



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Pak greatly values relations with KSA, says field Marshal

Detailed News On Page-08

Malaysia to get over 35 million tourists in 2026

Detailed News On Page-08



Portugal, Sindh Govt explore new avenues

Detailed News On Page-02



Bravery at the Gate

Three terrorists killed as suicide FC attack foiled

According to the Interior Ministry, the attackers were intercepted at the perimeter of the headquarters where FC personnel engaged them in a sustained gunfight. The militants were neutralized in what officials said was a “timely and coordinated” counteraction

DNA

ISLAMABAD: At least three terrorists were killed and as many Federal Constabulary (FC) personnel martyred as security forces foiled an attack on the FC Headquarters in Peshawar, the officials said on Monday. Peshawar Capital City Police Officer Dr Mian Saeed said that three suicide bombers tried to enter the constabulary headquarters. “One attacker detonated himself at the main gate of the FC Headquarters, while two others managed to enter the premises,” he said. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, while condemning the assault, said the attack underscored the urgent need to stay ahead of extremist networks that continue to target state institutions. He praised the FC for what he described as a “decisive and disciplined response” that prevented a potentially far greater tragedy. According to the Interior Ministry, the attackers were intercepted at the perimeter of the headquarters where FC personnel engaged them in a sustained gunfight. The militants were neutralized in what officials said was a “timely and coordinated” counteraction. Naqvi commended the force for acting quickly under pressure, saying their readiness prevented the terrorists from breaching critical security installations. “The courage and presence of mind demonstrated by our FC personnel safeguarded not only the headquarters but the wider city,” he said. The minister also confirmed that three FC personnel were martyred during the exchange. He visited the injured and instructed officials to ensure they receive the highest standard of medical care.

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President, PM vow to wipe out terrorism

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned the terrorist attack carried out by Fitna al Khawarij targeting Federal Constabulary Headquarters in Peshawar. The president and prime minister, in their separately issued statements, appreciated the timely response by the police and security forces which averted a major loss. Calling the attack a cowardly act of foreign backed anti-state elements, they reiterated the government's resolve to completely wipe out the terrorism from the country. “The attack is a cowardly act by foreign-backed terrorists who are enemies of our beloved country. The complete elimination of foreign-sponsored Khawarij terrorism from Pakistan is our top priority,” President Zardari said and expressed sympathies with the bereaved families of the martyrs and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that those responsible for the incident should be identified at the earliest and brought to justice.

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Ogra approves up to 8% cut in gas tariffs

Tariffs include Rs1,804.08/mmbtu for SNGPL also

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) on Monday approved a reduction of up to 8% in gas tariffs for consumers nationwide, with the final decision resting with the government. In a statement, the authority said that it has determined the Review of Estimated Revenue Requirement (RERR) of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company Limited for the fiscal year 2025-26.

Ogra proposed revised tariffs of Rs1,804.08 per metric million British thermal unit (mmbtu) for SNGPL and Rs1,549.41/mmbtu for SSG-CL, reflecting reductions of 3% and 8% respectively. Ogra, in its statement, said that it approved the reduction after “carefully reviewing the revenue requirement of SNGPL and SSGCL” and “rationalised the demand by optimising costs as well as revenues”. The impact of deferred cargoes in the case of Pakistan LNG Limited has been included to the benefit of gas consumers, it added. “Ogra in pursuance of Federal Cabinet dated

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Hezbollah weighs response to Israeli attack in Beirut

NEWS DESK

HEZBOLLAH has not yet announced how it intends to react to the killing of senior commander Haytham Ali Tabatabai. Mahmoud Qmati, the group's Political Council vice president, said the attack represented “another breach of the ceasefire” as Israel intensifies the hostilities “with approval from the United States”, Al Jazeera reported. Even with the ceasefire reached last November, Hezbollah has continued to endure Israeli attacks in Lebanon's south. Security analyst Ali Rizk noted that the key issue now is whether Hezbollah will respond, arguing the group is unlikely to “hand Netanyahu a justification to wage a full-scale war on Lebanon”, a scenario he warned could bring heavier consequences for Hezbollah than the current dynamic. Iran on Monday slammed Israel over its killing of Hezbollah's military chief, a day after the commander was targeted with a strike in the Lebanese capital of Beirut.

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FAREWELL CALL



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on 24 November 2025. – DNA

PM, Saudi General renew commitment to stronger defence ties

General Al-Ruwaili conveyed the warm greetings of the Saudi leadership to the Prime Minister and the people of Pakistan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. General Fayyad bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House on Monday. Welcoming the visiting dignitary, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif conveyed his warmest regards to The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, as well as to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to further deepening the historic and fraternal ties between the two brotherly nations across all domains, including defence, security, and economic cooperation.

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PTI boycotted by-polls after sensing defeat

PML-N's wins prove public rejected “empty narratives,” says Punjab chief minister

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Monday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) boycotted the by-elections in Punjab after foreseeing its “defeat”. Addressing a presser in Lahore, CM Maryam said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) “sweeping victory” in

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Ashfaq Khalil appointed Federal Info Secretary

APNS greets Khalil; wishes him best of luck with new role

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior officer of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil, has been appointed as the new Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, according to an official notification issued here on Monday. The appointment was approved by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, following a round of interviews with senior officers of the ministry. Candidates included Tariq Khan, Arshad Munir, Ms. Imrana Wazir, Saeed Ahmed Sheikh, and Khalil himself. After the evaluation process, Khalil was selected for the top post.



Meanwhile, The APNS has welcomed and congratulated Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil on his appointment as Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The office bearers of All Pakistan Newspapers Society have hoped that during his tenure as Secretary Information Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil would protect and safeguard the freedom of press and address the problems of print media. They are confident that during his tenure, the print media would continue to enjoy good relations with

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Briefs

Floods displace thousands in Thailand and Malaysia

DNA

BANGKOK: Flooding from days of intense rain has killed at least eight people in southern Thailand and forced thousands into evacuation centres in neighbouring Malaysia, officials said on Monday, as authorities ramped up efforts to provide shelter and aid. Floodwater waist-high in some areas has impacted 10 provinces in southern Thailand and eight states in Malaysia, regions spanning hundreds of kilometres that were last year also hard hit by flooding from a seasonal monsoon that killed at least 12 people. Thailand's southern trading hub, Hat Yai, on Friday suffered its heaviest single-day rainfall in more than 300 years, according to the irrigation department.

Over 4,000 cases of violence against children

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Over 4,150 cases of violence against children were reported in Punjab during the year's first half, according to a report issued on Monday. The statistics were revealed in the Sustainable Social Development Organisation's (SSDO) Factsheet on Violence Against Children (VAC) in Punjab, covering the period from January to June 2025. A press release issued by the organisation said that of the 4,150 cases, challans were presented in 3,989 cases, while 3,791 were under trial, with an average of 23 cases reported daily, based on district-level police data obtained through the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013.

Judges transfer case

FCC dismisses appeals of judges

Six-member bench dismisses plea on account of non-compliance after neither judge appeared before court

FIJAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) on Monday rejected intra-court appeals (ICAs) filed by five Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges and others challenging the Supreme Court's verdict on judges' transfer and upheld the June verdict. The court also rejected the judges' request seeking the transfer of their ICA back to the SC on account of non-compliance, saying that none of the petitioners appeared before the court. The verdict came on miscellaneous petition filed by IHC's Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan and Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz in the FCC, arguing that the case must be heard by the Supreme Court. The case was heard by the FCC's six-member larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan and comprising Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice K K

Agha, Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Ali Baqir Najafi, Justice Rozi Khan Barrech and Justice Arsahd Hussain Shah. During the hearing, the bench rejected the judges' request on account of non-compliance after none of the judges appeared before the court. The case relates to the transfer of Justice Sarfraz Dogar from the Lahore High Court, Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro from the Sindh High Court, and Justice Muhammad Asif from the Balochistan High Court to the IHC. Apart from the five IHC's judges, the Karachi Bar Association (KBA), the IHC Bar Association, and others had challenged the transfer in the SC, which back in June, dismissed the pleas while terming the move as constitutional. The five IHC judges had then filed an ICA against the SC decision which was recently transferred and fixed before the newly formed FCC under the 27th Constitutional Amendment – a move also challenged by the judges.

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Pak-Afghan standoff: polices must be reviewed

True to the tradition of former Taliban supreme leader Mullah Muhammad Omar, the current Afghan Taliban leadership considers the banned TTP members as “guests.” They insist these Pakistani militants are living peacefully on Afghan soil and deny their involvement in attacks inside Pakistan

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Once again, the people of Peshawar were jolted early Monday morning by powerful explosions – at a time when mothers were preparing their children for school and workers were rushing to offices. In the heart of the highly sensitive Peshawar Cantonment, militants targeted the headquarters of the Frontier Constabulary (FC). According to Capital City Police Chief Dr. Mian Saeed Ahmad, the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber who struck the compound, resulting in the martyrdom of three FC personnel and injuries to seven others, including a passerby tailor. All four terrorists – including the suicide bomber – were killed in the retaliatory action. This is not the first attack on this sensitive facility. On August 4, 2010, its then Commandant, Shaheed Sifat Ghayur, was assassinated in a similar suicide attack. Since then, the compound has remained heavily guarded. Yet, no one can deny that for the last two and a half decades, terrorism and violence have become a constant

reality throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Despite repeated claims from security institutions of having “crushed militants, dismantled networks, and eliminated top commanders and facilitators,” the situation remains grim. Meanwhile, Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan have taken a serious downturn. Islamabad accuses Kabul of sheltering the banned TTP's top leadership and enabling attacks across Pakistan. However, the Taliban regime rejects these allegations, calling the violence an internal issue of Pakistan. True to the tradition of former Taliban supreme leader Mullah Muhammad Omar, the current Afghan Taliban leadership considers the banned TTP members as “guests.” They insist these Pakistani militants are living peacefully on Afghan soil and deny their involvement in attacks inside Pakistan. On this basis, they urge Pakistan to negotiate directly with them. Yet, the reality remains that the banned TTP maintains an extensive network inside Pakistan and continues to carry out acts of terrorism. Afghan Taliban officials, for their part, argue that Pakistani security institutions must acknowledge their own shortcomings.

Regardless of the accusations from either side, today's terrorism and extremism are direct legacies of the so-called Afghan Jihad – a war funded and supported by US-led allies against the former USSR, fought from Afghan soil. In the latest phase of this geopolitical game, the Doha Accord effectively restored the Taliban to power on August 15, 2021. Pakistan attached great hopes to this development, but policymakers failed to understand the mindset and ideological rigidity of the Afghan Taliban. Since August 2021, Pakistan has repeatedly attempted to pressure the Taliban government into aligning with its concerns – but without success. The once-celebrated “partnership” between Pakistan and the Taliban has now devolved into hostility. After clashes in the second week of October, all diplomatic, trade, and social ties between the two countries were suspended. Afghanistan is now developing alternative trade routes, while Pakistan continues to demand action against the banned TTP. The Taliban deny involvement, citing the fenced border, which they argue makes cross-border

movement nearly impossible – a view that some analysts partially endorse. The core issue is clear: both sides suffer from decades-old mistrust. Within Pakistan itself, security agencies also face gaps in coordination and disagreement over how to counter terrorism – a threat inherited from foreign-sponsored conflicts of the past. It is time for the leadership in Rawalpindi and Islamabad to revisit outdated, ineffective, and obsolete policies toward Afghanistan. It is equally essential to recognise the role of political leadership in addressing internal and external challenges through dialogue and diplomacy. The people of Pakistan – particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan – have endured immense suffering. They cannot afford more bloodshed or instability. Citizens across Punjab and Sindh also deserve peace, stability, and prosperity. It is time to acknowledge the pain of innocent people who not only bury their loved ones but also struggle daily with poverty, unemployment, and underdevelopment. Only a bold rethinking of policy, grounded in political engagement rather than coercion, can break this tragic cycle of violence.

Filtration plant get deadline for new SOPs

MUZAFFARGARH :Dozens of Food Business Operators (FBOs), including operators of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Filtration Plants, attended a day-long awareness seminar organized by the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) on Monday. The seminar focused on capacity building for proper maintenance to ensure a clean and healthy drinking water supply to citizens. The session concluded with a stern warning that failure to implement the new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) would result in legal action.

The seminar, held in Muzaffargarh, was organized on the orders of PFA Director General Asim Javed. PFA's deputy director of operations and assistant master trainers delivered detailed lectures to the participants on the new SOPs. Officials briefed the participants on the updated SOPs, which include hygiene principles, labeling requirements, steps for the installation of new plants, processes for cleaning plants and water tanks, and guidelines for filter replacement. It was emphasized that details regarding filter replacement and laboratory reports must be uploaded to the FBO Portal on a monthly basis. In addition, FBOs were instructed to maintain proper records of their maintenance activities.—APP

Efforts afoot for promotion of women's edu: Syedal

KARACHI, Nov 24 (APP):Acting Chairman Senate, Syedal Khan Nasir, graced a dignified ceremony as the chief guest at the Business Incubation Centre of Jinnah University for Women, where he addressed students, faculty members, and distinguished guests. The university administration warmly welcomed him on his arrival. In his address, Syedal Khan Nasir said that educated daughters are the greatest strength of any nation. He emphasized that women play a fundamental role in the development of societies, and wherever women have embraced education, progress has naturally followed. He added that the education of a single daughter enlightens an entire generation. Commending the university's academic excellence and its significant role in character-building, the Acting Chairman Senate praised the institution for its impactful contributions. He also lauded the educational services of the university's founder, Maulvi Riazuddin Ahmed Khan, paying rich tribute to his vision and dedication.—APP

Court Notice

In the Court of Shagufta Sabir, Civil Judge 1st Class Jhelum, Suit For Possession through partition etc Case title: Raja Parvez Akhtar Kayani etc vs Junaid Arshad etc Against: 1 Junaid Arshad son of Raja Muhammad Ajaib r/o village and p/o Baral T Tehsil Dina District Jhelum (Currently residing abroad) As there is not possible to call the defendant through Summons in the instant suit so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear in the court on 27.11.2025 at 09:00 AM, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated.

Portugal, Sindh govt explore new areas of coop

The Ambassador of Portugal, Frederico Silva and the Chief Minister of Sindh, Murad Ali Shah meeting shared priorities in cultural and sports exchange, renewable energy, higher education, digital innovation, and opportunities for Pakistani professionals and students in Portugal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, Frederico Silva, met the Chief Minister of Sindh, Murad Ali Shah, to discuss the status quo of the relations between Portugal and Sindh Province as well as avenues for deeper cooperation. The meeting highlighted shared priorities in cultural and sports exchange, renewable energy, higher education, digital innovation, and opportunities for Pakistani professionals and students in Portugal. Both sides underlined the strong potential for partnerships in emerging sectors such as clean energy, water management, technology, and creative industries, reflecting the complementary strengths of the two countries. The Ambassador reiterated Portugal's commitment to expanding bilateral ties and supporting initiatives that bring long-term benefits to both societies and Peoples. Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Sheikh Ahmed bin Thani, a member of the Qatari Royal Family, agreed to enhance high-level engagement to significantly increase investment – especially in Sindh's water and agriculture sectors. At their meeting at the CM House, the Chief Minister formally invited Sheikh Ahmed bin Thani, emphasising Sindh's strong economic prospects and investor-friendly policies. Sheikh Ahmed, accompanied by his aides, expressed a strong interest in opportunities in agriculture and water management technologies. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral ties and fostering future cooperation. Provincial ministers Nasir Shah and Zia ul Hassan Lanjar, along with Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah and Principal Secretary Agha Wasif, were also present. The Chief Minister Murad Shah briefed the delegation on key projects, noting, "We have major desalination and water distribution projects planned for Karachi." He added that significant agricultural initiatives are underway. "Large-scale agriculture projects from Thatta to Kashmore can yield substantial returns." Shah also highlighted the province's investment potential in renewable energy, agro-processing, dairy, and tourism. Both parties agreed to continued high-level engagement and scheduled follow-up meetings between their technical teams. Sheikh Ahmed bin Thani announced that a delegation of Qatari investors will soon visit Sindh to advance discussions and finalise investment projects.



South exchange at COP30 opens with strong call for climate finance

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians, policy experts, civil society leaders and private-sector representatives from Asia on Monday voiced deep concern over weak texts, slow negotiations and inadequate climate finance commitments at the South-South Exchange held on the margins of COP30. Opening the session, Syed Naveed Qamar, Chair of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and former Federal Minister for Finance, warned that Pakistan and other climate-vulnerable countries are facing existential threats due to recurring floods, droughts and rapid glacial melt. He said that after attending more than 10 COPs, the negotiations continued to deliver the same debate and the same disappointing outcomes. He noted that while Pakistan received pledges after the 2022 floods, actual disbursements remained low, and the country is refrained from launching another appeal after the 2025 floods

due to concerns over accumulating debt. Qamar said Pakistan's rapid solarization demonstrated people's willingness to transition to clean energy without external financing. "With proper climate finance, the pace would be far stronger," he added. Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), said President Lula's declaration of COP30 as the "COP of truth" had highlighted the widening gap between ambition and delivery. He observed that the summit still lacked clarity on climate finance, fossil fuel phase-out and just transition, adding that many Asian communities "cannot wait while finance stalls and key emitters delay their NDCs." He said unresolved issues now placed additional pressure on the Brazilian presidency, which had positioned COP30 as the "COP of Action." Ma Jun, Environmental Policy Re-

searcher based in Beijing, China called for retaining earlier transition commitments and strengthening renewable-energy cooperation with developing countries. She cited Pakistan's distributed solar expansion as a successful model and emphasized improving financial risk assessments and green-bond mobilization. Representing Germanwatch, Giovanni said multilateralism within the UNFCCC system continued to weaken, urging developing countries to strengthen cooperation and pursue practical, trust-building steps. Private-sector concerns were highlighted by Dr Ayaz, Chairperson of the Pakistan Readymade Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA), who said EU Green Deal regulations were placing increasing pressure on local industries. He outlined PRGMEA's initiatives on biochar, renewable energy, biodiesel and partnerships with universities and international agencies.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Plants covered with dry grass on green belt along the Express Way by the gardeners of CDA, to protect from frost, which destroys greenery during winters.

Randhawa chairs 17th CDA board meeting

ISLAMABAD: The 17th meeting of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) Board was held on Friday at the CDA Headquarters, chaired by Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa. The meeting was attended by CDA Board members including Member Admin and Estate Talat Mehmood, Member Planning and Design Dr. Khalid Hafiz, Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza, Member Environment Esfandiyar Baloch along with other relevant officers. Several agenda items were discussed and decisions were made during the 17th meeting of the CDA

Board. According to details, the Planning Wing presented the matter of temporary stalls and kiosks in Islamabad to the CDA Board, in light of the High Court's orders. The Planning Wing was directed to formulate and present a clear policy in this regard. During the 17th CDA Board meeting, proposals for amendments to the Islamabad Land Disposal Regulations 2005 (ILDR) were also considered, in accordance with the directives of the sub-committee of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The meeting decided that a committee comprising all Director Generals of various Wings will be formed.

This committee will identify and remove delays and obstacles in the process and procedures of different matters. The purpose of these measures is to expedite pending matters and ensure the elimination of unnecessary delays. To make Islamabad greener and more lush, and to preserve its natural beauty, the CDA Board decided to send the proposal for the establishment of the Islamabad Parks and Horticulture Agency Regulations to the Federal Cabinet. The meeting also decided to revise the prices of plants sold at the 'Gardenia Hub' for the first time since 2005. Similarly, it was also decided to grant a spe-

cial discount for plants purchased by institutions and under CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). Regarding the issuance of the No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the Federal Employees Cooperative Housing Society, Jinnah Garden (Phase Two), the CDA Board decided to form a technical committee. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that for any housing scheme, the printing of allotment letters, in accordance with the layout plan, should be done through the Printing Press of Pakistan. He directed that the allotment letters be issued according to the number of plots included in the layout

plan. Chairman CDA said the purpose of this decision is to eliminate the sale and purchase of extra plots and files beyond the layout plan. He instructed that barcodes and watermarks be included on the allotment letters so that they can be verified. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that the CDA is constantly striving for better service to citizens and the development of the capital. He directed ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of all decisions. Chairman CDA further said that the construction and development of Islamabad, providing the best facilities to citizens.—DNA

Junaid pushes Pakistan-Bangladesh shipping framework

ISLAMABAD:Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has proposed the establishment of a formal cooperation framework between the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) and the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) to deepen maritime collaboration between the two countries. The proposal, presented during a meeting in London with Brigadier General (Retd.) Dr. M. Sakawat Hussain, Adviser for Shipping of Bangladesh, envisions a comprehensive partnership encompassing joint container and bulk shipping services, technical training programmes, cooperation on maritime safety and seafarer development, reciprocal port-call facilitation, and strengthened diplomatic and technical

engagement at senior levels. Minister Chaudhry conveyed warm greetings from Pakistan and requested Bangladesh's support for Pakistan in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Category C elections, reaffirming Islamabad's commitment to reciprocate. "Pakistan will positively support Bangladesh's request for support in the IMO Category C elections," he stated, signaling an intention to enhance bilateral coordination across multilateral forums. The minister emphasized Pakistan's broader goal of building cooperative frameworks with Bangladesh at platforms such as the IMO, the International Labour Organization (ILO) on seafarer-related matters, and relevant regional maritime groupings. Enhanced coor-

dination, he argued, would bolster the ability of both countries to shape global maritime policy and safeguard shared interests in shipping, port development, and seafarer welfare. Junaid Chaudhry also reiterated Pakistan's earlier offer to make Karachi Port Trust (KPT) facilities available for Bangladeshi cargo, recalling commitments made during previous high-level exchanges. He highlighted KPT's expanding capacity, ongoing modernization initiatives, and improved turnaround times as evidence of Pakistan's readiness to support regional trade flows. The minister said closer port-to-port collaboration could ease logistics challenges, reduce regional bottlenecks, and open new avenues for commercial integration across South Asia.—DNA

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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
Nov 25/Suriname	National Day
Nov 28/Mauritania	National Day
Nov 28/Albania	Flags Day



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Islamabad.....	0321-5744480

Pak hosts Int’l Qirat competition, minister welcomes participants

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, on Monday welcomed participants of the First International Qirat Competition, emphasizing that the event would project Pakistan’s positive image on global platforms. Addressing the inaugural session of the competition at the Convention Centre, the minister described the day as historic, marking the first-ever International Qirat Competition hosted in Pakistan. He said the event was a great honour for the country, with participants from up to forty nations taking part, adding that the event will also strengthen the spiritual bond among Muslim countries. Sardar Yousuf assured that all participants and judges would be provided with the best facilities and would feel Pakistan as their second home. Calling those who memorize and recite the Quran fortunate, he said the Holy Quran is a source of guidance and a complete code of conduct for all Muslims. Quoting a Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), he added “The best among you (Muslims) are those who learn the Qur’an and teach it.”

The minister highlighted that Pakistan, a nation of 250 million people, primarily speaks and understands Urdu as its national language. However, he stressed that learning Arabic is equally important for Pakistanis, as it is the religious language of Muslims.

He said the Ministry of Religious Affairs is taking concrete steps to promote the learning and teaching of Arabic across the country. “We are reaching out to various universities to promote the Arabic language,” he added. He also emphasized that understanding the core message of the Quran is crucial for every Muslim,



and such competitions help promote it. Sardar Yousuf said the Ministry of Religious Affairs, under the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-N—first under Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and now under Shehbaz Sharif—had taken significant steps in line with the ministry’s core mandate. He noted that the ministry had established the Ulema and Mashaikh Council and the Quran Board during the previous PML-N government, and is now organizing the International Qirat Competition to further promote and convey

the true message of Islam. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dr. Atta ur Rehman, described the competition as a remarkable achievement for the ministry, noting that the Quran resonates deeply in the hearts of Muslims. He thanked the minister for supporting and actively contributing to the idea of an international competition. Dr. Rehman said that despite invitations being sent on short notice, the response from Muslim countries was phenomenal, reflecting true unity within the Muslim

world. He assured that such competitions would continue in the future. He added that people in Pakistan, regardless of age, sect, or region, love to listen to the Quran recited in beautiful voices, and expressed hope that over the next days, the competition would showcase some of the finest and most captivating Quranic recitations from around the globe. The competition will continue until the 27th of this month, while the prize distribution ceremony is scheduled for the 29th of this month.

Muqam slams Peshawar attack

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON, and President of PML-N in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Ameer Muqam, strongly condemned the suicide attack that took place at the Frontier Corps Headquarters in Peshawar on Monday, November 24, 2025. The attack occurred just after 8:00 a.m. on one of the city’s busiest roads, where precious lives were lost and several were injured. The minister issued the statement from Islamabad, where he described the attack as a grave act of violence carried out by enemies of peace. Ameer Muqam paid rich tribute to the FC personnel who embraced martyrdom. He said the

nation would always remember their courage. He said their sacrifice protected countless other lives. He added that the entire country stands in deep respect for our brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for their beloved country. The minister prayed for the martyrs. He prayed for higher ranks for their souls. He also prayed for patience for their families. He asked for complete and quick recovery for all those who were injured. Ameer Muqam added that the security forces of Pakistan continue to play a vital role in the fight against terrorism. He said the nation stands shoulder to shoulder with them. He said the unity between the people and the armed forces is the biggest strength

of the country. Muqam exclaimed that the enemies of peace will never succeed. He said those who seek to harm Pakistan have failed before and will fail again. He added that the resolve of the country is stronger than any threat. The minister reaffirmed that Pakistan’s journey toward peace and development will continue. He said no force can stop the country from moving forward. He said those who attack innocent people are isolated and defeated in spirit. Ameer Muqam said the government remains committed to eliminating terrorism from every corner of the country. He said the sacrifices of the security forces guide this mission and give it strength.—APP

Nation remembers Ismail Tara

ISLAMABAD: The third death anniversary of comedian Ismail Tara was observed on Monday where fans and colleagues through media platforms paid tribute to his memorable work, especially his iconic performances in the classic comedy show “Fifty-Fifty.”

A report noted that admirers across the country reflected on Ismail Tara’s remarkable contributions to Pakistani comedy, especially his unforgettable sketches in Fifty-Fifty. They shared that his expressive style and natural humor helped define an era of television, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire new generations of performers. Despite his passing, the joy he brought to audiences still resonates strongly today, local news

channel reported.

Ismail Tara first gained recognition as part of the Zia Mohyeddin Show in 1972–73. He later became best known for his work on the hit TV show Fifty-Fifty, even contributing to its scripts alongside fellow comedian Majid Jahangir after the original writer, Anwar Maqsood had a disagreement with the cast in 1981.

Ismail Tara, born Muhammad Ismail Merchant on November 16, 1949, in Karachi was a celebrated Pakistani actor and comedian.

He began his journey in the performing arts in 1964, building a versatile career across stage, television, and film.

Tara gained widespread fame in the 1980s for his satirical comedy show

Fifty-Fifty, which became a landmark in Pakistani television. He also appeared in numerous films, taking on a variety of roles that showcased his comedic and acting talents.

Over the course of his career, he was honored with the Nigar Award five times for his exceptional contributions to entertainment.

Among his other well-known works were television dramas such as Rubber Band, Yeh Zindagi Hai, One-Way Ticket, Delhi Colony, Ismail Time, along with numerous stage performances that delighted audiences.

Ismail Tara passed away on November 24, 2023, in Karachi at the age of 73, after battling kidney disease, leaving behind a rich legacy in Pakistan’s entertainment industry.—APP

Musadik, FAO discuss boosting climate-resilient

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Monday met a delegation of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) led by Lifeng Li, Director of the Land and Water Division, to discuss avenues of cooperation in sustainable land use, water management and climate-resilient development. During the meeting, Li highlighted Pakistan’s high vulnerability to climate change and stressed the centrality of food systems and natural resource governance in mitigating its impacts. He briefed the minister on FAO’s ongoing initiatives, including programmes aimed at preventing land degradation, improving the management of Indus Basin resources and strengthening national water governance frameworks. He also presented the Country Programming Framework (2023–27) along with the Aqua Portal—an inter-agency information-sharing platform. Dr Malik appreciated FAO’s technical support and called for prioritising areas with low public returns, particularly institutional strengthening and capacity building. He also discussed the government’s plan to facilitate the establishment of Green Clusters that would connect young Pakistani entrepreneurs working on green startups with international investors.—APP

IMF report confirms everything

NUSRAT KHAN

The latest IMF report has practically exposed the corrupt ruling elite. The international financial institution has stated in clear terms that the performance of the PML-N and its allied governments has proven disastrous for the country’s economy. The IMF, without any ambiguity, declared that Pakistan’s biggest problem is corruption, which has deeply penetrated every small and large institution of the state. Even if we set aside the older history of the country, the performance of governments from 1985 to 2025 has remained destructive despite all excuses. During these forty years, nearly 40 individuals played a key role in plundering national resources. The irony is that these forty individuals, regardless of democratic or non-democratic constitutional eras, collaborated with powerful figures at various times to continue their loot. Undoubtedly, there is no system based



interruption. The question now is: why did the government feel the need to release the IMF report with a delay of three months? The answer is that the

international financial institution had imposed a condition—if the federal government did not release this report to the national media, Pakistan could face difficulties regarding the next installment. In this context, a conscious citizen of Pakistan is compelled to ask whether the facts presented in the IMF report were prepared by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. In reality, the economy’s continuous deterioration is no secret, but the Pakistani print and electronic media have completely fallen under the control of the rulers. Apparently, the media heads are victims of fear and helplessness. Policymakers of Pakistan have integrated the national media into the system in such a way that the motto has become: “Eat and let eat.” The tragedy is that on one side are millions of Pakistanis suffering from poverty, injustice, and inequality, and on the other side are a few hundred individuals who continue to exploit them through various slogans and promises.

FIA foils attempt to enter Europe illegally

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration Unit at Islamabad International Airport foiled an attempt to travel illegally to Europe under the guise of an Umrah visa and off-loaded a passenger attempting to misuse travel documents. An official told APP on Monday that FIA Immigration intercepted a passenger, Muhammad Usman, who was travelling to Saudi Arabia on flight PK-713 using an Umrah visa but was found suspicious during immigration clearance. During initial interrogation, it was revealed that the passenger had been in contact with multiple agents and had previously been deported from Italy earlier this year for illegal migration. The spokesperson said FIA officials also recovered a tampered European resident card from the passenger’s mobile phone, adding that the card carried an altered expiry date. The passenger had planned to enter Europe using forged documents after reaching Saudi Arabia.—APP

Horticulture agency carries out plantation drive

RAWALPINDI: The Horticulture Agency (HA) Rawalpindi on Monday carried out a tree plantation drive at Shah Najaf Park in the Khayaban Sir Syed Sector, planting several species, including Sikh China, Poplar, Ligustrum and other ornamental trees. According to an HA spokesman, the campaign aims to curb air pollution, enhance urban greenery and restore ecological balance. He said the agency is planting trees in parks and greenbelts across the city daily under its ongoing greening initiative. He urged the public to actively participate in the drive and contribute to making Rawalpindi cleaner and more aesthetically pleasing. Tree plantation is essential for combating pollution and smog, he said, adding that all available resources would be utilised to ensure the timely completion of ongoing horticulture projects, in line with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif’s vision of a greener Punjab.—APP

Rice valued \$581 m exported in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The rice exports from the country during the first four months of the current financial year were recorded at 998,063 metric tons, as against the exports of 1,595,361 metric tons of the corresponding period of the last year. During the period from July to October 2025, rice exports from the country were recorded at \$581.169 million, as against the exports of \$1.084 billion of the same period of the last year. The rice exports decreased by 46.40 per cent during the period under review as compared to the exports of the same period of the last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The country earned \$202.355 million by exporting over 182,807 million metric tons of Basmati rice during the first four months of the current financial year, as compared to the exports of \$331.817 million of the same period of the last year. Meanwhile, 815,256 metric tons of rice other than Basmati valued at 378.815 million were also exported as compared to the exports of 1.277 million metric tons valued at \$752.375 million of the same period of the last year. The food group exports from the country were recorded at \$1.538 billion during the first four months of the current financial year (2025-26), which went down by 34.93 percent from \$2.365 billion during the same period of the last year. The food commodities that contributed to positive growth in trade included fish and fish preparations, the exports of which grew by 12.80 percent, from \$116.114 million to \$130.976 million.—APP

PM orders accelerating work on Jinnah Medical Complex

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed to accelerate work on the construction of all proposed medical treatment centers of the Jinnah Medical Complex (JMC), hoping that the project will be completed soon through collective efforts. “This project will not only be exemplary for Pakistan but for the entire region in the field of health,” the prime minister said while chairing a meeting of the Board of Jinnah Medical Complex. The prime minister also expressed gratitude to the Aga Khan Foundation for providing technical assistance at various stages of the construction of the Jinnah Medical Complex. During the meeting, the JMC Board thanked the prime minister for his continuous support and guidance throughout all phases of the project’s construction. According to the briefing, rapid progress was being made on providing facilities for not only medical services at the Jinnah Medical Complex but also for international-standard medical training, education, and research. To bring the Jinnah Medical Complex up to global standards, modern technology, including the use of artificial intelligence and robotics, will be employed for research, the briefing added. Senior officers from the board and relevant institutions were also present at the meeting.—APP

Pakistan hosts Int’l Qirat competition

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, on Monday welcomed participants of the First International Qirat Competition, emphasizing that the event would project Pakistan’s positive image on global platforms. Addressing the inaugural session of the competition at the Convention Centre, the minister described the day as historic, marking the first-ever International Qirat Competition hosted in Pakistan. He said the event was a great honour for the country, with participants from up to forty nations taking part, adding that the event will also strengthen the spiritual bond among Muslim countries. Sardar Yousuf assured that all participants and judges would be provided with the best facilities and would feel Pakistan as their second home. Calling those who memorize and recite the Quran fortunate, he said the Holy Quran is a source of guidance and a complete code of conduct for all Muslims. Quoting a Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), he added “The best among you (Muslims) are those who learn the Qur’an and teach it.” The minister highlighted that Pakistan, a nation of 250 million people, primarily speaks and understands Urdu as its national language. However, he stressed that learning Arabic is equally important for Pakistanis, as it is the religious language of Muslims. He said the Ministry of Religious Affairs is taking concrete steps to promote the learning and teaching of Arabic across the country. “We are reaching out to various universities to promote the Arabic language,” he added. He also emphasized that understanding the core message of the Quran is crucial for every Muslim, and such competitions help promote it. Sardar Yousuf said the Ministry of Religious Affairs, under the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-N—first under Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and now under Shehbaz Sharif—had taken significant steps in line with the ministry’s core mandate. He noted that the ministry had established the Ulema and Mashaikh Council and the Quran Board during the previous PML-N government, and is now organizing the International Qirat Competition to further promote and convey the true message of Islam. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dr. Atta ur Rehman, described the competition as a remarkable achievement for the ministry, noting that the Quran resonates deeply in the hearts of Muslims. He thanked the minister for supporting and actively contributing to the idea of an international competition. Dr. Rehman said that despite invitations being sent on short notice, the response from Muslim countries was phenomenal, reflecting true unity within the Muslim world. He assured that such competitions would continue in the future.—APP

Briefs

Kamal's Turkey visit to strengthen coop in health sector

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health, Mustafa Kamal, arrived in Ankara to represent Pakistan at the 11th Turkish Medical World Congress. According to the ministry's spokesperson on Monday, the minister was welcomed at the airport by senior officials from the Turkish Ministry of Health and Pakistan's Ambassador there, Dr Yusuf Junaid. The spokesperson said the visit carries significant importance for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the health sector. He added that the engagement would serve as an important step toward expanding collaboration in medical research, exchanging expertise and promoting modern health-care technologies between the two countries. He noted that both nations stand to benefit greatly from shared experiences and enhanced partnership in health-related fields.—APP

Ahsan denounces attack on FC HQ

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the Federal Constabulary (FC) Headquarters in Peshawar, terming it an assault on the country's peace and stability. In a statement, the minister expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of security personnel and conveyed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and prayers for the early recovery of the injured. Ahsan Iqbal reiterated that terrorism was a direct attack on the nation's integrity, stability and hard-won peace. He said cowardly acts of violence could never deter the courage and resolve of the Pakistani nation. "The entire nation stands united for the complete elimination of terrorism. Such attacks cannot weaken our determination," he added.—APP

Govt emphasizes online access promotion

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director (MD) of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt Monday highlighted the government's commitment to supporting the poor and deserving, urging beneficiaries to use the organization's effective 'Online system' for timely financial, health and educational assistance with transparency and efficiency. He emphasized that the merit-based platform ensures aid reaches those who need it most, he said while speaking with PTV News channel. He further clarified that there are no restrictions for any specific religion in receiving assistance. He emphasized that the organization's welfare programs are open to all deserving Pakistani citizens, regardless of faith, reflecting the inclusive approach of the government. He highlighted that Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal is committed to providing timely financial, health and educational support to all eligible beneficiaries under its umbrella, adding, the digital and merit-based mechanisms ensure transparency, efficiency, and ease of access for citizens from every part of the country.

Senator Butt further noted that the government is showing utmost seriousness in strengthening social welfare programs, adding that, by modernizing services and promoting awareness among beneficiaries, the administration aims to make aid delivery more effective, inclusive and accessible for every Pakistani in need. In response to a question, MD explained that the eligibility criteria are designed to ensure that aid reaches the "poorest of the poor." Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt, MD of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, to another question explained that over one lakh flood-affected people were provided food and essentials using 23 vehicles, NGO support and existing staff without new hiring, adding.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Artists from Indonesia perform on the occasion of Foreign Office Women Association annual bazaar. DNA

Riphah university holds 20th convocation in Islamabad

2,860 Students received degrees 20th convocation in Islamabad, newly enrolled Palestinian students also attended

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Riphah International University held the opening of its 20th Convocation at the Islamabad Convention Centre with grandeur and enthusiasm. The two-day convocation, beginning today, will see a total of 2,860 students receiving their degrees celebrating their hard work, dedication, and academic achievements. Newly enrolled Palestinian students also attended Fed-

eral Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, attended as the chief guest, joining Chancellor Hassan Muhammad Khan, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad, faculty members, graduates, and parents. In his address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad congratulated the graduates and highlighted Riphah's growing national and international stature. He praised the University's student exchange programs and emphasized its commitment to ethical

values and character-building, saying, "My prayer is that our graduates play an active role in every field of life and continue to make the nation proud." Chancellor Hassan Muhammad Khan acknowledged the graduates' achievements and the sacrifices of their families. "You are the future of Pakistan, and it is your responsibility to take the country forward," he remarked. Chief Guest Sardar Muhammad Yousaf lauded the graduates on earning their professional degrees and expressed hope

that they will contribute meaningfully to society. He also highlighted the enrollment of a significant number of students from Palestine, underscoring Riphah's international recognition and presence. The convocation not only celebrated academic excellence but also reaffirmed Riphah International University's focus on moral education, character development, and global collaboration, marking another milestone in the University's journey of shaping future leaders.

PM orders urgent reforms' steps in EDF to boost exports

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the relevant authorities to take immediate reform measures in the Export Development Fund (EDF) to help boost the country's exports. Chairing a meeting of the Working Group on the Export Sector, the prime minister ordered a third-party audit of the EDF in line with international standards and directed the immediate abolition of the Export Development Surcharge on exports. He said a suitable chairman should be appointed to ensure the best possible utilization of the fund. "The EDF must only be used for enhancing the country's exports, relevant research and development, skill development of the export sector workforce, training, and the provision of modern facilities of international standards," the prime minister emphasized. He also directed that all schemes and programmes being run under the EDF undergo third-party audits. The prime minister stressed the need to utilize the positive role of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) to

promote exports, adding that irrelevant or illogical use of the fund would not be tolerated. He said the federal government was responsible for promoting and showcasing Pakistani products across global markets, adding that providing maximum facilitation to exporters was among the government's top priorities. Following detailed deliberations on the export sector, the sub-working group tasked with enhancing exports presented its recommendations. The prime minister appreciated the group's work and instructed relevant departments to take immediate steps while considering the recommendations positively. The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, the SIFC chairman and other senior officials.—APP

New Pak-China joint action plan to boost strategic eco ties

ISLAMABAD: In a major development signaling a new phase of bilateral engagement, Pakistan and China have released a comprehensive Joint Action Plan aimed at building an "even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future" between 2025 and 2029. The plan outlines a sweeping roadmap that is expected to deliver far-reaching economic, political and security benefits for both countries. While addressing the "the third conference on belt and road integrated development of culture and technology" held in Beijing, Muhammad Zamir Assadi, Media Fellow at the China International Press and Communication Centre, said that the two sides reaffirm their status as "good neighbors, friends, partners and brothers," pledging to elevate their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. China has reiterated that its relationship with Pakistan remains a cornerstone of its foreign policy, underscoring Islamabad's exceptional importance in Beijing's long-term strategic vision. Under the newly unveiled plan, Pakistan and China have committed to strengthening political mutual trust, expanding economic engagement, deepening security cooperation and strengthening people-to-people ties. Officials believe these steps will not only boost regional stability but also set a model for China's broader cooperation with neighboring states. The action plan emphasizes enhanced strategic communication and unwavering mutual support in international and re-

gional affairs. A central focus of the plan is the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which both sides reaffirmed as the flagship of Belt and Road cooperation. The two countries have agreed to align the CPEC's Five Corridors with Pakistan's URAAN Program, anchored in the 5Es strategy of exports, E-Pakistan, environment and climate resilience, energy and infrastructure, and equity and empowerment. This alignment is expected to accelerate Pakistan's economic modernization, strengthen its connectivity networks, and attract new rounds of industrial, digital and investment cooperation. Beijing's commitment to its "eight major steps" for advancing high-quality Belt and Road development is anticipated to further open doors for Pakistan in green energy, digital transformation, and innovation-led growth. Officials note that new "small and beautiful" livelihood projects alongside major infrastructure schemes will directly benefit the Pakistani public by improving local services, job creation and community-level development. Security cooperation will also see substantial deepening, with both sides emphasizing high-level security protocols to safeguard CPEC projects, ensure regional stability and counter emerging challenges. Experts believe this renewed security alignment signals a shared determination to protect long-term economic gains and maintain strategic equilibrium in the region.—APP

Chaudhry greets PML-N

ISLAMABAD: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information & Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, on Monday congratulated the PML-N candidates on their success in the by-elections, noting that the results demonstrate the people's trust in those who work for them and their refusal to accept a culture of chaos and hatred. Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, in an exclusive conversation with a local media channel, congratulated

PML-N candidates on their by-election victories, adding, results are a clear reflection of the people's trust in PML-N's dedication to serving the common man. Chaudhry highlighted the role of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's hard work and the government's performance as key factors behind the electoral success, adding, people's support shows confidence in the party's commitment

to governance and public service. He further added that the results signal a rejection of politics rooted in hatred and instability. "The people now want peace, development, and progress," he said, underlining that the public stands with those who work for the welfare of the nation. He added that these results also set the tone for the future, showing that the public will continue to support those who deliver

practical results and serve effectively. Responding to another query, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry strongly condemned today's Peshawar blast incident, expressing deep sorrow over the tragedy, adding, such attacks highlight the urgent need for law and order and the protection of the public. Chaudhry criticized the PTI's self-centered politics, saying that their focus is on personal gains rather than public welfare.—APP

Police round up 8 illegal Afghans

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police, acting on the instructions of City Police Officer (CCPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani, on Monday carried out a series of search operations across multiple areas of the district as part of the ongoing National Action Plan (NAP) enforcement campaign, a spokesman said. He stated that police teams checked the credentials of 1,714 individuals, inspecting 913 houses, 758 shops, 32 hotels and three hostels during the day-long activity. The spokesman added that eight Afghan nationals residing illegally in Pakistan were taken into custody. Records of three scrapyards, two hostels, and one bus/truck stand were also scrutinised, along with detailed verification of tenants. He said nine cases were registered against those who had failed to register their tenancy information in accordance with the law. The search operations were conducted in the jurisdictions of the Naseerabad, Wah Saddar, Pirwadhai, Ganjmandi, City, Waris Khan, Banni, New Town, Sadiqabad, Ratta Amral, Chauntra, Mandra and Saddar Beruni police stations.—APP

PM felicitates PML-N winners in by-polls

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday felicitated the candidates of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz on their "fabulous" win in the by-elections on different vacant seats of National Assembly and Punjab Assembly. The prime minister, in separate statements, congratulated Babar Nawaz Khan of NA-18 (Haripur), Muhammad Bilal Badar of NA-96, Daniyal Ahmed of NA-104, Ahmed Shehryar of PP-116, Muhammad Tahir Pervaiz of PP-115, Azad Ali Tabassum of PP-98 of Faisalabad and Mian Sultan Ali Ranjha of PP-73 (Sargodha). "The success in the by-elections is owing to the vision and unparalleled leadership of PML-N Quaid Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and the hard work of party workers. The victory also reflects the people's trust in the untiring efforts of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for the development of the province's people," he remarked. He said that the success of the PML-N candidates in different National Assembly constituencies was a testament to the people's confidence in the party's spirit of public service and government's performance. Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed the hope that the winning candidates would work tirelessly to serve the people to meet their expectations.—APP

Shaza leads Pakistan's digital agenda

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecom, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, arrived in Doha for a two-day visit to representing Pakistan at the GSM Association Mobile World Congress (MWC 2025). The event hosts over 200 aircraft and technology leaders from nearly 100 countries. Pakistan's participation highlights its commitment to digital innovation and regional collaboration. The minister will take part in ministerial programs, deliver multiple keynote addresses, and hold high-level meetings with Qatari officials. Her speeches focus on digital governance, innovation, and investment opportunities in South Asia and the Middle East. Shaza Fatima will speak on "Digital Governance: Visionary Policies for a Digital Future." She will also address "Unlocking Digital Growth Across the South Asia-Middle East Corridor: Spotlight on Pakistan." Additionally, she will present Pakistan's perspective at "Digital Nations APAC Dialogue: Policy Innovation & Investment for Regional Impact." "The world is watching Pakistan's digital journey," said Shaza Fatima. "Our policies aim to create opportunities, attract investment, and foster innovation across the region."—DNA

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PML-N sweeps by-elections: a moment for Soul-Searching

THE latest round of by-elections has concluded with the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) securing victories on almost all contested seats, further consolidating its power. While the party celebrates what it calls a “public endorsement” of its governance, opposition parties have rejected the results outright, alleging massive rigging, misuse of state machinery, and manipulation of voter turnout. The controversy has once again pushed Pakistan’s electoral credibility into question. One of the most surprising results came from Haripur — long considered one of the strongest political bastions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). In a constituency where the ruling party in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa normally enjoys a clear advantage, PTI suffered a major upset. The defeat of Omar Ayub’s wife, a candidate backed by PTI leadership, has stunned political observers. Haripur has historically been a PTI stronghold, and in KP, sitting governments often maintain their seats in by-elections. This reversal has forced many to reflect on whether PTI’s internal turmoil, voter frustration, or external interference contributed to the loss.

For PTI, the result demands serious introspection. The party has long claimed unparalleled public support in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, yet the by-election outcome signals a shift in political winds — or, as the opposition alleges, a controlled and engineered outcome. Regardless of the explanation, the defeat has triggered calls for soul-searching within PTI ranks, as well as a reevaluation of strategy, leadership approach, and organizational discipline.

However, beneath the political drama lies a much deeper and alarming reality: the public’s trust in elections has eroded to a dangerous extent. In the eyes of many Pakistanis, the by-elections lacked credibility, transparency, and fairness. Allegations of rigging have become almost routine in Pakistan’s electoral history — whether under civilian governments, caretaker setups, or even under the oversight of different Election Commissions. This growing trend of disputed mandates is now raising serious concerns about the future stability of the democratic process. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) finds itself once again in the crosshairs. Critics argue that it has not done enough to ensure impartiality or to address the systemic weaknesses that enable manipulation. Without meaningful reforms, stronger oversight, and unquestionable transparency, the ECP will continue to struggle to restore its legitimacy.

Beyond domestic politics, these developments carry significant international consequences. Credible elections are a prerequisite for attracting foreign investment, building international confidence, and securing economic partnerships. Investors are reluctant to engage with countries where political uncertainty prevails and electoral disputes become the norm. Pakistan, already grappling with economic challenges, cannot afford further reputational damage.

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Palestinian refugees’ rights have become disposable

CHRIS DOYLE

THE genocidal tendencies of the current Israeli government are well evidenced. But if there is one category of Palestinian that attracts premium focus in this bloody regard, it is the refugees. Israel has engaged in a forever war against them since 1948. Remember, while much of the media has ignored the issue, refugees constitute 70 percent of the Palestinian population. For decades, overcrowded refugee camps have been magnets for Israeli aggression. In 1971, for example, Israel bulldozed 400 homes in Jabalia camp. All eight of Gaza’s official camps have been decimated during the past two years. And last week in Lebanon, Israeli forces bombed the Ain Al-Hilweh camp near Saida, killing 13 Palestinians. Refugee camps across the region have repeatedly borne the brunt of Israeli military operations. Israel’s entrenched animus toward refugees is also why it has pursued an unrelenting campaign against UNRWA, the UN agency mandated to serve Palestinian refugees. As one Israeli official once told me, “It is not the work of UNRWA we hate. It is its mandate and mission.” That mandate — preserving the rights and status of refugees — runs directly counter to Israel’s long-term objectives. The campaign has succeeded: UNRWA cannot operate in Gaza and is barely functioning in the West Bank. Israel even forced the closure of the agency’s East Jerusalem headquarters. A new report from Human Rights Watch, published last week, highlights how Israeli forces have this year escalated their long-standing war on refugees by destroying three UN camps in the northern West Bank: Jenin, Tulkarem and Nur Shams. The organization concluded that Israeli forces committed war crimes and a crime against humanity. Refugee camps across the region have repeatedly borne the brunt of Israeli military operations. This devastation occurred under a full-scale military offensive known as Operation Iron Wall, launched on Jan. 21. Tanks, drones and Apache attack helicopters were deployed in dense civilian areas. More than 32,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced, with all three camps almost entirely emptied of their residents. According to Human Rights Watch, more than 850 homes and buildings were destroyed or heavily damaged. Streets were bulldozed and widened to allow armored vehicles easier access — an unmistakable sign of a long-term redesign of the camps rather than a temporary military raid. Camp residents interviewed by Human Rights Watch were unequivocal: they believed Israel was attempting to eliminate the “refugee question” by emptying and destroying the camps and thereby undermining their collective right of return to their original homes inside what is now Israel. Many described this as a second Nakba. Some Israeli officials effectively implicated themselves. Katz openly declared: “I have instructed the IDF to prepare for a prolonged stay in the camps that have been cleared for the coming year — and not to allow residents to return and terrorism to grow again.”

Can Eastern and Western Canada Ever Bridge the Divide?”

Qamar Bashir



Politically, the divide is equally stark. Ontario and Quebec are strongholds for the Liberal Party and the NDP, both of which promote centralized federal governance, climate policy, multiculturalism, and social spending. The western provinces overwhelmingly vote Conservative and emphasize lower taxes, deregulation, and provincial autonomy. Because federal governments are almost always elected through the population-heavy provinces of the East, the West often feels politically irrelevant. There have been national elections where Alberta...

CANADA is often celebrated as one of the most diverse, modern, and tolerant nations in the world, a country that welcomes millions of immigrants from South Asia, China, Korea, Vietnam, the Middle East, and Africa. These communities have enriched Canada’s social fabric, strengthened its work force, and reshaped its major cities into multicultural hubs that symbolize coexistence and opportunity. Yet beneath this impressive surface lies a deep structural tension that has existed for decades but rarely receives global attention: the simmering animosity between Eastern and Western Canada. This divide is not merely a matter of geography. It touches politics, economics, identity, federal power, culture, and the question of who controls the future of the Canadian federation. The tension often surprises new immigrants who see Canada as unified, peaceful, and predictable. But historically, the East–West divide has been one of the most persistent challenges to national cohesion. Eastern Canada—primarily Ontario and Quebec—has long been the political, financial, and demographic center of the country. Western Canada—Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Manitoba—has developed a parallel identity built on natural resources, self-reliance, and a deep suspicion that federal policies are shaped by Eastern priorities at the West’s expense.

At the center of this animosity is the sense of exploitation felt strongly in Alberta and Saskatchewan. These provinces have powered Canada’s economy for decades through oil and gas revenues, yet they argue that federal decisions consistently limit their growth while forcing them to shoulder financial burdens through equalization payments. Many Western Canadians believe that they “pay into a system run by the East that redistributes money back to the East,” and this sentiment has fueled movements like the Alberta independence campaign and the Wexit movement, which at one point gained significant public traction. Economically, the divide is rooted in two competing visions of Canada. The East depends on manufacturing, technology, service industries, and global finance, particularly in the Ontario–Quebec corridor. These sectors naturally align with progressive environmental targets, carbon pricing, renewable energy strategies, and the climate agenda that Ottawa frequently pursues. Western Canada, by contrast, relies heavily on oil, gas, mining, forestry, and agriculture—industries that suffer whenever federal regulations tighten. The federal carbon tax, pipeline restrictions, and environmental review delays are not simply policy disagreements—they are viewed in the West as existential

threats to the livelihood of entire communities. When the East pushes for rapid energy transition, the West hears a call to dismantle its economic engine. Politically, the divide is equally stark. Ontario and Quebec are strongholds for the Liberal Party and the NDP, both of which promote centralized federal governance, climate policy, multiculturalism, and social spending. The western provinces overwhelmingly vote Conservative and emphasize lower taxes, deregulation, and provincial autonomy. Because federal governments are almost always elected through the population-heavy provinces of the East, the West often feels politically irrelevant. There have been national elections where Alberta and Saskatchewan voted nearly unanimously for one party, only to watch the opposite party form a government with limited representation from the West. The feeling of disenfranchisement grows deeper every electoral cycle.

Culturally, Eastern and Western Canada have grown in different directions as well. The East has experienced waves of immigration since the 1960s, reshaping Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa into diverse global cities. Western cities like Calgary and Vancouver are also highly multicultural but maintain a stronger frontier-style identity—independent, pragmatic, entrepreneurial, and often skeptical of federal narratives. French–English linguistic duality heavily influences Eastern political attitudes, while Western provinces tend to view national identity through an economic and practical lens rather than a historical or linguistic one.

Attempts by federal leadership to bridge the divide have been well-intentioned but largely unsuccessful. Ottawa has tried to modify equalization formulas, negotiate pipeline deals, expand interprovincial trade, or offer climate subsidies to resource provinces. But each attempt has run into structural limitations. When the federal government approves pipelines, environmental groups and Eastern provinces challenge them in courts. When Ottawa imposes carbon taxes, Western provinces challenge the federal government. When the East demands quicker climate action, the West accuses Ottawa of destroying the resource economy. The federal government sits between two visions of the country—one built on global environmental commitments and another built on natural resource prosperity—and any attempt to satisfy one fuels resentment from the other.

Moreover, the constitutional framework itself contributes to the problem. Natural resources belong to provinces, but environmental regulation belongs to Ottawa. Immigration belongs to Ottawa, but set-

tlement services rely on provinces. Infrastructure crossing provincial borders must be approved federally, but land control remains local. The overlapping jurisdictions create an ongoing tug-of-war that keeps East and West locked in conflict, each side claiming to defend its constitutional rights.

The consequences of these unresolved tensions could shape Canada’s future in serious and unpredictable ways. If the divide continues to widen, Canada may face increasing regional polarization, weakened national unity, and growing separatist sentiment—not only from Quebec, but also from Alberta and Saskatchewan. A prolonged economic downturn in the West, combined with continued political dominance by Eastern provinces, could reignite separatist movements that previously seemed improbable in a country known for harmony. Already, polling in Alberta has shown surprisingly strong support for independence during moments of economic crisis or federal overreach. Such sentiment does not disappear; it lies dormant, waiting for another spark.

On the other hand, if federal leadership acts decisively and creatively, there is still room to heal the divide. Canada could redesign equalization to better reflect resource revenue volatility, treat interprovincial pipelines as strategic national infrastructure, decentralize certain federal powers, and build a more transparent framework for climate transition that does not punish resource provinces. A balanced approach could demonstrate that Canada’s unity is not based on uniformity but on partnership. A federation as geographically huge and economically diverse as Canada cannot function on a “one-size-fits-all” model; it must recognize the legitimacy of regional priorities and build national policy that respects them.

Canada’s future will depend on whether it sees its internal differences as threats or as sources of strength. The East and West each bring something vital to the national project—the economic engines of the West and the financial, educational, and cultural institutions of the East. Integration, cooperation, and mutual respect will determine whether Canada remains a stable, prosperous federation or drifts toward fragmentation in slow motion. The divide is real, the grievances are deep, but the potential for unity still exists—if leaders choose to build bridges instead of boundaries.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)

Former Press Minister,
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former Press Attaché to Malaysia
Former MD, SRBC
Macomb, Michigan, USA

The Dawn of a Reclaimed Reputation

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Simultaneously, another long-standing issue reached a moment of international clarity; cross-border terrorism emanating from Afghan territory. Pakistan had warned repeatedly that the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), sheltered and guided by hostile intelligence elements, was orchestrating attacks against Pakistani security forces

IN the conduct of nations, reputation is not an ornament but a form of power. States that are trusted, respected, and taken seriously enjoy a diplomatic space unavailable to those who speak hesitantly or act apologetically. For Pakistan, a country positioned at the crossroads of regional turbulence and global scrutiny, reputation has never been a luxury—it has been a matter of stability, security, and, at times, survival. The events of May 2025 marked a turning point in this long and often complicated journey, for Pakistan demonstrated, both in the military and diplomatic arenas, that clarity of purpose can prevail over decades of misperception.

For years, India employed a strategy of provocation mixed with narrative warfare, seeking to cast Pakistan as a reckless actor, even when circumstances told a different story. Whether through ceasefire violations along the Line of Control or through orchestrated media campaigns, India repeatedly attempted to create conditions in which Pakistan could be cornered. In most of those episodes, Pakistan opted for restraint. Governments of the time believed that prudence would earn the world’s appreciation and that avoiding escalation was itself a contribution to regional peace. Yet restraint, when misread, becomes an invitation for further provocation. Silence can be mistaken for weakness, and caution for guilt.

In May 2025, India attempted once more to force Pakistan into a position from which it could either be diplomatically discredited or militarily pressured. The incursion—unprovoked and tactically unsound—was designed to test Pakistan’s response and to project India’s long-cherished illusion of regional supremacy. But this time the calculation failed. Pakistan responded with precision, demonstrating both capability and restraint. The operations were defensive, proportionate, and aimed solely at neutralising the immediate threat. Nothing more, nothing less.

What truly reshaped the regional and global narrative, however, was what followed. Intelligence shared with international partners, satellite imagery analysed by neutral observers, and testimony from independent experts all converged on a single conclusion; Pakistan had neither initiated nor escalated the crisis. The United States President—his words scrutinised globally—publicly affirmed this conclusion. A detailed report later presented to the US Congress further strengthened Pakistan’s position, noting that India’s actions were “inconsistent with its stated claims” and that Pakistan had acted in “legitimate self-defence under international law.” This was unprecedented. For years, Pakistan had been compelled to explain its innocence; now India found itself explaining its conduct. The diplomatic embarrassment New Delhi faced was amplified by its own media, which, in the age of instant global verification, could not sustain the usual narrative of unilateral heroism.

Simultaneously, another long-standing issue reached a moment of international clarity; cross-border terrorism emanating from Afghan territory. Pakistan had warned repeatedly that the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), sheltered and guided by hostile intelligence elements, was orchestrating attacks against Pakistani security forces. Despite providing evidence over the years, Islamabad found its voice muffled by geopolitical preferences and selective interpretations of regional realities.

But the pattern changed in 2025. When TTP militants, operating under Indian facilitation, launched renewed attacks from Afghan soil, Pakistan not only neutralised the perpetrators but also presented comprehensive evidence to key capitals and international bodies. For the first time, the evidence was accepted without hesitation. The United Nations acknowledged that the TTP constituted a serious threat to Pakistan’s security. The European Union followed suit,

urging that the group be internationally proscribed. Several countries, which had previously offered vague statements, now spoke with directness; the TTP was a terrorist organisation, and Pakistan was its primary victim. This global alignment with Pakistan’s long-afirmed position did more than validate its grievances. It restored Pakistan’s diplomatic dignity on an issue where it had been unfairly questioned for far too long. The world recognised that Pakistan was not merely reacting to threats—it was confronting a sustained campaign to destabilise it. The confirmation of these facts by respected international institutions elevated Pakistan’s stature and made its voice more authoritative in regional diplomacy.

These developments collectively signalled that Pakistan’s narrative had shifted from defensive explanations to principled assertions. They showed that the international community responds not to apologetic language but to confident, evidence-based diplomacy. The events also underscored that military preparedness and diplomatic clarity are not contradictory; rather, they reinforce each other when guided by responsibility. Yet this moment is not an end but a beginning. Having restored its credibility, Pakistan must now sustain the momentum. Its responsibility extends beyond its borders; the region stands at the threshold of either renewed conflict or unprecedented cooperation. Pakistan’s role, therefore, is not merely to defend itself but to shape a stable, peaceful environment in South Asia and beyond. The lessons of 2025 are crystal clear. A nation that speaks with conviction is heard. A nation that responds with discipline is respected. And a nation that stands firm on principle becomes a force for regional stability. Pakistan, having reclaimed its honoured standing in the community of nations, must now carry this confidence forward—steadily, wisely, and without ever surrendering the dignity it has so justly earned.

Briefs

Three terrorists killed as suicide FC...

FROM PAGE 01
“These fallen heroes stood between the nation and those who seek to destabilize it,” Naqvi said, offering condolences to the bereaved families. “Their sacrifice strengthens our resolve to eliminate the menace of terrorism in all its forms.” Security officials say investigations are underway to trace the facilitators behind the attempted attack, with intelligence agencies focusing on identifying possible support networks. The government is expected to announce enhanced security measures for sensitive federal installations in the coming days.

FCC dismisses appeals...

FROM PAGE 01
In their plea challenging the hearing of the ICA on SC verdict, they contended that the titled appeal does not fall within Articles 175E or 175F, and consequently could not have been transferred to the FCC. They prayed to the FCC that the ICA may be returned to the SC for determination. “Without prejudice to aforesaid objections on the constitutionality of the 27th Amendment, the titled appeal could not have been transferred to the Federal Constitutional Court under Articles 175E or 175F of the Constitution,” the five judges submitted. They contended that the titled appeal was filed under Section 5 of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 (Act) before the Supreme Court. Therefore, they contended that the 27th Amendment neither amended the Act nor dealt with statutory appeals filed under the Act, adding that Article 175F(2) provides that those appeals that “fall under this Article” shall stand transferred to the FCC. “The titled appeal was not filed under Articles 175E or 175F of the Constitution and consequently, the transfer of the said appeal, filed pursuant to Section 5 of the Act, to the FCC is without any legal force, they submitted. They further submitted that the appeal was filed before the Supreme Court but it is now, however, listed for hearing before the FCC on November 24. “It appears the subject appeal has been transferred to the latter court on account of the purported amendment to the Constitution through the Constitution (27th Amendment) Act 2025 whereby Article 175F(2) has been introduced, reading as follows: “All petitions for leave to appeal, appeals or review applications, to which clause (1) apply or any other proceedings falling within the jurisdiction of the Federal Constitutional Court, filed or pending before the Supreme Court prior to commencement of the Constitution (Twenty-seventh Amendment) Act, 2025, stand transferred to Federal Constitutional Court and shall only be heard and decided by that Court.”

PM, Saudi General renew...

FROM PAGE 01
The Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's deep appreciation for the Kingdom's longstanding support and solidarity, noting that the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is rooted in shared faith, mutual respect, and strong strategic trust. He said the government remained fully committed to expanding cooperation with Riyadh in line with evolving regional and global challenges. Recalling his two recent and highly successful visits to Riyadh, Prime Minister Shehbaz highlighted the signing of the historic Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA)—a milestone that marked the beginning of a new era of enhanced military and strategic co-operation. He reiterated Pakistan's determination to expand joint training programmes, defence exercises, and exchanges of professional expertise under the framework of the agreement.

Under the Dynamic Leadership of Mohsin Naqvi Pakistan A Cricket Team's Outstanding victory

The final match of the Rising Stars T-20 Asia Cup showcased the resilience, skill, and teamwork of the Pakistan A Cricket team

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's cricketing landscape has once again been uplifted by an exceptional achievement as the Pakistan A Cricket Team secured a remarkable victory in the T-20 Rising Stars Asia Cup. This remarkable victory not only highlights the extraordinary talent and determination of Pakistan's emerging players but also reflects the strong and leadership, vision and capable stewardship of Mohsin Naqvi, Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and its management and coaches at large. Under Chairman Naqvi's dynamic leadership, the PCB has placed renewed emphasis on talent development, professionalism, and structured pathways for young cricketers. Mohsin Naqvi's focus on strengthening domestic systems, enhancing coaching standards, and providing young players with high-quality competitive exposure has played a pivotal and vital role in preparing the Rising Stars squad for success on the international stage. The team's disciplined performance in the tournament demonstrates the positive outcomes of these reforms and the growing depth of cricketing potential within Pakistan. The final match of the Rising Stars T-20 Asia Cup showcased the resilience, skill, and teamwork of the Pakistan A Cricket team. Their thrilling victory, earned through composure under pressure and strategic excellence, has brought pride to the nation and reaffirmed Pakistan's standing in youth cricket across Asia. The players' dedication and sportsmanship throughout the tournament reflect the high standards being cultivated under the current cricketing Leadership and Management.



In recognition of this outstanding accomplishment, the Honourable Prime Minister, of Pakistan and Pakistanis across the world have extended heartfelt congratulations to Mohsin Naqvi, Chairman PCB, and to the Pakistan Rising Stars team. Their messages of appreciation underscore the national significance of this victory and the pride it has instilled among Pakistanis everywhere. The achievement also symbolizes

the broader vision of developing a strong, future-ready cricketing structure one that nurtures young players strengthens national teams, and projects a positive image of Pakistan's sporting spirit at the international level. Through coordinated planning, improved facilities, and a clear developmental roadmap, Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has reinforced Pakistan's commitment to excellence in cricket.

In conclusion, the Pakistan A Cricket Team's success in the T-20 Rising Stars Asia Cup stands as a testament to emerging talent, effective leadership, and the unity of national support. This victory not only belongs to the players but also represents the dynamic leadership of Mohsin Naqvi, PCB Management, and the aspirations of a cricket-loving nation. It marks an important milestone in Pakistan's history as sporting journey and sets a strong foundation for continued achievements in the field of Cricket in the years ahead.

Following the historic victory, the Pakistan A Cricket Team took a celebratory round of the ground, proudly holding the national flag of Pakistan. This symbolic moment captured the passion, unity, and spirit of the young cricketers who brought honour and pride to the country thus burying the nefarious designs of our enemy country to win such event who had lost their semi final from Sri Lanka very badly. As the Pakistani Rising Star Cricket team marched across the field, the entire stadium erupted in applause. Spectators rose to their feet in a standing ovation, expressing admiration for the team's remarkable performance and their unwavering commitment throughout the tournament under the dynamic leadership of Mohsin Naqvi. The emotional scenes reflected the deep bond between the nation and its cricketing heroes, further elevating the significance of Pakistan's excellent Victory in the Rising Stars T-20 Asia Cup at Doha, Qatar.

Usman Tariq hat-trick destroys Zimbabwe as Pakistan make T20 tri-series final

RAWALPINDI: Mystery spinner Usman Tariq produced a spell for the ages, claiming a hat-trick and stunning figures of 4 for 18 to bowl Pakistan to a crushing 69-run victory over Zimbabwe in their Twenty20 International tri-series clash at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday night. The win sealed for Pakistan a spot in the November 29 final. Chasing a formidable

196, Zimbabwe were skittled for a paltry 126 in 19 overs, collapsing from 60 for 4 to 60 for 7 in the space of just five deliveries during a mesmerising 10th over from the 25-year-old Usman. The Rawalpindi crowd erupted as the unorthodox spinner became only the fourth Pakistani to take a T20I hat-trick. Zimbabwe never recovered from the early blows delivered by Pakistan's

pace battery. Naseem Shah struck with his sixth ball when Tadiwanashe Marumani (four) chipped tamely to cover point, and Mohammad Wasim Jr clean-bowled the dangerous Brian Bennett (nine) with a sharp inswinger to reduce the visitors to 14 for 2.

Brendan Taylor looked scratchy and fell for eight, spooning a simple catch to Babar Azam at cover off Faheem Ashraf. Sikandar Raza, Zimbabwe's captain and biggest hope, counter-attacked with 23 off 18 balls, launching Faheem for a huge six over deep mid-wicket. But once he picked out the same fielder off Mohammad Nawaz in the eighth over, the innings fell apart spectacularly. Ryan Burl waged a lone battle, stroking an elegant unbeaten 67 from 49 balls (eight fours, two sixes) with exquisite timing and placement. His fifty came off 32 deliveries and featured a 101-metre slog-sweep off Nawaz — the biggest six of the night — but he received no support whatsoever. — Agencies



History beckons for India's blind women cricketers at first T20 World Cup

DELHI: The ongoing inaugural Women's T20 World Cup Cricket is underway, marking a historic milestone for women's sports. The players have overcome immense challenges and delivered remarkable performances to reach this stage, demonstrating both skill and resilience on the world stage. The T20 tournament comprises a six-team event featuring India, Nepal, Pakistan, Lanka, Australia, and the USA, which began on November 11 in Delhi. Blind cricket uses a plastic ball with metal bearings that clink, and players are grouped by sight: B1, B2 and B3. It is necessary to field a team with players from all three sight categories (B1, B2, and B3). B1 batters use runners for safety, and each run they score counts as two. However, Indian's team is captained by Deepika TC, a Karnataka local who lost her sight as a baby after an incident. She shared her experience, “This is the biggest moment of my and my team's life. Earlier this month, the sighted Indian women's cricket team won the World Cup in Navi Mumbai, and we want to make it a double this month.” On the contrary, another player on the team, Aneha dev, 20 from Jammu and Kashmir was partially blind. Her hard work led her to reach the national team, and she quickly adopted the audible ball system. One of the intriguing examples is of women who have been performing diligently, and their tournaments have been noted for their powerful displays of sportsmanship. — Agencies

PSB overturns lifetime ban on Arshad Nadeem's coach

Ruling declares lifetime ban on Salman Butt “void ab initio and without lawful authority”

KARACHI: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has overturned a lifetime ban imposed on prominent coach Salman Iqbal Butt, the coach of Olympic Gold Medalist Arshad Nadeem, a decision that restores his status. The ruling, issued by Senator Pervaiz Rashid in his capacity as an adjudicator for the Pakistan Sports Board, declared the ban imposed by the Athletics Federation of Pakistan “without lawful authority, unconstitutional, ultra vires, and void ab initio,” meaning it was invalid from the outset. The Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) had imposed the ban on October 12 but Butt challenged it, arguing it was issued without jurisdiction, due process or legal basis. After detailed proceedings, the adjudicator sided with the coach in a final order dated November 13. “The lifetime ban has no legal effect and is declared void,” the order stated. It instructed the AFP to “immediately withdraw all adverse communications” sent to international bodies like World Athletics and Asian Athletics, which had damaged Butt's



global standing. The federation is also now restrained from issuing any future “defamatory or prejudicial communications” against Butt. In his decision, the adjudicator found multiple legal and procedural failures in the AFP's actions. The ruling stated that no formal charge sheet was ever issued to Butt, no inquiry report was provided, and he was given no meaningful right to a hearing or defense. “A penalty imposed in violation of due process is void ab initio,” the order read, citing violations of Articles 4, 10-A and 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan. — DNA

Lahore Qalandars, Peshawar Zalmi renew 10-year PSL contracts with PCB

The Qalandars have won three PSL titles in the past four seasons, a run that has strengthened their position as one of the tournament's leading sides

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Lahore Qalandars and Peshawar Zalmi have renewed their Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise rights for the next ten years after accepting the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) new long-term offer, the two teams announced on Monday. The renewals follow independent valuations conducted by EY MENA, which placed Lahore Qalandars as the league's most valuable franchise based on combined on-field performance and organisational strength. The Qalandars have won three PSL titles in the past four seasons, a run that has strengthened their position as one of the tournament's leading sides. Marking their 10th anniversary, the Qalandars held a “Decade of Glory” event in Islamabad, attended by players, management, partners, and international guests. The celebrations included a trophy showcase and a reception with Zimbabwe Cricket's Managing Director Givemore Makoni, and the visiting Zimbabwe team, reflecting the franchise's growing global partnerships. The team highlighted its ongoing collaboration with Zimbabwe Cricket, including player-exchange opportunities and



support for Pakistani players seeking exposure in Zimbabwe's domestic circuit. Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza, popularly known as “Qalandars ka Sikandar,” featured prominently at the event. Sri Lanka's Bhanuka Rajapaksa and PSL final hero Kus-

al Perera also joined the celebrations. PSL Chief Executive Officer Salman Naseer said that all franchises have worked extremely hard to make the Pakistan Super League a successful and powerful brand. “This is a collective achievement for all of

us,” he stated. He paid tribute to the management of Lahore Qalandars, acknowledging their efforts in significantly improving cricket standards in the country. Salman Naseer expressed hope that the partnership between PSL and Lahore Qalandars would continue for many years.

Addressing the ceremony, Lahore Qalandars' Chief Operating Officer Sameen Rana and Chief Executive Officer Atif Rana congratulated the Zimbabwe team for attending the event, adding that despite numerous challenges, the inauguration of the High-Performance Center marked an important milestone in Lahore Qalandars' development journey. They thanked the Zimbabwe Cricket Board for allowing Sikandar Raza to travel to Pakistan during their ongoing Test series — a moment he described as a source of pride for the franchise, adding that “We are grateful to PSL CEO Salman Naseer and Lahore Qalandars stars Salman Mirza, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Fakhar Zaman, and Haris Rauf, who have always rendered outstanding services for the franchise.” A key announcement at the ceremony was the establishment of a new Lahore Qalandars High Performance Centre in partnership with Capital Smart City Islamabad, developed by the Zahid Rafiq Group.

Ashfaq Khalil appointed Federal Info Secretary

FROM PAGE 01
The Ministry and the government as existed during the tenure the outgoing Secretary Information. The APNS office bearers hoped that issues pertaining to the print media which are still pending would be addressed. These include the implementation of already approved increase in government advertising rates, increase in the quantum of Government advertising and payments of long outstanding dues so that the print media could face the liquidity crunch.

Ogra approves up to 8% cut in gas tariffs

FROM PAGE 01
July 01, 2024 has adjusted Rs13,565 million in case of SNGPL and Rs47,315 million in case of SSGCL against previous shortfall/stock of gas circular debt,” the statement read. Meanwhile, Ogra has requested the federal government for advice on category-wise sale prices, saying that any revision, as advised by the government, will be notified regarding the same. Till such time, the existing category-wise natural gas sale prices will continue to prevail. Separately, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaz Malik directed gas utilities to ensure uninterrupted supply to consumers during winter.

Hezbollah weighs response to Israeli...

FROM PAGE 01
“The Iranian foreign ministry strongly condemns the cowardly assassination of the great commander of the Lebanese Islamic Resistance, the martyr Haytham Ali Tabatabai,” the foreign ministry said in a statement. Tabatabai is the most senior Hezbollah commander to be killed by Israel since the start of a ceasefire in November 2024 that sought to end more than a year of hostilities. The killing “constitutes a flagrant violation of the November 2024 ceasefire and a brutal breach of Lebanon's national sovereignty,” the Iranian foreign ministry said

President, PM vow to wipe out terrorism

FROM PAGE 01
He directed to extend immediate medical assistance to the injured and prayed for their swift recovery. “We will thwart the evil designs of the terrorists who attack Pakistan's security. The Government of Pakistan is fully determined to completely eradicate terrorism from the country,” he reiterated.

PTI boycotted by-polls...

FROM PAGE 01
The by-elections shows that the public has rejected “empty narratives” and voted on the basis of performance. “A boycott only shows frustration,” she remarked. The chief minister said both she and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif went to jail but never boycotted elections. She also questioned the PTI's decision to contest the by-election only in NA-18 (Haripur) and boycotted the elections in other constituencies. She said that in Haripur, the PTI contested the by-elections “in the name of prisoner number 804” but still failed to secure victory. “Their claims of popularity have collapsed in these by-elections,” she added. CM Maryam said that governance, not rhetoric, brings electoral success. “You don't win by election slogans, you win through performance,” she said. “There is no better narrative than delivery.” The chief minister said that the PML-N has regained the seats it lost in the general elections.

Briefs

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 118 points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday witnessed a bearish trend, losing 118.84 points, a decline of 0.07 per cent, to close at 161,984.09 points compared to 162,102.92 points on the previous trading day. A total of 490.35 million shares were traded in the ready market, with a value of Rs23.67 billion, against 768.05 million shares worth Rs28.64 billion in the previous session. Market capitalisation decreased to Rs18.468 trillion from Rs18.512 trillion. Out of 477 active companies in the ready market, 191 closed higher, 247 declined, and 39 remained unchanged. The leading companies in terms of ready-market turnover were PIA Holding Company with 63.28 million shares, followed by Beco Steel Ltd with 34.92 million shares, and Bank Makramah with 32.81 million shares. **_APP**

Rupee gains 02 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 02 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 280.60 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 280.62. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 281.5 and Rs 281.65, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs0.41 to close at Rs323.45, from the previous day's close of Rs 323.86, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 1.79, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of 65 paisa and closed at Rs 367.71 compared to the previous day's Rs 367.06. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham the Saudi Riyal came down by 01 pasia each to close at Rs 76.39 and Rs 74.81, respectively. **_APP**

Gold price remains unchanged

ISLAMABAD :The price of per tola of 24-karat gold on Monday remained unchanged at Rs 428,862, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA). Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold stayed stable at Rs 367,680, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold also remained unchanged at Rs 337,052. In the international market, gold prices stood firm at US\$ 4,065 per ounce with no change recorded. Meanwhile, the price of per tola silver remained steady at Rs 5,270, while the rate of 10 grams silver stayed unchanged at Rs 4,518. International silver prices also stayed unchanged at US\$ 49.98 per ounce.

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan confirm to supply electricity to Kyrgyzstan during winter

BISHKEK : Almaty hosted meeting of the heads of the water and energy departments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. According to the press service of the Ministry of Energy of Kyrgyzstan, the talks were attended by Minister of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic Taalaibek Ibrayev, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nurzhan Nurzhigitov, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan Jurabek Mirzamakhmudov, Minister of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Khamrayev, and Deputy Minister of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic Almaz Jeenaliev. **_APP**

ICCI, Palladium group vow to deepen collaboration for investment growth

Palladium delegation praises ICCI's dynamic leadership in expanding global business connectivity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and the Palladium Group have expressed strong commitment to deepen cooperation for strengthening Pakistan's trade, exports, and investment ecosystem. This resolve was shared during a meeting between ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood and a delegation of Palladium Group led by Ilmari Soininen, Director Economic Growth, at the Chamber House. Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, Vice President Muhammad Irfan Chaudhry, and Palladium Group Islamabad CEO Muhammad Wasim were also present. Ilmari Soininen appreciated the dynamic leadership of ICCI and said that the Chamber is playing an impressive role in expanding Pakistan's business connectivity with global partners, which is vital in today's interconnected global economy. He added that the Palladium Group, with



nearly six decades of global presence, has been contributing to sustainable economic development by designing strategies, building institutional partnerships, mobilizing capital, and implementing high-impact development programs across various regions. He shared that his meeting with

the ICCI President proved highly insightful, giving him an extensive understanding of Pakistan's export landscape, regulatory environment, and investment opportunities. He highlighted manufacturing, information technology, logistics, and services sectors as potential areas where Palladium

Group could partner with Pakistan's private sector to enhance competitiveness and promote innovation-oriented growth. On his part, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood briefed the delegation about the promising investment climate in Pakistan, supported by ongoing government

reforms, improved regulatory frameworks, and a strong resolve to promote export-led growth. He said that initiatives such as One-Window Operations, digital compliance systems, and banking sector reforms are being actively pursued to facilitate business operations and reduce the cost of doing business.

He further emphasized that Pakistan offers vast opportunities for value addition in agriculture, agro-processing, minerals, textiles, engineering, and technology-driven industries, supported by a large skilled workforce and strategic geographic location. He assured the delegation that ICCI is committed to assisting credible international partners looking to engage with Pakistan's private sector.

The meeting concluded with a mutual pledge to work together for strengthening Pakistan's participation in global value chains, while expanding opportunities for exporters, SMEs, and emerging industries.

Australian far-right senator wears burqa, sparking outrage

SYDNEY: A far-right Australian politician sparked outrage Monday after donning a burqa at the country's parliament, in a display that other lawmakers slammed as "racist." Pauline Hanson of the anti-immigration One Nation party was seeking to introduce a bill in the Senate that would ban full face coverings in Australia — a policy she has campaigned on for decades. Just minutes after other lawmakers blocked her from introducing that bill, she returned wearing a black burqa and sat down. Her display was meet by outrage from her fellow senators. Australian Greens leader in the Senate Larissa Waters said the move was "the middle finger to people of faith." "It is extremely racist and unsafe," Waters added. Foreign Minister Penny Wong, who also serves as leader of the government in the Senate, condemned it as "disrespectful." "All of us in this place have a great privilege in coming into this chamber," Wong said. "We represent in our states, people of every faith, of every faith, of all backgrounds. And we should do so decently." Hanson refused to remove the burqa and the Senate was suspended. It is the second time she has donned the Muslim clothing in parliament. In 2017, she wore a full burqa in the Senate to highlight what she said were the security issues the garment posed, linking it to terror. Hanson has described Islam as "a culture and ideology that is incompatible with our own." Her party has increased support as the country's main conservative opposition remain beset by infighting, with a poll this month reported by The Australian Financial Review showing them with a record 18 percent support. That comes as a government envoy said in September that Australia had failed to tackle persistent and intensifying Islamophobia. **_APP**

Delhi residents turn to air purifiers as pollution hits 'severe' levels

NEW DELHI: When he started using an air purifier, Mohit Srivastava hoped it would ease his asthma attacks worsened by Delhi's smog. Eight years later, he cannot imagine not using it, as air quality in the Indian capital has further deteriorated, pushing residents to rely on machines to breathe indoors. Delhi has not recorded a single "clean air" day in 2025, with Air Quality Index readings hitting high above the 50 score throughout the year. On the AQI scale from 0 to 500, good air quality is represented by levels below 50, while levels above 300 are dangerous. Since Diwali in late October, Delhi's average AQI has been above 370, or "very poor." On Nov. 11, it jumped to 428, marking the first "severe" air quality day. On Nov. 24, some parts of the city, including Ashok Vihar in the north and Maidan Garhi in the south, registered AQI levels above 700, or "hazardous," meaning the air was dangerous for the entire population, not only sensitive groups. "There is no way out. I feel air purifiers are a must for those who are living in Delhi," Srivastava, an art director, told Arab News. "I am asthmatic and as a result my two kids have also got it from me. To protect them from pollution, this is the only option at home." Delhi residents have staged at least four protests since last month, demanding government action to address air pollution. Since Nov. 11, the Delhi capital region has been under the third level of the government's Graded Response Action Plan, which bans all non-essential construction activities and the plying of diesel vehicles in Delhi. But protesters say that current measures to address the city's pollution problem are still inadequate. "The situation in Delhi is grim and there is no attempt from the government side to recognize the gravity of the situation," Srivastava said. "What they are doing is patchwork." For now, many are turning to air purifiers, trying to at least keep themselves safe at home. Sunil Kumar, owner of Clean Plus, a supplier of air purifiers, has observed surging demand for the devices. "Earlier, only the middle class and upper-middle class were buying purifiers. Now people in the lower rung of society, who can't really afford it, are also spending money on buying air purifiers," he said. "Compared to last year, I have already sold double the air purifiers I sold last year. My sales have already crossed 1,500 this year. Some of the orders are still pending because we don't have enough stock. Air purifiers work by drawing in air and passing it through filters that trap pollutants such as dust, pollen, smoke, and fine particulate matter. The cleaned air is then circulated back into the room. But views vary on how much they help. Vimlendu Jha, environmentalist and founder of Swachha, a youth-run nongovernmental organization in New Delhi, argues that there is not enough evidence suggesting that air purifiers are indeed effective. "At most, if it actually does anything, it can only clean a room if it is completely shut and if it runs for several hours," he said. "There's no data to prove that an air purifier is a solution ... At best, it can clean a small bubble of air, but people don't live in a bubble. Outdoor areas can never be purified by an air purifier." People are buying the devices anyway to protect themselves and their families. "There's fear, there's anxiety, and there's concern and hopelessness," Jha said. **_DNA**

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Pope heads to Turkiye, Lebanon in first overseas trip

HEYBELIADA: Pope Leo XIV embarks on his debut overseas trip Thursday, traveling to Turkiye and Lebanon to promote Christian unity and urge peace efforts amid heightened tensions in the Middle East. The six-day trip is the first major international test for the US pope, who was elected head of the Catholic Church in May and whose understated style contrasts with that of his charismatic and impulsive predecessor, Francis. In Turkiye, Leo will celebrate the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, where the Creed — a foundational declaration of the Christian faith — was written. While the Chicago-born pontiff's upcoming visit has so far garnered little attention in the predominantly Muslim country, where Christians represent only 0.2 percent of the 86 million inhabitants, it is eagerly awaited in Lebanon. **_APP**

Sudan's top general rejects US-led ceasefire proposal

CAIRO: Sudan's top general rejected a ceasefire proposal provided by US-led mediators as "the worst yet," in a blow to efforts to stop a devastating war that has gripped the African country for over 30 months. In video comments released by the military late Sunday, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan said the proposal was unacceptable, accusing the mediators of being "biased" in their efforts to end the war. Sudan plunged into chaos in April 2023 when a power struggle between the military and the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country. The devastating war has killed more than 40,000 people, according to UN figures, but aid groups say that is an undercount and the true number could be many times higher. It created the world's largest humanitarian crisis with over 14 million people forced to flee their homes, fueled disease outbreaks and pushed parts of the country into famine. Known as the Quad, the mediators have been trying for over two years to bring an end to the fighting and reestablish a path to democratic transition which was hampered by a military coup in 2021. They are comprised of the US, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. This month, President Donald Trump said that he plans to put greater attention on helping find an end to Sudan's war after being urged to take action by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during his visit to the White House. Massad Boulos, a US adviser for African affairs, told The Associated Press earlier that the latest proposal calls for a three-month humanitarian truce followed by a nine-month political process. The RSF said it has agreed to the truce, following global outrage over the paramilitaries' atrocities in the Darfur city of el-Fasher. Burhan, however, said the proposal "is considered the worst document yet," since it "eliminates the Armed Forces, dissolves security agencies and keeps the militia where they are" — referring to the RSF. "If the mediation continues in this direction, we will consider it to be biased mediation," he said. He lashed out at the US adviser and accused him of attempting to "impose some conditions on us." He added: "We fear that Massad Boulos will be an obstacle to the peace that all the people of Sudan seek." Burhan denied that the military is controlled by Islamists or that it used chemical weapons in its fighting against the RSF — an accusation leveled by the Trump administration in May. Burhan said the military will only agree to a truce when the RSF completely withdraws from civilian areas to allow the return of displaced people to their homes, before embarking on talks for a political settlement to the conflict. "We're not warmongers, and we don't reject peace," he said, "but no one can threaten us or dictate terms to us." **_DNA**

UN rights chief warns over generative AI

GENEVA: The UN on Monday warned that generative AI could become "a modern-day Frankenstein's monster," with human rights the first casualty, as powerful tech giants unleash the technology on the world. UN rights chief Volker Turk said generative AI had "tremendous promise" but told the world body's business and human rights forum that its "exploitation for purely political or economic benefit can manipulate, distort, and distract." "When powerful tech giants introduce new technologies, such as generative artificial intelligence, human rights can be the first casualty," he said. "The threats to several human rights, including privacy, political participation, free expression and work are clear and present," he added. "Without proper safeguards and regulations, AI systems have the potential to turn into a modern-day Frankenstein's monster," he added. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights warned that the threats of today "could materialize into harms that undermine the promise of emerging technologies and could unleash unpredictable consequences." **_APP**

India's court agrees to \$570m settlement by fugitive billionaire brothers

NEW DELHI: India's Supreme Court has agreed to drop criminal charges against billionaire brothers Niti and Chetan Sandesara if they pay a third of their dues in a \$1.6-billion bank fraud, a step that could prompt other offenders to seek similar settlements. After being accused of defaulting on domestic bank loans, the brothers, whose companies spanned industries from pharmaceuticals to energy, fled India in 2017 on Albanian passports, court filings showed. They denied wrongdoing. The Supreme Court order, published on its website on Friday, is being reported for the first time. It quoted the brothers' lawyer, Mukul Rohatgi, as saying they were agreeable to paying a settlement of \$570 million, and set a December 17 deadline. Rohatgi told the court his client were ready to settle "to get rid of all proceedings," the order said, and asked for all proceedings to be quashed. Rohatgi did not immediately respond to Reuters queries. The brothers figure among 14 designated fugitive economic offenders under a 2018 law that allows the freezing of assets. **_APP**

Study finds way to 'reboot' eye, restore impaired vision

WASHINGTON: Scientists claim to have found a way to restore vision in people with a common developmental eye disorder by "rebooting" the retina to its early state, enabling it to grow and cure itself. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US found that temporarily anesthetising the retina could reverse the vision system to an early state, curing a condition known as amblyopia or "lazy eye" in people with amblyopia, vision in one or both eyes does not develop properly during childhood as the brain learns to ignore one of the eyes. Current treatments are only effective during infancy when nerve connections are still being formed. The MIT researchers found that anesthetising the retina of the amblyopic eye in mice for a couple of days restored the brain's visual response to that eye even in adulthood, according to a study published in the journal Cell Reports. In future studies, they hope to show the treatment also works in other animal species and ultimately humans. "If it does, it is a pretty substantial step forward because it would be reassuring to know vision in the good eye would not have to be interrupted by treatment," study author Mark Bears argued. **_APP**

Chinese innovation weaves a new future at Textile Asia

An eye-catching part of that business is increasingly linked to Chinese technology. Asif Osama, director of JX Textiles from Zhejiang, China, is a veteran exhibitor who has witnessed a dramatic shift in the market. "A decade ago, Japanese and European brands were the undisputed priority," Osama noted

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore Expo Centre became the epicenter of textile innovation as the 31st Textile Asia International Exhibition and Conference 2025 opened its doors on November 22, with Chinese enterprises presenting compelling cases for their high-end machinery and advanced materials for Pakistan's key industry. The event, a key stop in a circuit that also includes Karachi, Faisalabad and Sialkot, showcases the future of textiles, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. This year's theme highlights Textile 4.0, smart factories and digital automation. The exhibition has drawn a massive global turnout, featuring over 425 exhibitors from 13 countries and is projected to generate an estimated \$300 million

in on-site business deals. An eye-catching part of that business is increasingly linked to Chinese technology. Asif Osama, director of JX Textiles from Zhejiang, China, is a veteran exhibitor who has witnessed a dramatic shift in the market. "A decade ago, Japanese and European brands were the undisputed priority," Osama noted. "Now, major Chinese brands are recognized for their stable quality and advanced technology." At his booth, he displayed three state-of-the-art weaving looms from Qingdao HAIJIA. He detailed the practical advantages: "Our machines are equipped with servo motors, which significantly save energy and boost production output. Chinese machinery presents a value proposition with more attractive pricing and reliable performance, backed by comprehensive after-sales services. Osama, who also represents the industrial giant Jiangsu East-

ern Shenghong, highlighted the comprehensive Chinese offering. Shenghong maintains a prominent stand displaying its high-quality premium yarns catering to the specific needs of the Pakistani market for premium raw materials. "The strong Chinese participation here reflects not only China's expanding role in the global textile ecosystem, but also signals the deepening industrial synergy between our businesses," Osama noted. "Pakistani manufacturers are increasingly turning to Chinese technology for smarter, more efficient production solutions that enhance their global competitiveness." Continuing through November 24, the exhibition also features expert panels on sustainable manufacturing and digital transformation, providing a platform for industry stakeholders to explore the future of textile production.

Briefs

Govt moves
to establish
Cyber
security
Authority

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Amid the prevailing risks in the digital and cyber domain, the government has decided to establish a Cybersecurity Authority at the federal level, The News reported on Monday. The authority will propose cybersecurity measures for critical national infrastructure and will implement cybersecurity initiatives across the country. The Ministry of IT has prepared the initial draft of Cybersecurity Act and sent it to stakeholders for consultation. The National Cybersecurity Policy provides a framework for nationwide digital protection, and its implementation is underway under the Digital Economy Enhancement Programme. The move follows the acknowledgement by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, who back in September, admitted the country has faced several major cyberattacks and data leaks in recent years. In a report submitted to the National Assembly, the ministry, however, said that complete details could not be shared through this channel due to the sensitive nature of the issue, adding that full information could be provided in a closed-door briefing. It added that due to the lack of dedicated human resources, technical expertise, effective monitoring systems, and a generally weak security posture, many cyber incidents either go undetected or are not reported at the institutional level.

Washington,
Kyiv say peace
deal must
'fully uphold'
Ukraine
sovereignty

DNA

GENEVA: Washington and Kyiv said that any eventual deal to halt the war with Russia must fully uphold Ukraine's sovereignty, after "constructive" talks between US, Ukrainian and European officials in Geneva. After a day of meetings that kicked off based on a US proposal that was criticised as being in Russia's favour, negotiators have drafted "an updated and refined peace framework", a US-Ukraine joint statement said on Sunday. US President Donald Trump had given Ukraine until November 27 to approve his plan to end the nearly four-year conflict, which began after Russia launched a full-scale invasion. But Kyiv was seeking changes to the draft that accepted a range of Russia's headline demands, with the 28-point plan requiring the invaded country to cede territory, cut its army and pledge never to join Nato. "The talks were constructive, focused, and respectful, underscoring the shared commitment to achieving a just and lasting peace," the joint statement said.

35 mn tourists expected
to visit Malaysia in 2026

Malaysia Launches "Visit Malaysia 2026" Campaign in Islamabad; Pakistan an important partner in promoting tourism, cultural exchange, says High Commissioner of Malaysia



ISLAMABAD: Malaysian High Commissioner Dato Azhar bin Mazlan along with heads of missions of the ASEAN states, Ambassadors of Morocco and Yemen formally launching Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign. — DNA

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner of Malaysia, Dato' Azhar Bin Mazlan, formally launched the Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign at a grand ceremony held in Islamabad, calling Pakistan an important partner in promoting tourism, cultural exchange, and people-to-people linkages. The event brought together a distinguished gathering of diplomats, including all Heads of Missions of ASEAN countries, the Dean of the African Group and Ambassador of Morocco, H.E. Mohammed Karmoun, and the Ambassador of Yemen, among others — reflecting the growing global interest in Malaysia's tourism revival plan. Speaking at the ceremony, High Commissioner Dato' Azhar Bin Mazlan announced Malaysia's ambitious target of welcoming 35 million tourists in 2026, describing the

initiative as one of the most significant tourism drives in Malaysia's history. He said the country was preparing to showcase its unparalleled cultural richness, modern infrastructure, and breathtaking natural beauty to the world. He recalled that during Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Malaysia, both sides signed a key Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote and develop tourism cooperation, opening new avenues for joint ventures, tourism training, investment in hospitality, and enhanced travel connectivity. "Pakistan is an important brotherly nation for Malaysia, and we want to deepen our tourism partnership in a mutually beneficial way," he said. Dato' Azhar highlighted Malaysia's unique multicultural identity, home to ethnic Malays, Chinese, Indians, and many other groups who live together harmoniously. "Malaysia is truly Asia," he said, referring

to the iconic slogan that has made Malaysia one of the world's most recognizable tourism brands. "Our diversity is our strength — reflected in our culture, lifestyle, festivals, and especially our cuisine." In a lighter moment that earned smiles from the audience, the High Commissioner mentioned the viral video of former US President Donald Trump being welcomed in Malaysia. "On President Trump's arrival, traditional Malaysian songs were played — and he danced to their rhythm. That clip went viral and has been viewed by more than 50 million people worldwide," he said. "It shows the magnetic appeal of Malaysian arts, culture, and hospitality." He emphasized that he was in Pakistan not only as a diplomat but also as a tourism ambassador for his country. "I am here to promote Malaysia," he declared. "I warmly invite the Pakistani people to visit and experience the beauty of Malaysia — from

world-class natural heritage and pristine beaches to vibrant modern cities, shopping destinations, and an extraordinary culinary landscape." During the event, diplomats and guests were briefed on Malaysia's offerings, including eco-tourism, adventure tourism, cultural sites, theme parks, and modern transport networks. The High Commissioner assured that Malaysia would continue facilitating Pakistani travellers through visa-friendly initiatives and enhanced airline connectivity. The event concluded with cultural performances, videos highlighting Malaysia's scenic destinations, and interactive sessions between Malaysian officials and Pakistani travel industry representatives. The launch of Visit Malaysia 2026 in Islamabad marks another step in strengthening bilateral ties, promising new opportunities for tourism, business cooperation, and cultural engagement between the two brotherly nations.

Bollywood icon
Dharmendra takes
his last breath at 89

Legendary star Dharmendra leaves behind his legacy today



DNA

MUMBAI: Bollywood legendary actor Dharmendra breathed his last at age 89 in Mumbai. The actor, fondly known as He-Man, was admitted to Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital earlier this month due to breathing issues. However, the veteran actor could not survive and passed away at the hospital on Monday morning. His death marks the end of true Indian cinema and fans as well as celebrities pay their final respects to the actor's celebrated legacy. Looking back at his inspiring journey, Dharmendra's acting career spanned over six decades with filled with unforgettable performances in movies like Sholay, Chupke Chupke, Phool Aur Patthar among other cinematic gems. Meanwhile, the late actor's upcoming movie Ikki is going to be his last movie where he played a significant role. It will release in theatres on December 25. Dharmendra's wife Hema Malini and his daughter Esha Deol arrived at Pawan Hans Crematorium, Vile Parle. Several celebrities such as Amitabh Bachan, Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar, Sanjay Dutt and others have also reached at the crematorium for the final rites. Dharmendra is survived by six children. He shares four children — Sunny Deol, Bobby Deol, Vijeta Deol and Ajeeta Deol — with his first wife, Prakash Kaur.

British Deputy High Commission
hosts Four Nations celebration in

DNA

KARACHI: Speaker of the Sindh Assembly, Awais Qadir Shah, joined British High Commissioner Jane Marriott CMG OBE and Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori to celebrate His Majesty King Charles III's 77th birthday in Karachi. The Karachi event concluded this year's His Majesty the King's Birthday Party celebrations in Pakistan, bringing together guests from across government, business and the creative sector to honour the strong cultural and people-to-people links between the UK and Pakistan. This year has also seen steady progress across UK supported programmes in Sindh. Under Aawaz II, five District Child Protection Units in Sindh have improved their capacity to process and respond to cases through

training for one hundred and fifty social service workforce members, alongside the creation of seventy-five community forums that support safer and more inclusive dialogue. Schools damaged by the 2022 floods were rehabilitated in three districts, the UK provided vital support in Sindh during this year's floods, and education research and teacher development initiatives continued in Karachi through UK backed programmes. British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said: "Karachi captures so much of what the UK and Pakistan share: energy, creativity and a spirit of openness. It is the beating heart of Pakistan's economy. Businesses here, as well as across the country, have played a central role in driving bilateral trade between the UK and Pakistan past £5.5 billion this year. We look forward to building on this momentum and unlocking even more opportunities together."

Ash cloud
from Ethiopian
volcano
eruption to
reach Pakistan

DNA

KARACHI: An ash cloud from a volcanic eruption in northeastern Ethiopia is expected to reach southern Pakistan after drifting over Yemen and Oman, the Toulouse Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) said. The Hayli Gubbi volcano, located in Ethiopia's Afar region about 800 kilometres northeast of Addis Ababa near the Eritrean border, erupted on Sunday for several hours. This was the first recorded eruption in nearly 12,000 years. The eruption sent thick plumes of smoke up to 14 kilometres into the sky, blanketing nearby villages and drifting toward the Arabian Sea region. The volcano, which rises about 500 metres in altitude, sits within the Rift Valley, a zone of intense geological activity where two tectonic plates meet. However, Anjum Nazeer Zaighum, a spokesperson for the Met Office, told Dawn that the effects of the ash cloud would not be felt in Karachi and it would pass over the Arabian Sea. "The projections are from last night and the impact would be felt in the deep Arabian Sea, in Oman and within the Mumbai FIR (flight region)," the spokesperson explained. He added that clouds would be passing through the area at an altitude of 50,000 feet. In reply to a question, Zaighum clarified that the impact of the ash cloud was witnessed 60 nautical miles south of Gwadar today. The office has issued a warning to the concerned authorities, which is still in place.

LHC grants
bail to
Ducky Bhai

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday granted bail to YouTuber Saad ur Rehman, widely known as Ducky Bhai, in the case pertaining to the promotion of a gambling application. Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry approved the post-arrest bail petition and ordered the release of the accused upon submission of surety bonds worth Rs. 1 million. The court announced the verdict on bail petition following completion of arguments by the parties. Ducky Bhai had approached the LHC for bail after dismissal of his similar petitions by a judicial magistrate on September 22 and an additional sessions judge on October 2. Ducky Bhai was arrested by the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) at Lahore Airport on August 17. The NCCIA Lahore had registered an FIR, accusing Saad ur Rehman of offences under various provisions of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016 — including Sections 13 (Electronic Forgery), 14 (Electronic Fraud), 25 (Spamming), and 26 (Spoofing) — as well as Sections 294-B (Offering prizes for commercial purposes) and 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the Pakistan Penal Code. The FIR alleges that members of the public invested their earnings in gambling and betting apps, suffering financial losses. — APP

Saudi military chief visits GHQ

RAWALPINDI: General Fayyadh Bin Hameed Al Rowaili, Chief of General Staff (CGS), Saudi Armed Forces, called on General Syed Asim Gungor, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at General Headquarters (GHQ) today. During the meeting, both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, with a particular focus on strengthening the

longstanding and strategic military cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. They emphasized the importance of further enhancing defence collaboration, security cooperation, and counter-terrorism efforts, which continue to be pillars of the deep-rooted bilateral relationship. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's cooperation in multiple fields with Saudi Armed Forces and reaffirmed his commitment to furthering the strong bonds of cooperation.



Upon arrival at GHQ, General Fayyadh Bin Hameed Al Rowaili, laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada and was presented a Guard of Honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army. — DNA

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