



Islamabad POST

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German, Pak cultural relations on the move says Ambassador Ina

Detailed News On Page-08

Action against traffickers very much on cards

Detailed News On Page-08



PCB gives key role to former Sarfraz Ahmed

Detailed News On Page-06



Friendship solidified

Pakistan, Jordan reject displacement of Palestine people

President Asif Ali Zardari conferred Nishan-e-Pakistan on His Majesty the King of Jordan

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari received His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who is on a State visit to Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr here. His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, Chief Advisor for Religious and Cultural Affairs and Personal Envoy; Mr Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and Major General Yousef Huneiti, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari; Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Senator Sherry Rehman were present on the occasion. The two leaders reaffirmed the longstanding and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Jordan and discussed the full range of bilateral relations. They noted the need to build on the strength of these relations and to encourage greater people-to-people contact between the two countries.

PICTURE ON PAGE 7

They also reviewed regional and international developments of mutual concern, with particular focus on peace, stability and security in the Middle East. Both sides underlined the importance of working together in multilateral forums and of promoting humanitarian and development cooperation. On Palestine, the President and His Majesty noted the convergence of views and reiterated their shared principled position on post-war Gaza. They rejected any displacement of Palestinians and emphasised the need for a Two-State solution. They called for the establishment of an independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous State of Palestine on pre-June 1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. His Majesty King Abdullah II expressed pride in the deep-rooted ties between

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King Abdullah witnesses military drills

DNA

ISLAMABAD: His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces visited Global Industrial & Defence Solutions (GIDS) accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Salma bint Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein and delegation of Jordanian civil and military officials. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) along with other senior officials received the royal guests at the venue. During the visit, His Majesty was given a comprehensive briefing on the structure, capabilities, and product portfolio of GIDS. The briefing showcased Pakistan's progress in indigenous defence production, technological innovation, and potential avenues for bilateral defence cooperation between Pakistan and Jordan. Later, His Majesty King Abdullah II visited the Tilla Field Firing Ranges. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also graced the occasion. His Excellency Mr Vugar Valeh oglu Mustafayev, Minister of Defence Industry of the Republic of Azerbaijan was also amongst

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DNA



RAWALPINDI: Jordanian king given comprehensive briefing on structure, capabilities, and product portfolio of state-owned Global Industrial and Defence Solutions. – DNA

Every woman must receive her rightful share in inheritance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In its verdict, the SC bench dismissed an appeal filed by Abrar Hussain against a March 3, 2023, order of the Sindh High Court (SHC). The high court had rejected his plea challenging a 2021 order that had also refused his appeal against a 2019 trial court decision. The case pertained to a property dispute between Hussain and his sister Bibi Shahida, who had filed a complaint in March 2015. Shahida said she repeatedly demanded her share after her father passed away in 2002, as well as her two other siblings later on, but Hussain refused to give it. Hussain “took exclusive possession of

Continued on Page 06

Three arrested for attack cricketer house

DNA

PESHAWAR: Police in Lower Dir have arrested three suspects in connection with the attack on Pakistani cricketer Naseem Shah's residence in the Mayar area earlier this month, officials said on Saturday. The attack had occurred in the early hours of November 10, when unidentified gunmen opened fire on the main gate of the cricketer's house at around 1:45am, leaving bullet marks on doors, walls, and windows. The attackers had fled immediately, leaving the family shaken but unharmed. A special police team, led by

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Defence Minister says

Imran Khan remained under control of Gen Bajwa, Faiz Hamid

PTI founder aware of The Economist's story in jail, hints at legal action against UK journal, say sources

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday claimed that the then-prime minister Imran Khan remained under the full control of former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and ex-ISI chief Faiz Hamid during his tenure. In an interview with Geo News, Asif said the claims made in The Economist report were accurate, insisting that Bushra Bibi “worked for the former ISI chief and that the information she passed on would prove correct within days.” “A serious joke was played with Pakistan and a woman was launched for the sake of power,” he said, adding that large-scale financial wrongdoing took place under a planned scheme and claimed that the money from this loot was partly given to the PTI founder, while the rest was sent abroad.

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‘Strong response to any aggression’

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on Sunday pledged a swift and strong response to any act of aggression against Pakistan. He, while speaking to Daily Jang at a luncheon hosted for Jordan's King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein at the President's House, raised his finger towards the sky, saying: “I did not lead Pakistan to victory, Allah did.” “It is Allah's special blessing that Pakistan's enemy bit the dust in May. Pakistan's Army is Allah's Army,

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Indian CDS slams defence industry

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: India's Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan has castigated the country's defence industry, exposing deep fissures in New Delhi's self-proclaimed drive for military self-reliance and raising fresh questions about the reliability of equipment. Speaking at a seminar in New Delhi, the CDS slammed several manufacturers for misleading the military by falsely branding imported equipment as “70% indigenous”. “We expect a bit of nationalism and patriotism in your profit-driven endeavours. I am given to understand... actually, the Army was telling me that they were scouting for 5th and 6th EP procurements, most of the people have over-promised things and they have failed to deliver in that time frame,” the CDS said.

‘No undeclared nuclear enrichment facility’ in Iran

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Sunday that the country had no undeclared uranium enrichment sites and that all of its facilities were monitored by the UN's nuclear watchdog. The assertion came after US media outlets, including the Washington Post and the New York Times, reported that Iran had accelerated construction at a secret underground nuclear site called “Pickaxe Mountain”, or Kuhe Kolang, near its Natanz facility. “There's no undeclared nuclear enrichment facility in Iran; all of our facilities are under the safeguard and monitoring of the agency,” Araghchi said during a forum in Tehran.

Inspiration from Danish approach Asylum overhaul in UK to impose 20-year wait for permanent settlement

Polls suggest immigration has overtaken the economy as British voters' top concern. Over the summer, protests took place outside hotels housing asylum seekers at public expense

DNA

LONDON: Britain said it would make refugee status temporary, and the wait for permanent settlement would be quadrupled to 20 years under the country's most sweeping overhaul of policy on asylum seekers in modern times. The Labour government has been hardening its immigration policies, above all on illegal small-boat crossings from France, in efforts to stem the soaring popularity of the populist Reform UK party, which has driven the immigration agenda. The government said it would take inspiration from Denmark's approach, one of the toughest in Europe – where growing anti-immigrant sentiment has led to increased restrictions in many countries – and widely criticised by rights groups. As part of the changes, the statutory duty to provide

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Zelensky in Greece to seal energy deal

APP

ATHENS: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in Athens on Sunday, his spokesman Sergiy Nykyforov told AFP, to seal a gas deal with Greece and meet Ukraine's winter fuel needs. He was received at Athens International Airport by Greek Deputy Prime Minister Kostis Hatzidakis, according to footage from Greek public television ERT. In his first visit since 2023, the Ukrainian leader will meet with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, among others.

Continued on Page 06

Suicide bomber ‘attempted to attack Faizabad checkpoint’

Sources say attacker failed to remove pin of explosives for detonation and returned to Rawalpindi

FIYZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: In an alarming revelation, it has come to light that the suicide attacker behind the Islamabad blast was involved in a failed attempt at targeting the Faizabad checkpoint, the sources said on Sunday. During the ongoing investigation into the terrorist's facilitator and handler, it has come to the fore that the suicide bomber had reached the Faizabad checkpoint but couldn't remove the pin of the explosives to detonate. The terrorist, sources added, returned to Rawalpindi after the pin could not be removed and then carried out the attack at the judicial complex a few days later. The suicide explosion at the Judicial Complex left 12 people martyred and at least 36 wounded, including lawyers and petitioners, and prompted the suspension of court proceedings. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the attacker detonated near a police vehicle after failing to enter the courthouse. Police reported the blast set nearby cars ablaze and scattered debris across the area. An investigation report prepared by the police stated the bomber arrived in Islamabad last Friday and travelled to the court from Pirwadhah on a motorcycle. The attack, the capital's first suicide bombing in nearly three

years, since December 2022, occurred as Islamabad was hosting major international events, including the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference and the sixth Margalla Dialogue. Since then, the federal government has announced the arrest of four members of a Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan/ Fitna al-Khawarij (TTP/FAK) cell linked to the suicide attack at the Islamabad District Judicial Complex, G-11. Sajidullah alias Sheena, who was the handler of the suicide bomber, confessed that TTP/FAK Commander Saeed-ur-Rehman alias Daadullah (resident of Charmang, Bajaur, currently in Afghanistan, and serving as TTP's Intelligence Chief for Nawagai, Bajaur) contacted him through the Telegram application to carry out a suicide attack in Islamabad to cause maximum casualties of LEAs. The official statement released by the government's X handle also said that Daadullah sent pictures of the suicide bomber (SB) Usman alias Qari to Sajidullah alias Sheena for receiving him. SB Usman Qari belonged to the Shinwari tribe and was a resident of Achin, Nangarhar, Afghanistan. When he reached Pakistan from Afghanistan, Sajidullah alias Sheena arranged his stay in a residence near Islamabad. On the directions of Afghanistan-based TTP/FAK (Fitna al-Khawarij) Commander Daadullah, Sajidullah alias

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Kundi discusses Junagarh dispute with Nawab Khanji

ISLAMABAD: Nawab of Junagarh State, Nawab Ali Murtaza Khanji, and the representative of the family of Hazrat Sultan Bahu (RA) and Chairman of Muslim Institute, Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House Islamabad on Sunday. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the historical background of the State of Junagarh, its accession to Pakistan, and the current situation. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi reaffirmed his commitment to playing a constructive and proactive role in highlighting the Junagarh issue, saying that he would continue to fulfill his responsibilities in raising awareness about this important national matter. The participants emphasized that Junagarh was the first princely state to accede to Pakistan, and for nearly three months after accession, Pakistan's flag continued to fly over the state. However, on 9 November 1947, India forcibly occupied Junagarh, after which Pakistan took the matter to the United Nations Security Council, where it remains registered to this day.—APP

27 sugar mills in the province start crushing

LAHORE: The Cane Commissioner Punjab announced that 27 sugar mills across the province have begun crushing as per the government's deadline of November 15. The announcement came after a stern warning was issued to mills that failed to start crushing by Sunday. The Punjab government had previously set November 15 as the deadline for sugar mills to commence crushing, and the Cane Commissioner emphasized that strict action would be taken against any mills that delayed the process. As of now, 27 sugar mills in Punjab have complied with the directive and started crushing. However, the Cane Commissioner mentioned that the remaining 14 mills will be inspected on Sunday, and action will be taken against those found in violation. The Cane Commissioner also outlined the measures that would be implemented: mills failing to start crushing by Sunday will be fined Rs. 1 million per day until they comply.—APP

Smog-free Punjab campaign shows positive results

LAHORE: The Punjab government's "Smog-Free Punjab" awareness campaign is beginning to show positive results, with a notable reduction in air pollution across the province. On Sunday, the Air Quality Index (AQI) of Lahore, the provincial capital, was recorded at 291, while in the Indian capital Delhi, the pollution levels were far worse, reaching an alarming 647. According to official sources, teams from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted inspections of vehicles and 102 brick kilns along the motorway. The inspection revealed that 87 of these kilns were operating in compliance with the zigzag technology.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Charge d'affaires of Palestine Nader K Alturk along with his spouse interacting with the woman sitting at the traditional "Charkho" at Sindh Pavilion during the annual Lok Mela at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.

Investment in edu vital for country's growth: Qaiser

FAISALABAD/CHINIOT: Federal Minister for Investment Board Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh emphasized that Pakistan's future hinges on restoring education as its top national priority, warning that the country's economic decline begins when it stops investing seriously in learning, planning, and human development. Speaking at the convocation of FAST National University's Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus on Sunday, he noted that countries which invested earliest and most consistently in education have emerged as global leaders. Pakistan, he said, cannot afford to stand still at this critical juncture. He reflected on how Pakistan and South Korea once shared almost identical economic standing, with both nations closely studying each other's developmental models. He recalled that Pakistan's five-year plans were considered exemplary by South Korea's Ministry of Education and Planning in the 1960s, with both countries benefiting from this exchange of ideas. Such historical comparisons remind us of Pakistan's untapped potential, which can only be unlocked through an unwavering commitment to quality education at all levels, he added. He emphasized that in his recent speech to the National Assembly, he stressed the same point: unless Pakistan strengthens its 12-year foundational education, higher education alone cannot accelerate national development. He pointed out that performance trends from cities like Karachi demonstrate the need to improve schooling standards before expecting excellence in universities. Countries like Thailand, he said, had experienced economic growth after recognizing education as a fundamental economic building block, not merely a social service. The Minister congratulated the graduates and stated that the burden of Pakistan's progress now rests on their shoulders. He also acknowledged their parents for entrusting their children to an institution that has consistently delivered world-class academic standards. He reflected on the initial doubts surrounding the establishment of FAST University's Chiniot campus, which now stands as a beacon of academic success for the entire region. The campus began as a personal vision, he shared, with his family, friends, and company collectively providing 10 acres of land at a time when many doubted that a FAST campus in a relatively remote district would succeed. "People said it would fail, but today

the success of FAST Chiniot is visible to everyone," he stated, citing increasing enrollments, modern facilities, and strong student performance as evidence of the decision's success. Qaiser Sheikh also announced Rs. 1 million for gold medal recipients and another Rs. 1 million for deserving students, stating that financial support nurtures talent and maintains academic motivation. He praised Pakistan's youth for their extraordinary potential and said that with the right guidance and a clear sense of direction, they could excel on global platforms. He stressed the importance of computer science and emerging technologies as the backbone of Pakistan's future and urged graduates to lead the country into an era of innovation, data science, artificial intelligence, and modern engineering. FAST University, he added, has already positioned itself as one of the most reliable institutions for producing globally competitive professionals. He concluded that Pakistan's economic revival, technological advancement, and institutional strength depend heavily on educated youth who understand their responsibilities. He expressed confidence that FAST graduates would emerge as leaders in academia, industry, and public service, making significant contributions to national development. Director of Sapphire Group, Muhammad Younus, also addressed the convocation, emphasizing that education is the strongest pathway to a secure and progressive future. He pointed out that the world is advancing at an unprecedented pace, driven by science, technology, and innovation, and only nations that embrace research, critical thinking, and modern knowledge can compete globally. He further highlighted the 21st century as an information age, where economies thrive on skills, creativity, and problem-solving rather than traditional industries alone. Praising FAST University for its significant contributions to Pakistan's technological and economic growth, he noted that the university has achieved remarkable milestones in a short period. From developing skilled graduates to supporting research and local industry, he said, FAST University is shaping the future of Pakistan. He also mentioned that FAST allocates over Rs. 80 million annually in financial aid, benefiting more than 2,000 students. He congratulated the graduating class, urging them

to step confidently into practical life with dedication, humility, and a commitment to serving the nation. He reminded the graduates that the true purpose of education lies in its application, and that their success is rooted in the support of their parents, teachers, and the university's leadership. Prof. Dr. Aftab Ahmad Maroof, Rector of the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, commended the university for equipping students with the skills, mindset, and confidence necessary to transition swiftly into the workforce. Acknowledging the contributions of faculty, campus management, and especially parents, he stressed the pivotal role that families play in shaping a student's academic journey. He urged the graduates to recognize the immense challenges Pakistan faces and step forward to solve them. He encouraged them to embrace entrepreneurship and innovation, advising young professionals to gain industry exposure before exploring entrepreneurial ventures that address Pakistan's needs. He shared inspiring stories from FAST's history, including major land donations that enabled the development of the Lahore and Chiniot campuses, and highlighted the university's commitment to managing resources with transparency and integrity. He also called on the graduates to stay connected as proud alumni, reminding them that FAST's facilities and support networks would always be open to them. Prof. Dr. Shahzad Sarfraz, Director of the FAST Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus, presented the welcome address and highlighted the campus's achievements. He informed the audience that degrees were conferred in PhD Electrical Engineering, MS Computer Science, MBA, BS Electrical Engineering, BBA, BS Computer Science, and BS Software Engineering, with medals and awards presented to high-performing students. The ceremony was also attended by H.E. Mr. Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ambassador of Thailand and Chair of the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI), H.E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia, H.E. Mr. Wunna Han, Ambassador of Myanmar, and other distinguished guests. Later, the minister distributed shields among the ambassadors and other guests.—DNA

Tablighi Ijtima at Raiwind concludes with special prayers

LAHORE: The three-day International Tablighi congregation concluded at Raiwind on Sunday with a special prayer for the prosperity and solidarity of the country and unity within the Muslim world. Following the prayers, thousands of attendees began their journey home. To facilitate smoother traffic flow, Raiwind Road was converted into a one-way route. Special arrangements were made at Raiwind Railway Station to manage the high volume of travelers. All trains were instructed to make stops at the station for the convenience of Ijtima attendees.—APP

Tolerance based society guarantees peaceful state: Tessori

KARACHI: Governor of Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday said that a society based on tolerance and respect was the guarantee of a peaceful and stable state. In his important message on International Day for Tolerance, he said, "To eliminate intolerance, strengthening law, education, and awareness is indispensable." He said that Sindh's identity was harmony, brotherhood and respect for diverse cultures. The Governor appealed to the public to accept one another despite differences of opinion. Tessori said that tolerance was not a weakness but a sign of strong character and high moral values.—APP

Ahsan highlights role of Christian community in progress

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal attended a one-day spiritual prayer service held at Isa Nagri, Narowal as the chief guest, where he paid rich tribute to the Christian community for its historic and significant contributions to the creation, development, and progress of Pakistan. The event was organized under the leadership of Senior Pastor Anwar Fazal and attended by Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, Pastor Nida Anwar, local leadership of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), and a large number of Christian community members, said a press release issued here on Sunday.—APP

Peshawar's wool workers battle inflation thr craftmanship

PESHAWAR: As the cold winter breeze sweeps through the winding alleys of old Peshawar, the centuries-old Jehangirpura and Qissa Khwani bazaars awaken with a familiar rhythm flooded with wool garments, attracting customers in droves. Their narrow passageways, which once trodden by caravans and storytellers, is now burst into life with a mosaic of wool jackets, coats, sweaters and shawls draped from every stall and stacked on every shoulder. For hundreds of families arrived from different cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, these garments are not merely seasonal goods but they are a lifeline for underprivileged and poor families to protect themselves of biting cold. Among the chorus of shopkeepers calling out to passing customers, 25-year-old Hussain Khan stands out at Qissa Khwani bazaar on Sunday. His warm smile, gentle voice, and quiet determination have earned him a reputation in the historic bazaar not just as a vendor, but as a symbol of hope and resilience for many unemployed youth. Every morning, long before the city stirs, Hussain leaves his home in Pabbi, Nowshera, riding his motorcycle through the fog-thick roads toward Peshawar's historic markets. What awaits him there is both his workplace and his refuge that is a modest corner where he arranges heaps of second-hand wool jackets, coats, and sweaters, which are treasures for those seeking affordable protection against the cold. "I lost my parents when I was very young," he said softly, folding a heavy coat while attending to a customer. "The loans I took for their medical treatment left me with nothing. Selling used jackets and sweaters became my only option to survive. For the past ten years, Hussain has weathered life's storms selling coats in the winter and Peshawari chappals in the summer. Each sale earns him roughly Rs. 300, barely enough to get by. Yet he dreams of one day opening a small shop of his own near Qissa Khwani Bazaar, a dream he safeguards with the same care he gives to his neatly folded garments. As winter tightens its grip on the city of artisans, Peshawar's readymade garment markets transform into bustling hubs. Low-income families, daily wage earners, farmers, drivers, underpaid employees and middle-class shoppers from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa flood these bazaars, searching for warmth that fits within their limited budgets. "People trust second-hand garments for quality and cost efficient," said shopkeeper Waheed Khan, who has spent two decades in Jehangirpura. "They are affordable, durable, warm and cost a fraction of what new ones do.—DNA



HARIPUR: Chief guest Dr. Memon with students and children participated at awards distribution ceremony organized by Aghosh Al-Khidmat.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria
National Day

Nov 04/Italy
Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation
Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia
National Day

Nov 11/Poland
Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan
Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium
Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil
Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
National Day

Nov 18/Oman
National Day

Nov 18/Morocco
Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh
Armed Forces Day

Nov 22/Lebanon
Independence Day

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National Day

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National Day

Nov 28/Albania
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RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

KPCTA hosts ceremony to honour climbers of Tirich Summit

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Rita Dhital praised the initiative of the KP government and KPCTA in supporting the successful summit of Tirich Mir

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA), in collaboration with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, organized a special ceremony to honour the mountaineers who successfully summited Tirich Mir, the highest peak of the Hindu Kush mountain range. The event also recognized trekkers who reached the base camp and highlighted the contributions of various tourism stakeholders. The ceremony was held at a private hotel in Islamabad and attended by distinguished guests, including H.E. Ms. Rita Dhital, Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan; Imad Rasheed, Honorary Consul General of Tunisia; Habibullah Arif, Director General KPCTA; Umar Arshad Khan, Director Tourism; Muhammad Ali Syed, Director Tourism, along with mountaineers, trekkers, and other notable personalities from the tourism sector. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Rita Dhital praised the initiative of the KP government and KPCTA in supporting the successful summit of Tirich Mir. She stated that such achievements will significantly promote mountain tourism and adventure tourism in Pakistan in the coming years. DG KPCTA Habibullah Arif remarked that summiting Tirich Mir by Pakistani mountaineers for the first time is a major milestone and a matter of national pride. He added that this achievement will help attract more



international climbers to Chitral and other regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Alongside the summit attempt, 70 trekkers successfully completed the trek to the Tirich Mir Base Camp, benefiting over 100 local porters involved in the expedition. During the ceremony, honorary shields were distributed among all climbers and trekkers. At the event, the Ambassador of Nepal also unveiled a sculpture dedicated to the mountaineer who summited Tirich Mir.

e-tag vehicles system will be from Nov 18

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad is moving toward a controlled vehicle-entry system as the district administration prepares to introduce mandatory e-tag stickers for all cars entering or driving within the federal capital. The new requirement, starting November 18, aims to streamline vehicle monitoring and strengthen citywide security. Officials said the system will operate through designated points across Islamabad, where motorists will be able to obtain their tags by presenting their vehicle registration documents. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon said citizens will be informed in advance about all facilitation points where the tags can be obtained. These stickers will be compulsory for every vehicle operating on Islamabad's roads, regardless of whether the vehicle is registered in the capital or any other province. The DC clarified that citizens must visit only the officially designated points to obtain the e-tag. For issuance, motorists will be required to bring their original vehicle registration card. The administration plans to set up multiple facilitation spots across the city to ensure smooth issuance and avoid long queues. Meanwhile, Excise and Taxation Director Bilal Azam confirmed that if a vehicle already has an M-Tag issued by the motorway authorities, that tag will be considered valid within Islamabad as well. Owners of such vehicles will not need to obtain

a new e-tag. Azam added that the Excise Department has already begun issuing tags as part of a pilot project at Kachnar Park in I-8. Two vehicles from the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) are stationed at the park to facilitate applicants. He said that more issuance points would become functional across Islamabad, ensuring convenience for residents in different localities. He requested the cooperation of citizens and urged them to ensure their vehicles are tagged so the administration can strengthen monitoring and security across the city. Officials emphasized that citizens' cooperation will help make the new entry system effective and support wider efforts to secure the capital.—APP

above the official price were sealed during the operation. In addition to sealing the outlets, assistant commissioners imposed heavy fines on the sellers found involved in overcharging. The administration has made it compulsory for all LPG vendors to display the official price list at their shops. Officials say visible price lists will help citizens identify violations and prevent arbitrary pricing. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon urged citizens to support the campaign by reporting anyone selling LPG above the notified rate. He said public cooperation is essential for ensuring fair pricing during the winter season. The DC encouraged residents to stay vigilant and inform the administration about overcharging so swift action can be taken. According to him, strong enforcement and community reporting can help maintain stable LPG prices across the city. The district administration has stated that the crackdown will continue, and further action will be taken wherever violations are detected.—APP

Over 90 LPG shops sealed for over charging

ISLAMABAD:As LPG demand rose with the drop in temperature, the Islamabad District Administration launched a citywide operation, sealing more than 90 shops for selling LPG at rates Rs200 higher than the official price. According to the spokesman of district administration here Sunday, with the onset of winter, the use of LPG has increased in the federal capital. In response, the district administration carried out a large crackdown on outlets selling LPG above the government-notified rate. The administration deployed teams across the city to conduct a discreet survey of LPG prices before launching enforcement action. According to the officials, the survey identified widespread violations in several areas, including Sohan, Bhara Kahu, Khan-na Pul and Sarai Kharbuza. Assistant commissioners of these zones led operations against violators immediately after the findings were compiled. Similar actions took place in Sanam Chowk, Shams Colony, Burma Town, Sohan Garden, Tarnol and multiple sectors of Islamabad. More than 90 LPG shops selling gas at a rate Rs200

above the official price were sealed during the operation. In addition to sealing the outlets, assistant commissioners imposed heavy fines on the sellers found involved in overcharging. The administration has made it compulsory for all LPG vendors to display the official price list at their shops. Officials say visible price lists will help citizens identify violations and prevent arbitrary pricing. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon urged citizens to support the campaign by reporting anyone selling LPG above the notified rate. He said public cooperation is essential for ensuring fair pricing during the winter season. The DC encouraged residents to stay vigilant and inform the administration about overcharging so swift action can be taken. According to him, strong enforcement and community reporting can help maintain stable LPG prices across the city. The district administration has stated that the crackdown will continue, and further action will be taken wherever violations are detected.—APP

Pakistan sets 2.78m ton onion production target

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has fixed its onion production target at 2.78 million tons for the 2025-26 crop year, with cultivation planned over 168,000 hectares across the country. The new target reflects the government's aim to build on the strong output achieved in the ongoing season. According to official data available with Wealth Pakistan, during 2024-25, national onion production rose sharply by 19.2 percent, reaching 2.747 million tons compared to 2.3046 million tons a year earlier. The cultivated area also recorded a notable increase of 16.8 percent, expanding from 142,500 hectares to 166,400 hectares, according to a document of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. Onion is Pakistan's second major vegetable crop after potato, with annual consumption estimated between 1.6 and 1.8 million tons. It remains an essential ingredient for household cooking throughout the year, widely used in soups, gravies, seasonings and other food preparations. Under the new production plan for 2025-26, Sindh has been assigned the largest share with a target of 956,550 tons from 60,000 hectares. Balochistan

follows closely with a target of 884,500 tons from 47,000 hectares, while Punjab aims for 720,000 tons from 49,000 hectares. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been given a target of 254,400 tons from 12,000 hectares. In the ongoing 2024-25 season, Punjab emerged as the key contributor to national growth. Its output surged by 92.4 percent to 914,000 tons, driven by a significant expansion in cultivated area from 29,000 hectares to 52,000 hectares—an increase of 79.3 percent. This rise also lifted the province's yield by 7.3 percent, from 16,379 kg per hectare to 17,577 kg per hectare. Sindh, traditionally a major onion-producing region, recorded marginal growth. Its production increased by 1.5 percent to 783,200 tons, while cultivated area rose slightly by 1.4 percent to 57,900 hectares. Yield remained steady, dipping only 0.1 percent to 13,527 kg per hectare. Balochistan posted a 3.9 percent improvement in production, reaching 885,400 tons, supported by a 3.7 percent rise in cultivated area to 47,100 hectares. The province's yield also inched up by 0.1 percent to 18,798 kg per hectare. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, however, reported a

decline during the 2024-25 cycle. Its cultivated area fell by 14.5 percent to 9,400 hectares, while production dropped 19.9 percent to 164,500 tons. Yield also declined by 6.2 percent to 17,500 kg per hectare. Nationally, average yield improved slightly to 16,509 kg per hectare, up 2.1 percent from 16,172 kg recorded in 2023-24. The Federal Committee on Agriculture confirmed that Pakistan surpassed its national production target for 2024-25. Against a planned output of 2.554 million tons from 157,000 hectares, actual production stood at 2.747 million tons—7.5 percent higher than the target—while the cultivated area exceeded expectations by rising to 166,400 hectares, an increase of 6 percent. Punjab and Balochistan were the provinces to exceed their assigned targets. Punjab surpassed its 660,000-ton target by 38.5 percent, and Balochistan exceeded its 741,000-ton target by 19.5 percent. Sindh achieved 86 percent of its target of 911,000 tons, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa met only 67.9 percent of its target, producing 164,500 tons against a requirement of 242,300 tons. —APP

Nation remembers Rahmat Ali

ISLAMABAD: The 129th birth anniversary of Chaudhry Rahmat Ali, the political thinker credited with coining the name "Pakistan" was observed on Sunday. Commemorative events were held across the country, honouring his intellectual legacy and contributions to the subcontinent's Muslim identity. Talking to media, Pakistan National Movement President Yousaf Aziz said Rahmat Ali had introduced the name "Pakistan" on 28 January 1933 in his pamphlet Now or Never, nearly fourteen years before the country's creation. He described the name as inspired by the Quranic verse 15 "baldatun tayyibatun" from Surah Saba, symbolising a pure and ideal homeland. Aziz added that the concept carried religious, historical, political and cultural resonance that later found formal expression in the Lahore Resolution seven years after the pamphlet's publication. He said Rahmat Ali's vision represents "a national rediscovery" that will continue to guide future generations in understanding Pakistan's historical roots and evolving identity.—APP

Police tightens security grip in Tarnol

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police carried out a major search and combing operation in Tarnol as part of its continued crackdown against criminal elements and efforts to strengthen security across the federal capital. An official told APP on Sunday that police teams checked 45 individuals, 240 houses, 28 vehicles and 62 motorcycles, while 25 suspicious persons were shifted to the police station for legal action. He said that women police personnel also took part in the operation, ensuring thorough checking of households and maintaining the standard operational protocol. Before the commencement of the search activity, the operation in-charge delivered a formal briefing to all deployed personnel, outlining safety measures, checking procedures, and coordination plans to ensure a disciplined and effective operation. He added that these efforts are being carried out under the directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, who has instructed the force to tighten the security loop and expand intelligence-based actions against criminal groups.—APP

ICT admin announces key transfers, new appointments

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration has issued a new notification announcing several administrative transfers and appointments, including the posting of new assistant commissioners in Nilor, Shalimar, Potohar, and the Industrial Area. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has reshuffled several officials as part of its latest administrative changes. According to a notification issued by Director Administration Usman Ashraf, multiple officers have been reassigned to new positions across the district. Under the new postings, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Nilore, Muhammad Ali, has been transferred and posted as AC Shalimar. The notification states that he will take charge of the new assignment immediately. The administration has also appointed Ali Naem as AC Potohar. He had been awaiting a posting, and his new assignment places him in charge of one of the district's key subdivisions. In another posting, Grade-17 officer Muhammad Haroon has been appointed as AC Industrial Area. His new role includes oversight of administrative matters in the city's main commercial and industrial zone. Meanwhile, a notification has been issued confirming the appointment of Saif-ul-Islam as the new AC Nilore. He will assume the position following Muhammad Ali's transfer to Shalimar. Officials said the transfers and new appointments aim to streamline administrative functions across Islamabad's subdivisions and ensure continuity in field operations.

Lok Mela sets new record with over 200,000 visitors

ISLAMABAD: The Lok Mela ninth day unfolded with unprecedented energy on Saturday as more than 200,000 visitors thronging Lok Virsa to attend Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Musical Night, making it one of the festival's busiest and most vibrant days yet. The grounds were alive with colour, music, craftsmanship, and a festive spirit that reflected Pakistan's cultural richness at its finest. The massive weekend turnout turned the Lok Virsa lawns into a lively cultural arena, where families, students, diplomats, and art enthusiasts explored provincial pavilions, met artisans from across the country, and enjoyed an array of traditional foods. The overwhelming public response once again reaffirmed Lok Mela's reputation as Pakistan's most celebrated cultural festival. As the sun set, the excitement culminated in a spectacular Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Musical Night, which emerged as the highlight of the day. The evening opened with powerful performances by Zeek Afridi and Bakhtiar Khattak, whose soulful voices instantly drew the crowd in. Rising sensation Sana Tajik captivated the audience with her expressive renditions, while Raj Wali infused the night with traditional Pashto melodies loved by folk music enthusiasts. The ever-energetic Fatima Nazish hosted the show, keeping the audience engaged throughout the evening. A standout moment came when the Shahid Ali Khan Qawwali Group took the stage. The 10-member troupe delivered an electrifying qawwali performance that had the entire arena clapping, chanting, and swaying to the spiritual rhythm—creating one of the most memorable scenes of this year's festival. Adding further depth to the musical night, Arzu Naz moved the crowd with her heartfelt compositions. A dedicated ensemble of live musicians on saxophone, banjo, rubab, harmonium, and tabla enhanced every performance, creating a rich soundscape that celebrated KP's folk heritage. Executive Director Lok Virsa, Dr. Muhammad Waqas Saleem, thanked the public for their overwhelming participation, noting that the festival's success reflects Pakistan's enduring love for its cultural roots. He reaffirmed Lok Virsa's commitment to supporting artisans, promoting indigenous traditions, and providing a national platform for regional artists. With its soaring footfall and unforgettable performances, Day 09 pushed Lok Mela 2025 into a new wave of excitement. As the festival heads toward its concluding days, the momentum continues to build promising more cultural showcases, musical nights, and family-friendly experiences for visitors.—APP

Public Health Conference to be held on Nov 18

ISLAMABAD: The 15th International Public Health Conference 2025, organized by the Health Services Academy (HSA), will be held in Islamabad on November 18. The conference, titled "The Next Generation's Shield: One Health, Vaccination, Adolescent Health & Climate Change," will be inaugurated by Federal Minister for health Mustafa Kamal. The conference is expected to serve as a major global forum in Pakistan for discussions on public health, pandemic preparedness, adolescent health, vaccination, climate change, and environmental safety. National and international experts, policymakers, and researchers will participate to deliberate on current and future public health challenges. HSA Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan said the conference will be a historic step in integrating One Health Model approaches to ensure protection against epidemics, environmental risks, nutrition, and health security into a unified national strategy. He added, "The protection of the younger generation is Pakistan's true future." Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan further said that the inaugural session will feature global and national experts, including representatives from UNICEF, WHO, FAO, and Nutrition International. —APP

Briefs

Ghana
explores
expanding
trade with
Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ghana's eight-member parliamentary delegation, led by Second Deputy Speaker Andrew Asiamah Amoako, expressed strong interest in expanding bilateral trade ties with Pakistan during a diplomatic meeting hosted by Consul General Shahid Rasheed Butt. The visiting delegation for the inaugural Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference focused on Ghana's need for partnerships in textile manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and agricultural mechanization as key areas. During the discussion, Ms. Mashal Shahid Butt noted that Pakistan's exports to Ghana reached \$76.51 million in 2024, indicating significant growth potential from the modest current trade volume. She pointed out opportunities for Pakistani exporters to provide textiles, generic medicines, and agricultural machinery to West African markets. The conversations also addressed Ghana's infrastructure needs and Pakistan's ability to supply cost-effective cement, building materials, and engineering services. Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports hit \$421.43 million in 2024, mainly serving markets in Africa and the Middle East. Ghana showed particular interest in sourcing affordable generic medicines from Pakistan to bolster its healthcare supply chain. Ms. Shahid Butt added that Pakistan's textile industry accounts for over 60 percent of the country's exports, making Pakistan a competitive supplier for Ghana's growing apparel and retail sectors interested in quality fabrics at competitive prices.

Global action
urged on
melting
glaciers at
COP30

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called for stronger international commitments to address the rapid decline of the Himalayan-Karakoram-Hindukush (HKH) cryosphere, warning that the consequences of accelerated glacier melt are already being felt across the region. In a video message to a side event on Cryosphere Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, the Pakistan's climate minister, Dr Musadik Malik, described the HKH range as the "white rooftops of the world" and a lifeline for millions in South Asia. Pakistan, he noted, is home to around 13,000 glaciers that feed the Indus River system and underpin the nation's food security, economy and ecosystems. Dr Malik said climate-driven glacier melt was proceeding at an unprecedented pace, leading to increasing hazards such as glacial lake outburst floods. He also pointed to global inequities in climate finance, arguing that a handful of major emitters contribute most to global carbon pollution while also receiving the bulk of green financing.—APP

CDA Chairman stresses early completion of all projects

Chairman CDA directed the Project Director and Resident Engineers to ensure the highest quality standards by effectively monitoring all ongoing construction activities on the project

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, visited the Shaheen Chowk Underpass project along with Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza and relevant officers. Chairman CDA inspected the ongoing construction activities across different sections of the project. During the briefing on the progress of the project's construction work, the relevant officers informed Chairman CDA that 80% of the barrel wall work for the Shaheen Chowk Underpass project has been completed. It was further briefed that 60% of the wall work for Ramp One, included in this project, has also been completed. Additionally, 100% of the project's barrel girder work has been finished. Chairman CDA was briefed that the earthwork and roadwork for the Shaheen Chowk project are also progressing rapidly, and work on the walls for Ramp Two has also commenced. He was further apprised that construction activities are ongoing 24/7 to ensure the project's timely completion. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved so far in the construction work of the Shaheen Chowk Underpass project. He directed that high-quality standards for the construction work must be ensured under all circumstances. Chairman CDA said that all construction work for the project must



be completed according to its schedule and timelines. He directed that working should also be done on aesthetically pleasing landscaping, digital boards and LED lights to enhance the project's beautification. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said

that the Shaheen Chowk Underpass project will prove to be a significant milestone in resolving traffic issues in Islamabad. He said that this project will provide signal free travel facilities for daily commuters and the students from the educational institution in

the adjoining areas while reducing traffic congestion. Chairman CDA directed the Project Director and Resident Engineers to ensure the highest quality standards by effectively monitoring all ongoing construction activities on the project.

Chinese
company
push to
accelerate
Dasu project

ISLAMABAD: Chairman WAPDA Lt. Gen. (Retd) Muhammad Saeed and Liu Huailiang, Chairman of China Gezhouba Group International Engineering Co., Ltd. led their respective delegations in a meeting aimed at accelerating progress on the Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP), a key component of Pakistan's long-term energy security. Gwadar Pro quoting an official statement stated, the delegations met at the WAPDA Mega Hydrel Projects Complex Islamabad, where both sides held detailed discussions on measures to fast-track construction. CGGC International is the main contractor for the project. Emphasizing the strategic importance of DHPP, WAPDA chairman urged CGGC to "deploy additional resources and enhance on-ground performance to ensure the project stays on schedule". He reaffirmed WAPDA's commitment to providing full support under the contract to meet the agreed timelines. According to WAPDA, DHPP is a major run-of-river scheme on the Indus River, located about 7 kilometers upstream of Dasu town in Upper Kohistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Situated 74 kilometers downstream of the planned Diamer Basha Dam and 345 kilometers from Islamabad, the project will ultimately generate 4,320 megawatts of electricity in two stages. Stage I, currently under construction, will add 2,160 MW to the national grid through six units of 360 MW each, producing 12,222 GWh annually and expected to be completed within five years.—DNA

Digital sector
key to Pak's
eco security:
Shaza

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Sunday said that Pakistan is working to strengthen its IT industry, expand exports, and build a "Digital Nation" based on a digital economy, digital society and digital governance. She was speaking at the 27th National Security Workshop at the National Defence University (NDU) on the topic "Pakistan's IT Potential: Opportunities and Challenges." She said the country's digital progress is supported by three key areas: telecom, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. The minister was invited by the Director General of ISSRA to address participants at the Institute for Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis (ISSRA).—APP

IGP chairs operational commanders moot

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chaired an operational commanders conference at the Central Police Office attended by DIG Headquarters Malik Jameel Zafar, DIG Islamabad Muhammad Jawad Tariq, SSPs, zonal SPs, and other senior officers. An official told APP on Sunday that the IGP conducted a comprehensive review of police performance, security arrangements, use of technology, and ongoing public-service projects. He directed officers to prioritize citizen service, ensure effective law enforcement, and enhance operational mechanisms in line with modern policing needs. The IGP instructed all field commanders to intensify action against criminal elements, expand the scope of the ongoing "Nasha Ab Nahi" anti-drug initiative, and provide maximum facilitation to the public. He said the police must launch a full crackdown against illegal weapons, aerial firing, display of firearms, and vehicles with tinted glasses across the federal capital. To maintain an organized traffic flow, he ordered the removal of illegal encroachments citywide and the launching of special awareness campaigns to guide citizens on road safety and security protocols. IGP Rizvi also emphasized the need to strengthen training standards to improve the professional capacity of police officers and to ensure readiness for any law-and-order situation. He reiterated that Islamabad Police remains fully committed to safeguarding the lives and property of citizens and ensuring the highest level of security in the federal capital. The IGP instructed senior officers to maintain strict accountability, ensure better coordination with subordinate teams, focus on personnel welfare, and conduct daily briefings to keep all units aligned with operational priorities.—DNA

ICCI president lauds youth's role in shaping eco future

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) lauded the remarkable talent, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of Pakistani youth, emphasizing their vital role in shaping the country's economic future. Addressing a delegation of business leaders and young innovators here on Saturday, Sardar Tahir Mehmood highlighted how the energy and skills of the youth are transforming Pakistan into a hub of innovation and sustainable development. "Our young generation is not just the future; they are the driving force behind today's economic growth, technological advancements, and cultural dynamism," he said in statement issued here on Saturday. He further expressed ICCI's commitment to creating an enabling environment where young entrepreneurs and professionals can thrive. "The Chamber is actively working to facilitate youth-led start-

ups and businesses through mentorship programs, access to finance, and platforms for global exposure," the ICCI President added. Sardar Tahir Mehmood underscored the importance of harnessing this potential through partnerships between Chamber, academia, and government. "By investing in education, skill development, and technology, we can unlock unprecedented opportunities for our youth and the nation as a whole." The ICCI President also called on local and international investors to recognize and support Pakistan's vibrant youth ecosystem. "There is immense untapped potential here from tech innovators to creative artists ready to contribute to Pakistan's economic resurgence." Concluding his remarks, Sardar Tahir Mehmood reaffirmed ICCI's dedication to empowering young Pakistanis and ensuring they have every opportunity to succeed on both national and global stages.—DNA

Junagadh
Nawab visits
Islamabad bar

ISLAMABAD: Nawab of Junagadh, Nawab Ali Murtaza Khanji, here on Saturday visited the Islamabad Bar Association to convey his profound grief over the martyrdom of lawyers and citizens in the tragic bomb blast outside the Islamabad district courts. Addressing a seminar organized by the Bar, to highlight the issue of Junagadh before young lawyers so that the matter can be kept alive, he strongly extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and offered prayers for the swift recovery of those injured. On this occasion, the Nawab briefed the lawyers in detail on the legal status and historical facts regarding the State of Junagadh. He stated that Junagadh's accession to Pakistan is a historical reality that must be recognized under international law. He reaffirmed his commitment to presenting the case of Junagadh at global forums to ensure the world is informed of the true facts. Nawab Ali Murtaza Khanji appealed to the legal fraternity to play their role in highlighting Junagadh's case at various legal and international platforms so that justice and his-

torical truth can be acknowledged globally. He added that the case of Junagadh is not merely about a region, it is a matter of Pakistan's completion and historical justice, a responsibility every patriotic Pakistani must uphold.

Nawab Ali Murtaza Khanji stated that the State of Junagadh remained part of Pakistan for more than one and a half months, as on 15 September 1947, the lawful and sovereign ruler, Nawab Mahabat Khanji, signed the Instrument of Accession with Pakistan's first Governor General, Quaid-e-Azam. Junagadh holds the distinction of being the first princely state to formally accede to Pakistan after the Partition of India.

He further noted that Pakistan's Foreign Minister raised the matter before the United Nations General Assembly in February and March 1948. Similarly, on 29 May 1951, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated that "the State of Jammu & Kashmir and the State of Junagadh are unresolved disputes before the United Nations, and the Government of Pakistan does not recognize India's occupation of these territories." Meanwhile, the speakers emphasized that research on the Junagadh issue should be conducted in universities to effectively counter Indian propaganda online, preserve the historical and legal claim of the State of Junagadh, and raise public awareness.

According to international law, the Nawab of Junagadh holds the status of a "Sovereign in Exile," a legal position that still stands.—APP

Distt admin introduces ICT household survey

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has announced the ICT Household Survey, a citywide initiative aimed at compiling digital information about households, family members, and domestic staff. The district administration said the survey plays an important role in organising and updating Islamabad's household records. Authorities noted that the effort will help improve city planning, resource allocation, and overall safety. Officials said residents of the federal capital are showing strong participation by entering their details through the newly launched mobile application. According to the administration, 885 people completed their data entry on the first day of the app's release, while another 2,039 users are currently completing the registration

process. Officials have encouraged all citizens to register without delay so teams can verify the information during the field survey. Authorities said the survey is designed to allow residents to register from their homes, making the process simple and accessible. The administration has appealed to citizens to participate fully so the capital's population record can be updated in one integrated system. Survey teams will begin visiting all neighbourhoods from Monday, 17 November. Equipped with tablets, these teams will reach every home to collect information from residents who are unable to complete the process on their own. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, has appealed to the public to cooperate with these teams and support the district administration

in strengthening safety across the city. Speaking to the media, DC Memon explained the purpose and process of the ICT Household Survey app. He said the app is available on both Android's Play Store and Apple's App Store. Any resident of Islamabad can download the app and enter details about their home and those living in it. He noted that the survey requires complete information about all residents of each household, including domestic staff such as drivers, cooks, helpers, or security guards. Users must indicate whether the home is owned, rented, or a shared family property. DC Memon stressed that providing accurate information will assist the administration in building a verified digital database. He added that beginning 17 November, teams will conduct door-to-door visits for

households that cannot or do not upload their data. Each team will carry a tablet preloaded with the application. If someone does not register through the app, the survey team will visit their home and enter the data based on the details provided. This procedure ensures that every house is included in the survey. The Deputy Commissioner said the data platform has been developed to display every household in Islamabad on a digital map. The system will clearly show which homes have completed their entries and which remain pending. Officials will then follow up with households that have not registered. He emphasised that collecting this information is essential for improving city management and ensuring better security planning.—APP

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Saudi Crown Prince White House visit

FAISAL J. ABBAS

IT may be a coincidence, but history rarely writes itself without purpose. Next week's meeting in Washington between Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman and US President Donald J. Trump falls 80 years after the seminal 1945 encounter between King Abdulaziz and President Franklin D. Roosevelt aboard the USS Quincy. That meeting laid the foundation for a strategic partnership that has endured wars, oil shocks and political transitions. The parallels between then and now are striking – and significant. In 1945, the world was emerging from the ashes of the Second World War. The US was poised to become a global superpower. Saudi Arabia, under King Abdulaziz, had just unified its territories and was beginning to build its modern state. The USS Quincy summit focused mainly on two pillars: security for the Kingdom and oil for America. The summit came just over a decade after the birth of Saudi Aramco – a joint venture that evolved into the world's largest oil company. Though now fully Saudi-owned, the American contribution to its success remains undeniable. Today, we stand on the cusp of a new chapter – one that could multiply the Aramco success story exponentially. The relationship is no longer confined to oil and security. Nuclear cooperation, space exploration, artificial intelligence and advanced technologies are now on the table. This is not just a bilateral upgrade – it is a strategic leap. The timing could not be more surreal: Vision 2030 and Make America Great Again are aligned in ambition, scope and urgency. Today, we stand on the cusp of a new chapter – one that could multiply the Aramco success story exponentially. Saudi Arabia is no longer the oil-dependent economy of the past. The Kingdom is unlocking its full potential across tourism, healthcare, mining and tech. American companies have a golden opportunity to be the first movers in many of these sectors – and reap the rewards of early investment, knowledge transfer and cooperation. Furthermore, the bold reforms introduced over the past decade mean that any concerns some might have had over doing business in Saudi Arabia are no longer relevant. And while we are far from being perfect, nobody in their right mind can deny – if they are fair – the quantum leaps that have happened in areas such as women's empowerment, the removal of barriers to entry and bureaucratic pro-

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cedures, as well as the improvement in the quality of life for both residents and citizens of Saudi Arabia. President Trump, known for his "art of the deal," is not one to let bureaucracy stifle progress. His administration's openness to fair competition means American firms can engage without being hamstrung by red tape. This is good news for both sides – and for global investors watching closely. Yet, security remains paramount. The region is volatile. Rogue actors persist. The recent Israeli strike on Qatari territory – which hosts the region's largest US military base – underscores the urgency of a robust defense framework. Saudi Arabia, preparing to host Expo 2030 and the FIFA World Cup in 2034, must secure its borders, airspace and waters. A written defense treaty is not just desirable – it is essential. From a Saudi perspective, the scars of Houthi attacks on civilian infrastructure remain fresh. The Biden administration's early decision to delist the Houthis as a terrorist organization and the 2022 withdrawal of Patriot missile batteries was met with concern. Yet, by the end of President Joe Biden's term, negotiations for a historic defense treaty were nearly complete. This visit offers a chance to finalize that pact – and ensure such atrocities never happen again. The Saudi-US relationship has weathered storms. From defeating communism to liberating Kuwait, both nations have collaborated on global challenges. Despite political shifts between Republicans and Democrats, the strategic value of Saudi Arabia has remained constant. It is not a cash machine – it is a stabilizing force. As custodian of Islam's holiest sites, the region's largest economy and a key player in global oil markets, Saudi Arabia is indispensable to US interests. The recent Israeli strike on Qatari territory – which hosts the region's largest US military base – underscores the urgency of a robust defense framework. Saudi diplomacy is also evolving. The Kingdom has pushed for a two-state solution in Palestine, condemned atrocities in Gaza and facilitated negotiations in Sudan, Ukraine and Syria. Its humanitarian aid and development contributions are generous and consistent. Riyadh is no longer just a regional actor – it is a global mediator. The US needs a partner that commands respect in the region. Saudi Arabia fits that role. Whether it is lifting sanctions or brokering peace, American policymakers know that Riyadh's guarantees carry weight. The emergence of a new Syria – after decades of turmoil – is testament to that influence. This visit is not ceremonial. It is consequential. If Israel is ready to commit to a serious path toward Palestinian statehood, it could join what the crown prince calls "the new Europe" – a region of integration, cooperation and shared prosperity. The stakes are high. The opportunity is rare. And the moment is now. Let us hope that Nov. 18, 2025, becomes another date etched in history – not just as a commemoration of the past but as a launchpad for the future.

Clashes That Could Ignite a War

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The Durand Line, drawn during the British colonial era, continues to be the central fault line. Afghanistan has never formally recognized this border, claiming that it unjustly divides the Pashtun population. Pakistan, for its part, considers it an international boundary and views Afghan reluctance as a challenge to its sovereignty. Over the decades, the border has served as a theater of repeated skirmishes, smuggling routes and militant movements. Since the Taliban's return to power in 2021, Pakistan's initial optimism for a friendlier Kabul administration...

OVER the past month, tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have entered one of their most dangerous phases in recent years. Pakistani fighter jets launched a series of airstrikes against targets in Kabul and other Afghan cities, while intense clashes erupted along the shared border between the two nations. The violence, which persisted for several weeks, has raised fears of a larger conflict that could destabilize not only both countries but the entire South and Central Asian region. At the heart of the dispute lies a mix of historical grievances, territorial mistrust and political frustration that has defined Pakistan-Afghanistan relations for decades. The current escalation, however, carries a sharper edge. It comes at a moment when the United States is seeking renewed engagement in the region including investment in Pakistan's mineral resources and as global powers such as China and Russia are expanding their influence in Afghanistan. The Durand Line, drawn during the British colonial era, continues to be the central fault line. Afghanistan has never formally recognized this border, claiming that it unjustly divides the Pashtun population. Pakistan, for its part, considers it an international boundary and views Afghan reluctance as a challenge to its sovereignty. Over the decades, the border has served as a theater of repeated skirmishes, smuggling routes and militant movements. Since the Taliban's return to power in 2021, Pakistan's initial optimism for a friendlier Kabul administration has gradually turned into frustration. Islamabad expected the Taliban to curb the activities of the Tehriki-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a group responsible for attacks inside Pakistan and believed to be sheltering in Afghan territory. Instead, Pakistan accuses the Taliban of tolerating or even supporting TTP fighters, allowing them to regroup and strike across the border. The Taliban, meanwhile, accuses Pakistan of violating Afghan sovereignty and of using air power to pressure Kabul politically. The Afghan defense ministry recently claimed that Pakistani jets had targeted civilian areas, a charge Islamabad denies. Pakistan insists that its strikes were aimed at militant hideouts responsible for deadly attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The recent air campaign was not the first of its kind, but its scale and precision suggest a shift in Pakistan's approach. The strikes reached closer to Kabul than any previous operation, signaling a willingness to take risks beyond the border areas. This has led some observers to question whether Pakistan might be seeking more than just retaliation possibly a strategy to weaken the

Taliban government or force a political recalibration in Kabul. However, regime change is a high-risk calculation. The Taliban's hold on power remains firm despite internal divisions and economic hardship. Any overt attempt by Pakistan to undermine the Taliban could unite Afghan factions against a common external enemy, reigniting nationalist sentiment. Moreover, a direct confrontation would almost certainly inflame anti-Pakistan sentiment among Afghans and further damage Islamabad's standing in the Muslim world. For Pakistan, the conflict is also tied to its domestic security concerns. The resurgence of militant attacks inside its borders has fueled public anger and political pressure on the military to act decisively. Islamabad's leadership faces a difficult balance to show strength without plunging into an uncontrollable regional war. A full-scale war between Pakistan and Afghanistan would reverberate across South and Central Asia. It could disrupt regional trade routes, fuel refugee flows and create new sanctuaries for extremist groups. Iran, already wary of the Taliban's policies toward ethnic minorities, would likely tighten its own border security. China, which has invested heavily in Pakistan through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), would be alarmed at the prospect of instability near its western frontier. Russia, still rebuilding its influence in Central Asia, would view a Pakistan-Afghanistan war as a setback to regional stability that could spill into the former Soviet republics. India, observing from across the border, would see strategic opportunities in Pakistan's preoccupation and might deepen its outreach to anti-Taliban elements. For the United States, the situation presents a complex challenge. Washington has recently renewed economic and counterterrorism engagement with Islamabad, including investment in Pakistan's critical minerals particularly lithium, which is key to the global energy transition. At the same time, the U.S. continues to engage with Afghanistan through humanitarian aid while maintaining sanctions on Taliban leaders. The United States has a vested interest in preventing a wider conflict. A regional war could derail counterterrorism operations against groups such as ISIS-Khorasan and complicate Washington's strategic rivalry with China. If Afghanistan and Pakistan descend into open conflict, Beijing could position itself as a mediator, using its leverage with both governments to expand its diplomatic reach. The U.S. has limited influence over the Taliban but still maintains significant leverage over Pakistan,

particularly through economic assistance and international diplomatic channels. Washington could play a moderating role by encouraging Islamabad to pursue dialogue through multilateral forums such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization or the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It could also facilitate intelligence sharing and border monitoring mechanisms that help prevent misunderstandings from escalating into warfare. At the same time, U.S. policymakers must recognize the depth of Pakistan's security anxieties. Simply urging restraint without addressing Islamabad's concerns about TTP sanctuaries would ring hollow. A balanced approach would require pressing the Taliban to crack down on militant groups that threaten neighboring states, while offering Afghanistan limited incentives for cooperation, such as regional trade facilitation and aid flexibility. Despite the rising temperature, a full-scale war still seems unlikely in the immediate term. Both Pakistan and the Taliban understand the enormous costs of prolonged conflict economically, politically and diplomatically. Neither side possesses the capacity for sustained warfare without jeopardizing domestic stability. Yet, the risk of miscalculation remains dangerously high. What makes this confrontation particularly volatile is the absence of reliable communication channels. Since the Taliban takeover, formal diplomatic engagement between Islamabad and Kabul has weakened, replaced by sporadic military exchanges and public accusations. Without a mechanism to de-escalate tensions, even a minor border incident could ignite a broader confrontation. The coming months will test the restraint of both sides. Pakistan's military operations are likely to continue if cross-border attacks persist, while the Taliban's leadership faces pressure from hardliners to resist what they view as Pakistani aggression. Meanwhile, the region's larger powers United States, China, Iran and Russia will quietly maneuver to protect their interests, each wary of being drawn too deeply into another South Asian crisis. The latest border violence is more than just a flare-up; it reflects the deep mistrust that has defined Pakistan-Afghanistan relations for generations. Unless both governments can find a way to separate their security fears from their political ambitions, the cycle of strikes, reprisals and denials will continue drawing the region ever closer to the brink. The restraint and dialogue remain the only durable path forward. However, as fighter jets roar over the frontier and soldiers exchange fire in the mountains, those voices calling for calm are being drowned out by the echoes of war

Policing beyond enforcement in Punjab

Dr Muhammad Rizwan Bhatti

Modern criminological thought offers clear direction. Problem-oriented policing (POP) urges officers to look beyond routine responses and identify recurring crime patterns in specific areas. By focusing on root causes; social disorder, environmental neglect, repeat offending or the presence of proclaimed offenders, police can design targeted, preventive solutions rather than relying on short-term enforcement. Deterrence theory also shows that it is the certainty and swiftness of accountability, rather than severity of punishment, that best prevents crime

CRIME in Punjab reflects deeper social, structural and institutional forces. Behind every offence lies a story of inequality, neglect and systemic failure. Pakistan's policing model has historically remained reactive, focusing primarily on responding after crimes occur. Although enforcement, investigation and arrests are essential, they are insufficient to address the underlying causes of criminal behaviour. A shift toward prevention, community partnership and problem-solving is now imperative. While crime in legal terms rests on elements such as act, harm, causation and intent, its sociological meaning is far broader. It encompasses violent offences, property crime, white-collar criminality and offences linked to drugs, alcohol and sexual conduct. Understanding these multiple dimensions is central to designing effective policing strategies. Modern criminological thought offers clear direction. Problem-oriented policing (POP) urges officers to look beyond routine responses and identify recurring crime patterns in specific areas. By focusing on root causes; social disorder, environmental neglect, repeat offending or the presence of proclaimed offenders, police can design targeted, preventive solutions rather than relying on short-term enforcement. Deterrence theory also shows that it is the certainty and swiftness of accountability, rather than severity of punishment, that best prevents crime. Community policing further transforms citizens into active partners in ensuring safety. Likewise, situational crime prevention and routine activity theory highlight how simple environmental improvements, such as better lighting, surveillance or reclaiming neglected spaces, can significantly reduce opportunities for crime. Punjab has already begun applying evidence-based approaches. Data-driven policing has emerged as a key development, enabling officers to analyse maps and identify hotspots such as markets, transport hubs and vulnerable neighbourhoods. Recent results from Region Faisalabad illustrate this shift, showing a 31 percent reduction in heinous crimes in 2025 compared to 2024 under the leadership of RPO Zeeshan Asghar. Murder declined by 24 percent, dacoity by 71 percent, robbery by 38 percent, motorcycle theft by 27 percent and motorcycle snatching by 38 percent. These improvements stem from proactive initiatives including mapping crime pockets, arresting proclaimed offenders, dismantling organised gangs and focusing on repeat offenders.

Technological transformation has also reshaped the policing landscape. The Punjab Safe City Authority (PSCA), Smart Safe Cities and Special Initiative Police Stations (SIPS) have modernised policing through digitalisation, surveillance and improved coordination. Yet technology alone cannot bring reform; skilled officers must drive innovation. Regional police schools require restructuring to include forensic methods, investigation techniques, cybercrime, behavioural management and leadership, enabling officers to enhance their professional competence without leaving operational roles. A more merit-based system is also essential. The examination process for Deputy Superintendents of Police should be conducted under the High Potential Development Scheme, similar to the process used for recruiting inspectors. Establishing regional operational command and control rooms integrated with Safe City systems can further improve coordination and real-time response across districts. Globally, artificial intelligence has transformed policing by enabling predictive analytics, criminal pattern recognition, facial recognition and vehicle tracking. Punjab must adopt these advancements while ensuring ethical safeguards and data protection to maintain public trust. Behind the technology stands the human face of law enforcement. Nearly 1,500 Punjab Police officers have laid down their lives in the line of duty, a stark reminder that policing is not merely a profession but a public calling grounded in courage and service. Under IGP Dr Usman Anwar, initiatives such as Special Initiative Police Stations, Police Khidmat Markaz, Tahafuz Centres, Meesaq Centres, Pink and Blue Mobile Vans and Virtual Women Police Stations have strengthened access to justice and citizen trust. Visible deterrence remains a core component of effective policing. Offenders are discouraged less by harsh punishment and more by the likelihood of being caught. Regular patrols, swift responses and transparent investigations send a clear signal that crime carries consequences. Public awareness campaigns that highlight successful operations and community partnerships can further reinforce this perception. When citizens view police presence as reassurance rather than intimidation, deterrence becomes both effective and relational. Rational choice theory also informs modern policing by explaining that offenders weigh risks against rewards before committing crime. Community vigilance, intelligence-driv-

en operations and asset seizures significantly reduce the expected gains for criminals, making offending a less attractive option. Trust, however, is the foundation of sustainable policing. No police force can succeed if it alienates the people it serves. Effective community policing requires regular meetings with residents, joint problem-solving initiatives and partnerships with schools, youth groups and local businesses. When citizens feel heard and valued, they are more willing to share information, cooperate with investigations and take ownership of their neighbourhoods. Challenges persist. Many police stations struggle with staff shortages, outdated infrastructure and limited analytical capacity. In some areas, historical mistrust between police and the public continues to hinder collaboration. Yet these obstacles are not insurmountable. By prioritising high-impact areas, investing in technology and recognising officers who embrace problem-solving and community-based approaches, Punjab Police can steadily transform its institutional culture. Effective leadership will remain central to this transition. Punjab, as the country's largest province, carries the heaviest policing burden. Its diverse mix of rural, industrial and urban environments demands flexibility and innovation. A multi-layered strategy that combines deterrence, prevention and community engagement will not only make policing more effective but also rebuild public confidence. Ultimately, reducing crime is not simply a matter of lowering statistics; it is about restoring justice, dignity and trust between citizens and the state. By reframing its mission from enforcement to engagement, Punjab Police can guide the transition toward a safer and more trusting society. To support this vision, police stations—the core operational units of law enforcement—must be granted limited financial autonomy to cover essential expenses such as investigations, transportation and emergency actions. Empowering stations with independent financial management can improve efficiency and reduce petty corruption. A policing strategy that integrates prevention, deterrence, technology and community cooperation can pave the way toward a safer, more citizen-centred Punjab.

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Briefs

Pakistan,
Jordan
reject dis-
placement...

FROM PAGE 01
Jordan and Pakistan, reaffirming Jordan's keenness to expand cooperation across various sectors. Both leaders expressed confidence in the future direction of Pakistan-Jordan relations and agreed to maintain close coordination on bilateral, regional and global issues. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar; Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Senator Musadik Malik; Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as Ambassadors of Jordan in Pakistan and Pakistan in Jordan. The meeting was followed by a special investiture ceremony in which President Asif Ali Zardari conferred Nishan-e-Pakistan on His Majesty the King of Jordan.

King
Abdullah
witnesses
military...

FROM PAGE 01
the distinguished guests at the Firing Ranges. His Majesty and distinguished guests witnessed a joint fire and manoeuvre exercise. The exercise demonstrated multi-domain operations, including conventional and air firepower, coordinated manoeuvres, spectrum warfare capabilities supported by multi-purpose drones employed in various configurations and roles. King Abdullah II appreciated the high standards of training, professionalism, and operational capabilities and preparedness demonstrated by the participating troops and aircrews.

Suicide
bomber
'attempted..

FROM PAGE 01
Sheena collected a suicide jacket from Akhun Baba graveyard in Peshawar and brought it to Islamabad. On the day of the blast at Judicial Complex G-11, Sajidullah Sheena set the suicide jacket on SB Usman alias Qari, it added. The attack came against the backdrop of heightened tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan over the issue of terrorism which even resulted in border clashes between the two neighbours last month. A day before the Islamabad blast, a group of militants infiltrated Wana Cadet College. Security forces carried out a successful operation, safely evacuating all students and staff and killing the attackers who had taken shelter inside.

Asylum
overhaul
in UK to...

FROM PAGE 01
support to certain asylum seekers, including housing and weekly allowances, will be revoked, the Home Office (interior ministry) said in a statement issued late on Saturday. The department, led by Shabana Mahmood, said the measures would apply to asylum seekers who can work but choose not to, and to those who break the law. It said that taxpayer-funded support would be prioritised for those contributing to the economy and local communities.

Zelensky
in Greece...

FROM PAGE 01
Before his arrival, Zelensky announced that Ukraine would import gas from Greece as the country's own energy infrastructure has been targeted by Russian strikes. In October, Moscow launched its biggest bombing campaign against Ukrainian gas facilities since the start of the 2022 invasion, halting 60 percent of production of the main source of heating fuel. "We have already prepared an agreement with Greece on supplying gas to Ukraine," Zelensky wrote on social media.

PCB 'gives key role' to Sarfaraz Ahmed

Former skipper will monitor performance of coaches, teams, and will also handle their tours, say sources

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan's former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed has been given key responsibilities by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the sources said on Sunday. Sarfaraz, sources added, has been tasked to oversee matters related to Pakistan Shaheens and the Under-19 team. The former skipper will monitor the coaches' performance on both teams and also handle their tours.



He will also accompany the teams during training and series in Pakistan, sources noted. It is pertinent to mention that the wicketkeeper-batter, who has an extensive international career, played 54 Tests, scoring 3,031 runs, including four centuries and 21 fifties. In 117 ODIs, he amassed 2,315 runs with two centuries and 11 fifties, while in T20Is, he scored 818 runs in 61 matches, including three fifties. Sarfaraz also boasts an impressive captaincy record. He led Pakistan to victory in the 2017 Champions Trophy and defeated India by 180 runs in the final with a 70% win rate. He also guided the team to a 62.5% win rate in the 2019 Cricket World Cup, winning five of nine matches. In T20Is, he recorded a 78.37% win rate, winning 29 out of 37 matches. For the unversed, the 38-year-old last represented Pakistan in the red-ball format during a Test against Australia in Perth in 2023.

Alcaraz secures ATP Finals showdown with great rival Sinner

TURIN: Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner will face off for the ATP Finals title after tennis' two biggest stars cruised into the final of the prestigious season-ending tournament on Saturday. Alcaraz, already confirmed year-end world number one, breezed past Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-2, 6-4 in Turin to set up the title match all tennis fans wanted to see after a series of thrilling battles between the pair this year. The Spaniard has had the better of his clashes with Sinner 10-5, and has won four of this season's five meetings which have all come in the final of top-level tournaments. Alcaraz triumphed in the finals of the US Open and Roland Garros, the latter after roaring back from two sets down and saving three match points. However Sinner, a 7-5, 6-2 winner over Alex de Minaur earlier on Saturday, became the first Italian to win Wimbledon by overcoming Alcaraz and the pair have shared the four Grand Slams this season. Sunday's final has extra spice due to Alcaraz pipping Sinner to the top spot in the men's rankings at the end of 2025 after winning eight tournaments and reaching three more finals including on Sunday.

Canada's Auger-Aliassime is an indoor specialist, having won seven of his eight titles on indoor courts but even he could not handle Alcaraz who took control of the match by breaking serve in game four of the first set with a brilliant hooked volley. Alcaraz breezed into a one-set lead with another break of serve and then completed his victory without much difficulty and without having to play his most spectacular tennis. Sinner has yet to drop a service game but will have a much tougher test against Alcaraz after the second seed racked up his 13th straight win over De Minaur. "Honestly every matchup (with Alcaraz) is different. We saw it in Rome and Paris, even if it's the same surface (clay), it can change," said Sinner. "Another final, has been an amazing year for me. I'm looking forward to tomorrow... Also to see for me where my level really is but at the same time it's great before the off-season to have this matchup." Sinner has won his last 18 sets played in Turin and the four-time Grand Slam champion is on a 30-match winning streak on indoor hard courts. The 24-year-old has not dropped a set at the ATP Finals since losing the 2023

final to Novak Djokovic, while De Minaur ends his year in a more upbeat mood than the one he had after losing to Lorenzo Musetti in the group stage. De Minaur admitted that he had been in a "dark place" after that loss which almost cost him a place in the last four before he beat Taylor Fritz to set up Saturday's clash with Sinner. "I had a little shift in perspective. Of course, like, sitting here right now, I feel like I should have finished my Turin campaign having won two matches instead of one," De Minaur told reporters. De Minaur fought off two break points in the opening game of the semi-final but then failed to convert any of the three he carved out in Sinner's first service game. The Australian resisted again when Sinner threatened to break in the seventh and ninth games, but the second seed eventually struck the key blow at 5-5 and snatched the first set. Sinner surged 4-0 ahead in the second set before wrapping up his ninth straight win at the tournament, becoming the youngest player since Lleyton Hewitt in 2004 to reach three finals at the season-ending event. – Agencies

Joe Root: England great chases elusive century in Australia

LONDON: Joe Root heads into the Ashes, beginning on Friday in Perth, ranked as the world's best batsman with a colossal 39 Test hundreds to his name... but still waiting for his first ton in Australia. Only Sachin Tendulkar has scored more than Root's 13,543 Test runs and the retired Indian's tally of nearly 15,921 looks within reach of the 34-year-old Englishman. Root's return of 892 runs in 14 Tests in Australia at an average of 35.68 is not shabby and for his many admirers, his lack of a Test century Down Under is not a huge deal. But other observers believe Root must reach three figures in Australia to cement his status among the best ever to wield a bat. Darren Lehmann, Australia's coach when they swept the 2013/14 Ashes series 5-0, said Root needs to break his duck to be considered an "all-time great" alongside Virat Kohli of India, Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealander Kane Williamson. Darren Gough agrees the pressure is on the former captain to deliver despite his astonishing achievements. If the batsman "wants to be truly regarded as a world great" he needs a century in Australia, the former England paceman told Talksport. But former Australia captain Ian Chappell believes the debate is overblown. "His record in Australia – OK, he hasn't made a hundred, but he still averages 35 in Australia which is not bad... It's not like he's failed in Australia," Chappell told Wide World of Sports. "He's made decent scores – he just hasn't got a hundred." Given Root's orthodox technique and proven ability to bat for long periods, it is surprising the Yorkshireman has such a glaring hole on his CV. Several factors are in play, starting with his fondness for scoring runs behind square on the off side – a hugely productive area but one that is risky on Australian pitches that are among the quickest in the world. "Clearly, the late glide through third man that he plays on a regular basis in the UK, it does just bounce a little bit more (in Australia)," former England captain Michael Vaughan told the BBC. – Agencies

'Strong response to any aggression'

FROM PAGE 01
its soldiers fight in the name of Allah," he added. The May confrontation between the two neighbouring countries saw Pakistan downing seven Indian fighter jets, including three Rafale aircraft, after India's unprovoked missile strikes on the night of May 5 and 6, which resulted in the martyrdom of several civilians and security personnel. India's strikes came after a terrorist attack on tourists in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam area, which resulted in the killing of 28 men. New Delhi, without providing any concrete evidence, said the attack was backed by Pakistan, which denies its involvement. Pakistan then targeted over 20 Indian military sites across multiple regions in a large-scale retaliatory strike, named "Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos". The war between the two nuclear-armed nations ended on May 10 with a ceasefire agreement brokered by the United States.

Every woman must receive her rightful share in...

FROM PAGE 01
the property; thereby depriving the other legal heirs of their lawful shares", the SC judgment observed. "The petitioner (Hussain) had no case on merits and yet persisted in litigation, thereby prolonging the deprivation of his siblings of their lawful inheritance, which devolved upon them on 1.1.2002, the date of their father's demise," Justice Minallah wrote. "The challenge before this court was nothing more than an attempt to delay and frustrate the rights of the other legal heirs, amounting to a mere abuse of process," he noted. The state had a constitutional duty to ensure that "every woman is informed of, and enabled to claim her rightful share in inheritance without delay, fear or dependence on lengthy litigation", the judgment read. It added that the state must establish a "proactive and accessible mechanism through which women can be identified, reached out to," and assisted in securing their lawful entitlements.

Three arrested for attack cricketer...

FROM PAGE 01
Superintendent of Police (SP) Investigations Rashid Ahmed Khan, and comprising Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Jandol Circle Alim Khan, Station House Officer (SHO) Mayar police station Idrees Khan, and Chief Information Officer (CIO) Hayat Muhammad Khan, investigated the case. Reviewing CCTV footage and other evidence from the vicinity, the police said they identified and arrested the three suspects after Na-seem's father, Zafar Shah, nominated them in the case.

Imran Khan remained under control...

FROM PAGE 01
Defence czar's remarks followed widespread debate triggered by The Economist report, revisiting the political influence attributed to Bushra Bibi, her relationship with the PTI founder, and the controversies that shaped the former premier's time in power. The publication recounted how the two developed a close connection through spiritual consultations, the circumstances of Bushra Bibi's divorce and subsequent marriage to Khan, and longstanding accusations – denied by the PTI – about her involvement in political decision-making, spiritual practices, and influence over government appointments. Asif also accused PTI leadership of causing serious harm to a province like Punjab, saying: "It is unfortunate that someone educated at Oxford did all this."

6th shooting competition held at Police Lines HQ

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police organized the 6th shooting competition at Police Lines Headquarters as part of efforts to promote community policing, strengthen cooperation between citizens and police, and enhance mutual trust. An official told APP on Sunday that a large number of Islamabad Police senior officers, members of the shooting club, and citizens participated in the event. Participants from the Islamabad Police Shooting Club as well as general citizens competed in various categories, including SMG, MP-5, and pistol shooting, where shooters demonstrated accuracy, discipline, and professional skills. He said the competition was held in line with the special directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, who aims to expand community engagement initiatives and encourage positive interaction between the public and the police force. At the concluding ceremony, AIG Logistics Abdul Haque Umrani and AIG Complaint & Investigation Inayat Ali Shah distributed shields among the top-performing shooters and appreciated their professionalism and commitment. – APP

Dinner hosted in honor of Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe teams

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ODI team Skipper, Shaheen Shah Afridi, hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe teams. The event held here, brought together the national ODI and T20 squads, as well as the players from the visiting teams, said a statement issued here. The dinner featured a diverse array of Pakistani cuisine, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the players. The Sri Lankan and Zimbabwean players praised the local dishes, savoring the flavors and hospitality of their hosts. – APP

Harmer stars as South Africa bowl out India for 93 to win Test
India falter in their chase of 124 in Kolkata, losing match by 30 runs

KOLKATA: Spinner Simon Harmer claimed a match haul of eight wickets to lead South Africa to a thrilling 30-run win over India inside three days of a low-scoring opening Test on Sunday. India, without captain and leading batsman Shubman Gill who was ruled out because of a neck injury he suffered on Saturday, faltered in their chase of 124 to be bowled out for 93 in Kolkata. Harmer, who had figures of 4-30 in the first Indian innings, struck key blows in the second session including getting Rishabh Pant caught and bowled for two to dent the opposition chase. Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj struck twice in two balls to pack off India and trigger wild celebrations in the South African camp with the reigning world Test champions taking a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. Washington Sundar attempted to anchor the chase but fell to Aiden Markram's off-spin for 31. Axar Patel gave the crowd some cheer with his two sixes off Maharaj before the bowler had his revenge to send the batter caught out for 26 off 17 balls. Pace spearhead Marco Jansen ripped out the Indian openers before lunch with the hosts effectively 10-3 in the absence of Gill, who is in hospital and "under observation", at the break and Harmer soon took charge. Jansen in his first over got the left-handed Yashvi Jaiswal to nick a length delivery to wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne, who then took a diving catch to dismiss Rahul. South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma hit a defiant 55 not out in his team's second innings total of 153. Bavuma played a defiant knock to keep South Africa in the hunt after they resumed on 93-7 on a tough pitch with inconsistent bounce. He started the day on 29 and played with grit to complete the first half-century of a low-scoring contest. Bavuma's 44-run eighth-wicket stand with overnight

partner Corbin Bosch frustrated the Indian bowlers until pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah broke through. Bumrah bowled Bosch for 25 before Bavuma reached his fifty in 122 balls, raising his bat to an applauding dressing room. Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj shattered Harmer's stumps for seven and removed last man Keshav Maharaj for a duck in the space of four balls as Bavuma ran out of partners. Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja had figures 4-50. South Africa fought back on day two after being all out for 159 on Friday after winning the toss and electing to bat. They dismissed India for 189 on Saturday to keep the deficit to 30 before again faltering in their batting. The second Test starts Saturday in Guwahati. – DNA



Spain, Switzerland on World Cup brink as Belgium also made to wait

That commanding victory left Spain with a three-point lead over Turkey at the top of Group E and a vastly superior goal difference

PARIS: Spain all but mathematically booked their ticket to the World Cup with a 4-0 thrashing of Georgia on Saturday, with Turkey delaying their celebrations by edging Bulgaria 2-0. Kosovo likewise prevented Switzerland from booking their spot in North America next year, beating Slovenia 2-0 to prolong the Group B suspense for another three days. Switzerland's 4-1 win over Sweden, though, means that only an unlikely thrashing in Kosovo on Tuesday could prevent them from progressing. A brace by Marko Arnautovic fired Austria to a 2-0 win away to Cyprus that nudged them closer to World Cup qualification for the first time since 1998. But Bosnia-Herzegovina came from behind to beat 10-man Romania 3-1 and ensure Group H goes down to the wire too. Belgium missed the chance to secure their spot at the finals after they were held to a 1-1 draw in Kazakhstan. Mikel Oyarzabal bagged a brace as Spain maintained their perfect qualification record by outclassing Georgia in Tbilisi.

Real Sociedad forward Oyarzabal opened the scoring from the penalty spot on 11 minutes after Giorgi Gocholeishvili was penalised for handling Ferran Torres's cross. Martin Zubimendi doubled the European champions' advantage on 22 minutes after he was left unmarked to slot home a pass from Fabian Ruiz. And Torres put the game to bed 10 minutes before the break by converting a cross from Oyarzabal. Torres repaid the favour for Oyarzabal to notch his second just past the hour mark. That commanding victory left Spain with a three-point lead over Turkey at the top of Group E and a vastly superior goal difference. Turkey would have to pull off a stunning seven-goal victory away to Spain on Tuesday to pip La Roja to automatic World Cup qualification. Spain have scored 19 goals in their five matches so far, without conceding a single one. Hakan Calhanoglu gave Turkey the lead from the penalty spot on 18 min-

utes following a handball in the box but the hosts laboured to add to that in Bursa until Atanas Chernev bundled a cross past his own goalkeeper Dimitar Mitov seven minutes from time. Granit Khaka scored a penalty as Switzerland all but secured their spot in the finals. Sweden's Benjamin Nygren equalised Brael Embolo's opener but after Khaka restored the hosts' lead, further goals from Dan Ndoye and Johan Manzambi added gloss to the victory. Kosovo, though, will need to beat Switzerland 6-0 on Tuesday to snatch the automatic qualifying spot away from them. Veteran Edin Dzeko scored his 72nd international goal as Bosnia prevented Austria from securing qualification by hitting back from a goal down to beat Romania. But Bosnia will need to win away to Austria on Tuesday to pip them to top spot in Group H. Belgium's qualification hopes have gone down to the wire after they failed to beat Kazakhstan, although with a home tie against Liechtenstein – who have lost all

their matches so far – to come, they should comfortably secure that. Belgium fell behind in the ninth minute to a strike from Dastan Satpaev but hit back early in the second half through Hans Vanaken. They remain top of Group J with 15 points, two ahead of both North Macedonia and Wales, who won 1-0 away to Liechtenstein to keep their automatic qualification hopes alive. Jordan James scored the only goal of that game on 61 minutes and with Wales hosting North Macedonia on Tuesday, they are well-placed to secure at least a play-off spot, although they need to win to overhaul their opponents for second place. Denmark pulled a point clear of Scotland in Group C ahead of their crunch clash in Glasgow on Tuesday after being held to a surprise 2-2 draw at home to Belarus. Scotland fell to a 3-2 defeat in Greece. The hosts had opened up a 3-0 lead after Scotland missed a host of chances, but goals from Ryan Christie and Ben Doak threatened an unlikely comeback. – Agencies

Briefs

Pope Leo
urges leaders
not to leave
poor behind

VATICAN CITY: Pope Leo XIV decried poverty on Sunday, urging world leaders and Catholics to reach out to marginalized people, as the Church celebrated a "Jubilee of the Poor."

The US pope has made social justice a key theme of his papacy, now in its sixth month since being made head of the world's Catholics in May following the death of Pope Francis.

The Church, Leo said during a mass at St. Peter's Basilica, is "still wounded by old and new forms of poverty," but "hopes to be 'mother of the poor, a place of welcome and justice'."

Sunday marked a special Jubilee of the Poor, one of many such celebrations during the holy year, which has drawn pilgrims from around the world. It fell on the World Day of the Poor, an annual observance begun by Francis in 2017.

Following mass, Pope Leo was to attend a lunch at the Vatican with a group of homeless people, refugees and the disabled, while other community events to help the poor were planned around Rome.—APP

Karamay city
hosts first
Int'l cultural
communication
event

KARAMAY: The international cultural communication event "Gathering in the Oil City, Enjoying City Tours, and Admiring the City's Charm" concluded in Karamay, China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, bringing together more than 40 international experts, scholars, and journalists for cultural exchange, in-depth dialogues, and a comprehensive city tour.

The event, launched to showcase Karamay's urban image and promote mutual learning, was opened by Ma Xueliang, Secretary of the CPC Karamay Municipal Committee, while Chen Xueliang, Deputy Head of the Publicity Department of the China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region CPC Committee, addressed participants.

Guests toured key cultural and industrial sites, including the Karamay Museum, historic Black Oil Mountain, the world-famous Devil's City, Karamay hospital, the University of Petrochemicals, and a community center.

In parallel with the field visit, three high-level salons were held, bringing together experts from energy, culture, tourism, technology, media, and finance.

At the salon on "Practicing ESG Concepts and Promoting Green Energy Transition," speakers highlighted ESG as a driving force for innovation and high-quality development.

A second salon on the integration of culture, sports, and tourism explored how Karamay can deepen its emerging identity as the "Fashion Capital of Wilder-ness Journeys.—APP

Japanese
divided on
military
response to
China over
Taiwan

TOKYO: The Japanese public is divided on whether Japan should exercise its right to collective self-defense if China attacks Taiwan, a Kyodo news agency poll found on Sunday.

The survey found 48.8 percent in favor and 44.2 percent against, while 60.4 percent backed Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's plan to beef up the country's defense spending. The opinion poll comes at a time when a diplomatic spat between Tokyo and Beijing has intensified following Takaichi's remarks related to Taiwan. The Japanese premier said on November 7 that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could amount to a "survival-threatening situation" and trigger a potential military response from Tokyo. China has not ruled out using force to assert its claim to democratically-governed Taiwan, which is only 110 kilometers from Japanese territory. Taiwan's government rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims.—APP



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari confers the Nishan-i-Pakistan on His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at a special investiture ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Trump tariff rollback offers
relief for Indian farmers

NEW DELHI: Indian agricultural exporters are among the winners from US President Donald Trump's exemption of dozens of food items from his reciprocal tariffs regime, which some analysts say could help to revive lost demand.

Trump on Friday removed tariffs he had imposed on more than 200 food products, including beef, as consumer concerns mount over rising US grocery prices.

Unlike EU and Vietnamese suppliers facing 15–20 percent duties, Indian exporters of tea, coffee, spices and cashew nuts were hit harder after Trump doubled

tariffs to as high as 50 percent on imports of certain Indian goods, including a punitive 25 percent levy from the end of August on India's Russian oil purchases.

Ajay Sahai, director general of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), says that between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion of exports will benefit from the tariff exemptions. Positive signal for wider trade talks "This order opens space for premium, speciality and value-added products," he said. "Exporters who shift toward higher-value segments will be better protected from price pressures and can tap rising consum-

er demand." Officials involved in trade and farm export policy said the exemptions are also a positive signal for ongoing US–India trade talks and could ease export pressure triggered by this year's tariff increases. Exports of Indian goods to the US fell nearly 12 percent year on year in September to \$5.43 billion after tariffs were raised. Indian farm exports, estimated to account for \$5.7 billion of the country's \$87 billion exports to the US in 2024, were among those hit. "The move benefits Indian farmers and exporters of tea, coffee, cashew and fruits and vegetables," a senior official

involved in Indian farm export policy said on condition of anonymity. Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative lobby group, said India's US-bound farm exports – focused on a few high-value spices and niche products – would register limited gains given its weak presence in key exempt items such as tomatoes, citrus fruits, melons, bananas and fruit juices.

"The tariff shift would marginally strengthen India's position in spices and niche horticulture and help revive some lost US demand after the tariff hikes," Srivastava added.

Latin American, African and ASEAN suppliers are likely to make larger gains, he said, adding that it was not immediately clear whether Indian exports will be exempt from 25 percent reciprocal tariffs or full 50 percent tariffs. Exporters, however, fear that other factors will keep potential gains in check, pointing to high freight costs, strong competition from Vietnam and Indonesia and tougher US quality requirements. "Tariff relief is important, but market recovery also depends on logistics and our ability to match prices," one exporter said.—Agencies

Lebanon to complain
to UN over wall
construction denied
by Israel

BEIRUT: Lebanon will file a complaint to the United Nations Security Council alleging that Israel is building walls in south Lebanon, an accusation Israel has denied, the Lebanese presidency said Saturday. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said on Friday that the Israeli army had built walls in south Lebanon near the UN-demarcated Blue Line, the de facto border. When asked by AFP about the accusation, the Israeli military said "the wall does not cross the Blue Line." President Joseph Aoun's office said he had instructed officials "to file an urgent complaint to the United Nations Security Council against Israel for constructing a concrete wall on Lebanon's southern border exceeding the Blue Line." He requested that the complaint "be accompanied by reports issued by the United Nations refuting the Israeli denial of the wall's construction." According to UNIFIL, last month peacekeepers surveyed a concrete T-wall erected by the Israeli army southwest of Yaroun and found that it "crossed the Blue Line, rendering more than 4,000 square meters of Lebanese territory inaccessible to the Lebanese people." A survey this month of additional construction showed "a section of wall southeast of Yaroun also crossed the Blue Line," the UNIFIL statement added, calling it a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty. The force said it had informed the Israeli army of the October findings and requested it move the wall. A ceasefire in November last year sought to end more than a year of hostilities including two months of all-out war between Israel and Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.—APP

Call for end
to maritime
attacks by
Houthis

NEW YORK: The UN Security Council has called for an end to cross-border and maritime attacks by Yemen's Houthis and urged member states to beef up efforts to implement an arms embargo against them. In a resolution renewing sanctions against the group, the council condemned the attacks and demanded an end to all such actions, "including those against infrastructure and civilian targets." The text was adopted in a 13-0 vote, with permanent members China and Russia abstaining. Targeted sanctions were extended until Nov. 14, 2026, including asset freezes and travel bans currently in place against about 10 people, most of them high-ranking Houthi officials and the group as a whole. The text was adopted in a 13-0 vote at the UN Security Council, with permanent members China and Russia abstaining.—APP

Central Asia
enters new era of
cooperation

TASHKENT: Central Asia is poised to take a historic step toward deeper regional cooperation as the seventh Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asian countries convenes in Tashkent on 15–16 November. The two-day summit, hosted by Uzbekistan, brings together regional leaders to strengthen integration, advance joint initiatives, and exchange views on key regional and global issues. A comprehensive package of multilateral documents is expected to be adopted, signaling growing momentum behind the region's shift toward collective action. The consultative format, proposed by Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 72nd UN General Assembly in 2017, has emerged as a crucial platform for dialogue and cooperation. Under Uzbekistan's current chairmanship, more than 20 major events have been held, covering a wide spectrum of shared priorities. Once marked by closed borders, contradictions, and a lack of trust, Central Asia is now undergoing a profound transformation based on openness, solidarity, and mutually beneficial cooperation. Analysts note that this shift reflects not only strategic necessity but also a political culture shaped by seven to eight years of consistent leadership-level engagement. President Mirziyoyev's article, "Central Asia on the Verge of a New Era," published ahead of the summit, has attracted wide attention as a landmark document articulating both the achievements of recent years and a forward-looking vision rooted in unity and cohesion. Its central message is that the region's future lies in strengthening bonds. Borders that once separated nations are increasingly becoming platforms for collaboration and symbols of trust, trade, and shared development. The region's expanding political trust is reflected in tangible progress. Major initiatives such as border demarcation efforts, fair and coordinated use of water and energy resources, and joint projects including Kambarata HPP-1, the Zarafshan project, and the Fondaryo project illustrate a new, pragmatic mindset. Uzbekistan's policy of an open economy, transparent borders, and economic neighborliness has played a key role in shaping this cooperative environment. As a result, trade among regional states has risen steadily, investment conditions have improved, and joint ventures have increased.—APP

UK train
stabbing
'hero' leaves
hospital

LONDON: Samir Zitouni, the train crew member who was seriously injured while protecting passengers during a mass stabbing on a Huntingdon-bound train, has been discharged from hospital, it was reported on Saturday. Zitouni was working on board a London North Eastern Railway service from Doncaster to London when the attack took place in Cambridgeshire on Nov. 1. LNER said he had been instrumental in helping to save numerous lives during the incident. His family said of the incident and its aftermath: "We are so grateful for the outpouring of support from the public and very touched by all the kind words about Sam's brave actions on the night of the attack. While we are really happy to have him home, he still has a significant recovery ahead and we would now like to be left in privacy to care for him as a family." LNER added that Zitouni had been a valued member of staff for more than 20 years, working on board as a customer experience host. David Horne, managing director at LNER, praised his colleague's courage.—APP

Ukraine
agrees on gas
imports from
Greece: Zelensky

KYIV: Ukraine will receive gas imports from Greece to help cover its winter needs, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday, pledging to secure nearly 2 billion euros to offset Russian attacks on domestic output.

"Today, we have already prepared an agreement with Greece on gas for Ukraine, which will be another gas supply route to secure imports for the winter as much as possible," he said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app.

"We already have agreements in place for financing gas imports – and we will cover nearly 2 billion euros (\$2.3 billion) needed for gas imports to compensate for the losses in Ukrainian production caused by Russian strikes. Zelenskyy's statement came ahead of his expected visit to Greece on Sunday, from where he is to travel to France and Spain. Russia has stepped up strikes on power generation, electricity transmission systems and gas production facilities in the fourth year of its war on Ukraine. Zelenskyy said Kyiv had allocated funds for gas imports from European partners and banks under European Commission guarantees, as well as from Ukrainian banks, while also working with US partners to ensure full financing.—APP

First winter rains pummel Gaza,
destroying makeshift shelters

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip: The first heavy rainfall of the season sent water cascading Saturday through the sprawling Muwasi tent camp in the Gaza Strip, as the embattled enclave struggles to cope with flooding and devastated infrastructure from two years of war. Residents attempted to dig trenches to direct the water from flooding their tents, as rain dripped through tears in tarpaulins and makeshift shelters. The first rain of the season pounded down in intermittent bursts, soaking the scant belongings families have managed to save. Strong winds can also topple tents and destroy families' attempts to gather food and supplies as another bleak winter sets in. Two weeks ago, Basil Naggar bought a new tent from the black market for 2300 NIS (\$712.50), because the scorching summer sun had worn his old tent thin. Still, rainwater leaked through his tent. "I spent all (Friday) pushing water out of my tent," Naggar said, adding that his neighbors' tents and belongings were completely

wrecked. "Water puddles are inches high, and there is no proper drainage," he said. Barefoot children splashed in puddles as women made tea outside under dark clouds. According to the UN, Muwasi, which was largely undeveloped dunes before the Israeli military designated it a humanitarian zone early in the war, held up to 425,000 displaced Palestinians this past summer, the vast majority living in makeshift temporary tents. The Israeli defense body in charge of humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip has said it is allowing in winterization materials, including blankets and heavy tarpaulins, but aid organizations warn the efforts are far from sufficient when temperatures plummet in the winter and the wind whips off the sea. As heavy clouds threatened further rain, some attempted to take shelter in destroyed buildings, even those at risk of collapse, with gaping holes covered by pieces of tarpaulin. The war broke out on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants launched a surprise attack on Is-

rael, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 hostages. They are still holding the bodies of three hostages, which Israel is demanding in return before progressing to the second stage of the ceasefire. Hamas has said that it is unable to locate the bodies under the rubble, but Israel has accused Hamas of dragging its feet.

The first stage of the ceasefire agreement that took effect on Oct. 10 is nearing its end. The next stage calls for the implementation of a governing body for Gaza and the deployment of an international stabilization force. It is not clear where either stands.

Israel's military campaign against Gaza has killed 69,100, including many women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its figures. The offensive has destroyed large parts of Gaza and displaced around 90 percent of its population of roughly 2 million Palestinians.—Agencies

Briefs

Four Afghan smugglers arrested with valued goods

PESHAWAR: The provincial capital police carried out a major operation, successfully foiling an attempt to smuggle goods from Peshawar to Lahore. The Excise Police not only recovered the smuggled items but also arrested four Afghan smugglers involved in the operation. According to the Excise police on Sunday, during a joint check post operation conducted by the Excise Police in Peshawar against illegal trade, a bus traveling from Peshawar to Lahore was intercepted. Officials discovered a large quantity of smuggled goods hidden in secret compartments inside the bus. The recovered items included 680 LED screens and 25 cartons of mobile oil. Police revealed that the goods belonged to a well-known Afghan smuggling group operating in Peshawar, which was attempting to transport the merchandise to Lahore. The seized items are said to be worth several lakhs of rupees. – APP

Russia claims to have seized two new villages

MOSCOW: The Russian army on Sunday claimed to have captured two more villages in southern Ukraine, where its troops are slowly gaining ground against outnumbered Ukrainian forces. On Telegram, the Russian Ministry of Defence said its troops had taken Rivnopillia and Mala Tokmachka in the Zaporizhzhia region. Although the Zaporizhzhia frontline is much less active than the eastern front, where most of the fighting occurs, Russian forces that are better equipped and more numerous than their opponents are advancing in both regions. Fighting in the east centres around control of the key logistical hub Pokrovsk, which hundreds of Russian soldiers have infiltrated in recent weeks, weakening Ukrainian defences. – APP

N, local groups launch 'We Will Rebuild Gaza' cleanup campaign

UNITED NATIONS: A large-scale campaign under the slogan "We Will Rebuild Gaza" was launched on Saturday in Gaza City, with the participation of local organizations and United Nations agencies, in an effort to begin cleaning operations and removing mountains of debris left by the Israeli war in yje besieged enclave. Dozens of participants – including UN officials, volunteers, and residents who recently returned from the south of the Strip – took part in the activities in the city centre, according to a UN report. One participant, a woman in a wheelchair, held up a sign reading "We Will Rebuild Gaza" to express her support for the campaign. Amjad Al-Shawa, Director of the Palestinian NGO Network, said the initiative represents "a shared message to the world that the people of Gaza." – APP

Strict orders against illegal immigration

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi & Overseas Minister Chaudhary Salik's 2-Hour surprise inspection at Lahore Airport

LAHORE: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhary Salik Hussain paid a surprise visit to Lahore Airport. Both ministers stayed at the airport for two hours and reviewed the immigration process. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed displeasure after seeing the rush at the immigration counters and ordered that the process be completed swiftly. The two ministers also spoke to passengers travelling abroad and inquired about the immigration procedure.

Federal Minister Salik Hussain checked the Protector stickers on travel documents. A young man travelling abroad for a driver's job under the Protector was stopped from travelling due to not possessing a driving licence. Salik Hussain expressed displeasure and ordered an inquiry. Due to the alleged collusion of an FIA official, a passenger travelling

abroad was stopped at the counter by the immigration staff. The Interior Minister assured the off-loaded passenger that he would get his money back from the private company he had paid. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi called the immigration officials who had stopped the two young men, praised them, rewarded them from his own pocket, and also announced commendation certificates for them. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that no passenger should be allowed to travel without the required documents. Illegal immigration will not be tolerated at all. He reiterated that no passenger who may bring disrepute to the country will be allowed to travel. He said that strict action will be taken against any FIA or other institutional officials involved. Chaudhary Salik Hussain said that verification of valid employment documents under the Protector must be ensured in all cases. – APP

German-Pak ties: German envoy underscores cultural importance
German Embassy, Goethe Institute host Jazz concert

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The German Embassy and the Goethe-Institut brought an evening of vibrant contemporary jazz to the capital as the renowned Eva Klesse Quartet performed at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). The concert, organised in collaboration with PNCA, drew a large and enthusiastic audience that enjoyed the

band's dynamic fusion of modern jazz and the cultural vibes of Cologne, Germany. German Ambassador Ina Lepel, speaking on the occasion, highlighted the significance of cultural exchange between the two countries. "Germany is of course a country of tradition, but also has a very modern, urban and dynamic culture," she said. "We are proud to have the Eva Klesse Quartet with us in Islamabad today because they personify this side of our culture and connect really well with the vibrant Pakistani society, especially with young people."



The Islamabad performance marked the final stop of the quartet's Pakistan tour, following appearances at the World Culture Festival in Karachi and at the Alhamra Arts Centre in Lahore. Formed in 2013, the Eva Klesse Quartet – comprising Evgeny Ring on saxophone, Felix Hauptmann on piano, Tabea Kind on bass, and drummer Eva Klesse – has earned international acclaim

with six albums and hundreds of performances across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Winners of the 2015 ECHO Jazz Award for Best Newcomer Ensemble, the group is known for its original compositions and a distinct sound that blends contemporary improvisation, modern jazz and innovative pop influences. The event in Islamabad further strengthened cultural ties and introduced local audiences particularly youth to Germany's evolving and vibrant jazz tradition.

All-encompassing diplomacy Suggested to settle Pakistan-Afghan disputes

DNA

PESHAWAR: A roundtable discussion on Pakistan and Afghanistan has suggested for giving a chance to an all-encompassing diplomacy where all segments of society including intelligentsia, religious leaders, media, academia and traders play their positive role for reducing frictions and creating an atmosphere conducive for peace and tranquility. "It's time to make use of 'Citizen Diplomacy' through meaningful people-to-people contact for improving relations between the two neighbouring countries," it added.

Relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan is complex and this complexity has immediate, as well as far reaching implications not only for both countries but the region as well, observed participants of the roundtable.

According to a press release issued here on Sunday, the roundtable titled as "Pakistan-Afghanistan Tensions and Their Regional Implications" was organized by Advocacy for Sustainable Policy and Implementation Reforms (Aspire-KP), a not-for-profit and registered platform of public service professionals from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Former Chief Secretary KP and Chairman Aspire, Muhammad Shehzad Arbab opened the deliberations with a brief introduction of Aspire-KP and objectives of the roundtable. The participants of the roundtable made several recommendations and observed that being neighbours, Paki-

stan and Afghanistan are dependent on each other in so many ways and it is almost impossible for both to find alternatives for substituting this dependency.

It was also suggested that government may press into service the intellect and experience of those who understand Afghanistan and Afghans. It will lead to reinforcement of our approach to the subject.

"Conflict, friction and tension do not resolve differences and will create more problems miseries for both countries especially the Pashtuns," it added.

The loss for Afghanistan will be catastrophic in view of its current situation of economic and social instability, the roundtable warned.

The roundtable observed that separating trade from politics is in the interest of people in both the countries as Pakistan and Afghanistan are centuries old trading partners. Chambers of Commerce and Industry, traders, exporters, importers, and clearing agents are major stakeholders in Pak-Afghan trade and marginalizing of these stakeholders will have devastating effect on the trade which will lead to unemployment and resultant militancy in the region.

Likewise, students seeking admissions in different universities in Pakistan may be allowed to carry on their education and complete their higher studies.

Regarding repatriation of Afghan refugees, the roundtable recommends a high degree of care and stringent oversight to eliminate the impression of maltreatment and excesses.

Efforts underway to arrest firecracker factory owner

Three wounded are in critical condition and have been shifted to Karachi, says Civil Hospital administration

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: A fresh body pulled from the wreckage of a firecracker factory in Hyderabad's Latifabad area has taken the death toll to seven, while six people remain injured, rescue officials said. "There are two deaths, and we have sent four to five injured to hospitals," Latifabad Assistant Commissioner Saud Lund told the media soon after the blast. Rescue teams later recovered four more bodies from the rubble, taking the toll to six before the latest recovery pushed it to seven.

Two of the deceased have been identified as Rasheed and Waris, said the Civil Hospital administration, adding that three of the injured were in critical condition who have been shifted to Karachi. Meanwhile, two wounded are being treated in the Civil Hospital and the woman injured in the blast has been discharged. Also, the police have said that the owner of the firecracker factory is on the run and efforts are being made to arrest him.

Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro confirmed the increase in the death toll during his visit to the incident site. "Action against illegal factories must be taken," he said while talking to journalists. One of the wounded, while being treated at the Civil Hospital, told Geo News that the facility served both as a factory as well

as a warehouse, with the former situated on the ground floor. "[We] had been working [at the factory] for four to five years," said Anas, adding that they also had a licence for the factory and that the facility was intentionally located away from the population.

"More than 10 people were there when the explosion occurred," he noted. Earlier, AC Lund said that the firecrackers were being illegally manufactured in the house without a licence. "The room, where the crackers were being made, was destroyed in the blast." "There is debris from the collapsed room and boundary wall, and we have reports that some people, including children, were working inside. Our teams are trying to retrieve them," he added.

The blast triggered a fire that caused part of the structure to collapse. Police confirmed that the room and adjoining sections caught fire immediately after the explosion.

Law enforcers and rescue personnel reached the location shortly after the incident, with the fire brigade currently conducting firefighting operations.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has sought a detailed report on the factory blast, according to the provincial spokesperson. The chief minister also ordered an audit of safety measures at the factory.

CM Murad said strict action would be taken against those responsible for the explosion, adding that negligence in ensuring workers' safety would not be tolerated.

HSD prices increase by Rs 6, MS Petrol maintain at 265.45

ISLAMABAD: The prices of High Speed Diesel (HSD) increase by Rs 6, MS Petrol maintain at Rs 265.45 per liter notified by the government. The MS petrol was maintained at Rs 265.45 per liter as against its existing price of Rs 265.45 per liter, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance on Sunday.

The Government has revised the prices of the petroleum products following input from the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) and the relevant Ministries. The new prices for the next fortnight starting from 16th November 2025 are as shared below.

The government has accordingly decided to revise the existing consumer prices of petroleum products, it said adding that the above price adjustments are in line with government's policy of passing on the variations of prices in the international market to the domestic market. – APP

Clashes injure 120 at protest against Mexico president

MEXICO CITY: At least 120 people, mostly police officers, were injured Saturday as thousands marched through Mexico City to protest against President Claudia Sheinbaum's government, local authorities said. The demonstration against drug violence and Sheinbaum's security policies was organized on social media by representatives of "Generation Z," though AFP saw protesters of various ages.

Sheinbaum, in power since October 2024, maintains approval ratings above 70 percent in her first year in office but has faced criticism of her security policy due to several high-profile murders. "For many hours, this mobilization proceeded and developed peacefully, until a group of hooded individuals began to commit acts of violence," Pablo Vazquez, security chief for Mexico City, told reporters.

He reported that 100 police officers were injured, of whom 40 required hospital treatment for bruises and cuts, while 20 protesters were also hurt. Authorities arrested 20 people for crimes such as robbery and assault, including an alleged attack on a newspaper journalist, according to Vazquez.

Many of the protesters held banners and wore hats saluting Carlos Manzo, the mayor of Uruapan in Michoacan state who was assassinated on November 1, having led a crusade against drug-trafficking gangs in his town. The assassinated mayor's widow, however, distanced her husband's movement from the demonstration on Saturday.

Several of those attending the march also displayed the pirate flag emblematic of the Japanese manga "One Piece," which has become a symbol of global youth protest. Earlier this week, Sheinbaum questioned the motivations for the demonstration and said at her regular morning press conference that the protest call was "inorganic" and "paid for." – APP

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