03 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 03 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 280.77 compared to the previous day’s closing of Rs 280.80. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 281.6 and Rs 281.6, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 30 paisa to close at Rs 324.63 against the last day’s closing of Rs 324.93, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.82, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of 85 paisa and closed at Rs 368.67 compared to the previous day’s Rs 369.52. —APP

Iraqi voters weigh familiar choices

LONDON: Across Baghdad’s avenues and winding alleys, campaign posters line the streets, creating a festive air. Yet beneath the bright banners, a mood of indifference prevails for many Iraqis; some passers-by ignore the oversize candidate photos, unmoved by the spectacle. More than two decades after Saddam Hussein’s fall ushered in democratic rule, Iraqis return to the polls for the seventh time on Tuesday, Nov. 11, to choose a new 329-seat parliament from over 7,700 candidates. While the election unfolds in rare calm, widespread disengagement marks the political climate — a trend experts say could produce the lowest turnout since 2003. “The electoral mood is apathetic. Many Iraqis view the vote as unlikely to change entrenched power structures, even as the country enjoys relative calm,” Hayder Al-Shakeri, research fellow with the Middle East North Africa program at Chatham House, told Arab News.

Iraq goes to these elections three years after the rise of Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, in the shadow of chronic instability, economic hardship and deep distrust in national leadership. Yet, a recent Gallup International survey suggests public attitudes may be shifting. Confidence in government now stands at a record 55 percent, and trust in institutions including the police, military and courts is also at its highest level in years — though still short of the country’s Gulf neighbors. Despite this new optimism, analysts say persistent problems hold Iraq back. “Despite the country experiencing a rare period of relative stability, analysts and surveys suggest that many Iraqis feel profoundly disconnected from a political system viewed as stagnant, exclusionary and incapable of delivering meaningful reform,” Sajad Jiyad, an Iraqi political analyst based in Baghdad and a fellow at Century International, told Arab News. Jiyad cites the dominance of armed groups and established parties, absence of credible alternatives, and repeated cycles of unfulfilled promises as chief reasons for voter apathy. He added that controversies that have deepened public alienation include electoral laws such as candidate disqualification, exclusion of overseas polling and the introduction of biometric voter cards that analysts say limits the number of eligible voters. Also causing disquiet are socioeconomic grievances, and the sense that elections have become ritualized rather than a path to reform. During his tenure, Al-Sudani advanced an “Iraq First” agenda focused on economic diversification, digitization of government, improving infrastructure and reducing oil dependence. He emerged as a chief proponent of the Development Road project, a \$17-billion trade corridor linking the Faw Port on the Arabian Gulf to the Turkish border. Yet in a country where nearly 60 percent of the population is under 25, employment and opportunity remain elusive for many, and young Iraqis see rampant corruption and patronage as serious barriers to progress. “The government’s approach has focused on short-term infrastructure and service projects that show quick results but stop short of systemic reform. Core issues, such as corruption, impunity and the capture of state institutions, remain unaddressed,” said Shakeri. —DNA

UAE president, British PM discuss Gaza ceasefire

LONDON: The president of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on Monday discussed the latest developments in Gaza with the UK prime minister, Keir Starmer. During their telephone conversation they also discussed efforts by their nations to promote mutual prosperity, and advance peace and stability across the Middle East and the wider world. The leaders emphasized the need to ensure the ceasefire brokered in October continues to hold in Gaza, and to facilitate the delivery of aid in sufficient quantities to reduce the suffering of civilians in the territory, the Emirates News Agency reported. They underlined the urgent need to work toward a just and lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis based on a two-state solution, which they said remains the only viable path to stability in the region and a better future for all its peoples and nations. The president and the prime minister also discussed ways in which cooperation between their countries might be enhanced in support of mutual interests. —APP

Netherlands looks at trade ban on goods from Israeli settlements

LONDON: The foreign minister of the Netherlands has said his country is working to ban goods from illegal Israeli settlements in occupied Palestine. David van Weel made the comments during a visit to the West Bank, where he visited an area previously attacked by Israeli settlers. The Netherlands paused efforts to enact broader sanctions against Israel following the ceasefire with Hamas last month. However, violence by settlers in the West Bank has prompted international condemnation. “Now we deem it is not a time to increase sanctions on Israel because we want to see the peace plan implemented and we want to also encourage Israel to play a positive part in this,” van Weel told The Guardian. “At the same time, we’re not blind to any movements on the West Bank that might move the two-state solution further (away).” Sanctions are tough for EU members to impose individually on trade as the issue falls within the broader remit of the bloc. “It’s not easy to make a carve-out,” van Weel said. “We cannot just stop (all imports from illegal settlements) immediately because there is currently no legal basis for that. We are trying to make new policy now, then it has to go through parliament.” —APP

UK counterterror laws applied too broadly, risk overreach

LONDON: Laws used in the UK to ban the group Palestine Action have been applied “too broadly,” a review into counterterrorism legislation has found. The review, led by former Judge Declan Morgan, has determined that the UK definition of terrorism creates “uncertainty and overreach in its application” and needs to be tightened. The 15-person Independent Commission on UK Counter-Terrorism Law, Policy and Practice added that cases related to property damage should only include “serious risk to life, national security, or public safety, or involving arson, explosives, or firearms.” Palestine Action was proscribed as a terrorist organization in the UK on July 5 after several incidents, including a break-in at a Royal Air Force base that saw two military aircraft sprayed with paint. The ban, which is being challenged in the High Court, makes supporting the group a criminal offense punishable by up to 14 years in prison. But the review said proscription of any group should only occur where a risk to the public from acts of terrorism exists, and that if not renewed, bans should lapse after five years. —APP

RCCI strengthens Pakistan, Uzbekistan business ties

RCCI President Usman Shaukat reaffirmed the Chamber’s commitment to building global linkages and facilitating regional economic growth

DNA

TASHKENT: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) successfully organized the 36th International Achievement Awards (IAA) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, bringing together business leaders, diplomats, and government officials to promote regional trade, investment, and industrial cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Laziz Kudratov, Head of the Ministry of Investments, Industry, and Trade of Uzbekistan, graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Ambassador Ahmad Farooq of Pakistan and Alisher Shaykhov, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan, were among the distinguished attendees. Speaking at the event, Minister Kudratov emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral economic relations, expanding joint ventures, and promoting direct cooperation between the two nations. He noted that Uzbekistan offers an open, modern, and investor-friendly environment,

and that projects under regional interconnectivity frameworks are being actively encouraged. Discussions during the event highlighted the vast potential for enhancing trade volume, developing joint initiatives, and fostering collaboration in strategic sectors such as industry, technology, and infrastructure. In his address, RCCI President Usman Shaukat reaffirmed the Chamber’s commitment to building global linkages and facilitating regional economic growth. “This global outreach underscores our dedication to connecting Pakistan’s business community with international markets. Here in Tashkent, we aim to further strengthen Pakistan-Uzbekistan business ties, encourage bilateral trade, and explore new avenues of cooperation for mutual prosperity,” he said. The event also celebrated excellence through the International Achievement Awards, recognizing companies and entrepreneurs for their outstanding contributions across key sectors including pharmaceuticals, construction, IT, agriculture, textiles, tourism, and trade. Categories such as Businessman of the Year, Company of the Year, Exporter of the Year, Innovation and Technology Award,

and the Lifetime Achievement Award honored individuals and organizations demonstrating exceptional success and innovation. Earlier, during B2B meetings, participants discussed collaborative projects in various industries, setting the stage for stronger economic cooperation between the two countries. The 36th IAA reaffirmed the shared vision of Pakistan and Uzbekistan to deepen business linkages, foster mutual growth, and advance regional prosperity. The awards honored companies demonstrating outstanding achievements across key sectors, including pharmaceuticals, construction, IT, agriculture, textiles, tourism, and trade (exports and imports). Among the laureates were business representatives from both Uzbekistan and Pakistan, reflecting the forum’s emphasis on strengthening bilateral commercial ties. Held each year under the auspices of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), the awards feature distinguished categories including “Businessman of the Year”, “Company of the Year”, “Exporter of the Year”, as well as the “Innovation and Technology Award”, recognizing exceptional contributions to business and industry.

Briefs

Khawaja Asif calls for political consensus

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday called for political consensus on empowering local bodies, saying the move is in the interest of the Pakistani people. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said democracy cannot function without devolving power to the grassroots level. "Without such devolution, neither a democratic society nor a truly democratic system can exist," he added. Referring to the 18th Amendment, Khawaja Asif criticized the failure to implement its devolution promises. "Despite the amendment's calling on transferring power to local representatives real authority remains concentrated in major cities like Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, and Peshawar," he said. He said that past leaders, including Ayub Khan, Zia-ul-Haq, and Pervez Musharraf, had introduced local government systems, but meaningful power reaches the grassroots only when there is political will to enforce it. The minister highlighted that strengthening local governments would ease the provincial budget burden and allow local authorities to levy taxes such as water charges or commercial levies, benefiting public administration. Khawaja Asif stressed that devolving powers would enable district and city governments to manage tax collection, run health and education departments, and ensure accountability at the grassroots level. — APP

Justice Minallah laments use of SC by 'unelected elite'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) Justice Athar Minallah has written an emphatic letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi, calling for the convening of a conference to consider threats to the judiciary while also lamenting the use of the apex court as an instrument to suppress the people's will by "unelected elite", it emerged on Tuesday. In the seven-page letter, which Dawn has seen, Justice Minallah said that the missive was being recorded as a "solemn duty to the Constitution and to place on record for future generations how their destiny was being shaped behind the marble walls of the last resort of justice". He said that it was being written in the wake of recent events, which had greatly eroded public confidence in the judiciary. "Institutions are not built overnight, but they can be destroyed in no time through fear, surrender or submission to the powers. The history of our judiciary is not unblemished nor flattering.

COAS inaugurates centenary monument at Military College

The Pakistan Army secured top honors by winning the 3rd Inter-Services Combat Shooting Championship 2025, sweeping all four inter-services matches. Punjab Regiment won the Unit Firing Proficiency Match Group-I, while Sepoy Muhammad Irfan of Punjab Regiment was declared Master at Arms. Naib Subedar Umar Farooq of AMU clinched the Army Hundred Rifle Match Trophy



DNA

RAWALPINDI: The closing ceremony of the 45th Pakistan Army Rifle Association (PARA) Central Meet was held at the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU), Jhelum. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The PARA Central Meet 2025, conducted from October 1 to November 10, brought

together over 2,000 participants from the Pakistan Army, Navy, Air Force, Civil Armed Forces, and provincial rifle associations of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and the Federal Rifle Association. Competitors displayed exceptional marksmanship, skill, and enthusiasm throughout the championship. The Pakistan Army secured top honors by winning the 3rd Inter-Services Combat Shooting Championship 2025, sweeping all four inter-services match-

es. Punjab Regiment won the Unit Firing Proficiency Match Group-I, while Sepoy Muhammad Irfan of Punjab Regiment was declared Master at Arms. Naib Subedar Umar Farooq of AMU clinched the Army Hundred Rifle Match Trophy. Addressing the participants, the COAS lauded their performance and underscored the significance of shooting skills in military professionalism, stating that "mastery in shooting must remain a core objective of military training."

Later, the COAS attended the centenary celebrations of the Military College Jhelum (MCJ) as Chief Guest. He inaugurated the Centenary Monument and College Museum, paying tribute to the institution's hundred years of excellence. The Army Chief praised MCJ's legacy of nurturing leadership, discipline, and patriotism, and paid homage at Yadgar-e-Shuhada. Upon arrival, COAS was received by Commander Rawalpindi Corps and Inspector General Training & Evaluation (IGT&E).

Ishaq Dar urges strengthening of multilateralism



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday emphasized the urgent need to strengthen multilateralism to address mounting global challenges, including climate change, terrorism, and the erosion of international law. Addressing the inaugural session of the 6th Margalla Dialogue organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister commended the think tank for convening the event under the timely and relevant theme, "The Future of Global Order: Cooperation or Confrontation." Senator Dar noted that the current global environment is increasingly defined by unilateralism, polarization, and trade wars—trends that pose serious threats to international peace, security, and sustainable development. He stressed that multilateral institutions must be revitalized and empowered to effectively tackle pressing global issues and uphold shared values of justice and cooperation. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to peace, dialogue, and inclusive development, the DPM/FM called for renewed international efforts to build a fair, balanced, and cooperative world order. "Only through partnership and mutual respect," he said, "can nations ensure lasting peace and prosperity for all." The Margalla Dialogue has become one of Pakistan's premier international policy forums, bringing together scholars, diplomats, and policymakers to deliberate on key global and regional challenges. — DNA

Pakistan calls for stronger int'l support for UN peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for addressing UN peacekeeping's financial crunch, saying this world body's flagship activity defines its credibility in maintaining international peace and security. "UN peacekeeping, today, stands at a critical crossroads," Ambassador Asim Ifkhar Ahmad, permanent member of Pakistan to the UN, told the General Assembly's Fourth Committee, which deal with special political and decolonization issues. "The very tool that has defined the United Nations' credibility in maintaining international peace and security faces unprecedented political, financial, and operational challenges," he said, as the committee reviewed the peacekeeping operations around the world. "The ongoing liquidity crisis is the most immediate and serious symptom of a deeper problem - a waning political commitment by some key member states to this indispensable instrument of peace," the Pakistan envoy said. "If not addressed urgently, it risks eroding confidence in the most visible symbol of multilateralism," Ambassador Asim Ahmad warned. There are 11 active UN peacekeeping operations in the listed regions, and they involve around 60,000 troops from over 120 countries, including Pakistan. These operations aim to help countries transition from conflict to peace by providing security, supporting political processes, and assisting in rebuilding institutions.

Pakistan is host to one of the oldest peacekeeping missions - the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), deployed in Jammu and Kashmir, and is among the longest-serving and largest troop contributors to UN peacekeeping.

For over seven decades, Pakistani Blue Helmets have served with professionalism, courage, and distinction in 48 missions across four continents. More than 250,000 Pakistani peacekeepers have served under the UN flag, and 182 of our bravest have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of international peace and security. Despite the challenges, the Pakistani envoy said UN peacekeeping remains one of the most effective, legitimate, and cost-efficient tools available to the international community, highlighting that independent studies confirm that it is far less costly, and far more legitimate, than unilateral interventions, as with a total annual budget of about \$5.5 billion, it accounts for less than 0.3 percent of global military expenditure. "It (UN peacekeeping) continues to save lives, monitor ceasefires, protect civilians, and stabilize fragile regions," Ambassador Asim Ahmad said, emphasizing that the conflict-ridden world needs stronger peace operations - not weaker ones. Pakistan, he said, supports reforms and improving efficiencies in the peacekeeping. — Agencies

Syria joins alliance against the Islamic State

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Syria is joining the global coalition against the militant Islamic State (IS) group, a United States' official said on Monday hours after US President Donald Trump welcomed his Syrian counterpart Ahmed al-Sharaa for historic White House talks. Sharaa, whose rebel forces ousted longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad in December last year, was the first Syrian leader to visit the White House since the Middle Eastern country's independence in 1946. But the 43-year-old's landmark visit to the Oval Office came just days after Washington removed him from its terrorism list. Sharaa's group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), was formerly affiliated with Al-Qaeda. "During the visit, Syria announced that it is joining the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS," becoming the 90th member of the alliance and "partnering with the United States to eliminate ISIS remnants and halt foreign fighter flows",



a senior administration official said.

According to the official, Syria will also be allowed to resume diplomatic relations with Washington "to further counterterrorism, security, and economic coordination". Trump said he wanted Syria to become "very successful" after more than a decade of civil war and added that he believed Sharaa "can do it, I really do". "He's a very strong leader. He comes from a very tough place, and he's a tough guy," Trump told reporters after the meeting, which was closed to press. "People said he's had a rough past, we've all had rough pasts... And I think, frankly, if you didn't have a rough past, you wouldn't have a chance."

Supreme Court reinstates FC official

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has reinstated Frontier Constabulary (FC) official Hassan Afridi, setting aside his dismissal from service on allegations of drug smuggling. The case was heard by a two-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah. Hassan Afridi had challenged his termination, arguing that he was dismissed solely on the basis of an intelligence report without any concrete evidence. During the hearing, Afridi's counsel, Umar Farooq Adam, contended that the dismissal was made on the basis of a confidential intelligence report, and no independent or verifiable material was produced to substantiate the allegation. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah questioned whether there was any credible evidence apart from the intelligence report and observed that such reports alone cannot form the basis of punitive action. The bench noted that reliance solely on an intelligence report, without supporting evidence or a proper inquiry, fails to meet the standards of fairness and due process. The court held that since no reliable evidence existed beyond the intelligence report, the dismissal could not be sustained in law. Consequently, the Supreme Court accepted Hassan Afridi's appeal and ordered his reinstatement in service. The judgment reinforces the principle that disciplinary action against public servants must be supported by credible evidence and conducted in accordance with due process, not merely based on unverified intelligence inputs. — APP

US passes bill to end govt shutdown

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States Senate on Monday approved a compromise that would end the longest government shutdown in US history, breaking a weeks-long stalemate that has disrupted food benefits for millions, left hundreds of thousands of federal workers unpaid and snarled air traffic. The 60-40 vote passed with the support of nearly all of the chamber's Republicans and eight Democrats, who unsuccessfully sought to tie government funding to health subsidies that are due to expire at the end of the year. While the agreement sets up a December vote on those subsidies, which benefit 24 million Americans, it does not guarantee they will continue. The deal would restore funding for federal agencies that lawmakers allowed to expire on October 1 and would stall President Donald Trump's campaign to downsize the federal workforce, preventing any layoffs until January 30. It next heads to the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, where Speaker Mike Johnson has said he would like to pass it as soon as Wednesday and send it on to Trump to sign it into law.

Pak raises alarm at UN over Afghan arms' stockpiles

Groups including Daesh-K, TTP, BLA, Majeed Brigade used these weapons against civilians, forces, says envoy

DNA

NEW YORK: Pakistan cautioned the UN on Monday that the free movement of illegal arms within Afghanistan, many of them modern weapons now used by anti-Pakistan militant outfits, represents a serious regional risk and a key point of friction in its troubled relationship with Kabul. Ambassador Asim Ifkhar Ahmad, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, raised the issue during the UN Security Council Open Debate on Small Arms, stressing that Islamabad remains deeply concerned about developments in Afghanistan. "Pakistan is seriously concerned about the presence of stockpiles of sophisticated arms and ammunition in Afghanistan, as noted in the findings of the Secretary General's reports," the ambassador told the members in attendance. "These sophisticated weapons pose a direct threat to neighbouring countries." The Pakistani and Afghan militaries clashed last month, killing dozens, in the worst violence since the

Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021. Both sides signed a ceasefire in Doha in October, but negotiations in Istanbul ended without a long-term deal due to a disagreement over militant groups hostile to Pakistan that operate inside Afghanistan. Pakistan has repeatedly shared its concerns related to the presence of Fitna-al-Khawarizj and Fitna-al-Hindustan operating from Afghan soil, and it expects concrete and verifiable actions against these terrorist elements by the Taliban regime. Citing smuggling networks and local threats, Ahmad said, "We also have credible information of attempts to smuggle these arms to neighbouring countries for terrorist activities. Weapons confiscated at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border are traced back to stockpiles of weapons left behind by foreign forces in Afghanistan and illegal weapons being sold across black markets in Afghanistan. The movement of unmarked or unregistered weapons across the international border sustains and aids non-state armed groups, terrorist networks, and criminal gangs, undermining regional security and stability," he said.



NOVEMBER 2025

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