



Thursday, November 13, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Pak, France mull coop in mineral, other explorations

Detailed News On Page-02

We have majority but not consensus: Bilawal Bhutto

Detailed News On Page-01


Pakistan to participate in IWT meetings

Detailed News On Page-08



Opposition cries foul

Govt secures passage of amendment

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), repeating its course of action during today's session, walked out and did not partake in the voting. Some opposition members tore up the copies of the bill

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill on Wednesday amid an opposition walkout, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulating lawmakers on approving the legislation. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the Bill – which was passed with 234 votes in favour and four against – that seeks to change the judicial structure and military command. It included eight amendments – not part of the version earlier approved by the Senate – aimed at clarifying the chief justice's position. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), repeating its course of action during today's session, walked out and did not partake in the voting. Some opposition tore up the copies of the bill. However, four members from the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), once a close ally of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), were the only lawmakers to register their votes against the amendments. The government introduced four changes and removed the same number. The term "Federal Constitutional Court" has been added to Clause 2 of Article 6 of the Constitution. The word "Supreme Court" has been inserted in Article 10 of the Constitution. Moreover, Article 176 has been amended, stipulating that the incumbent chief justice will remain Chief Justice of Pakistan until the completion of the current term. Clause 2 of Article 255 has been amended to address the appointment of the Chief Justice of Pakistan after the current term. Clarifying the situation further, the law minister mentioned that the senior-most among the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court will be designated as Chief Justice of Pakistan. The multi-clause amendment bill required a two-thirds majority in the 336-member House. The ruling coalition easily secured the required votes, with the PML-N holding 125 seats, the PPP 74, the MQM-P 22, the PML-Q four, the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party four, and one seat each held by

Continued on Page 06

'Aminuddin Khan likely to head the Constitutional Court'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Justice Aminuddin Khan, who currently heads the constitutional bench of the Supreme Court, is expected to be appointed as the Chief Justice of the upcoming Federal Constitutional Court (FCC). Sources told Dawn the FCC would initially comprise six other judges – four from the Supreme Court and two from the high courts – besides the chief justice. The names being discussed for the inaugural composition include Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Aamer Farooq, and Justice Baqar Najafi from the SC, while Justice K.K. Agha of the Sindh High Court and Justice Rozi Khan Barrech, the incumbent Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court, are being considered from the high courts. Sources said that the initial strength of the FCC would be determined through a Presidential Order, while any subsequent increase in the number of judges would require approval through an Act of the Parliament. The sources further disclosed that the President would administer the oath to the Chief Justice of the FCC, while the remaining judges would take oath from the newly-appointed Chief Justice.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Afghan link being probed in Islamabad blast

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: A suicide attack outside the judicial complex housing the Islamabad district and sessions courts on Tuesday killed 12 people and injured at least 36, including four women and four policemen. It was the first such attack in the capital in nearly three years. The blast occurred as Islamabad was hosting several international events, including the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference and the 6th Margalla Dialogue, while a tri-nation cricket series featuring Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe is underway, with a match in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. Officials said the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had claimed responsibility for the suicide attack.

Tajik defence minister calls on Gen Sahir

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Colonel General Sobirzoda Emomali Abdulrahim, Defence Minister of Tajikistan, called on General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi. Both sides discussed wide range of matters of bilateral interest especially prevailing global and regional security environment. The dignitaries also reviewed measures aimed at further enhancing the scope and level of military cooperation between the two countries. The Chairman JCSC highlighted that Pakistan and Tajikistan, as brotherly nations, remain constructively engaged in strengthening their defence relations and to promote peace and stability in the region.

27th Amendment

Govt enjoys majority yet couldn't evolve consensus, says Bilawal

Bilawal said Pakistan's armed forces had once again proven their professionalism and valor by downing six Indian aircraft

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said that while the government enjoys a clear majority in Parliament, it was unfortunate that consensus could not be developed on the 27th Constitutional Amendment. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, Bilawal emphasized that the PPP and the coalition government remain fully committed to the Charter of Democracy and to strengthening the parliamentary system in line with constitutional principles. Bilawal said that the proposed 27th Amendment includes significant reforms, including the establishment of a Constitutional Court to ensure judicial accountability and to prevent overlapping jurisdiction among courts. He said the amendment also seeks to amend

Continued on Page 06

Tarar laments opposition's hollow resistance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday criticized what he termed the opposition's "hollow" resistance to the 27th Amendment, noting that they had not even read the bill. Speaking to the media outside Parliament House, he said that making noise and crafting political narratives without studying the legislation serves no purpose. He added that instead of rejecting a comprehensive, clause-by-clause

Continued on Page 06

Security at courts, key sites tightened

Enhanced security measures being taken at residential areas of judges, Chinese projects, says IGP Punjab

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Usman Anwar said on Wednesday that security personnel have been placed on high alert across the province, including the courts, in response to the current security situation. The enhanced security measures are being taken in the wake of Tuesday's suicide blast in Islamabad, which killed 11 and injured 36. In a statement, the provincial police chief said that security has also been beefed up at courts and judicial precincts, judges' residential areas, and other sensitive locations. He said that under the supervision of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), search operations are ongoing on

Continued on Page 06

CM Afridi opposes making anti-terror policies 'behind doors'

ANP's Iftikhar Hussain urges KP govt to focus on province's interests, avoid "political conflicts" with Centre



BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Wednesday said that decisions on anti-terror policy made "behind closed doors" and "imposed" on the province have so far failed to produce the desired results. Speaking at Aman Jirga, the chief minister said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government repeatedly empha-

sised peace, but unfortunately, "some people" did not welcome it. "Peace can only be achieved with the complete eradication of terrorism, and policy on the matter is decided behind closed doors, which so far has not yielded the desired results," CM Afridi, who replaced Ali Amin Gandapur as chief executive last month, added. In his maiden speech in the provincial assembly after being elected as the CM, Afridi had criticised the federal government's policies and urged that local representatives, parliamentarians, people, and elders should be taken into confidence on anti-terror policy. "We want a shift in this policy. It (policy making) should move out of closed rooms," the chief minister said while addressing the Aman Jirga. CM Afridi said an inclusive approach should be adopted involving politicians, security forces, and other stakeholders in the formulation of counterterrorism strategies. CM Afridi said that lasting peace can only be achieved through collaboration. The chief minister called for a participatory policy, formulated with all stakeholders, saying, "If such a policy is implemented, it will be widely accepted, and terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be completely eradicated." He was of the view that war should always remain the last option in counterterrorism efforts, reiterating that other

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Tarik Ali Khan, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Canada, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House. – DNA

Friendly bonds

PM, Canadian envoy discuss strengthening the bilateral relations

Ambassador Tarik Ali Khan thanked the Prime Minister for the warm reception and reaffirmed his commitment to further enhance bilateral ties

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Tarik Ali Khan, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House on Wednesday. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Tariq Fatemi, and the Foreign Secretary were also present at the meeting. The Prime Minister congratulated Ambassador Khan on his appointment and expressed confidence that his tenure would further bolster the friendly and long-standing relations between Pakistan and Canada. He conveyed his warm regards to the Canadian leadership and emphasized his desire to work closely with them to deepen cooperation in diverse fields. Highlighting mines and minerals as a key area of mutual interest, the Prime Minister noted that Barrick Gold's participation in the Reko Diq project symbolized a new chapter of economic collaboration between the two countries. He termed the venture a potential success story of Pakistan-Canada cooperation in sustainable development and investment.

Continued on Page 06

PM invites Bilawal for talks on 18th amend.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday invited PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari for separate talks, emphasising that any changes to the 18th Amendment or NFC Award require comprehensive consultation. In his address to the National Assembly, the prime minister stressed that strengthening provinces strengthens the federation, and anything weakening it harms Pakistan. "I want to say that there isn't any difference in mine and his [Bilawal] thinking. If the provinces are strong, then the federation will also be strengthened," said PM Shehbaz at the National Assembly in Islamabad. He appreciated the provinces' service tax collection, saying it should improve further, and noted that

Continued on Page 06

Prestige Club Goes GLOBAL

Unlock unparalleled experiences in over 33 Serena destinations across 8 countries.

serenahotels.com | prestigeclub@serenahotels.com

Democratic Republic of Congo | Kenya | Mozambique | Pakistan | Rwanda | Tajikistan | Tanzania | Uganda

Rangers, CTD arrest most-wanted militant linked to 'Fitna Al-Khawarij'

KARACHI: Pakistan Rangers Sindh and the Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a joint intelligence-based operation in Sher Shah area, arresting a most-wanted militant associated with the banned outfit Fitna Al-Khawarij. According to a Rangers spokesperson on Wednesday, the suspect, identified as Muhammad Noor alias Khum, son of Wali Khan, was apprehended during the raid. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from his possession. During initial interrogation, the accused confessed to involvement in targeted killings, extortion, bomb blasts, kidnappings for ransom, and multiple armed encounters with law enforcement agencies. He admitted to carrying out these crimes along with his accomplices including Abid Muchhar, Umar Khattab Mehsud, Qayyum Mehsud, Azam Khan, Khan Zaman, Zawail Mehsud, Syed Badshah alias Adrak, Abdul Rehman, Abdul Hakeem, Siddiq Ullah, Khazan Gul, and Abid Chhota.—APP

Crackdown launched on smoke-emitting vehicles

MULTAN: A renewed crackdown had been launched against smoke-emitting vehicles as part of anti-smog measures on Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner Wasim Ahmed Sindhu directed the Transport Department and the secretary of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) to immediately remove such vehicles from roads to help reduce pollution and related health issues in the city. As part of the campaign, the DC also ordered the closure of brick kilns operating mainly in suburban areas to achieve more effective results. He instructed officials to ensure indiscriminate action against both violations. The DC said that the Environment Department had also been engaged to conduct a joint operation against various sources of air pollution. He added that dusty patches around the city were being regularly sprinkled with water in view of the increasing threat of smog.—APP

Awareness campaign for clean Lahore

LAHORE: Commissioner Lahore Division Maryam Khan chaired a meeting regarding the Suthra Punjab and Clean Lahore campaign, directing the launch of a one-week public awareness drive to promote cleanliness across the division. She instructed that banners and warning notices be displayed at various points to discourage littering in open areas and to educate citizens about proper waste disposal. She said that in the first phase, awareness activities will be carried out in selected union councils and areas of Lahore and other districts.—APP

Pak, France join hands to explore opportunities in minerals

NA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Embassy of France in Pakistan, hosted a high-level webinar titled "Pakistan's Minerals Economy: Gateway to Growth" to highlight the country's vast mineral resources and promote investment opportunities for French companies and investors in the minerals and mining sector. The event was co-chaired by Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik and French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey at the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDC) Headquarters in Islamabad. Mr. Benjamin Gallezot, Interministerial delegate for supplies of strategic minerals and metals/ Advisor to French President on mining, led the French side online. The webinar brought together senior officials from the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), leading Pakistani mineral and energy companies, and French business representatives. Pakistan's Ambassador to France, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, also joined the session virtually. Participants included MD/CEO OGDC Ahmed Hayat Lak, Managing Directors of GHPL, PPL and PMDC, the Director General Mines, and senior executives from various public and private sector entities. Several French companies and diplomats attended virtually, exploring areas of mutual interest and potential partnerships in Pakistan's minerals sector. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik highlighted Pakistan's immense potential in copper, gold, and rare earth elements, which are essential for the global transition to clean energy technologies and electric vehicles. He said the government is committed to developing a sustainable and transparent minerals sector that supports both national growth and global energy needs. "The global shift toward green energy has made minerals such as copper, lithium, and rare earth elements crucial to future technologies. Pakistan's mineral-rich regions, especially in Balochistan's Chaghi belt, offer immense opportunities for investment," Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik said. "The Government of Pakistan, through the SIFC, is fully committed to providing all facilitation and a transparent regulatory framework to attract international investors and build strong, long-term partnerships." Minister Malik noted that the Government has introduced several initiatives to improve the



ease of doing business in the minerals sector, including the development of a National Minerals Harmonisation Framework, digitalisation of geological data, and revitalisation of the Geological Survey of Pakistan. These measures aim to ensure greater transparency and data accessibility for potential investors. The minister also highlighted the success of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025 (PMIF25), which attracted over 5,000 delegates from more than 50 countries and resulted in 16 MoUs being signed. The next edition, PMIF26, is scheduled to take place in April 2026. "PMIF serves as a global platform to bring together investors, experts, and companies, offering a gateway for international collaboration in Pakistan's minerals sector," Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik added. French Ambassador Nicolas Galey appreciated Pakistan's efforts to strengthen its mining and investment environment and expressed France's interest in exploring partnerships in the sector. He said French companies recognise Pakistan's resource potential and are keen to engage in sustainable mining ventures.

"France sees great potential in Pakistan's minerals sector. We look forward to deepening cooperation and facilitating the exchange of information and expertise," Ambassador Galey remarked. Benjamin Gallezot, Advisor to French President on mining, said that this forum is very helpful for highlighting the opportunities in Pakistan's Mineral sector for French companies. Participants were also briefed on the Government's focus on ensuring investor facilitation and project security. The session discussed collaborative frameworks between Pakistani and French companies for exploration, processing, and value addition in the minerals supply chain. OGDC MD/CEO Ahmed Hayat Lak said Pakistani companies are open to partnerships with French firms in both ongoing and upcoming projects. "Pakistan's mineral industry offers promising investment opportunities, and we welcome French companies to collaborate in exploration and development initiatives. We are ready to discuss potential partnerships that can drive mutual growth," he said.

Peace jirga to devise durable solution to terrorism: Afridi

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sohail Afridi, has said that the ongoing peace jirga will pave the way for a durable solution to the menace of terrorism in the province. Addressing the jirga at the KP Assembly Hall, the chief minister emphasized the need for an "out-of-the-box" approach. The chief minister stressed that politicians, with the support of all stakeholders, must formulate a long-term strategy. "Peace is our top priority. The people of the province, political leadership, police, and security forces have all rendered immense sacrifices in the fight against terrorism," he said. Sohail Afridi stated that the aim of the peace jirga is to collectively identify effective solutions, and the provincial government would fully implement the decisions made by the jirga. He called for release of provincial shares under the NFC Award. Concluding his address, Sohail Afridi expressed optimism that the peace jirga would lead to a lasting and practical solution to the challenges facing the province.—APP

Sindh CM orders speedy rehabilitation for flood victims

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a high-level meeting on the province's development portfolio and directed concerned departments to accelerate work on major federal, provincial, and foreign-assisted road projects to ensure their timely completion. The meeting, attended by Provincial Ministers Jam Khan Shoro and Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman Planning & Development Najam Shah, and senior officials, reviewed progress under the Federal PSDP 2025-26, Sindh ADP 2025-26, and the ADB-assisted Flood Emergency Reconstruction Project CM Murad Ali Shah said road infrastructure forms the backbone of Sindh's economic development and must be completed within set timelines. "People of Sindh must see tangible

progress on the ground. Our priority is to complete projects that directly serve the public and strengthen regional connectivity," he emphasised. Sindh Coastal Highway (36 km) – Rs3.7 billion project, with Rs2.6 billion federal and Rs1 billion provincial share and the CM termed it a "strategic lifeline" for coastal development and directed completion by June 2027. Other projects which were reviewed were Rohri-Guddu Barrage Road (105 km) – Rs17.79 billion project connecting upper Sindh with southern Punjab. The CM ordered expeditious work and completion by June 2027. Tando Allahyar-Tando Adam Dualization (31.4 km) – Rs9.28 billion scheme; CM directed immediate release of Sindh's Rs2.59 billion share to speed up progress. Mehran Highway (Nawabshah-Ranipur, 135 km) – Rs41.03 billion

corridor vital for intra-provincial trade; CM instructed completion by June 2027. Sanghar-Rohri via Mudh Jamrao and Salehput (221 km) – Rs35.08 billion project with Rs1.12 billion provincial share. The CM said the road would "open new opportunities for rural communities and boost agricultural trade." The Chief Minister also reviewed the ADB-assisted Sindh Flood Emergency Reconstruction Project (EFAP) – a Rs48.4 billion initiative covering 724 km of flood-damaged roads, approved by ECNEC in December 2022 and launched in January 2024. So far, 538 km have been completed, with 96 per cent of the provincial share – Rs4.25 billion – utilised. The revised PCI, under consideration, expands the scope to 873 km with an updated cost of Rs62.53 billion, reflecting additional works and tax adjustments.—APP

Climate-responsive research in agriculture stressed

HYDERABAD: The Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam Engr. Prof. Dr. Altaf Ali Siyal on Wednesday emphasized that universities and research institutions must align their scientific studies with the emerging challenges of climate change, as new threats were arising each day due to shifting weather patterns. According to a statement issued by the spokesperson of SAU, he was addressing the concluding session of a one-day training workshop organized by the department of plant breeding and genetics (PBG) on the theme "Bioinformatics, Sequence Retrieval, Gene Identification and Phylogenetic Analysis." Dr. Siyal said that research must remain relevant to time, environment and crop risks to ensure a sustainable future for agriculture. The Vice Chancellor added that SAU was actively promoting innovation through research.—APP

4,500 flood victims provided financial assistance in Chinot district

FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Health and Population Khawaja Imran Nazir said on Wednesday that for the first time in the history of country as well as Punjab province, the CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif had allocated funds for flood victims from her own resources. He said that financial assistance had been given transparently to 4,500 victims in Chinot district and the remaining 10,000 would also get soon. During his visit to the Chinot district, he observed the process of providing financial assistance to flood victims at the flood rehabilitation centre

set up at the hockey stadium. Deputy Commissioner Chinot Safiullah Gondal briefed about the ongoing process of providing financial relief to flood victims. The minister also visited the Bank of Punjab and health centres, ATM machine and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements. He also talked to the victims, inquired about the provision of food and drinking water and also distributed ATM cards among them. Later, talking to the media, the minister said that immediately after the worst flood, a door to door survey was conducted transparently in flood hit areas to ascertain the losses of the

people, adding that today the financial assistance was being provided to victims in the light of such survey reports. He said that Maryam Nawaz Sharif had truly played the role of a mother, sister and daughter and would not take rest until the last flood victim was provided with financial assistance. The provincial minister thanked the media representatives for their positive reporting on the flood situation. He said that health teams worked together to provide treatment facilities to the victims during the flood, and even, the clinic on board reached those areas where access was not possible/difficult.—APP

RUDA seals 12 factories in one month

LAHORE: The Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) continued its anti-smog operation in the provincial capital, sealing over a dozen factories in the past month for violating environmental regulations. According to a spokesperson, RUDA sealed factories in Babakwal and Mahmood Booti areas, including Asphalt Bleaching Plant, Shahzad Mill, Aatif, BM, Haji Alif Unit, and Mashallah Steel, for failing to comply with environmental standards. The authority also got registered a case against the owner of one of the factories and issued warning letters to several other industrial units for non-compliance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).—APP

RCCI hosts 36th Int'l achievement awards

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) hosted its 36th International Achievement Awards ceremony in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The prestigious event celebrated outstanding accomplishments in business, innovation, and industry, while fostering regional trade, investment, and industrial cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The Chief Guest, H.E. Kurdatov Laziz Shavkatovich, Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan, in his remarks, Minister Kudratov Laziz Shavkatovich lauded the growing business partnership between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and identified key areas for future collaboration, including fruits and vegetables, textiles, pharmaceuticals, tourism and information technology. He also commended RCCI's efforts to promote cross-border collaboration and economic partnership. Group Leader and Former RCCI President Sohail Altaf received memento for his dynamic leadership and unwavering advocacy on behalf of Pakistan's business community, particularly on critical budgetary and policy matters including controversial clauses in fiscal budget 2025-26. The Lifetime Achievement Award to former RCCI President Syed Asad Mashadi, in recognition of his outstanding services, visionary leadership, and lasting contributions to the growth and empowerment of Pakistan's business sector. His recognition stands as a tribute not only to his personal achievements but also to the collective strength and progressive spirit of RCCI and its members. The ceremony was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, including H.E. Ahmed Farooq, Pakistan's Ambassador to Uzbekistan; Alisher Shaikhov, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan; and Zaheer Abbas, Pakistan's Trade Counselor in Tashkent.—APP

APNS women publishers meet DG PID



DNA

KARACHI: A delegation of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), led by Chairperson of the Women Publishing Committee and Founder & Editor-in-Chief of Monthly Dastak, Fauzia Shaheen, called on Director General, Press and Information Department (PID), Iram Tanveer in her office yesterday. The delegation comprised Zahida Abbasi, Editor-in-Chief of Daily Nau Sijj, Karachi, and Haseena Jatoi, Editor-in-Chief of Daily Moomal, Karachi. During the meeting, the delegation discussed various issues confronting the print media sector and Urdu journals, particularly those related to the fair dis-

tribution of government advertisements, the revision of advertisement rates, and the clearance of pending arrears. DG PID Iram Tanveer gave a patient hearing to all concerns raised by the delegation and assured them of full cooperation from the department in resolving their problems. She emphasized that supporting women-led publications and journals is one of the government's key priorities. "God willing, these long-standing issues will be resolved very soon," she assured. Later, the Women Publishing Committee delegation also met with Director of Advertisements Sindh, Yousif Kabooro, and apprised him of the challenges faced by Urdu journals and women publishers, particularly regarding advertisement allocations and overdue payments.

Kabooro assured the delegation that the Sindh government is fully aware of the financial difficulties being faced by small and women-run publications. He vowed to take serious and immediate steps to resolve the pending issues and ensure timely release of advertisement payments. "Issuing advertisements to women publishers' journals is our top priority, and we will make every effort to address their grievances without delay," he added. The delegation expressed gratitude to DG PID Iram Tanveer and Director Advertisements Sindh Yousif Kabooro for their positive response and assurance of cooperation, terming the meetings productive and encouraging for the future of women-led print media in Pakistan.

freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING

Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

Head Office

3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.

Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92 51) 2825132, 2274227.

E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Branch Offices

Karachi House No. 415, 3rd Floor, Khatkhata Mall, Main Tariq Road, 172-1 Block-2, P.E.C.H.S. Karachi. Tel: (+92 21) 3453068, 34519479 Fax: (+92 21) 3453170 E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com	Lahore P-4, Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92 42) 3575081, 3571108 Fax: (+92 42) 3571428 E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com	Peshawar Office No. C-6, 3rd Floor, Zohar Plaza, Left Road, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92 91) 2502778 Fax: (+92 91) 2502688 E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com	Rabat House #4, Street #4, Chergui Anzari Road, Shahr-e-Nasr, Rabat - Alghabien. Tel: (+212) 777 77 77, 77 77 77 77, 77 77 77 77 E-mail: rabat@freelinemovers.com
--	---	---	---

National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria
National Day

Nov 04/Italy
Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation
Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia
National Day

Nov 11/Poland
Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan
Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium
Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil
Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
National Day

Nov 18/Oman
National Day

Nov 18/Morocco
Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh
Armed Forces Day

Nov 22/Lebanon
Independence Day

Nov 25/Suriname
National Day

Nov 28/Mauritania
National Day

Nov 28/Albania
Flags Day



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

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

Emergency Ambulance.1122

& Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police.....9266044

Motorway Police.9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343



Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

ISC ties vital diplomatic channel for peace building

ISLAMABAD: Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Ali Sahin on Wednesday underscored that no country alone can confront today's interconnected crises, calling inter-parliamentary relations "a vital diplomatic channel" for dialogue and peacebuilding.Addressing the concluding session of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) hosted by the Senate of Pakistan, he said that parliaments hold a unique responsibility to bridge nations through diplomacy and cooperation in addressing global crises. He lauded Pakistan's efforts in hosting the conference, terming it an important step toward "strengthening multilateralism in an era of strategic competition, conflicts, and climate challenges." Highlighting Türkiye's active role in global mediation, he said Ankara co-chairs the Groups of Friends of Mediation under the United Nations, OSCE, and OIC, and continues to promote peaceful solutions in conflict zones. "Türkiye has never refrained from making efforts to end conflicts and tensions, wherever they may arise," he said, citing mediation efforts in South Asia, the Caucasus, and Ukraine, as

well as humanitarian assistance for Gaza. Sahin called for global unity against terrorism, stressing that "no distinction should be made among terrorist organizations." He reaffirmed Türkiye's support for the Palestinian cause, condemning Israel's ongoing aggression and calling for the protection of human rights and delivery of unhindered humanitarian aid in Gaza. He also expressed concern over Israel's attacks on Iran and stressed that all disputes must be resolved through diplomacy, not confrontation. On regional cooperation, the Turkish lawmaker praised progress toward peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and reaffirmed Türkiye's continued support for the rights of Turkish Cypriots. Sahin further highlighted Türkiye's climate initiatives, including the Zero Waste Initiative, which has become a global model after its adoption by the UN. He said the world must now link peace and security to climate action, adding, "Every joint step we take in this direction will serve as a guarantee of both global peace and shared security."Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) of the Islamic Republic

of Iran, Ali Nikzad, strongly condemned Israel's human rights violations in Palestine and its recent attacks on Iran, stressing that "true peace is possible only through justice."

He said the world was at a "critical juncture" and criticized the Zionist regime for "interpreting international law according to its own interests." "Security and peace are not commodities and cannot be achieved by intervening in other countries," he remarked, condemning "genocide and bloodshed in Palestine." Dr. Nekzad stressed that the security of one nation cannot come at the cost of another's insecurity, emphasizing that parliaments must lead governments in the pursuit of justice and peace. "The parliament is the voice of the people – it must play a pivotal role in building peace and sustainable development," he added.From the Republic of Mauritius, Mohamed Eshan Juman, Member of the National Assembly, delivered a compelling address highlighting the interdependence of peace, security, and development. "There can be no peace without security, no security without de-

velopment, and no development without peace," he said, praising Pakistan for hosting the conference that "strengthens trust, dialogue, and solidarity among nations." Juman said peace is more than the absence of conflict – it is "the presence of justice, dialogue, and mutual respect." He shared Mauritius' experience as a diverse society where "different cultures, languages, and faiths live together in harmony," calling it proof that peace begins with understanding and tolerance. He warned that climate change poses the most urgent security threat for small island states like Mauritius, and urged collective global action to safeguard both people and planet. "True security must embrace human, climate, and economic dimensions," he said, adding that parliaments must ensure that progress "leaves no one behind – especially the most vulnerable." Concluding his remarks, Juman called for global parliamentary unity in defending peace through justice, securing the world through cooperation, and achieving development through sustainability and inclusion.

Siddiqui stresses education as foundation for progress

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, on Wednesday stated that education marks the first step toward the country's development and emphasized that the true test for students begins as they enter the professional world. Addressing the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) as chief guest, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui urged the successful graduates to continue their pursuit of knowledge in their professional lives. He emphasized that learning should not end with academic achievement, but must remain a lifelong struggle in practical fields. Congratulating the graduates, the Federal Minister emphasized that their success is a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the quality education provided by Allama Iqbal Open University, along with the efforts and competence of its teachers. He urged them to adapt to contemporary changes to contribute effectively to the country's progress. During the convocation, the Vice Chancellor extended special congratulations to the medal recipients, emphasizing that their achievements and honors stand as a source of national pride. He revealed that approximately five million students have graduated from the university to date.He said that the university playing a key role in imparting education to the people, especially in remote areas of the country and deserving Students. A total of 800 male and female students were conferred degrees for successfully completing their academic programs while Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to those who demonstrated outstanding performance. The ceremony was attended by Secretary of Education Acting Chairman Higher Education Commission Nadeem Mahbub, Vice Chancellors of various universities, faculty members and distinguished social and political figures.—APP



RAWALPINDI: Construction work underway on the major remodeling project of Kachehri Chowk, one of the busiest intersections linking Rawalpindi city, is underway to ensure a smoother traffic flow for over 200,000 vehicles passing daily through the twin cities' route.

Call for enhanced beautification in Rawalpindi parks

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Horticulture Authority (PHA) Director General, Naheed Gul Baloch on Wednesday visited several public parks in Rawalpindi and directed the authorities concerned to further enhance public facilities, improve greenery, and beautify recreational areas across the city. Accompanied by Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi, Ahmed Hassan Ranjha, Ms. Baloch visited Adiala Park, Magnificent Park, and Rawal Park in Dhok Munshi, where she inspected ongoing upgradation and beautification works. During the visit, Ahmed Hassan Ranjha briefed her on the progress of various projects for enhancing the city's

green spaces, jogging tracks, and children's play areas. He also highlighted ongoing and upcoming beautification and infrastructure development projects, including those along Murree Road. Ms. Baloch appreciated the performance of PHA Rawalpindi and emphasized the importance of continuing efforts to make Rawalpindi a model green city. She instructed officials to ensure that parks are equipped with improved public amenities and well-maintained floral decorations to offer citizens a more pleasant and healthy environment. "The beautification of parks and the provision of better recreational spaces

should be prioritized so that the people of Rawalpindi can enjoy a cleaner, greener, and more attractive city," she added.

Later, Ms. Baloch visited the office of the Parks and Horticulture Authority Rawalpindi, where a detailed discussion was held on future projects and strategies for expanding the city's horticultural landscape.

Ahmed Hassan Ranjha reaffirmed the authority's commitment to providing better recreational facilities and a sustainable green environment to the residents, announcing that several new projects would be launched soon to further enhance the city's natural beauty.—APP

SECP registers 14,802 new companies in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 14,802 new companies in the first four months of the fiscal year 2025, reflecting growing confidence in the country's corporate sector. Of these incorporations, 99.9% were processed online through eZile, bringing the total number of registered companies in Pakistan to 272,918. The total paid-up capital for the period stood at Rs. 20.59 billion, said a news release. In terms of company structure, private limited companies accounted for 59% of new registrations, followed by single-member companies at 37%. The remaining 4% comprised public unlisted companies, not-for-profit organizations, trade organizations, and limited liability partnerships. Additionally, 10 foreign companies established a place of business in Pakistan during this period. These companies were registered online through SECP's digital platform, enabling entrepreneurs from across the country to incorporate their businesses without the need to physically visit SECP offices. Alongside major urban centers such as Lahore, Islamabad, and Karachi, a significant number of registrations—nearly 30% of the total—originated from approximately 250 other cities and towns across Pakistan. These include Layyah, Burewala, Bhakkar, Pakpattan, Hasilpur, Chaman, Gwadar, Zhob, Turbat, Bannu, Kohat, Tank, Swat, Manshera, Thatta, Larkana, Dadu, Rohri, Hunza, and Gilgit, reflecting

the growing outreach of SECP's digital services. Province-wise data shows that 7,476 companies were registered in Punjab, followed by the Islamabad Capital Territory (3,230), Sindh (2,197), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (1,320), Gilgit-Baltistan (337), and Balochistan (242). The Information Technology and e-commerce sectors led with 2,999 new incorporations, followed by trading (1,954), services (1,807), and real estate development and construction (1,393). Other active sectors included tourism and transport (1,042), education (787), food and beverages (751), mining and quarrying (346), marketing and advertisement (342), textile (327), pharmaceuticals (284), agricultural farming (242), healthcare (242), cosmetics and toiletries (229), engineering (236), fuel and energy (188), chemical (184), and auto and allied (153). An additional 1,296 companies were registered across various other sectors, including not-for-profit associations, cable and electric goods, communications, power generation, logging, sports, arts and culture, steel, broadcasting and telecasting, paper and board, insurance, and NBFCs. Foreign investment also showed positive momentum, with 332 newly registered companies receiving capital from international investors across diverse jurisdictions, including Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Comoros, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria, the Netherlands, Norway,

Portugal, Philippines, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the UK, the United States, and Vietnam. As part of its efforts to enhance market access and promote financial inclusion, the SECP issued a total of 94 licenses during the period across various regulatory domains. These included 8 licenses in the Capital Market sector, 15 licenses to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and 25 licenses to entities operating as Securities Market / Futures Brokers / Consultants to the Issue / Share Registrars and Balloters / Underwriters / BTI and DST—including 5 new licenses and 20 renewals. Furthermore, the Commission issued 4 licenses to Insurance Surveyors (comprising 2 new and 2 renewed licenses) and 42 licenses to Not-for-Profit Associations. The SECP is launching a comprehensive awareness drive to promote the advantages of incorporation within the business community. These advantages include limited liability, separate legal entity status, enhanced credibility, scalability, perpetual succession, structured governance, tax efficiency, easier access to finance, and stronger brand protection. The SECP remains committed to strengthening its digital infrastructure and streamlining regulatory processes to promote entrepreneurship, attract investment, and support sustainable economic development.—DNA

Ombudsman for global efforts to promote HRs

ISLAMABAD: The Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) and President of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, has said that the ombuds fraternity is globally contributing towards promoting and protecting human rights, civil liberties, good governance and the rule of law. He was addressing an 'International Conference on Constitution and the Rule of Law in Contemporary Legal Systems', organized as part of the 'Year of Constitution and Sovereignty' celebrations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, said a press release. The Wafaqi Mohtasib said that ombudsmanship is aimed at making the state institutions more vibrant, effective and efficient, thereby, improving their service delivery in accordance with the law of the land. The ombuds institutions, he said, serves as enablers which promote transparency, accountability, equality, fair and just practices. Qureshi highlighted the centrality of rule of law in promoting good governance and protecting the citizen's rights and said that people are the ultimate stakeholders and their well-being remains supreme in any democratic dispensation. Qureshi warmly felicitated the government and the people of Republic of Azerbaijan on the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the constitution and the 5th anniversary of the restoration of sovereignty and said that both events are important milestones in the country's history. He added that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoyed close and fraternal relations which are rooted deep in history, religion and culture. He expressed the confidence that these ties would grow further in the days to come and the ombudsman institutions in both countries would continue to work together in promoting good governance, the rule of law and inclusivity. The international conference was attended by the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan and heads of various Ombudsman and Judicial institutions in the Asian region.—APP

Full implementation of Article 140-A urged to protect citizens' rights

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Wednesday stressed the need for the full implementation of Article 140-A of the Constitution to ensure devolution of powers to the grassroots level and safeguard the democratic and economic rights of the people. Speaking in the National Assembly during debate on the 27th Constitutional Amendment, Dr. Khalid said the proposed amendment could become a source of justice, stability, prosperity, unity, and national defense. However, he was of the view that the benefits of democracy in Pakistan had yet to reach the common people due to insufficient devolution of power "The goal of Pakistan's prosperity must not be limited to the rulers; it must reflect the well-being of all 250 million Pakistanis," he said. Dr. Khalid added that MQM-Pakistan supported the amendment in good faith, believing it would strengthen the country's defense, stability, security, and democratic institutions. He warned that whenever democracy takes root at the national level, basic democracy and local governance often fade, depriving citizens of meaningful participation in decision-making. "Article 140-A was introduced precisely to enable devolution so that people's fundamental rights and basic needs could be met," he said. He clarified that MQM-P had made no personal or political demands, but sought only the implementation of the Supreme Court's ruling on Article 140-A. "Our call to make '140-A Plus' part of the Constitution is not for ourselves, but for the people," he emphasized. The minister urged the government to ensure effective devolution of powers, enforcement of Article 140-A, and genuine public participation in governance so that true democracy could take root across the country.—APP

Fuel- savvy Islamabad: Smart habits,real savings

ISLAMABAD: In Islamabad, every drop of petrol counts. With prices climbing faster than a scooter up the Margalla Hills, drivers are discovering that saving fuel isn't about the car you drive, it's about how you drive it. From steady acceleration to keeping tyres properly inflated, citizens are turning simple habits into real savings at the pump. Experts say that careful driving can make a huge difference. "Smooth acceleration, keeping a steady speed, and switching off the engine at long signals can save up to 20 per cent of fuel," said a mechanic Ustad Amir in Khadda market. "I always tell my customers, treat your car like a tea kettle. Don't keep it boiling when you don't need it." Simple maintenance is also key. Worn-out tyres, dirty air filters, and old engine oil waste fuel like a dripping tap. Fixing these small issues can improve mileage and save money. The public is feeling the pinch of rising petrol costs. Commuters in F-10, G-9, and G-13 say they have started carpooling, planning routes carefully, and checking tyres before every trip. One teacher from G-9 joked, "I now feel like a fuel accountant because tracking every kilometre like it's gold." A recent survey shows more than 60 percent of Pakistanis are trying to reduce fuel costs. Saving petrol is no longer a side thought.It's a daily mission, whether it's avoiding peak traffic in Blue Area or combining multiple errands into one trip. Islamabad's roads make smart driving even more critical. Experts recommend avoiding peak hours, combining errands, and using the air conditioner only when absolutely necessary because in some cases, every button pressed can feel like a rupee spent. The message is clear: no matter how high fuel prices go, drivers can take control. With careful driving and regular maintenance, money saved at the pump can quickly add up and maybe even fund a weekend trip to Margalla without feeling guilty. As citizens become more fuel savvy, Islamabad is seeing a shift toward smarter, safer, and more efficient driving habits. What started as a necessity is slowly turning into a challenge people enjoy,proving that even in tough times, a little awareness, a few smart habits, and a touch of humour can go a long way.—DNA

Briefs

Aleem condemns terrorist attacks in Wana, Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Wana Cadet College and Islamabad Kacheri, terming them “deeply tragic acts of cowardice”. In his video message, Abdul Aleem Khan praised the timely and courageous response of Pakistan’s armed forces, saying, Alhamdulillah, the swift action of our brave soldiers saved the lives of many innocent children. He said the entire nation pays tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces for their valiant and decisive response against terrorism. He further stated that the malicious activities of the Indian lobby operating in collaboration with their Afghan proxies, are highly condemnable.—APP

China, Pakistan plan to overhaul agri research network

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have developed a cooperation plan that aims to transform Pakistan’s agricultural research network through joint innovation, advanced laboratories, and training programs designed to bridge Pakistan’s technological gap in modern farming. The plan was jointly prepared by China’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) following an in-depth evaluation of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), and 11 research institutes under the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR). The plan proposes a structural overhaul supported by strong international collaboration. It outlines domestic reform measures as well as a broader China-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Framework to drive long-term modernization. According to an official document available with Wealth Pakistan, the joint research programs will focus on key crops—wheat, rice, maize, cotton, and horticulture—as well as livestock management and sustainable technologies. Priority areas include climate-resilient crop varieties, water-efficient irrigation systems, pest and disease control, and livestock disease management.—APP

Customs seizes 15.2kg of ICE worth Rs 910m

ISLAMABAD: In a major anti-smuggling operation, the Customs Enforcement team seized a large consignment of foreign-origin narcotics valued at more than Rs910 million during a routine vigilance check at IP-JCP Aman Mela. The operation was conducted on credible intelligence provided by the Deputy Collector Customs D.I. Khan-II, under the directives of the Collector Customs (Enforcement), Peshawar, said a news release. The enforcement team intercepted a Daewoo passenger bus (Registration No. CAT-4488) and recovered 15.2 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine (commonly known as ICE) concealed in three specially designed inverters hidden inside the bus. The driver and conductor of the bus were arrested on the spot, and a First Information Report (FIR) was lodged against them. The recovered narcotics comprised 15 packets of foreign-origin substance resembling ICE (Crystal Methamphetamine), weighing a total of 15,350 grams (net 15,200 grams after sampling). The seized narcotics are estimated to be worth Rs910.200 million, while the value of the confiscated bus stands at Rs15 million, bringing the total worth of the seizure to approximately Rs925.200 million. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Women enjoying at annual Lok Mela at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.

Al-Shifa’s Haveli Lakha hospital to become operational by March

The trust currently operates hospitals in Rawalpindi, Sukkur, Kohat, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit, and Chakwal, and screened more than 175,000 schoolchildren through over 550 free eye camps in the past year

DNA

RAWALPINDI :Construction of the Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Haveli Lakha, Okara, has entered its final phase, with inauguration planned for March next year. The facility, built on two acres of donated land, will provide free eye care to thousands of residents in South Punjab, where more than 1.8 million Pakistanis live with blindness and 85 percent of cases are considered avoidable. Maj. Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan, President of Al-Shifa Trust, told reporters that all major construction work has been

completed and finishing touches are underway. He said the hospital will serve patients from Haveli Lakha, Depalpur, Pakpatan, Sahiwal, and Bahawalnagar, areas long deprived of specialized eye treatment. Nearly half of all blindness stems from cataracts, a condition largely treatable through routine surgery, but rural areas face severe shortages of trained staff and advanced surgical facilities, he added. The hospital is designed to serve up to 250 OPD and IPD patients daily. Staff training and procurement of state-of-the-art equipment are underway. The total cost of the project is 122 million rupees for construction, while equipment

accounts for 40 million rupees. The land and construction costs were fully donated by a local doctor, while Al-Shifa will manage operations. The facility is expected to reduce the burden on major city hospitals, said Maj. Gen. Khan. He added that the expansion reflects the trust’s effort to extend health-care access. By bringing eye care closer to remote populations, the trust cuts travel costs and ensures early diagnosis, key to preventing blindness. Local officials and residents have welcomed the development, saying it will ease pressure on existing facilities in Okara and Sahiwal.

For many families, especially daily-wage workers, the new hospital will mean shorter travel and lower treatment costs, addressing gaps where limited access to services remains a major challenge. The trust currently operates hospitals in Rawalpindi, Sukkur, Kohat, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit, and Chakwal, and screened more than 175,000 schoolchildren through over 550 free eye camps in the past year. It aims to reach over 2 million patients and perform more than 120,000 eye surgeries in the coming year, with around 80 percent of services provided free of cost.

Ayaz meets Deputy Speaker Islamic consultative assembly of Iran

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met with the Deputy speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ali Nikzad, and his accompanying parliamentary delegation at the Parliament House in Islamabad During the meeting, both sides held detailed discussions on Pakistan Iran ties, parliamentary cooperation, economic partnership and issues of mutual interest across various sectors. Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the need to further strengthen cooperation for ensuring regional stability and shared prosperity, said a news release here on Wednesday. He said that Pakistan and Iran are brotherly neighboring countries bound together by deep-rooted ties of history, religion and culture. The Speaker termed the recent visit of Dr. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, as a milestone in strengthening bilateral relations and promoting parliamentary engagement between the two nations. Both leaders underlined the importance of enhancing collaboration at the parliamentary level and promoting people-to-people contacts to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between Pakistan and Iran. The meeting also stressed the importance of unity and solidarity among Muslim countries to address common challenges and promote peace and progress in the region. Ayaz Sadiq said that the people of Iran consider Pakistan their second home, reflecting the strong fraternal bond between the two nations.

The Speaker expressed Pakistan’s gratitude to Iran for its unwavering support in the war with India He said that Pakistan successfully defended its sovereignty by shooting down seven Rafale fighter jets during the recent hostilities with India, a testament to the valor and professionalism of the Pakistani armed forces. The Speaker reiterated that Pakistan has always advocated for peace and the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy. While expressing concern over the misuse of Afghan soil for terrorist activities inside Pakistan, the Speaker reaffirmed Pakistan’s firm resolve to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Recalling the Parliament of Pakistan’s unified resolution condemning Israel’s aggression against Iran, the Speaker said that Iran and Pakistan face common challenges and adversaries, including the threat posed by Israel. He congratulated Iran on its strong and timely response to Israeli aggression. Ayaz Sadiq also extended best wishes to Deputy Speaker Ali Nikzad for the successful implementation of Iran’s upcoming five-year development plan.—DNA

Cowardly attacks cannot weaken Pakistan’s resolve

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary on Wednesday condemned the tragic suicide attack in Islamabad, saying such cowardly acts could never shake the determination of the Pakistani nation or its security institutions to root out terrorism. During his visit to the hospital to inquire about the condition of those injured in the suicide attack outside the Islamabad district courts, he said, “Those who think they can destabilize Pakistan through such heinous acts are mistaken. Our people and our forces remain steadfast and united. The minister expressed deep gratitude to doctors, hospital staff, and security forces for their prompt and dedicated response following the attack, which claimed 12 lives and left dozens injured. He specially thanked Dr. Imran and the entire medical team for efficiently handling the emergency situation. “I am grateful to our doctors, nurses, and administration who worked tirelessly to save lives and provide the best possible care to the injured,” he added. Dr. Tariq Fazal said 35 injured persons were brought to the hospital, of whom 13 remain under treatment, including three Islamabad Police personnel. “By the grace of Allah, all of them are now out of danger and recovering rapidly. I have personally met them, and I am encouraged by their high morale,” he said. He also paid tribute to security personnel who sacrificed their lives in recent incidents,

including the attack on the Cadet College in Wana. “Our forces and officers are courageously defending the homeland. These incidents cannot weaken our resolve — the nation stands united with its defenders,” he said. Sharing details about the Wana Cadet College attack, he said security forces successfully evacuated all the students and nearly 100 teachers to safer locations and neutralized the attackers. He lauded their swift action, noting that their timely response prevented a much greater loss of life. “The targeting of educational institutions reflects the enemies’ desperation, but they will never succeed in their evil designs,” he asserted. Dr. Tariq Fazal paid rich tribute to the country’s security forces and law enforcement agencies for their relentless efforts and sacrifices in defending the homeland. He expressed deep admiration for the martyrs, calling each fallen hero a source of pride and inspiration. “If you meet the families of our martyrs, you will find their spirits high and their resolve unshaken. They take immense pride in the bravery of their sons who laid down their lives for the protection of Pakistan and its people,” he said. He affirmed that as long as brave mothers in Pakistan continue to give birth to such valiant sons, the country will remain strong, united, and secure. The minister further assured that all possible steps are being taken to ensure the safety and security of Islamabad’s residents. “We are making every possible effort to make the capital secure and will continue to take all necessary measures for the protection of our citizens and their property,” he added.

ICCI committed to ensure safe, business-friendly environment

Pledges to turn F-8 Markaz a role model for all other markets of Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Sardar Tahir Mehmood, has reaffirmed the Chamber’s firm commitment to transform all business centres of the federal capital into model business hubs through concerted efforts and active collaboration with relevant authorities. He said the Chamber is focused on addressing key issues, including encroachments, security, structural upgradation, parking, cleanliness, sewage, and street lighting, to create a modern and business-friendly environment in Islamabad He expressed these views while addressing a large delegation of the Traders Welfare Association (TWA) F-8 Markaz, which visited the Chamber under the leadership of its General Secretary Ismail Khan. Sardar Tahir Mehmood thanked the market representatives for their continued support and cooperation, assuring them of ICCI’s full commitment to resolving their longstanding issues. He said that the Chamber has already taken up major challenges of F-8 Markaz particularly the removal of encroachments and boundary fences to ensure a cleaner, accessible, and vibrant commercial area. “We have held several meetings with the relevant departments and initiated concrete steps to remove all illegal structures and obstacles,” he said. “Our collective goal is to restore the true commercial identity of F-8 Markaz and make it a secure, organized, and exemplary business centre.” On the

issue of security, the ICCI President informed the delegation that multiple combing and search operations had been conducted in collaboration by local police in collaboration with the concerned TWA to ensure the safety of traders and visitors. He further announced that one filtration plant has already been installed with the support of former ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, while another would become fully operational within a month. He reiterated ICCI’s commitment to serve the business community round the clock, saying: “With unity, cooperation, and mutual trust, we will make F-8 Markaz a role model for all other markets of Islamabad.” Speaking on the occasion, Senior Vice President ICCI assured the traders of ICCI’s continued facilitation and efforts to promote an ease of doing business environment across the city. Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry said that resolving traders’ issues would remain one of the top priorities of the Chamber, urging close coordination between the business community and ICCI for sustainable progress. Addressing the gathering, President Traders Welfare Association Blue Area, Yousuf Rajput, and President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran, Ajmal Baloch, lauded Sardar Tahir Mehmood’s dedication and dynamic leadership. They expressed confidence that his tenure would prove to be exemplary, provided the business community remains united in its ranks.—DNA

Raza Harraj supports 27th constitutional Amendment

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj on Wednesday said the 27th Constitutional Amendment was necessary and should have been introduced earlier Speaking in the National Assembly, he said that Parliament holds the sacred authority to amend the Constitution, and no court can overturn its decisions. “The 27th Amendment clarifies existing provisions in the Constitution. This House is supreme, and the power to alter the Constitution rests solely with it,” Harraj said. He added that the Parliament with a two-thirds majority, hold ultimate authority over constitutional changes. He explained amendments related to judicial appointments, saying Article 200 now allows the President to transfer High Court judges more clearly and efficiently, based on Federal Judicial Commission recommendations.

He added that Article 239, which grants the judiciary the power of judicial review, has been aligned to reaffirm Parliament’s supremacy. —APP

Pak seed training program held

ISLAMABAD: An opening ceremony of the Pakistan Agricultural Thousand Talents Program training project (Seed Production and Processing Technology Training Course) was held at Huazhong Agricultural University in Wuhan, Hubei Province. This training course was jointly organized by HZAU and Wuhan Qingfa-Hesheng Seed Co., Ltd., with a total of 54 Pakistani trainees participated in the ceremony, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. Shafqat Abbas, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) of Pakistan, attended the opening ceremony and, on behalf of the MNFSR, stated that the Pakistan Agricultural Thousand Talents Program training program in China is of great significance and importance. “The seed industry is a top priority for the Pakistani government, and it is hoped that this practical and hands-on training will strengthen talent development in the seed sector.” In her address, Ms. Zhu Xiaobo, General Manager of Qingfa Hesheng, shared the company’s 20-year development in Pakistan, as well as its rich experience in Sino-Pakistani agricultural cooperation. Qingfa Hesheng will provide support through diverse methods such as onsite teaching and field practice to help Pakistani trainees gain a deeper understanding of the latest developments and cutting-edge achievements in seed production and processing, agricultural research and development.—

MOST EXPERIENCED
MANUFACTURERS &
EXPORTERS OF
MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS
IN
PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

JUDO
KARATE
BOXING
KICKBOXING
TAEKWONDO

JUDO
KARATE
KUNG-FU
JU-JITSU
TAEKWONDO
UNIFORMS AND
COLOURED BELTS

JUDO
KARATE
BOXING
KICKBOXING
TAEKWONDO

Ashraf

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
Phones: +92-51-3256000 / 3256788
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

Riyadh has become the new capital of global tourism

AHMED AL-KHATEEB

RIYADH today stands at the center of global tourism – a city where nations, industries and innovators are shaping the future of one of the world’s most dynamic sectors. The 26th UN Tourism General Assembly, held in Riyadh over the last few days – the first time it has been hosted in the Gulf – marked a defining moment in that journey. Bringing together delegates from 148 countries, including 97 ministers, 18 vice and deputy ministers, 14 ambassadors and 20 global leaders, it was the largest UN Tourism General Assembly ever convened, a milestone that reflects the world’s growing confidence in our shared tourism future. Gatherings like these matter. Tourism is more than an industry – it is a bridge between nations and a catalyst for prosperity. When global leaders meet under one roof, they do more than exchange ideas; they shape how the world moves, connects and grows. The assembly provided exactly that space, building consensus around sustainability, skills, innovation, investment and connectivity – the five enablers that will define how global tourism evolves. Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of UN Tourism, the assembly celebrated five decades of shared progress while setting a vision for the next 50 years. The Riyadh Declaration on the Future of Tourism captures that ambition, calling for sustainability at the heart of every destination, investment in human capital, digital transformation through innovation and artificial intelligence, and expanded connectivity to link people and markets. Saudi Arabia’s approach ensures that development not only attracts visitors but also uplifts communities and preserves the planet. It was also a milestone for leadership and inclusion, with the election of Shaikha Al-Nowais as the new secretary-general of UN Tourism – the first woman and the first leader from the Gulf Cooperation Council to hold the position. Her election symbolizes the renewal and balance that define this new era of global tourism and Saudi Arabia is proud to support her vision. Tourism is already one of the world’s most powerful drivers of opportunity. It currently supports 357 million jobs and is projected to create more than 90

IslamabadPOST

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 147

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394

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



million more by 2035 – one in every three new jobs globally. It contributes \$10.9 trillion to global gross domestic product and empowers communities across every continent. In Saudi Arabia, the sector now accounts for nearly 5 percent of GDP and has become a central pillar of growth. Our goal is to welcome 150 million tourists by 2030, strengthening tourism’s role as a cornerstone of the Kingdom’s transformation. The people behind tourism remain its greatest strength. Building human capital – through training, education and opportunity – is key to sustaining momentum. Tourism is at its best when it remains personal – when a traveler remembers the warmth of a taxi driver’s welcome, the smile of a hotel porter or the story told by a local guide. These human connections are what turn travel into experience and experience into understanding. Technology, too, is transforming that experience. AI is reshaping how people plan, book and enjoy their journeys – making them smarter, faster and more seamless. Yet, as I often say, we must digitize the unnecessary and humanize the necessary. In Saudi Arabia, innovation serves that principle: technology enhances efficiency and access but the human touch remains at the heart of every destination we build. Investment continues to be the backbone of this progress. From infrastructure to hospitality, Saudi Arabia is channeling strategic funding to create destinations that connect visitors to culture, nature and discovery. And as we expand air connectivity, our airports will be able to serve 300 million passengers annually by 2030, linking the Kingdom to the world and the world to the Kingdom. Technology enhances efficiency and access but the human touch remains at the heart of every destination we build. Sustainability remains the principle that guides all of this work. Tourism must grow responsibly, protecting the natural environments and cultural heritage that make destinations unique. Saudi Arabia’s approach ensures that development not only attracts visitors but also uplifts communities and preserves the planet for future generations. The spirit of collaboration that defined the assembly continues through TOURISE – a global platform launched in Riyadh to unite the public and private sectors in shaping the future of tourism. Under the theme “The Big Step Forward,” TOURISE is creating a global community of policymakers, innovators and investors working together to make tourism more connected, inclusive and sustainable. From Riyadh, the conversation about the future of global tourism has found its new home. The world is not only visiting Saudi Arabia – it is partnering with it. And together, through shared vision and action, we are ensuring that tourism continues to connect people, cultures and economies – not merely as a source of travel but as a force for global progress.

The Foundations of Xinjiang’s Transformation (1949–1990)

Qamar Bashir



“To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first cultivate our family; to cultivate our family, we must first cultivate ourselves.” – Confucius, The Great Learning. Governance played a crucial role in this transformation. Beijing recognized that success required not only resources but moral discipline and administrative competence. Local cadres were trained to balance ethnic diversity with unity, ensuring that modernization did not erode cultural identity

CHINA’S modern transformation cannot be understood without revisiting its civilizational foundations – a heritage of harmony, moral restraint, and self-cultivation that has guided its statecraft for more than five millennia. Unlike the expansionist powers that defined much of world history, China’s rise was shaped not by conquest but by conscience. It built walls to protect, not to dominate; it refined its governance rather than subjugating others. Its dynasties prized stability over aggression, and its influence radiated through culture, learning, and diplomacy rather than through force. That sense of moral responsibility still anchors China’s modern policy. “The United States has three centuries and no burden of memory; China has five millennia and the full weight of civilization,” a Beijing historian once observed. This weight of memory continues to guide decision-makers in Beijing, reminding them that true legitimacy comes not from power but from the welfare of the people. The Chinese concept of statecraft, rooted in Confucian harmony and socialist humanism, insists that progress must uplift all regions, not merely the prosperous coastal centers. When the People’s Republic of China emerged from the ruins of colonial humiliation and civil war in 1949, its leaders inherited a vast and uneven nation. National rejuvenation meant more than reclaiming sovereignty – it required bridging deep internal disparities and restoring dignity through inclusive development. Among the regions most in need of such renewal was Xinjiang, a land of immense beauty, diversity, and strategic value, yet long burdened by poverty and neglect. At liberation, Xinjiang symbolized both challenge and promise. Covering 1.66 million square kilometers – one-sixth of China’s total territory – it was a landscape of extremes: towering mountains, endless deserts, and small, fertile oases clustered along the Tarim, Ili, and Junggar basins. Nearly 80 percent of the province was arid or semi-arid, dominated by the Taklamakan and Gurbantünggüt deserts and encircled by the Tianshan, Kunlun, and Altai ranges. But geography was destiny. Xinjiang’s 5,600-kilometer frontier touched eight countries – Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India – making it China’s most internationally connected province by land. For centuries, its cities like Kashgar, Hotan, and Urumqi had been jewels on the Silk Road, linking Chinese merchants with Persian, Turkic, and European traders. After 1949, the same geography that had once carried caravans and ideas promised to carry pipelines, highways, and digital networks. Xinjiang was no longer a distant periphery to defend; it was a bridge to connect. Yet this vast potential stood on fragile foundations. In 1949, Xinjiang’s population numbered only 4.3 million, scattered across oases and highland pastures. Illiteracy exceeded 90 percent in many districts, infant mortality was over 200 per 1,000 births, and life expectancy barely reached thirty years. Per-capita income was estimated below

150 yuan a year – roughly sixty U.S. dollars at contemporary rates. Infrastructure was primitive: fewer than 3,000 kilometers of mostly unpaved roads, no railways, and negligible industrial capacity. The region’s economy remained predominantly subsistence-based, shaped by traditional farming and herding, and vulnerable to drought, disease, and isolation. Xinjiang’s social fabric, however, was rich and resilient. The Uyghurs formed nearly three-fifths of the population, cultivating orchards and cotton in the southern oases. The Kazakhs, almost one-fifth, herded livestock across the grasslands of Ili and Altay, while smaller communities of Hui, Kyrgyz, Tajiks, Mongols, and Xibe contributed unique skills in trade, craftsmanship, and pastoral life. Han settlers, fewer than seven percent, lived mainly in urban centers such as Urumqi and Shihezi. Despite their diversity, these communities shared deep local knowledge of irrigation, herbal medicine, and desert ecology – indigenous wisdom that would later merge with modern science to form the backbone of Xinjiang’s revival. For the new leadership in Beijing, integrating Xinjiang was therefore both a political and moral mission. The revolution’s promise of equality and justice demanded that development reach even the farthest frontier. Geography, in the eyes of the state, was not a constraint but a divine opportunity – to transform the western wilderness into a thriving link between China’s heartland and the greater Eurasian world. Chairman Mao’s First Five-Year Plan, launched in 1953, declared that “industrialization must serve the whole people and all regions.” That principle laid the foundation for the region’s transformation from subsistence to self-sufficiency and eventually to modern prosperity. Beijing’s approach was carefully phased and deeply pragmatic. It began with what China called the “dual-track” strategy – cultivating human capacity while modernizing the material base. The first track focused on education. Schools were built across rural and pastoral areas; literacy drives reached adults as well as children; and vocational institutions trained the first generation of local teachers, doctors, and technicians. In a society where modern schooling was almost unknown, this was an intellectual revolution. Education became not merely an instrument of governance but a bridge between tradition and modernity – empowering herders, artisans, and farmers to become participants in national progress. The second track focused on physical transformation. Surveys of coal, oil, and mineral deposits were conducted; irrigation systems were rebuilt and expanded; and model farms introduced scientific methods to improve yields. Roads and later railways linked Urumqi to Gansu and Kazakhstan, ending centuries of isolation. Pilot industries in textiles, food processing, and energy emerged, while healthcare and housing programs improved living standards. These modest beginnings carried profound significance: they gave Xinjiang its first modern infrastructure, a foundation on which later waves of reform in the 1980s and 1990s would build. Governance, in the Chinese conception, was not domination

but service – an act of moral stewardship aligning with the Confucian ideal that good government begins with self-cultivation and ends in social harmony. By the late 1980s, the transformation of Xinjiang was no longer a vision – it was a living reality written across its deserts, valleys, and cities. In 1949, the region had barely 4.3 million people, most living in poverty, with life expectancy below 30 years and illiteracy above 90 percent. By 1980, its population had doubled to 8.3 million; life expectancy had climbed to 58 years; and literacy had risen beyond 65 percent. Primary schools had multiplied from barely 1,300 to over 6,000, and secondary and higher institutions – once nonexistent – were training a new generation of engineers, doctors, and teachers. Infant mortality, which exceeded 200 per 1,000 births at liberation, had fallen below 70, while hundreds of hospitals and rural clinics now reached even the remotest oases. The region’s per-capita income, once less than 150 yuan, had increased nearly threefold by 1980, powered by new industries in energy, textiles, and food processing. Roads expanded from less than 3,000 kilometers of crude tracks to over 20,000 kilometers of paved highways, and the first rail lines linked Urumqi with Lanzhou and Kazakhstan, ending centuries of geographic isolation. Irrigation networks reclaimed tens of thousands of hectares of arid land, transforming wastelands into fertile cotton and grain fields. Urumqi, once a frontier garrison, had become a bustling city of half a million people – the commercial and administrative heart of the northwest. These gains were not merely economic; they were civilizational. Health, literacy, and connectivity created a new consciousness among the people – a realization that they were no longer isolated tribes surviving at the edge of empire, but citizens of a rejuvenated nation moving confidently toward modernity. The sense of shared destiny – of being participants in a collective renaissance larger than ethnicity or geography – began to define the spirit of Xinjiang. A province that once symbolized remoteness was now a symbol of revival, a living testament to China’s faith that through education, planning, and moral resolve, even the harshest desert could bloom. Xinjiang’s transformation between 1949 and 1990 was not a miracle of concrete and steel alone. It was a moral undertaking – a testament to China’s belief that civilization endures through harmony and shared progress. The guiding spirit of that transformation lay in an ancient truth: that national order arises from personal virtue, and prosperity from collective dignity. In resurrecting a region long forgotten, China did not simply build roads or refineries; it reaffirmed a civilizational covenant – that to put the world in order, one must first cultivate the self, the family, and the nation.

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

Mapping of new Syria

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The destruction of infrastructure, including homes, schools, hospitals, and utilities, poses a significant obstacle to the return of displaced Syrians. International support will be critical in financing reconstruction efforts, but securing such support will depend on the establishment of a stable and inclusive government. HTS’s plans to form a technocratic government represent an important...

THE collapse of Bashar al-Assad’s regime on December 8, 2024, marked a significant turning point in Syria’s protracted civil war, which began in 2011. This conflict displaced over 13 million Syrians, with nearly 5 million fleeing abroad. The sudden fall of Assad’s government has created a complex landscape of opportunities and challenges as displaced Syrians contemplate returning to their homeland and rival factions scramble to fill the ensuing power vacuum. Analyzing these dynamics provides insight into the challenges of rebuilding Syria amidst ongoing instability and regional interference. The Syrian civil war triggered one of the largest displacement crises in modern history. Internally, millions of Syrians were uprooted from their homes, while externally, the majority sought refuge in neighboring countries. Turkey hosted the largest contingent, with 3.1 million refugees, followed by Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, which collectively provided shelter to 1.6 million people. Germany, the most significant destination outside the region, became home to over 850,000 Syrian refugees. Despite the fall of Assad’s regime, the path to repatriation is fraught with obstacles. Many displaced Syrians are eager to return, driven by the hope of reuniting with family members, reclaiming property, and rebuilding their lives. However, the prospect of return is contingent upon several factors, including the restoration of security, the reconstruction of infrastructure, and the resolution of lingering territorial disputes. The map illustrates the fragmentation of control in Syria, with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), U.S.-backed Kurdish forces, Turkish-supported rebel groups, and Israel all holding sway over various regions. This fragmentation complicates efforts to establish a unified and stable environment conducive to repatriation. For refugees in Turkey, the pressure to return is particularly acute. The presence of millions of Syrians has strained Turkey’s economic and political systems, leading to growing domestic calls for their repatriation. However, the areas many refugees hope to return to remain unstable, requiring significant international coordination and investment to facilitate safe and voluntary returns. Additionally, many refugees have built new lives abroad and may be reluctant to leave behind the relative stability they have found. The power vacuum left by Assad’s departure has intensified competition among various factions, each seeking to consolidate control over strategic regions. HTS, a pow-

erful rebel group, spearheaded the final offensive against Assad’s forces, capturing key cities such as Aleppo, Hama, and Homs in late 2024. However, HTS does not control all of Syria. Critical oil-rich areas east of the Euphrates River are under the control of the U.S.-backed Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). While the SDF recently signed a U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement with HTS and withdrew from Manbij, their continued presence in other regions underscores the fragmented nature of territorial control in post-Assad Syria. Turkey, a major player in the conflict, maintains control over border zones in northern Syria through its support of Turkish-backed rebel groups. These areas act as a buffer against Kurdish forces, which Ankara views as a threat to its national security. Meanwhile, Israel has seized the opportunity presented by Assad’s fall to expand its influence in the Golan Heights. Declaring the 1974 demilitarization agreement null and void, Israeli forces swiftly moved into the region, launching airstrikes to neutralize military equipment, chemical weapon caches, and other perceived threats. This patchwork of control underscores the challenges of achieving a cohesive governance structure in Syria. While HTS has announced plans to establish a technocratic government by March 2025, its ability to govern effectively will depend on its capacity to negotiate with rival factions and gain the support of the international community. The presence of foreign powers, including the United States, Russia, Turkey, and Israel, further complicates these efforts, as each seeks to advance its strategic interests in Syria. The fall of Assad’s regime has intensified the involvement of regional and global powers in Syria. The United States, which has long supported the SDF, remains a key player in the conflict. Its role in brokering a ceasefire between the SDF and HTS highlights its ongoing influence in shaping Syria’s future. However, U.S. involvement also risks drawing the country further into the complexities of Syria’s internal politics. Russia, a staunch ally of Assad, faces a significant setback with his ousting. Moscow’s strategic interests in Syria, including its naval base in Tartus and airbase in Khmeimim, remain critical. However, the loss of Assad complicates Russia’s ability to project power in the region and maintain its influence over Syria’s future trajectory. Turkey’s role is equally pivotal. As a host to millions of Syrian refugees and a key player in northern Syria, Ankara has a vested interest in shaping the post-Assad order. Its support for Turkish-backed rebels and

opposition to Kurdish autonomy reflect its broader strategic goals of securing its borders and countering perceived threats from the SDF. Israel’s actions in the Golan Heights highlight another dimension of the conflict. By seizing control of the region and launching airstrikes, Israel aims to prevent extremist groups from gaining a foothold near its borders. However, these actions risk escalating tensions with other regional actors and further destabilizing Syria. Rebuilding Syria in the aftermath of Assad’s fall will require addressing a host of challenges, including political fragmentation, economic devastation, and social reconciliation. The destruction of infrastructure, including homes, schools, hospitals, and utilities, poses a significant obstacle to the return of displaced Syrians. International support will be critical in financing reconstruction efforts, but securing such support will depend on the establishment of a stable and inclusive government. HTS’s plans to form a technocratic government represent an important step toward stabilizing Syria. However, the group’s ability to govern effectively will depend on its capacity to build trust among Syria’s diverse communities and address the grievances that fueled the conflict. This will require not only rebuilding physical infrastructure but also fostering social cohesion and promoting accountability for past atrocities. The risk of renewed conflict looms large, particularly as rival factions and foreign powers vie for influence. The presence of multiple actors with competing interests makes it difficult to achieve a lasting peace. Moreover, the ongoing involvement of external powers, including the U.S., Russia, Turkey, and Israel, underscores the potential for Syria to become a battleground for broader geopolitical rivalries. The fall of Bashar al-Assad’s regime marks the beginning of a new chapter in Syria’s history, characterized by both opportunities and challenges. While the prospect of return offers hope to millions of displaced Syrians, the realities of instability, fragmentation, and external interference complicate the path forward. Achieving a stable and prosperous Syria will require concerted efforts to rebuild infrastructure, establish inclusive governance, and address the root causes of conflict. The international community has a crucial role to play in supporting these efforts, but success will ultimately depend on the ability of Syria’s factions to reconcile their differences and work toward a shared vision for the country’s future.

Briefs

Government secures passage of amendment

FROM PAGE 01
the PML-Z, the Balochistan Awami Party, and the National Peoples Party. Interesting, in the Senate, the government's legislation secured votes from two opposition lawmakers. PTT's Saifullah Abro and JUI-F Ahmed Khan backed the Bill, and while Abro announced his resignation as a lawmaker on the same day, Khan was asked by his party to step down for violating party lines. PkMAP and TTAP chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai, while addressing the National Assembly, said that the current government had been formed on the basis of Form-47. He remarked that there was a person in the House who had lost by 6,000 votes, yet was offered a seat but refused. "Another person also turned down the same offer," Achakzai the chief of the opposition alliance added. He questioned whether such a parliament, formed under these circumstances, had the authority to amend the Constitution. During the session, Achakzai tore up a copy of the 27th Amendment Bill in protest. He said that efforts were being made to block the path of public rule in Pakistan, expressing sorrow over what he described as an undemocratic amendment to the Constitution.

'Aminuddin Khan likely to head...

FROM PAGE 01
Officials at the law ministry confirmed that the President, acting on the advice of the prime minister, would issue the formal appointment orders. They added that under the provisions of the proposed amendment, the President would be constitutionally empowered to make such appointments to the newly-constituted court. The proposal to establish the Federal Constitutional Court has been revived as part of the judicial reforms package incorporated in the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill. The amendment aims to rationalise the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and introduce greater efficiency in the adjudication of constitutional questions.

CM Afridi opposes making...

FROM PAGE 01
strategies should be used to sustain peace in the province. "Military action should remain the last option," he asserted. Highlighting the sacrifices made in the fight against terrorism by the people of Pakistan, the chief minister said every participant of the Jirga had made sacrifices for Pakistan in their respective capacities. "Politics may differ, but peace is our shared goal. When a bomb explodes, it does not see whether the victim belongs to PTI, PPP, or any other party. Everyone has sacrificed." CM Afridi urged all stakeholders to contribute to a collaborative approach. "We want you to help us find a solution to terrorism," he said, assuring that the provincial government would fully support efforts to bring lasting peace.

PM invites Bilawal...

FROM PAGE 01
anything strengthening Pakistan has his support, while initiatives harming the federation, like the Kalabagh Dam, are not acceptable. PPP Chairman Bilawal, in his NA speech earlier, had reaffirmed the amendment's sanctity, saying it brought provincial rights and fundamental democratic reforms, was passed by consensus of all parties, and cannot be overturned even by individuals. PM Shehbaz highlighted the ongoing fight against terrorism, linking recent attacks to Afghan and Indian involvement. He condemned Tuesday's Islamabad court blast, which killed 12 and injured over 30, and praised the Pakistan Army for rescuing students and staff during the Wana cadet college attack.

Sri Lankan Envoy meets Naqvi, Lauds Security Arrangements

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner conveyed condolences over the recent terrorist attack in Islamabad and expressed solidarity with Pakistan

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi met with Sri Lankan High Commissioner Rear Admiral (R) Fred Siriweera to review security arrangements for the visiting Sri Lankan cricket team. The envoy expressed complete satisfaction over the measures and praised Pakistan's commitment to ensuring the team's safety. The meeting was also attended by team managers of Pakistan and Sri Lanka, PCB COO Sameer Ahmed, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, and IG Islamabad Police. Officials gave a detailed briefing on the multi-layered security plan for the Sri Lankan squad. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner conveyed condolences over the recent terrorist attack in Islamabad and expressed solidarity with Pakistan. Mohsin Naqvi reaffirmed that the Sri Lankan players are state guests, assuring that foolproof security and a safe environment are being maintained as a top national priority.



Australia, Indonesia agree to sign new security treaty

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, speaking alongside President Prabowo Subianto at a Royal Australian Navy Base in Sydney, said they had "just substantively concluded negotiations on a new bilateral treaty on our common security"

SYDNEY: Australia and Indonesia agreed to sign a new security treaty, which includes closer military cooperation, the two countries' leaders said after talks in Sydney on Wednesday. Canberra has drawn ever nearer to longtime ally Washington, bolstering its military in an attempt to deter the might of a rising China in the Asia-Pacific region. Jakarta has walked a more neutral path, wary of drawing too close to Washington and far less willing to needle Beijing. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, speaking alongside President Prabowo Subianto at a Royal Australian Navy Base in Sydney, said they had "just substantively concluded negotiations on a new bilateral treaty on our common

security". "This treaty is a recognition from both our nations that the best way to secure... peace and stability is by acting together," Albanese told reporters. The Australian leader said he hoped to visit Indonesia next year to sign the new treaty. He said the agreement builds on a bilateral defence pact signed in 2024, which pledged closer cooperation in the contested Asia-Pacific region and included provisions for each military operating in the other country. Thousands of Indonesian and Australian troops held joint drills in eastern Java months after the 2024 accord was signed. The new agreement will commit Australia and Indonesia to "consult at a leader

and ministerial level, on a regular basis on matters of security", Albanese said. It will also facilitate "mutually beneficial security activities, and if either or both countries' security is threatened, to consult and consider what measures may be taken, either individually or jointly, to deal with those threats", he said. Prabowo said the deal committed the two countries to "close cooperation in the defence and security field". "We cannot choose our neighbours... especially countries like us," he said. "Good neighbours will help each other in times of difficulties," Prabowo added. Australia hopes to cement closer ties with Indonesia as the region is rattled by

rivalry between China and the United States. Indonesia and Australia, separated by less than 300 kilometres (185 miles) at their closest point, have charted different courses while navigating that geopolitical upheaval. In August, Australia took part in joint military drills with Indonesia, the United States and other allies. Canberra has also sought to forge closer military ties with other Pacific neighbours in a bid to counter Beijing's rising influence. It agreed to a new defence treaty with Papua New Guinea in September that will see the two nations commit to defending each other from armed attacks and "emerging threats" to their security. - APP

Pakistan defeat Sri Lanka by six runs in ODI series opener

Salman Agha's ton and Haris Rauf's four-wicket haul play vital role in Green Shirts' victory

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan grabbed a six-run victory over Sri Lanka following Salman Ali Agha's century and Haris Rauf's four-wicket haul in the first ODI match at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. Chasing a daunting 300-run target, Sri Lanka could accumulate 293/9 in their allotted 50 overs despite Wanindu Hasaranga's gutsy half-century. Hasaranga remained the top-scorer for the touring side with a valiant 59 off 52 deliveries until falling victim to Naseem Shah in the penultimate over when Sri Lanka needed 21 runs in nine balls. Besides the all-rounder, middle-order batter Sadeera Samarawickrama (39), debutant opener Kamil Mishara (38) and captain Charith Asalanka (32) made significant contributions, but their efforts eventually proved insufficient to lead Sri Lanka to glory. Haris led the bowling charge for Pakistan with figures of 4/49 in his 10 overs, followed by Faheem Ashraf and Naseem Shah with two each, while Mohammad Nawaz chipped in with one. Put into bat first, the Green Shirts accumulated 299/5 in their allotted 50 overs, courtesy of a vital fifth-wicket partnership between Agha and Talat. The home side got off to a shaky start to their innings as in-form opener Saim Ayub (six) fell victim to Asitha Fernando in the fifth over with just 18 runs on the board. Following the early stutter, star batter Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman added valuable runs to the total by putting together 54 runs for the second wicket. - DNA

Govt enjoys majority yet couldn't evolve...

FROM PAGE 01

Article 243, which deals with the command and structure of the Armed Forces, in order to formally recognize the title of Field Marshal for Pakistan's military leadership. Referring to the recent tensions with India, Bilawal said Pakistan's armed forces had once again proven their professionalism and valor by downing six Indian aircraft. "In this context, giving constitutional cover to the rank of Field Marshal is both symbolic and deserving, especially after Pakistan's clear defensive victory," he remarked. Bilawal reaffirmed that no one could abolish the 18th Amendment, terming it the backbone of Pakistan's federal structure. "Let me make it clear—PPP will never allow anyone to undo provincial autonomy or reverse the gains of democracy achieved through the 18th Amendment," he declared, adding that the party has always stood for the protection of people's rights and devolution of power to the provinces. The PPP Chairman expressed hope that the opposition benches would act responsibly and become part of the legislative process rather than resorting to politics of confrontation. "It would have been far better if the opposition had chosen to sit with us and help shape this important amendment for the country's future," he said.

Tara lament's opposition's hollow...

FROM PAGE 01

discussion, the opposition should have engaged in constructive debate. Tara expressed confidence that the 27th Constitutional Amendment, once presented today, would be approved without any difficulty. Tara hailed the Pakistan Army's operation in Wana as a historic achievement, worthy of great appreciation. He announced that the Army had successfully rescued over 500 students, describing the mission as one that will be remembered globally and studied in military academies around the world. Tara emphasized that the operation sent a clear message to the enemy, noting that Pakistan had triumphed against an adversary four times its size. He added that the enemy was forced to abandon its positions and flee, underscoring that this proxy war poses no real challenge for Pakistan. When asked by a journalist if former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would visit Parliament House today, Tara responded, "We'll arrange your meeting with him as well."

Security at courts, key sites...

FROM PAGE 01

key routes and critical sites. The Punjab IGP said that a comprehensive security audit of judicial complexes, Chinese projects, and residential areas has been completed. "The security of judicial complexes has been thoroughly reviewed," said IGP Usman Anwar. IGP Anwar said that a foolproof security plan has been devised for judges, representatives of bar associations, and relevant institutions. Measures include the implementation of a sticker system for vehicles entering judicial complexes, while daily search-and-sweep operations are conducted along judges' passageways. IGP Anwar said that all necessary precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of judicial personnel and sensitive locations across the province.

PM, Canadian envoy...

FROM PAGE 01

Ambassador Tarik Ali Khan thanked the Prime Minister for the warm reception and reaffirmed his commitment to further enhance bilateral ties, particularly in agriculture, energy, trade, investment, technology, education, and people-to-people linkages. The Prime Minister also lauded the contribution of the vibrant Pakistani diaspora in Canada, describing it as a strong bridge that continues to promote goodwill and understanding between the two nations.

Alcaraz wins thriller with Fritz at ATP Finals, Musetti downs De Minaur

Alcaraz Overcomes Fritz in Epic ATP Finals Battle as Musetti Stuns De Minaur in Dramatic Comeback, Keeping All Four Players in Contention for Semifinals Amid Emotional Turin Night and Medical Scare

TURIN: Carlos Alcaraz came under extreme pressure before overcoming Taylor Fritz 6-7(2) 7-5 6-3 in a thrilling match at the ATP Finals on Tuesday, before Italy's Lorenzo Musetti beat Alex de Minaur in a dramatic encounter. Musetti's 7-5 3-6 7-5 win means that all four players can still make the semifinals, with the Italian facing Alcaraz, on two wins from two, and Fritz taking on De Minaur on Thursday to close out the Jimmy Connors Group, with the top two making the last four. Last year's finalist Fritz played the tennis of his life, as both men served up the best encounter of the season-ending championships so far, but the American ran out of steam as Alcaraz turned on the style and took the deciding set with ease. Alcaraz and Fritz had won their opening group matches, and the Spaniard looked in real trouble when the American took the opening set in a tiebreak. Alcaraz faced break points in the second set but rallied back to draw level. Fritz began to tire, and Alcaraz broke to lead 4-2 in the final set before wrapping up the win in two hours and 48 minutes by serving out to love. "It was pretty tight,



I was struggling more than him in the first set," Alcaraz said. "I wasn't serving well, and I think he was pretty comfortable from the baseline, from everywhere." Alcaraz needs one more victory to guarantee the year-ending world No. 1 spot. Tuesday's clash was a battle from the opening game, with Fritz taking nine minutes to hold after hitting three aces but also facing two break points. The American forced three break points in the next game before the pair traded breaks. Fritz raced into a 5-2 lead in the tiebreak and smashed two aces to take the set. At 2-2 in the second, Alcaraz was rattled, his drop shots which earlier beat Fritz began to fall short but, after losing advantage five times, the Spaniard held on. Alcaraz got lucky with a shot that hit the net but crept over in the final game of the second set and broke to take the match to a third, where the Spaniard outclassed an exhausted Fritz. - DNA

Renewables outpace fossil fuels despite US policy shift: IEA

The World Energy Outlook said demand for electricity is rising, fuelled by data centres and artificial intelligence in advanced economies and China, along with increasing use of air conditioning in developing countries

PARIS: Renewable energy is still expanding faster than fossil fuels around the world despite policy changes in the United States, with oil demand possibly peaking "around 2030", the International Energy Agency said Wednesday. The Paris-based IEA presented different scenarios for the future of energy in its annual World Energy Outlook - the first since coming under fire from the government of US President Donald Trump over its oil forecasts. "The pace varies, but renewables grow faster than any other major energy source in all scenarios, led by solar photovoltaics," the agency, which advises mostly developed nations, said in its 518-page report. In one scenario, "policy changes mean that the United States has 30 percent less renewables capacity installed in 2035 than in last year's Outlook, but at the global level renewables continue their rapid expansion". The report comes as world leaders meet at the UN's COP30 climate conference in Belem, Brazil, which Trump and his government have shunned.

Trump, who has pulled out of the Paris climate accord, wants to expand oil and gas production and roll back the clean energy policies of his predecessor, Joe Biden. The IEA had to walk a fine line when drafting its latest outlook as it has faced criticism from the Trump administration for projecting dwindling demand for fossil fuels. US Energy Secretary Chris Wright threatened in July to pull out of the IEA if it did not reform how it operates. The IEA used three scenarios for its World Energy Outlook: one takes into account policies that are currently in place, another looks at "stated" government policies including measures that have yet to be adopted, and a third considers a world that reaches net zero emissions by 2050. Under the Current Policies Scenario (CPS), oil and natural gas demand would increase by 16 percent to 2035 and rise further through to 2050. The IEA had dropped such scenarios from its reports in 2020. "That (CPS) scenario is entirely politically motivated," Rachel Cleatus, senior policy director

at the Union of Concerned Scientists, told reporters at COP30 in Belem. "The Trump administration, unfortunately, has been setting bad policy in the United States and trying to undermine policy around the world." In the IEA's Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS), oil demand would peak "around 2030" and decline to 100 million barrels per day by 2035 before falling in subsequent years. In a report in June, the IEA had forecast that global oil demand would fall slightly in 2030, which would mark the first drop since the 2020 Covid pandemic. The World Energy Outlook said demand for electricity is rising, fuelled by data centres and artificial intelligence in advanced economies and China, along with increasing use of air conditioning in developing countries. In every scenario, China remains the largest market for renewable energy, accounting for 45 to 60 percent of their global deployment over the next 10 years. Under every scenario, however, the IEA said the world would exceed 1.5C of warming above pre-industrial levels - the most

ambitious goal of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. "There is less momentum than before behind national and international efforts to reduce emissions, yet climate risks are rising," the report said. Under the CPS, warming would exceed 2C around 2050 and 2.9C in 2100 - and then keep rising from there. In STEPS, warming would exceed 2C by around 2060 and 2.5C by 2100. But in the net-zero scenario, it would peak at about 1.65C around 2050 and decline slowly after that, before dropping back below 1.5C by 2100, according to the IEA. The IEA has "confirmed that no single country can stop the energy transition, with oil and coal demand to peak by 2030 in its business-as-usual scenario", said David Tong, global industry campaign manager at Oil Change International, a non-profit advocacy group. "But this year's report also shows Donald Trump's dystopian future, bringing back the old, fossil-fuel intense, high pollution Current Policies Scenario," he said. - APP

Briefs

PSX gains 313 points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday witnessed a modest gain of 313.44 points, a positive change of 0.20 points, closing at 158,183.95 points compared to 157,870.50 points on the previous day. A total of 757.24 million shares valuing Rs33.41 billion were traded in the ready market compared to 836.42 million shares worth Rs38.07 billion a day earlier. The market capitalization stood at Rs18.07 trillion against Rs18.08 trillion previously. Out of 480 companies active in the session, 188 closed higher, 235 declined, and 57 remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were F. Nat. Equities with 89.36 million shares at Rs20.66, followed by PIA Holding Company with 56.34 million shares at Rs29.75, and WorldCall Telecom with 48.70 million shares at Rs1.66 per share. The top gainers were PIA Holding Company LimitedB, which increased by Rs331.34 to close at Rs24,532.96, and Pakistan Services Limited, rising by Rs88.00 to close at Rs1,382.93.—APP

Rupee remains unchanged against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday remained unchanged against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 280.77 compared to Rs 280.77. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 281.65 and Rs 281.85, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 51 paise to close at Rs 325.14, up from the previous day's close of Rs 324.63, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paise to close at Rs 1.81, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of 44 paise and closed at Rs 369.11 compared to the previous day's Rs 368.67.—APP

Gold price declines by Rs1,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs.100 on Wednesday and was traded at Rs.434,762 per tola compared to Rs 435,762 on last trading day. All Pakistani Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association reported. Similarly, therice of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs857 to Rs372,738 from Rs373,595, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold went down by Rs786 to Rs 341,688 from Rs 342,474. In the international market, gold prices went down by \$59 to \$4,124 as against \$4,134.—APP

Govt committed to improve investment climate: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Wednesday reaffirmed the government's commitment to improve country's investment environment through deregulation, institutional reforms, and greater private-sector participation, emphasizing that sustained policy focus was key to unlocking the country's economic potential. Addressing the Pakistan Prosperity Forum (PPF) hosted by the Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME), the minister said that the government was taking steps to strengthen investor confidence, including the establishment of a Business Facilitation Centre and the ongoing work of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). He highlighted the ASAAN Karoobar Bill aims to promote inclusive growth and private-sector participation. Drawing on decades of business experience, Qaiser observed that despite repeated experts efforts, tangible results remained limited. "Pakistan has not fully leveraged its partnership with China for industrial expansion and export diversification," he remarked, noting that protectionist measures had long undermined competitiveness," he said. While acknowledging that the economy had stabilized, he said foreign direct investment (FDI) remains below potential continued to fall short of potential due to energy shortages and IMF-imposed conditionalities.

The minister called for a shift from revenue-driven taxation to industry-focused policy, tracing Pakistan's fiscal evolution from sales tax reliance in the 1990s to today's dependence on income and customs duties. He urged greater inclusion of private-sector experts in policymaking to ensure sustainable growth. Meanwhile, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan reiterated the government's resolve to ensure policy consistency and tariff reform. He said the government was simplifying the customs tariff structure to four slabs and working to eliminate all regulatory and additional duties to enhance global competitiveness. Haroon announced the launch of the National Industrial Policy, developed through consultations with public and private stakeholders, aimed at reviving industry, expanding access to finance, and promoting value addition over import dependence. "We are shifting the paradigm from protection to productivity," he said, highlighting ongoing reforms in the energy sector to ensure affordable and reliable supply, and in vehicle and industrial policies to encourage electric mobility and green manufacturing. The session brought together leading policymakers, economists, and thought leaders to discuss how liberty, economic reform, and private-sector dynamism can shape Pakistan's future. In his opening remarks Chief Executive Officer of PRIME Dr. Ali Salman emphasized that while political will matters, ideas matter more. He reflected on his journey of discovering the principles of liberty, particularly the ideas of open trade and flat taxation. Meanwhile, President and CEO of the Cato Institute (USA) Peter Goettler praised PRIME's dedication to advancing economic freedom and individual liberty.

"Freedom ultimately leads to prosperity," he stated, highlighting Pakistan's vast potential in human capital and emphasizing that freedom is not an event but a continual process of progress and reform. Rizwan Rawji, a supply-side economist, observed that while earlier discussions focused on energy and trade, taxation and growth have now taken centre stage in public discourse in Pakistan. President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh emphasized that Pakistan's fiscal approach must evolve toward modern, data-driven tax administration. He cautioned that reliance on withholding taxes is unsustainable and urged a transition from protectionist tariffs to policies that foster competitiveness and exports. The Pakistan Prosperity Forum 2025 concluded on an optimistic note, reaffirming PRIME's mission to advance evidence-based reforms, open markets, and individual liberty, paving the way for a freer, more prosperous Pakistan.—Agencies

At least 42 migrants presumed dead after boat capsizes off Libya

CAIRO: At least 42 people are missing and presumed dead after a boat carrying migrants capsized off the coast of Libya last week, the UN's migration agency said on Wednesday. Seven survivors have been located after the vessel's engine failed in high waves at around dawn on Nov. 3, several hours after it departed Zuwara, a coastal city northwestern Libya, the International Organization for Migration, or IOM, said. The survivors were stranded for six days and found after Libyan authorities carried out a rescue mission near Al-Buri Oil Field on Saturday. The rubber boat was said to have been carrying 47 men and two women. The missing include 29 Sudanese, eight Somalis, three Cameroon nationals, and two people from Nigeria. The IOM said it has provided urgent medical care, water and food to the survivors, who have been taken to Tripoli where they are said to be in a stable condition after suffering sunburn and skin irritation from seawater. Libya has been a main transit point for migrants fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East.—APP

Iraq records over 55% voter turnout in parliamentary elections

DUBAI: Voter turnout in Iraq's parliamentary elections exceeded 55 percent, the Independent High Electoral Commission announced on Tuesday. The organization said it had received results from 99.7 percent of polling stations nationwide, where more than 12 million citizens took part in both general and special voting. The commission said 10,898,327 out of 20,063,773 registered voters took part in the general voting, a turnout of over 54 percent. Meanwhile, special voting on Nov. 9 saw 1,084,289 out of 1,313,980 registered eligible voters take part, including members of security forces and other special categories. The IHEC also reported that 20,527 displaced people out of 26,538 registered voters took part, resulting in a 77 percent turnout in polling stations designated for those citizens. The commission confirmed the total number of voters across both general and special voting reached 12,003,143 out of 21,404,291 registered voters, placing national turnout at just above 55 percent.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik meeting with WB delegation led by Ms. Melormaa Amgaabazar, Country Director for Pakistan on Wednesday.

Lebanese say Israel preventing post-war reconstruction

MSAILEH: When engineer Tarek Mazraani started campaigning for the reconstruction of war-battered southern Lebanon, Israeli drones hovered ominously overhead — their loudspeakers sometimes calling him out by name. Despite a ceasefire struck last November aiming to put an end to more than a year of fighting with Hezbollah, Israel has kept up near-daily strikes on Lebanon. In addition to hitting alleged militants, it has recently also targeted bulldozers, excavators and prefabricated houses, often saying they were part of efforts to restore Hezbollah infrastructure. The bombing has prevented tens of thousands of people from returning to their homes, and has made rebuilding heavily-damaged border villages — like Mazraani's Hula — almost impossible. "For us, the war has not ended," Mazraani, 61, told AFP. "We can't return to our villages, rebuild or even check on our homes." In cash-strapped Lebanon, authorities have yet to begin reconstruction efforts, and have been hoping for international support, particularly from Gulf countries. They have also blamed Israeli strikes for preventing efforts to rebuild, which the World Bank estimates could cost \$11 billion. Eager to go back home, Mazraani established the "Association of the Residents of Border Villages" to call for the return of displaced people and the start of reconstruction. He even started making plans to rebuild homes he had previously designed. But in October, Israeli drones flew over southern villages, broadcasting a message through loudspeakers. They called out Mazraani by name and urged residents to expel him, implicitly accusing him of having ties with Hezbollah, which he denies. Asked by AFP, the Israeli army would not say on what basis they accuse Mazraani of working with Hezbollah. "They are bombing prefabricated houses, and not allowing anyone to get close to the border," said Mazraani, who has moved to Beirut for fear of Israel's threats. "They are saying: no reconstruction before handing over the weapons," he added, referring to Israel's demand that Hezbollah disarm. Amnesty International has estimated that "more than 10,000 structures were heavily damaged or destroyed" between October of last year — when Israel launched a ground offensive into southern Lebanon — and late January. It noted that much of the destruction followed the November 2024 truce that took effect after two months of open war. Just last month, Israeli strikes destroyed more than 300 bulldozers and excavators in yards in the Msaileh area, one of which belonged to Ahmed Tabaja, 65. Surrounded by burned-out machinery, his hands stained black, Tabaja said he hoped to repair just five of his 120 vehicles destroyed in the strikes — a devastating loss amounting to five million dollars. "Everyone knows there is nothing military here," he insisted. The yards, located near the highway, are open and visible. "There is nothing to hide," he said. In a nearby town, Hussein Kinar, 32, said he couldn't believe his eyes as he surveyed the heavy machinery garage his father built 30 years ago. He said Israel struck the family's yard twice: first during the war, and again in September after it was repaired. The first strike cost five million dollars, and the second added another seven million in losses, he estimated. "I watched everything burn right before my eyes," Kinar said.—DNA

Libya urged to shut migrant detention centers

GENEVA: Libya was urged at a UN meeting on Tuesday to close detention centers where rights groups say migrants and refugees have been tortured, abused and sometimes killed. Multiple states including Britain, Spain, Norway and Sierra Leone raised concerns at the meeting in Geneva about treatment of migrants in Libya, a major transit route for Africans fleeing conflict and poverty toward Europe. Some of them have been held in warehouses by traffickers where they have been subject to violence and extortion, according to a Dutch court case. Norway's ambassador Tormod Endresen called for protection of vulnerable migrants and an end to arbitrary detentions. Britain's rights ambassador Eleanor Sanders echoed that and also sought unrestricted access for UN and other groups to mass graves. Some bodies of migrants found in mass graves earlier this year bore gunshot wounds, a UN agency said. In an open letter to Libyan authorities published in parallel to the UN review, rights groups called for reforms, saying that armed groups were operating with impunity, obstructing courts and committing widespread abuses. Libya has had little peace since a 2011 uprising against long-time autocrat Muammar Qaddafi and is between warring eastern and western factions. Libya's Eltaher Salem M. Elbaour, acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for the UN-backed western government based in the capital Tripoli, said migrants placed a heavy burden on the divided state. "I'm not here to paint a perfect picture of the human rights situation in my country," he said. "Quite the opposite — I have come here to reiterate the large efforts we have made in order to ensure these rights are respected in spite of the challenges that are known to all during this very delicate transitional period." He cited as examples his country's acceptance of the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction in Libya and the creation of a new joint committee to address detention centers. Libya's review is part of a process by which governments and rights groups scrutinize all 193 UN member states' records every few years and recommend improvements.—DNA

Public confidence in President Tokayev reaches 86%

ASTANA : A new survey conducted by the Kazakh Institute for Strategic Studies (KazISS) showed that 86% of respondents are satisfied with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's performance, reflecting a "stable trend of public support for the country's modernization and renewal," Kazinform News Agency reports. "The highest level of trust is recorded among young people (90.1%). The younger the generation, the greater their trust in the President, based on expectations of the new and change; the older the generation, the stronger their desire for these changes not to disrupt the established order. Together, these sentiments form the very foundation for sustainable renewal that unites the majority of citizens today," KazISS noted.—APP

Moot on intelligent construction in China

AB KHAN

AN International Cooperation Conference on Intelligent Construction was successfully held in Wuhan, organized by the China International Contractors Association (CHINCA) and supported by CCTEB (China Construction Third Engineering Bureau) and CRHIC (China Railway Hi-Tech Industry Co., Ltd.). As an important part of the 2025 International (Wuhan) Intelligent Construction Industry Expo, the conference was themed "Smart Construction for Shared Success." It focused on topics such as overseas practices in intelligent construction, BIM technology applications, and empowering global construction with Chinese standards. Eleven distinguished experts, scholars, and industry leaders from China and abroad delivered keynote and thematic speeches, exploring new opportunities and pathways for construction enterprises going global in the digital era. Key attendees included Fang Qiuchen, President of CHINCA; Wang Yijun, Deputy Director-General of the Belt and Road Initiative Promotion Center under China's National Development and Reform Commission; Chen Huarong, First-Class Inspector of the Hubei Provincial Department of Commerce; Zafar Uddin Mahmood, Special Representative for China Affairs to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Policy Advisor to the Boao Forum for Asia; Abdulkadir Emin Onen, Member of the Turkish Parliament; Chen Weiguo, Chairman of CCTEB; Lin Feng, General Manager of Sinosure Hubei Branch; Zhang Zhiguo, Deputy General Manager of CRHIC; Cai Yulong, Deputy General Manager of CSCEC Science and Industry Group and Chairman of CSCEC Steel Structure; and Radovan Viškovac, General Manager of the Highway Company of Republika Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The conference was chaired by Yao Danbo, Secretary General of CHINCA. In their remarks, the speakers emphasized that intelligent construction represents a new productive force reshaping the industry landscape. They

called for deeper international cooperation, alignment of standards, and enhanced risk management to jointly promote high-quality Belt and Road development. The Hubei Provincial Department of Commerce expressed its commitment to fostering innovation, openness, and a favorable business environment, further strengthening collaboration in the global intelligent construction sector. Sparks Converge, Networks Connect — The 2025 International (Wuhan) Intelligent Construction Industry Expo Concludes Successfully. The 2025 International (Wuhan) Intelligent Construction Industry Expo successfully concluded at the China Optics Valley Convention & Exhibition Center on November 2. Jointly organized by CCTEB, Huawei, Tsinghua University's School of Civil and Hydraulic Engineering, the Hubei Provincial Construction Industry Association, and 25 other partners, the three-day event attracted over 36,000 visitors. It featured seven major exhibition zones, showcased more than 1,300 innovative achievements, and achieved a total contract value exceeding 5.5 billion RMB. With the theme "Developing the Industrial Internet and Building Better Housing," the Expo gathered leaders from government, industry, academia, and research to explore new paths for high-quality development in intelligent construction. From the "International Cooperation Conference on Smart Construction" to the "AI and Intelligent Construction Forum," the event highlighted cutting-edge technologies and promoted collaborative innovation across the global construction industry. Talking on the sidelines, the Chairman CCTEB Mr. Chen Weiguo when asked that Intelligent construction relies on digital operations. Will this affect Pakistan's local employment structure? He explained that the achievements of 97% localization rate of the PKM project and the all-Pakistan quality supervision team reflect CCTEB's original aspiration of rooting in Pakistan and serving local development. This orientation will only be firmer in the era of intelligent construction. The essence of intelligent construction is "empowering people with technology" rather than replacing human resources. It can reduce repetitive physical labor and enable local employees to shift to higher-val-

ue positions such as technical operations and project management. The "Luban Craftsman Program" launched by us is the core carrier for the skill upgrading of Pakistani employees and the reserve of core talents. Based on this program, on the one hand, we will upgrade the "technology + management" dual-track training system, include key skills such as intelligent tow-

er technology, reserve future professional talents for China-Pakistan infrastructure cooperation, and continuously consolidate the local infrastructure talent echelon in Pakistan. Talking about the flagship PKM project which provided a large number of employment opportunities for Pakistan. In the era of intelligent construction, the company continues to give priority to recruiting

quality will continue to improve. For Pakistani employees with different skill levels, we will adopt a "hierarchical training + precise adaptation" mechanism to make Pakistani employees of different skill levels make the best use of their talents: basic positions ensure stable employment, and technical positions realize capacity upgrading through free systematic training, so as to ensure the smooth transition of local employees from "labor participation" to "technical cooperation", and continuously create dignified employment opportunities with development space. When asked how do you see Pakistan's construction needs for "good houses" and "good urban areas", can be met, Chaiman Weiguo said "Pakistan's construction needs for "good houses" and "good urban areas" are highly consistent with CCTEB's development direction. We look forward to taking this conference as an opportunity to reach three major practical cooperation with Pakistan: first, co-building an intelligent construction technology standard system, promoting the in-depth integration of internationally advanced technologies with local infrastructure standards in Pakistan, and making technology application more suitable for local needs. Second, implementing intelligent construction demonstration projects, building benchmark projects in fields such as residential buildings, municipal engineering and environmental protection, and verifying the practicality and local adaptation of technologies. Third, building a platform for technology transfer and localized production to help Pakistan cultivate an independent and controllable intelligent construction industrial ecosystem and achieve "teaching people to fish". At present, we are conducting intensive docking with relevant parties. If phased signing or cooperation consensus is reached, we will announce it to the public through the media as soon as possible, jointly witness the practical results of China-Pakistan intelligent construction cooperation, and work together to build more projects benefiting the people".



er crane control, construction robot operation and digital project management into compulsory courses, and co-build intelligent construction talent training bases with local universities in Pakistan to realize the skill iteration of existing Pakistani employees. On the other hand, for Pakistani students studying in China, we have reached cooperation with many domestic universities, integrated cutting-edge content such as intelligent construction and green low-carbon into the teaching of relevant majors, and regularly organized "Project Open Day" activities to invite international students to enter the intelligent construction site, intuitively feel the application

and hiring local Pakistani employees as its core principle of CCTEB's overseas development. This principle will not change in the era of intelligent construction. The application of intelligent construction technology will not only reduce the total employment volume, but also optimize the employment structure. It will not only spawn high-tech positions such as construction robot operation, digital monitoring and intelligent operation and maintenance, but also retain and upgrade basic positions such as project management, supply chain coordination and community communication, so that the total employment volume will remain stable and the

Briefs

Pakistan continues to participate in IWT meetings: FO

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday said that it continued to fully participate in good faith in the Neutral Expert proceedings, with its next phase scheduled to take place on November 17-21 in Vienna. "The Neutral Expert proceedings were initiated on India's request, with their next phase scheduled to take place in Vienna from 17-21 November 2025. While India has decided to halt its participation, Pakistan continues to fully participate in the Neutral Expert proceedings in good faith," the Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said in a statement. He said that the Neutral Expert had ruled that India's non-participation could not operate as a bar to the proceedings going forward. The spokesperson said that in the context of the arbitration initiated by Pakistan against India under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), Pakistan had taken note of the recent Decision of the Court of Arbitration which has offered helpful clarification on certain aspects of the Court's 'Award on Issues of General Interpretation of the Indus Waters Treaty', published on 8 August 2025. Pakistan has also taken note of the Procedural Order issued in parallel with the decision which affirms that the Court will continue to conduct these proceedings in a phased manner and would take into account the proceedings taking place before the Neutral Expert under Article IX and Annexure F of the IWT, he added.

ANP leader escapes life attempt in Swat blast

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) leader, Mumtaz Ali Khan on Wednesday survived an attempt on his life when a roadside bomb exploded near his car in Shakardara area of Matta, Swat, police informed. According to police, no casualties were reported in the explosion. The blast occurred near the vehicle of former PK-9 ANP candidate Mumtaz Ali Khan, causing partial damage to the car. Police said Mumtaz Khan was on his way to attend a funeral when the explosive device, planted about 300 feet from his house, detonated. A heavy police contingent reached the scene shortly after the incident, and an investigation is currently underway. It is worth noting that on the same day, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is holding a peace jirga aimed at promoting stability and countering the recent rise in violence in the province. - APP

Student recounts terror attack at Cadet College

The military's media wing said that two terrorists were killed on the spot, while three were cornered inside the college — who were later killed by security forces

DNA

WANA: A rescued student of Cadet College Wana recounted the tense moments of Saturday night's foiled terrorist attack by India-sponsored Fitna Al-Khawarij, saying that they heard a loud explosion just when they were preparing for a drill competition. "All of us were on the parade ground doing drills when the suicide blast occurred," the cadet narrated, and added moments later, their teachers immediately took charge and urged everyone to stay calm. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), heinous and cowardly terrorists backed by India attempted to breach the perimeter security of the college on Monday, ramming an explosive-laden vehicle on the main gate, resulting in its collapse and damage to adjacent infrastructure. The military's media wing said that two terrorists were killed on the spot, while three were cornered inside the college — who were later killed by security forces. Reflecting on those tense moments, the

cadet said, "The teachers instructed us to stay calm, assuring us that soldiers of the Pakistan Army had reached the scene." The cadet said they soon realised who was behind the assault. "We knew the attack was carried out by the enemies of education," he said, and added, "No matter what they do, they can't keep us away from education." The cadet said that the Pakistan Army soldiers moved us safely from the college to a secure location. Operation Commander Colonel Muhammad Tahir said that a suicide bomber blew himself up near the college gate, with other militants attempting to force their way in and take students hostage. "A suicide attacker blew himself up, and other militants tried to enter through the gate," he said. "Our security forces responded immediately and prevented the attackers from reaching the students." Colonel Tahir said the militants were cornered to a specific block and neutralised in a decisive operation conducted between 10 and 10:30pm after the safe evacuation of all cadets, teachers, and other staff.

Dar underscores dialogue as foundation for peace at ISC

"As Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House in the Senate, I am reminded that Pakistan's journey on the international stage has always been defined by resilience, dialogue and partnership," Dar said

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to dialogue, diplomacy and multilateralism as essential instruments for ensuring peace, stability and development, while addressing second day of the three-day Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC). Speaking before parliamentarians, delegates and participants from across the globe here, the DPM said their presence reflected a shared conviction that cooperation among nations remained the surest path to peace and progress. He noted that the conference, convened under the Senate of Pakistan through the vision of Chairman Senate and ISC Founding Chairman Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, marked another milestone in Pakistan's sustained efforts to advance peace, security and development through multilateralism. "As Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House in the Senate, I am reminded that Pakistan's journey on the international stage has always been defined by resilience, dialogue and partnership," Dar said, adding that the ISC provided a unique platform to translate these principles into tangible outcomes that advance Pakistan's interests while strengthening regional stability. He emphasized that diplomacy today extended beyond ministries and traditional missions, drawing strength from public awareness and parliamentary engagement. "Parliamentary diplomacy complements traditional diplomacy by bringing the perspective of the people's representatives into international discourse," he said, underscoring that such interactions enrich global cooperation and ensure that diplomacy reflects the aspirations and interests of citizens worldwide. Dar praised parliamentarians for their vital role in translating international commitments into domestic actions, simplifying regulations and enabling innovation to ensure that growth benefits all citizens. He said through regional connectivity, trade facilitation and investment partnerships, economies could achieve shared prosperity. Referring to the ongoing global challenges, Dar noted that the world was witnessing an era of transformation marked



by strained trust in multilateral institutions, growing geopolitical rivalries, climate crises, terrorism and widening inequalities. "At such a moment, forums like this carry exceptional significance," he remarked. "Multilateralism must not only be preserved but revitalized through openness, inclusion and the active participation of people's representatives." The Deputy Prime Minister said this year's theme "Peace, Security and Development" underscored

a simple but powerful truth — that peace enables growth, development sustains peace, and security fortifies progress. He urged that institutions must be accountable and inclusive so that the dividends of peace and development reach all people. Condemning the recent terrorist attacks in Wana and Islamabad that claimed 15 lives, Dar said Pakistan categorically rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. "These cowardly acts will never shake our national resolve to eliminate this menace," he said, reaffirming that dialogue, understanding and partnership remain the only sustainable path to peace and security. Dar reiterated that Pakistan's foreign policy was anchored in the principles of the UN Charter — sovereign equality, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference and friendly relations among nations. "Dialogue has always been our preferred instrument for stability and progress," he said, noting Pakistan's consistent advocacy for regional cooperation, conflict prevention and equitable development. Highlighting Pakistan's leadership at the United Nations, he recalled that during its presidency of the UN Security Council in July 2025, Pakistan had convened an open debate on promoting international peace through multilateralism, leading to the unanimous adoption of a Pakistan-sponsored resolution on strengthening mechanisms for peaceful dispute settlement. "Pakistan's experience uniquely positions it as a bridge between the Global South and the Global North and between regions and civilizations. We believe cooperation must replace competition, and equitable partnerships, not hierarchies, should define the future international order," he said. Concluding his remarks, Dar called on the participants to reaffirm their faith in dialogue and cooperation. "Pakistan stands ready to continue serving as a bridge-builder, uniting regions, amplifying the voices of the developing world, and promoting peace through justice and dialogue," he said. "Ultimately, diplomacy, whether in the chamber or chancery, must serve the people." He added that the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference embodied this spirit of people-centered diplomacy, rooted in representation, anchored in accountability and driven by empathy, paving the way for a fairer, safer and more prosperous world for all.

South Sudan conflict**Pakistan urges government recommit to peace agreement**

UNITED NATIONS: With South Sudan facing rising instability marked by political polarization, Pakistan has urged the government to recommit to the Revitalized Peace Agreement to prevent this East African country from sliding back into full-scale conflict. "We are concerned by the erosion of power-sharing arrangements, and escalation of hostilities that have caused civilian harm, displacement and impediments to humanitarian access," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the UN Security Council on Tuesday. "These are fundamentally political challenges that require political solutions," he said in the course of a debate on the situation in South Sudan. The Revitalised Peace Agreement was the key safeguard against renewed civil war, but elements of its power-sharing and security provisions are fraying, the UN said. With elections planned for December 2026 across South Sudan — the world's youngest country — political competition risks igniting violence instead of consolidating peace. Meanwhile, the war in neighbouring Sudan is making it all worse. Since April 2023, more than 1.2 million people have crossed into South Sudan, further straining already limited

systems and resources. In his comments, the Pakistani envoy urged all parties to de-escalate, to recommit to the 2017 Cessation of Hostilities agreement, and to return to an inclusive dialogue process. "In this spirit," Ambassador Asim Ahmad added, "we support appeals by African Union and others for release of First Vice-President Riek Machar and other detained opposition figures, to help restore trust and enable full implementation of the Revitalized Agreement." At the same time, he made it clear that Pakistan stands firmly with the people of South Sudan in their quest for peace, stability and development. "We acknowledge the steps taken by the Government of South Sudan to engage with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other partners in addressing the challenges faced by the country." The Pakistani envoy warned of South Sudan's worsening humanitarian crisis, driven by conflict, severe flooding, a cholera outbreak and spillover from Sudan's war, and urged donors to fund the Humanitarian Response Plan, now only 30 per cent financed, and called for protection of aid workers and respect for humanitarian law. - Agencies

India probes link between Delhi car blast and earlier IIOJK arrests, say sources

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: India's anti-terrorism agency spearheaded on Wednesday the third day of investigations into a car blast in the capital, as a hospital official said the death toll had increased to 12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called the explosion on Monday evening a "conspiracy", and has vowed that those responsible will face justice. Police are yet to give exact details of what caused the intense explosion near the historic Red Fort in the crowded Old Delhi quarter of the city, one of India's best-known landmarks and the site of the annual Independence Day speech by the prime minister. It was the most significant security incident since April 22, when 26 mainly Hindu civilians were killed at the tourist site of Pahalgam in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), triggering

New Delhi car blast death toll rises to 12

clashes with Pakistan. "Twelve people have died and more than 30 are injured," Ritu Saxena, the chief medical officer of Delhi's LNJP hospital, told AFP. India's NIA is leading the probe into the explosion, which came hours after police said they had arrested a gang and seized explosive materials and assault rifles. Home Minister Amit Shah, after chairing security talks following Monday's blast, said he had instructed officials "to hunt down each and every culprit behind this incident". Indian police are investigating whether there is a link between this week's car blast in Delhi and the earlier arrest of a group of seven men from the restive IIOJK region, found with arms and bomb-making material, three sources familiar with the probe said on Wednesday.

Turkey says military plane crash in Georgia killed all 20 onboard

ISTANBUL: Turkey on Wednesday said all 20 people onboard a military cargo plane that crashed in Georgia on its return from Azerbaijan had died. The plane had taken off from Ganja airport in western Azerbaijan on Tuesday afternoon but crashed shortly after crossing the border into eastern Georgia, the defence ministry said after the incident. It said there were 20 people on board, including the flight crew. "Our heroic comrades-in-arms were martyred on 11 November 2025 due to the crash of our C-130 military cargo aircraft, which had taken off from Azerbaijan to return to Turkey," Defence Minister Yasar Guler said in a statement posted on his X account alongside 20 photographs of those who died. Turkey has not said what caused the accident but dramatic footage taken by eyewitnesses and published by Azerbaijani media appeared to show the plane spinning horizontally alongside several bits of debris as it fell. Georgia's interior ministry had confirmed the plane went down in the Signaghi area, "about five kilometres (3.1 miles) from Georgia's state border" with Azerbaijan. Georgian air traffic control said the plane had disappeared from its radar shortly after entering its airspace "without transmitting a distress signal" and that it had been alerted to the crash by the emergency services. - APP

Cadet College Wana stands strong

ISLAMABAD: The morale of teachers and cadets at Cadet College Wana remains high, with a firm resolve to stand against terrorism, following an attack by Afghan khwarij on November 10. According to security sources, Field Marshal Asim Munir, the Army Chief, closely monitored the operation, emphasizing that the cadets are the nation's valuable assets and must be protected at all costs. The Pakistan Army personnel acted as a shield between the cadets and khwarij for over 24 hours, making sacrifices to save the children. The Operation Commander, Col. Muhammad Tahir, said that five Afghan khwarij had attempted to attack the college, targeting this prestigious institution, a gift from the Pakistan Army to the people of South Waziristan. "One suicide bomber detonated himself, while the remaining khwarij attempted to breach the main gate and tried to take the students hostage," he said. The security forces swiftly responded, foiling the attack and eliminating the khwarij. The cadets, who were preparing for a drill competition, remained calm, knowing that the attack was an attempt to disrupt their education. A cadet said, "We knew the attack was carried out by enemies of education who want to stop us from learning." - APP

NOVEMBER 2025

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pk
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Daily
Islamabad POST11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-8488394