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Air strikes in Afghanistan

DG ISPR refutes allegations by Afghan Taliban

"In our view, there are no good and bad Taliban," he said, adding that there was "no distinction" between terrorists

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General (DG) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry refuted allegations by the Afghan Taliban on Tuesday that Pakistan had conducted overnight strikes in Afghanistan, state media reported. The statement by the head of the military's media wing came hours after the Afghan Taliban spokesperson accused Pakistan of attacks in Khost, Kunar and Paktika provinces. According to state broadcaster Pakistan TV, the military spokesperson refuted the claims of conducting strikes inside Afghanistan. "Pakistan Army has not attacked civilians inside Afghanistan," it quoted him as saying. "Whenever Pakistan attacks someone, it announces it," he said, adding that Pakistan never attacked civilians, according to local media. "In our view, there are no good and bad Taliban," he said, adding that there was "no distinction" between terrorists. "The Taliban government should make decisions as a state, not as non-state actors," said Gen Chaudhry. He also wondered how long the current set-up in Afghanistan would remain an interim one. The military spokesperson also addressed the court martial proceedings against former intelligence chief Gen (r) Faiz Hameed, saying: "The trial is a legal matter; there should be no speculation about it. There will be an immediate announcement when the matter reaches its final conclusion." Gen Hameed has been in custody since August 2024 and the military announced the initiation of court martial proceedings on Aug 12, 2024, on the charges of violating the Army Act and misconduct filed by the owner of a private housing society.

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Pakistan conducted air strikes inside Afghanistan

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Pakistan reportedly carried out air strikes in Afghanistan's Khost, Paktika and Kunar provinces, Afghan officials and media sources said on Tuesday. Afghan government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed the strikes, claiming they resulted in civilian casualties, including children. According to reports, the Governor of Khost stated that an Afghan national's home in Moghalki village, Gorbaz District, was targeted, killing nine children and a woman. Mujahid did not comment on the official reaction of the Afghan government. However, Afghan sources said that the Taliban leadership is currently discussing the situation and may issue a formal statement later. Pakistan has not released any statement regarding the reported air operations. Details of the strikes in Paktika and Kunar provinces remain unclear, with no independent confirmation available so far. The development comes shortly after the failure of peace talks in Turkey between the two countries. Following the breakdown of the dialogue,

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan, Iran vow to deepen bilateral ties

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to deepen bilateral ties in diverse areas and enhance cooperation on regional and international issues of mutual interest. The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed in a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Dr. Ali Larjani. Earlier, DPM Dar received Ali Larjani at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who arrived in Islamabad on his official visit to Pakistan on Monday night. According to Iran's official news agency IRNA, Larjani is scheduled to meet Pakistan's top leadership during his official visit to review the latest developments in bilateral relations, following up on joint agreements, regional and international issues, and matters of significance to the Islamic world. Speaking to reporters upon his arrival in Islamabad, he underlined Pakistan's key role in the region, stating that cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad across various fields "helps calm and peace in the region."

Continued on Page 06

Pak conducts successful test of ship-launched ballistic missile

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy has successfully carried out a test flight of an indigenously developed ship-launched anti-ship ballistic missile, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday. According to the military's media wing, the advanced weapon system is capable of engaging both sea and land targets with high accuracy. Meghan Markle's outrageous divorce demands from Prince Harry exposed Meghan Markle's outrageous divorce demands from Prince Harry exposed Meghan Markle has a list of outrageous demands prepared in case Prince Harry decides to divorce her amid ongoing rumours. Even though the Duke of Sussex dismissed the speculations during

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari meeting H.E. Mr Ali Ardeshir Larjani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

Security forces kill 22 India-backed terrorists in Bannu

ISPR says sanitisation operation launched to eliminate any other militant found in area

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: Security forces, as part of ongoing anti-terror efforts, eliminated 22 India-backed terrorists in an intelligence-based operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday. The operation conducted on November 24, was carried out on the reported presence of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists, also called "Fitna al-Khawarij," involved intense fire exchange between militants and security forces, as per the military's media wing. The ISPR said a sanitisation operation had been launched to eliminate any other Indian-proxy terrorist in the area and vowed continuation of the relentless counter-terrorism campaign under the vision "Azm-e-Istehkam" to root out the menace of terrorism. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have paid tribute to the security forces for the successful operation against terrorists. In their separate statements, they commended the security forces for achieving significant successes counterterrorism campaign. The President and PM said the entire nation stands resolute alongside the security forces in this war against terrorism.

Continued on Page 06

President, PM praise security forces

APP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday commended the security forces for carrying out a successful intelligence-based operation against Khawarij in Bannu. The president and prime minister, in their separate statements, paid tribute to the security forces for their timely and effective response and for eliminating 22 terrorists of Indian-backed Fitna al-Khawarij. They appreciated the determination of the Pakistan Army and law-enforcement agencies, saying that the ongoing counter-terrorism campaign under the vision of "Azm-e-Istehkam" was achieving great success. "Eliminating the Indian-backed Khawarij is the government's top priority. The martyrs and the war veterans (Ghazis) are the pride of the nation," President Zardari remarked and also saluted the soldiers who displayed courage during the operation.

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Gen Sahir visits PAF HQs

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, visited Air Headquarters, Islamabad. He was received by Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. A smartly turned-out contingent of PAF presented the distinguished guest with a Guard of Honour. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu commended the CJSC's exemplary services and his pivotal role in strengthening tri-services synergy. He appreciated General Sahir Shamshad

Mirza's significant contributions towards national defence and reaffirmed PAF's unwavering resolve to continue working closely with sister services to eradicate the menace of terrorism. The CJSC expressed his satisfaction over the combat readiness of Pakistan Air Force and the progress achieved through its modernization and upgradation initiatives. He lauded the professionalism and dedication of PAF personnel in safeguarding Pakistan's aerial frontiers and acknowledged the vital role of the Service in the national fight against terrorism. He also appreciated the seamless coordination among the tri-services and expressed confidence that this cooperation would continue to flourish in the years ahead.

Briefs

Iranian Security Council Secy calls on Shehbaz

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: Ali Ardeshir Larjani, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council of Iran called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House today. Dr. Larjani is currently on an official visit to Pakistan. While welcoming the Iranian dignitary, the Prime Minister emphasized the significance of the historic and close fraternal ties between the two countries and called for further deepening and broadening of bilateral relations, across diverse fields. Dr. Larjani reciprocated the sentiment and stressed upon the need for enhancing Pakistan-Iran ties in wide-ranging and mutually beneficial areas.

Islamophobia needs attention, says Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has noted with deep concern the flag hoisting at the so-called "Ram Temple" constructed on the site of the historic Babri Mosque in Ayodhya. The Babri Mosque, a centuries-old place of worship, was demolished on 6 December 1992 by the extremist mobs inspired by fascist ideologies. The subsequent judicial processes in India, which acquitted those responsible and permitted construction of a temple on the demolished mosque's site, speak volumes about the Indian state's discriminatory approach towards minorities. This reflected a broader pattern of pressure on religious minorities in India and deliberate attempts at eroding Muslim cultural and religious heritage under the influence of majoritarian Hindutva ideology.

Islamabad attack plotted by TTP chief in Afghanistan

Separately, KP IG says three militants who attacked FC Headquarters in Peshawar likely Afghan nationals: Atta Tarar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the Islamabad suicide attack was plotted by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief Noor Wali Mehsud in Afghanistan. Speaking at a press conference in the capital, the information minister said the suicide attacker had failed to reach his original target due to tightened security. The suicide blast rocked the federal capital on November 11, leaving at least 12 martyred and 36 injured outside the District Judicial Complex in Islamabad's G-11 area. Minister Tarar said that the attack was planned by the Mehsud through his commander, Dadullah, who is currently in Afghanistan. He said that a joint operation by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) led to the arrest of four suspects within 48 hours of the attack. "CTD has arrested Sajidullah alias Shina, Kamran Khan, Muhammad Zali, and Shah Munir," Tarar said. He said that one of the arrested suspects,



Sajidullah, visited Afghanistan in August 2025 to meet Dadullah and remained in contact through an app. The minister said Sajidullah, the main suspect, had brought the suicide attacker and his explosive jacket to Pakistan. "Sajidullah joined the Afghan Taliban in 2015 and received training in various camps there. In 2023, he met a man named Dadullah in Afghanistan," the information minister said. He added that Sajidullah and Muhammad Zali went to Afghanistan with Dadullah and met another TTP militant, Abdullah Jan alias Abu Hamza, in Shegal before proceeding to Kabul. "Dadullah conveyed Mehsud's orders regarding the suicide attack in Rawalpindi and Islamabad," Tarar said. The minister said Sajidullah returned to Pakistan and met the suicide bomber, Usman Shinwari, who was a resident of Nangarhar, Afghanistan.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan airspace clear as Ethiopian volcano ash moves towards India

India's met department reports ash effects as far as Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has said the country's airspace is clear and its atmosphere will not be affected by ash from a "silent" volcano that erupted in Ethiopia after 12,000 years, with the clouds now moving towards India and China. Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi volcano sent ash plumes up to 14km (8.7 miles) high after erupting on Sunday for the first time in recorded history, according to media reports. Met department spokesperson Anjum Nazir, speaking to Geo News, said volcanic ash was seen on Tuesday at 10am at an altitude of 45,000 feet south of Gwadar. He said this ash had passed over Sindh from the Arabian Sea and "has had no effects on the land of Sindh." Nazir said the volcanic ash had already moved towards India and would move towards India's Rajasthan, while the volcanic ash clouds are now visible moving towards India. He added that, so far, Pakistan's airspace is now clear. According to him, since this morning, the areas of Oman, Yemen and Pakistan have become clear. He stated that the volcanic ash was at an altitude of 45,000 feet, that it would not affect Pakistan's northern areas, atmosphere and that it would not cause any increase in the country's air pollution. Nazir also said volcanic ash cannot be seen on ordinary satellite imagery. The India Meteorological Department said the effects of the ash rising from

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CM Sindh vows strong commitment to labour rights

KARACH: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday welcomed the European Union (EU) Monitoring Mission visiting Karachi as part of the 5th Biennial Review of the GSP+ scheme, reaffirming the Sindh government's strong commitment to human rights, labour rights, governance, environmental protection and social development. The seven-member EU delegation was led by Mr. Sirgio Balibertia, Advisor to the GSP+ Directorate in the Directorate General Trade. Federal Secretary of Commerce Jod Paul also attended the meeting. From the Sindh side, provincial ministers Saeed Ghani and Syed Zia-ul-Hasan Lajjar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, Secretary to CM Abdul Raheem Shaikh, Law Secretary Ahmed Ali Baloch, Human Rights Secretary Khalid Chachar and other senior officials were present. The meeting featured extensive discussions on human rights, minority rights including transgender protections, labour inspections, workplace safety, child rights, climate change and energy transition. The EU delegation appreciated Sindh's efforts, particularly in the domains of human rights protections, minority welfare, social safeguards, and institutional reforms. "The human rights and minority protection measures taken by the Sindh government are encouraging," Mr. Sirgio Balibertia remarked. CM highlights strategic importance of EU partnership and GSP+.

Welcoming the delegation, the Chief Min-

ister described the EU as a long-standing partner in promoting rights-based governance. "Our partnership with the European Union is extremely important. The GSP+ arrangement is vital for Pakistan's exports, sustainable development and institutional reforms," Shah said. Murad Shah noted that Pakistan is currently undergoing the 5th Biennial Review of GSP+, and Sindh is fully coordinating with the Ministry of Commerce and federal institutions. "The detailed responses submitted to the European Commission reflect a joint effort of federal and provincial governments," he added. The Chief Minister highlighted the active role of the Sindh Treaty Implementation Cell (TIC) in ensuring compliance with all 27 international conventions tied to the GSP+ scheme. He welcomed the EU Mission's decision to visit the provincial TIC office during their Karachi trip, terming it "a positive opportunity for direct engagement and assessment." Sindh as Pakistan's export hub; need for continuation of GSP+; Chief Minister Murad Shah emphasised that Sindh is the country's primary export hub, with key industries including textiles, leather, fisheries and manufacturing. "The continuation of GSP+ is essential for job creation, women's economic empowerment, SME support and poverty reduction," he said. He urged the EU to avoid "overly stringent conditions" in the next GSP+ framework, adding that Pakistan would welcome capacity-building and technical support from the EU. The EU team praised Sindh's

progress in labour rights, women's rights and transgender protections. The EU delegation was told that the Sindh Human Rights Commission received 491 complaints from 2023-25, resolving 50 per cent and disposing 62 suo motu cases. Regular meetings of the provincial steering committee ensure oversight. 2,000 police officers trained under the Torture and Custodial Death Act 2022. 1,356 women-related violence cases active in courts, with 154 convictions, reflecting strengthened access to justice. 33 minority protection police desks established; 403 places of worship restored. A dedicated Journalists' Protection Commission has resolved 41 cases. The chief minister said that 600,000 flood-affected homes have been registered in women's names "a historic step in empowerment," he said. He added that Pink buses, vocational training and a 15 per cent quota in government jobs for women are major steps. Local council seats and a 0.5 per cent job quota are reserved for the transgender community. Murad Shah said that there is no compromise on labour rights. Sindh Labour Department conducted 18,397 labour inspections in 2025, identifying 1,936 violations, with 1,446 penalties imposed. Sindh's labour monitoring is 'twice as rigorous as ILO standards.' Under the Sindh Control of Narcotics Substances Act 2024, 3,600 drug dependents were rehabilitated, Murad Shah said. He added that good governance and Anti-Corruption are top priorities.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee visited Air Headquarters to meet Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force.

Kundi visits FC Headquarters, pays tribute to martyrs

PESHAWAR :Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visited the Federal Constabulary (FC) Headquarters here on Tuesday where he was received by FC Commandant, Riaz Nazir Gara. The Governor laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs' Monument and offered prayers for the martyred personnel. During the visit, he was briefed on the previous day's attack. Governor Kundi praised the FC personnel and their leadership for swiftly thwarting the assault by fitna-e-khawarij, saying the force had demonstrated exceptional courage and professionalism. He said that three FC personnel embraced martyrdom while saving the lives of their comrades, adding that he had come to pay tribute to the martyrs and express appreciation on behalf of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Governor highlighted that the sacrifices of over 450 FC personnel for the restoration of peace in the province would never be forgotten. He also appreciated the federal government's decision to award top honours to FC personnel, calling it a valuable recognition of their bravery and sacrifice.—APP

KP moves to finalize revised canal water usage fees

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is set to revise the existing structure of canal water usage fees after key policy decisions were taken in a high-level meeting chaired by Provincial Minister for Irrigation Riaz Khan on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Chairman DDAC Buner Kabir Khan, senior officials of Provincial Department and technical experts. During the session, officials briefed the minister on proposed updates to irrigation charges for various categories, said a press release. It was agreed that water rates for major cash crops, including sugarcane, sugar beet, cotton and oilseeds, would be revised in

accordance with water flow requirements and prevailing agricultural conditions. The meeting also decided to introduce separate tariff structures for other crops, commercial water consumers and brick kilns, ensuring a more transparent and equitable fee system. The charges for lift irrigation schemes and tube wells will also undergo reassessment to better reflect operational costs while remaining within the financial reach of farmers. The minister emphasized that the revised rates must provide meaningful relief to the farming community, while enabling the Irrigation Department to maintain

effective service delivery and stable revenue generation. It was further directed that the final schedule of rates be prepared after thorough consideration of ground realities and the economic challenges faced by growers. The minister also stressed the need for comprehensive stakeholder consultation prior to the approval of the new rates, ensuring that the policy reflects the needs and concerns of all relevant sectors. Speaking at the meeting, Riaz Khan reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving the irrigation system, promoting efficient water use and safeguarding the interests of farmers.—APP

DPO Kohat orders crackdown on social crimes

KOHAT: District Police Officer (DPO) Kohat, Shehbaz Elahi, paid visits to various checkpoints across the district on Tuesday to review overall security arrangements in detail. According to APP correspondent, during his inspection, he met with police personnel deployed at the posts and directed them to remain extra vigilant in view of the prevailing situation, ensure effective checking of suspicious vehicles and individuals, and safeguard the lives and property of citizens at all costs.

He examined the duty performance of the deployed officials, their checking procedures, weapons, and other essential equipment. He emphasized that the police must remain fully prepared to deal with any emergency situation. Meanwhile, on the special directives of DPO, police have launched a decisive crackdown against social crimes across the district. In a major action, the KDA Police Station team raided a gambling den in the KDA area, arresting several gamblers red-handed and recovering stake money amounting to Rs. 140,000 along with weapons from their possession. The raid was conducted under the supervision of SHO KDA, Noor Muhammad, accompanied by a police contingent. The arrested suspects have been booked at KDA Police Station, while further investigation is underway.—APP

US, China & UK, top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first four months of the current fiscal year 2025-26, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the US during July-October 2025-26 were recorded at US\$2.188 billion against the exports of US\$2.037 billion during July-October 2024-25, showing an increase of 7.41 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by the China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US

\$788.775 million against the exports of US \$813.465 million last year, showing a decrease of 3.03 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$752.968 million during the months under review against the exports of US \$760.834 million, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood at US \$648.758 million against US \$736.915 million last year, while the exports to Germany rose to US \$594.291 million from US \$580.407 million last

year, data said. During July-October 2025-26, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$504.888 million against \$502.149 million, whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$431.017 million against \$395.153 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$553.370 million against the exports of US \$479.009 million, while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$201.018 million against \$293.453 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$239.468 million against US \$248.696 million.—APP

CDA, SUPARCO chiefs discuss several key areas of mutual coop

During the meeting, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa also expressed his commitment to utilize SUPARCO's high-level technical expertise and capabilities

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, met with Chairman SUPARCO, Muhammad Yousaf Khan on Tuesday at the CDA Headquarters. The meeting was attended by CDA's Member Planning and Design, Dr. Khalid Hafiz, Member Engineering, Syed Nafasat Raza along with senior officers from both CDA and SUPARCO. During the meeting, several key areas of mutual cooperation including the use of advanced satellite imagery, drone technology and educational collaboration were discussed. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that SUPARCO's advanced satellite imagery will help resolve land issues in various sectors and ensure the swift elimination of illegal constructions and encroachments. He said that the use of satellite technology will help effective urban planning in both sectoral and non-sectoral areas. Chairman CDA mentioned that this cooperation with SUPARCO will open new doors for the development and urban planning of Islamabad. During the meeting, SUPARCO assured its full technical support for establishing a modern lab for CDA. It was also agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance educational collaboration between the CDA School and SUPARCO. Chairman SUPARCO Muhammad Yousaf Khan said that they are always ready to provide full cooperation to CDA in aligning the ongoing development activities in the Federal Capital with modern technology. He appreciated the performance of CDA in the rapid completion of development projects in the Capital City. During the meeting, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa also expressed his commitment to utilize SUPARCO's high-level technical expertise and capabilities.—DNA

Nawab of Junagadh, MNA Isphanyar reaffirm commitment to Junagadh cause

Bhandara further noted that engagements like these are important for ensuring that longstanding national matters remain part of public discourse and receive the institutional attention they deserve

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Nawab Ali Murtaza Khanji called on MNA Isphanyar Bhandara today in Rawalpindi. The meeting focused on the historical and political significance of the Junagadh issue, particularly in light of India's continued transgression over the territory legally acceded to Pakistan. During the discussion, the Nawab said he continues to lead the Junagadh cause with the honour and dignity upheld by his forefathers. He reiterated that Junagadh's accession to Pakistan remains a valid and binding treaty, and stated that the principality's case stands firmly on historical evidence and international legal principles. He em-

phasised the need for Pakistanis to recognise the national importance of the issue and to voice

their support across all platforms. The Nawab appealed to the Government of Paki-

stan to extend full diplomatic, moral, and political backing to his efforts at the national and internation-

al level. He stressed that the legal position of Pakistan regarding Junagadh should be highlighted with renewed clarity and confidence. MNA Isphanyar Bhandara appreciated the Nawab's steadfast commitment and assured him of his full support. Mr. Bhandara underscored that the Junagadh matter is linked not only to Pakistan's territorial history but also to the recognition of its princely states' lawful agreements. He stated that preserving such historical narratives is essential for understanding Pakistan's constitutional development and its early statecraft.

Bhandara further noted that engagements like these are important for ensuring that longstanding national matters remain part of public discourse and receive the institutional attention they deserve.



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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
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Voices from the Roof of the World set to launch Season

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Voices from the Roof of the World (VRW), the internationally recognized documentary series highlighting the far-reaching impact of environmental change across Central and South Asia, is set to launch its fourth season. The new season amplifies urgent climate narratives, focusing on air pollution, rising heat, glacier retreat, water scarcity, and the resilience of communities confronting these challenges in the third pole, also known as the 'Roof of the World'. This region's glaciers provide life-sustaining water to an estimated 1.6 billion people living downstream.

As Pakistan faces one of the most severe environmental periods in its history, the climate crisis has become a daily reality. In recent years, the country has felt the force of climate change most vividly through the surge in intense rainstorms that have triggered devastating floods and landslides, causing widespread loss of life and extensive damage to homes and infrastructure. These events have been compounded by the rapid melting of glaciers, which has increased the scale and severity of flooding.

Alongside these disasters, Pakistan is facing an ever-deepening air pollution emergency that harms every form of life. The country ranks among the five most polluted in the world, and millions in Punjab are seeking treatment for respiratory illnesses, especially children. It's widely recognised that developing countries contribute the least to global CO2 emissions from fossil fuels and industry, yet bear the brunt of the impacts. Pakistan is just one stark example.

Against this backdrop, "Color of Smog," one of VRW season one's films directed by Jawad Sharif, showcases Lahore's spiraling smog emergency. Once known



for its gardens, Lahore now ranks high among the world's most polluted cities. "Smog in Lahore is not just a figure but a daily reality that shapes how people breathe, move, and imagine their futures," said Director Jawad Sharif. "Behind every air quality reading are families trying to protect their health and dignity. Through VRW and films like Color of Smog, we hope audiences can clearly see how the climate crisis is already unfolding around us and why meaningful action can no longer wait."

VRW's Executive Producer Andrew Tkach, eight-time Emmy Award winner who brings over 30 years of experience, is also mentoring young filmmakers and helping them shape their ideas into impactful stories. "VRW was created to highlight the climate emergency from the perspective of the people

who live it every day," notes Andrew Tkach. "In Season 4, we shed light on communities confronting melting glaciers and vanishing forests, but also more hopeful stories of saving falcons and reviving ancient water canals. These stories make one thing clear: the environment is changing faster than we are responding."

The series has won numerous honours and awards including Columbia University Journalism School's John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism. VRW episodes have been selected and screened at over 50 international film festivals worldwide. "VRW's unique expression of local realities highlights the impact of climate change on the lives and the cultures of the vulnerable communities whilst narrating the story of a changing era," explained Laila Naz Taj,

Director AKDN Pakistan Communications. "These films are not distant warnings, they are reflections of the challenges communities are facing right now across Pakistan and the region." VRW is a joint initiative of the Aga Khan University (AKU), the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), the University of Central Asia (UCA), and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), made possible through the generous support of Ross Beaty, the Jenabai Hussaini Shariff Family, the Sitka Foundation, Gulshan Kassamali Jiwa Family, and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund for the Environment. Across three seasons, VRW has produced 30 documentaries from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Nepal and beyond, available in English, Urdu, and Russian, with Arabic versions also planned.

Siddiqui stresses importance of books

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training (FE&PT) Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Tuesday underscored the importance of books as a pathway to knowledge and long-term success. He made these remarks during address to three-day 11th National Book Festival, being held at Lok Virsa from November 25-27, where Farah Naz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary, M/o FE&PT also participated. Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui urged the participants to read book abundantly, noting, "Books are your identity, your identity is your destiny." "It is difficult to create identity without pen and book," he added. He further said that being Muslim, the first commandment of our religion is IQRA, (Read), adding, "Knowledge is the lost heritage of the believer."

He recalled that our country was came into being in the name of religion, focusing, "we need to spend our live in the light of teachings of religion.--APP

Suparco NTC form strategic partnership

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening national capabilities in satellite-based telecommunication and information technology services. The ceremony was held at NTC Headquarters in Islamabad, attended by Chairman SUPARCO, Mohammad Yousuf Khan, and Managing Director NTC, Major General Ali Farhan along with senior officials and technical experts from both organizations. The partnership supports the national vision of "Satellite-Powered Digital Pakistan" by combining the technical expertise and operational strengths of both organizations to expand satellite-enabled communication and digital services, especially to remote and underserved areas. Under this MoU, NTC will gain access to Geo Communication Satellites for reliable nationwide connectivity. SUPARCO will utilize NTC's terrestrial network to deliver satellite communication services, satellite imagery, geospatial applications, cloud solutions, and secure digital platforms more effectively. The collaboration will also strengthen mission-critical communication, digital security, and data accessibility across Pakistan.--APP

Pakistan launches national digital health records: Kamal

ISLAMABAD:Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday said Pakistan is fundamentally transforming its healthcare system by shifting from a hospital dependent "sick-care model" to a comprehensive preventive framework focused on vaccination, clean water and nationwide digital medical records Addressing global health leaders at the Medical World Conference in Ankara he said real healthcare must begin at birth and operate through a "full preventive ecosystem" rather than relying solely on hospitals. He noted that Pakistan's previous approach centered on treating illness instead of preventing it, was not sustainable for a population of 250 million, including over 6 million newborns each year. "It is impossible for hospitals alone to address all illness," the minister said, adding that the government is now strengthening primary and secondary healthcare to ensure

early detection and prevention. A major pillar of this new strategy is the launch of a national Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system, which will create a Universal Medical Record (UMR) for every citizen by linking individual health data to the National Identity Card. Kamal said the project was inspired by Turkey's digital health ecosystem, developed after extensive collaboration and exchange of delegations between the two countries. He expressed Pakistan's desire to deepen practical cooperation with Turkey in modern, patient-focused medical services, noting that unified digital records would address longstanding fragmentation where provinces and hospitals operate in isolation. On the prevention side, the minister said the national immunization program has been expanded to 13 free vaccines, with the cervical cancer vaccine recently added. He also announced

a major new initiative to eliminate Hepatitis C, modeled on Egypt's successful national program, which will include nationwide screening. Kamal stressed that while the Health Ministry is driving major reforms, essential public health infrastructure including clean drinking water and sanitation were remains the responsibility of local governments. To support long-term self-reliance, Pakistan is also ramping up domestic vaccine production. The minister said the country aims to manufacture more than 13 types of vaccines within the next three years, with four production lines already functional. He urged global health organizations and international partners to strengthen collaboration with Pakistan in research, clinical trials and vaccine manufacturing, calling for joint efforts to "shape a healthier future through cooperative innovation and shared commitment."

Stakeholders unite to advance resilient education

ISLAMABAD: A national Policy Advocacy Workshop – "Voices for Education: From Evidence to Action" brought together government officials, development partners, and community organisations to advance efforts for quality, inclusive, and resilient education in Pakistan Federal Joint Secretary Education Asif Iqbal Asif thanked Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN) for its education programmes, including ECW's Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP), and stressed the need to address the 26 million out-of-school children, especially in the wake of recent floods. He reaffirmed government commitment to improving education and special education, according to a press statement issued here on Tuesday. ECW Education Programme Manager Amani Bwami Passy highlighted ECW's support through MYRP and the newly announced First Emergency Response (FER) grant for flood-damaged schools, reiterating commitment to education in emergencies. RSPN Vice Chairman and SRSP CEO Masood ul Mulk emphasised collaboration among government, communities, and development partners to improve education in underserved rural areas. Special Secretary Education Balochistan Abdul Salam appreciated MYRP's impact in Loralai, Kohlu and Panjgur, and urged ECW to expand the programme to more districts. RSPN CEO Shandana Khan acknowledged contributions of partners including UNICEF, ECW, BRSP and FCDO, noting that MYRP and ongoing EIE initiatives provide strong evidence for scale-up of quality education in crises. Deputy Secretary SED South Punjab Khawaja Mazhar-ul-Haq highlighted unified training systems, climate-resilient schools, and RSPN's support to flood-affected schools. MYRP Programme Manager Nasreen Shaikh shared that 49,782 children, including out-of-school children, were reached across three Balochistan districts through ECE and ALP centres, community mobilisation, teacher training, WASH improvements, girls' transport support, vocational training, assistive devices and psychosocial support.--APP

Govt allocates Rs 400m for new universities, research institutions

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has allocated Rs400 million for the establishment of new universities and research institutions in the country in order to expand academic opportunities and build a stronger foundation for future technological advancement According to documents available with Wealth Pakistan, an amount of Rs400 million allocated in FY2025-26 will be spent on the establishment of a public sector university in Muzaffargarh district, an institute of science and technology in Rajanpur, a campus of the Institute of Fashion Design in Karachi, and the establishment of an NCA Karachi campus. As for the budgetary details, Rs150 million has been allocated for building a public sector university in Muzaffargarh District of Punjab, Rs50 million for the establishment of the Institute of Science and Technology, Rajanpur, Rs100 million for the establishment of a campus of the Institute of Fashion Design, Karachi, and Rs100 million for the es-

tablishment of NCA Karachi Campus, Karachi. Besides this, the federal government has also taken some other initiatives. The plan to build the Danish University of Emerging Technologies, Islamabad is one of such steps. The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is the custodian of the project, while the modalities, including the enactment of its Charter/ Act, are in process. Likewise, the plan to establish King Hamad University of Nursing and Associated Medical Sciences in Islamabad is in progress. The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination is looking after the project. The modalities are expected to be completed in the upcoming months. The enactment of the Charter/Act for the establishment of Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Centre (University) is also in process. Moreover, the government has planned to establish the National University of Public Policy and Administration (NUPA), Islama-

bad. According to the documents, the government also allocated a development budget through specific projects aimed at both hard and soft interventions in universities. These include infrastructure development such as new campuses, academic and administrative blocks, hostels, and laboratories; human resource development; establishment, enhancement, and upgrading of laboratories and equipment; faculty development; procurement of transport; improvement of ICT infrastructure; and support for extra-curricular activities. According to the documents, the HEC's development portfolio for the FY2025-26 is Rs39.0 billion for 140 projects. The government, through special schemes/projects, also offers merit and need-based scholarships at undergraduate, post-graduate, and post-doctoral levels for students to promote higher education access. Starting a faculty development program is among the schemes aimed at enhancing the teaching.--APP

Strict action warned against schools forcing costly branded supplies

ISLAMABAD: Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) Spokesperson Sajid Gondal Tuesday, declared a firm crack-down with zero tolerance for the private school system, accused of pushing parents into buying expensive, branded supplies, warning of tough legal consequences. Talking to a private news channel, he explained that the Commission is taking all necessary legal steps against the school systems involved, adding, the action targets networks with multiple branches and coordinated teams that have allegedly been compelling parents to purchase costly, branded supplies. He added that the CCP initiated this process after conducting a detailed inquiry and field survey, which confirmed serious concerns raised by parents. According to him, the findings provided sufficient grounds to move forward with strict enforcement measures.The spokesperson noted that many private schools were not cooperating during the investigation and several institutions were failing to provide the required data that we had asked them. He further revealed that this lack of cooperation is not new, as the Commission had initially requested such information back in 2015, but many schools did not respond even then. The CCP, he emphasized, is determined to enforce accountability and ensure fair practices in the education sector. Responding to a query, he said numerous parents had lodged complaints about these schools, categorically reporting that schools were forcing them to buy logo-branded books and other costly items. To another question, he said private school systems have the option to pursue further legal forums, but the CCP remains fully committed to taking action under its rules and will not spare any institution that exploits consumers through unfair pricing or unjustified practices.--DNA

Call for collective action to end digital abuse against women

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday issued a message on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, calling violence against women a serious social and human injustice that requires strong and continued attention. She expressed solidarity with every woman and girl in Pakistan, reaffirming that their safety and dignity remain central to the country's development goals. The minister highlighted that real empowerment can only be achieved when women have access to education, digital skills and economic opportunities. She noted that these factors help women participate in national growth and ensure that they are better equipped to protect themselves, both online and offline. Commenting on this year's global theme – "Unite to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls" – Shaza Fatima said the message reflects an urgent need. She pointed to the rise in online harassment, blackmail and hateful behaviour, stressing that digital spaces must not become barriers for women. According to her, these trends demand immediate and organized responses from authorities, communities and technology stakeholders. The minister said that creating a safe digital environment for young women and girls is a top priority. She emphasized that technology can only support progress when women are confident that the digital world is safe and accessible to them. She added that opening pathways for women in technology is an essential pillar for Pakistan's digital future, as broader participation leads to stronger and more inclusive development. Shaza Fatima also acknowledged women who have survived digital abuse and those who continue to raise their voices against it. She said their courage encourages others to come forward and helps build awareness about the challenges women face in online spaces. --DNA

Int'l Day for elimination of violence against women marked

ISLAMABAD: Countries across the globe today observed the International Day for the elimination of violence against women, reaffirming their commitment to ending gender-based violence and supporting survivors through legislative, social and institutional reforms The United Nations, governments, civil society organizations and human rights groups held events, awareness campaigns and policy dialogues to highlight the alarming rates of violence faced by women and girls worldwide. The day also marks the launch of the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, which runs until 10 December. In his message for the day, UN leadership stressed that violence against women remains "one of the most pervasive human rights violations," calling for urgent investment in prevention, stronger legal protections, and survivor-centered services Experts highlighted that gender-based violence continues to affect women in homes, workplaces, public spaces and online environments. Commemorated every year on 25 November, the observance honors the memory of the Mirabal sisters—three Dominican activists assassinated in 1960—and serves as a global reminder that ending violence against women is essential to achieving equality, justice and sustainable development.--APP

Briefs

**First
World AMR
awareness
campaign held**

RAWALPINDI: The National Centre of Industrial Biotechnology (NCIB) at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi on Monday organized inaugural of first World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Campaign in which leading experts, scientists, and students from across Pakistan participated. The campaign aimed to raise public awareness about the growing global threat of antimicrobial resistance and to promote responsible practices in combating it. The theme of the event was "Act Now; Secure Our Present, Safeguard Our Future, Effective Fight Against Antimicrobial Resistance Through the One Health Approach". Vice Chancellor of Arid Agriculture University, Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, graced the occasion as chief guest, while Vice Chancellor of Health Services Academy (HSA) Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, and Vice Chancellor of International Institute of Health Innovation & Research (IIHIR), Prof. Dr. Shahana Urooj Kazmi attended as guests of honour. A large number of faculty members, researchers, representatives from medical and academic institutions, and students also participated. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman stressed the urgent need for collective action to curb the rising menace of AMR. He warned that antimicrobial resistance is silently emerging as one of the world's greatest public health threats.—APP

**SECP
approves PSX
regulation
overhaul**

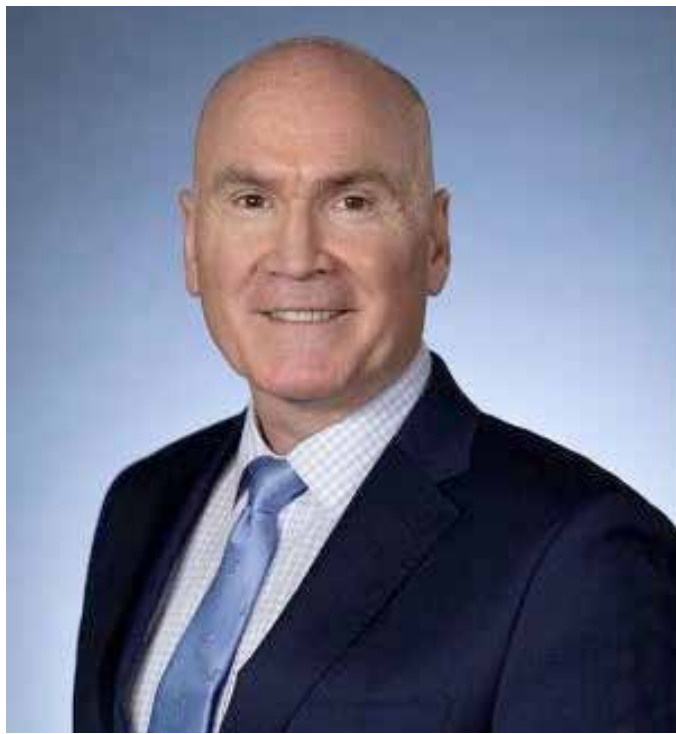
ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved amendments to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Regulations aimed at promoting greater market transparency, strengthening investor protection, and developing a robust Shariah-compliant capital market ecosystem. The approved changes require PSX to publicly disclose all disciplinary actions taken against listed companies on its website. This will enable investors to make better-informed decisions and enhance overall disclosure to market participants, said a news release here on Monday. Furthermore, listed companies must now provide Shariah-related disclosures on income, loans, and investments directly to PSX. This will give the exchange access to this information, allowing for accurate and timely Shariah screening for inclusion in the KMI All Share Index, thereby improving the reliability and credibility of Islamic indices. To further enhance transparency, PSX has been advised to develop and maintain Shariah Indices (KMI Indices) either itself or through an independent third party within 12 months from the date of the amendments.—APP

Australian Immi App now available to Pak visa applicants

Australian High Commissioner, Timothy Kane said this is a major step forward in making the Australian visa process easier and more accessible for people in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The process to apply for an Australian visa just got easier in Pakistan, thanks to the rollout of the Australian Immi App. From today, eligible applicants in Pakistan can use the free Australian Immi App



to submit passport details and facial biometrics directly from their smartphones—without needing to travel to a biometric collection centre. To be eligible, clients must have previously provided their biometrics (facial image and fingerprints) to the Department of Home Affairs, and hold a valid passport. Australian High Commissioner, Timothy Kane said this is a major step forward in making the Australian visa process easier and more accessible for people in Pakistan. "The Australian Immi App allows travellers, students and skilled workers to provide their details securely from their phone, saving time and travel costs," he said. Launched in 2024, the Australian Immi App has already proven to be a success across the Pacific and Asia, helping thousands of applicants complete visa requirements quickly and securely. With this latest rollout, the app is now

available in 34 countries, including new access across the Middle East, North Africa, Latin America and Europe. "We encourage all eligible visa applicants in Pakistan to use the app. It's secure, simple to use, and helps speed up visa applications—making travel to Australia easier and more convenient," said High Commissioner Kane. This rollout is part of the Department of Home Affairs' ongoing program to modernise visa services and improve traveller facilitation worldwide. The final global implementation of the app across all remaining countries in Australia's Biometric Collection Program is scheduled for early 2026. More information, including eligibility details and user guidance, is available on the Department of Home Affairs website: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/supporting/Pages/australian-immi-app.aspx>.

South exchange at COP30 opens with strong calls 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 Researcher 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. From Bangladesh, Sharif Jamil, Coordinator, Waterkeepers Bangladesh, said fossil fuel phase-out commitments without parallel finance risked becoming a trap for developing economies. He said that unpredictable monsoons and cloudbursts could not be addressed through private-sector interventions alone. Providing a regional perspective, Harjeet Singh, Global Expert at the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, said the latest draft text released early morning contained no reference to fossil fuels, and its finance section remained extremely weak. He termed the Colombia-led coalition of 80 governments supporting a fossil fuel phase-out roadmap a positive development outside the Paris Agreement. A representative of the Alliance for Climate Justice and Clean Energy (ACJCE) read a statement urging structural reforms in the UNFCCC process, including transparent negotiations, curbs on fossil-fuel lobbyists and enhanced support for vulnerable groups.—DNA

Ahsan urges youth to spearhead nation's next uplift leap

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday urged Pakistan's youth to steer the country towards a new era of stability, creativity and national reconstruction, saying the nation was "ready to take its fourth historic flight." Addressing the inaugural session of Uraan Pakistan National Debate-2025, he said the initiative aimed to nurture intellectual leadership, promote moral and civic awareness, and equip young people with the knowledge required to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving technological era. The minister said Pakistan possessed immense natural and human resources, including a hardworking population, fertile land, rich mineral wealth and a digitally connected society. "We must recognise that despite enormous bless-

ings and significant achievements, our pace of development has lagged behind other nations that once trailed us," he added. Recalling Pakistan's early struggles, Ahsan Iqbal said the country began its journey with extreme scarcity - even lacking basic office supplies - yet went on to emerge as the world's seventh nuclear power, build modern fighter jets and develop a diverse industrial base. The expansion from only a few universities to nearly 250 institutions today, he said, demonstrated the nation's capacity for progress. He, however, said inconsistent policies and political disruptions had repeatedly halted long-term development plans. Vision 2010 and Vision 2025, he said, were both designed to place Pakistan among the world's leading economies, but derailed due to instability and abrupt policy discontinuity. "Successful countries advance by choosing peace, stability, continuity of policy and sustained reforms," he added. The minister said Uraan Pakistan represented the continuation of the aspirations set under Vision 2025, aimed at positioning youth as key partners in national reconstruction. He said programmes were already underway to involve young Pakistanis in economic and social development, adding that their role as ambassadors of peace, unity and national cohesion was indispensable. Ahsan Iqbal urged youth to look towards Pakistan's centenary year in 2047 with ambition and clarity of purpose. "The young falcons of Pakistan are not limited in their flight," he said. "We must take them to the stars through the power of knowledge, creativity and character."—DNA

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**NCSW
commemorates
16 Days of
Activism**

ISLAMABAD: Marking the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) on Monday announced the launch of Pakistan's most advanced Multi-Channel Gender-Based Violence Complaint Management System. Aligned with this year's UN theme, "UNiTE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls," NCSW underscored its national commitment to strengthening survivor-centered reporting pathways and addressing the alarming rise in technology-facilitated gender-based violence across Pakistan. In partnership with PKCERT, and in response to the rapid surge in digital threats including deepfakes, cyberstalking, extortion, and online harassment, NCSW is also announcing the soft launch of its Misinformation & Disinformation Awareness Campaign along with the Khudi Digital Safety Video Series, designed to equip women and girls with essential online safety skills and digital resilience tools. Launching these initiatives during the 16 Days of Activism reflects NCSW's strengthened resolve to: expand safe, confidential, multi-channel complaint access for women and girls; combat misinformation, deepfakes, and digitally enabled abuse; strengthen prevention.

**End violence
against women
through
collective
resolve**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, in his message on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, said that preventing all forms of violence and harassment against women is a shared social responsibility. Naqvi emphasized that no state can establish a system of complete justice without ensuring the safety, dignity and freedom of women. He said the Constitution of Pakistan not only guarantees equal rights to women but also obligates the state to play an active and decisive role in their protection. Highlighting Islamic principles, the minister said Islam accords women a level of respect and sanctity that renders all forms of violence, coercion and exploitation morally, legally and socially unacceptable. "The protection of women is fundamental to preserving human dignity and ensuring lasting social peace," he added.—DNA

Junaid proposes direct feeder lines

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia are exploring a new cooperation framework to expand maritime training and deepen port-sector collaboration following a high-level meeting on Tuesday Malaysia's Deputy Minister of Transport, Datuk Hasbi bin Habibollah met Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, on the sidelines of maritime engagements in the United Kingdom. During the discussion,

both sides reviewed ongoing cooperation and explored new avenues to strengthen bilateral collaboration in the maritime sector. Junaid Chaudhry offered to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing seafarer training and facilitating the exchange of marine cadets. He noted that the proposed MoU would allow Pakistan to send its marine cadets to Malaysian academies, while Malaysia would, in turn, send its

cadets to Pakistan for specialised training programs. "This exchange will contribute to the professional development of young seafarers in both countries and strengthen long-term cooperation in the maritime sector," the maritime minister added. The minister also offered Malaysia access to Pakistan's expanding expertise in digital port solutions, including the Pakistan Single Window platform now fully operational

at Karachi Port and Port Qasim. Islamabad has been promoting its digital-trade infrastructure as a model for reducing cargo-clearance times, improving transparency, and enhancing overall trade facilitation. Beyond training and digitalisation, Junaid Chaudhry pushed for deeper operational cooperation on trade routes. He proposed establishing direct feeder shipping lines between Pakistan and Malaysia, with onward connectivity to Indonesia, to cut transport durations and reduce freight costs. The minister observed the proposed feeder links could give a major boost to Pakistan's rice exports to Southeast Asia, while simultaneously streamlining edible oil imports from Malaysia and Indonesia. He added the proposal aligns with Pakistan's broader strategy to strengthen maritime connectivity with ASEAN economies, where demand for Pakistani agricultural products has been steadily rising. For Malaysia, the initiative offers an opportunity to broaden its maritime training network and enhance regional logistics integration as part of its transport-sector modernisation agenda. Both sides agreed to hold further technical consultations in the coming weeks to finalise the MoU's scope, define training modules, and establish mechanisms for implementing the cadet-exchange programme.—DNA



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Why Israel's plan to divide Gaza is doomed to fail

DR. RAMZY BAROUD

UN Security Council Resolution 2803 is destined to fail. That failure will come at a price: more Palestinian deaths, extensive destruction and the expansion of Israeli violence to the West Bank and elsewhere in the Middle East. The resolution, passed last week, was a consolation prize for Israel after it failed to achieve its ultimate objective from the two-year Gaza genocide: the ethnic cleansing of the population and its complete takeover of the Strip. Gaza shattered a core Israeli doctrine: the absolute certainty of its military supremacy's ability to subdue the Palestinian people using far superior US and Western-supplied technology. Though the occupation was never expected to be easy – as Israel's history of violence in the Strip attests – the complete takeover was, in the minds of the Israeli leadership, a foregone conclusion. In August, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated with total confidence that Israel aimed to "take control of all of Gaza." That proved to be wishful thinking.

How Israel has failed to subdue an impoverished and besieged population of 2 million people, subjected to a blockade, famine and one of the world's most horrific genocides, is a question for future historians. The immediate consequence, however, is political: Israel and its Western backers, especially the US, understand that an utter Israeli failure in Gaza would be interpreted by Israel's victims as a pivotal sign of the times. An utter Israeli failure in Gaza would be interpreted by Israel's victims as a pivotal sign of the times. In fact, the notion of Israel's implosion and the end of the Zionist project has moved from the margins of intellectual conversation into the center. These ideas are bolstered by Israelis themselves and are a recurring topic in the Israeli media. A headline in Haaretz on Nov. 15 was hardly shocking: "At a secret Harvard site, a massive archive of Israeliana is preserved – in case Israel ceases to exist."

Thus, US President Donald Trump's "Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict," signed in Sharm El-Sheikh last month, was the official start of the American scheme to save Israel from its own blunders. The supposed ceasefire was meant to give Israel the chance to maneuver. Instead of occupying all of Gaza and pushing the Palestinians out, Israel would now use social and political engineering to achieve the same goal. The first phase of the plan, which placed most of Gaza under Israeli military control in anticipation of a gradual withdrawal, is already proving to be a sham. At the time of writing, Israel, according to the Gaza

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government's media office, had violated the agreement nearly 400 times, killing more than 300 Palestinians. Israel also continues to systematically demolish Palestinian areas. Worse still, according to Gaza authorities, Israel has been expanding the share of Gaza it controls, estimated at about 58 percent, by moving the so-called Yellow Line westward. The "ceasefire" has effectively enforced a new mechanism that allows Israel to carry out a one-sided war – with further territorial expansion, destruction, assassinations and occasional massacres – while Palestinians expect nothing but the mere slowing of the Israeli death machine. This is not sustainable, especially since Israel has also violated the most basic principle of the imaginary ceasefire: allowing vital aid to enter Gaza. The UNSC resolution fully serves Israel's interests, hence Netanyahu's enthusiasm, yet Tel Aviv is still refusing to respect it. UNSC Resolution 2803 endorses the Trump peace plan without placing any legally binding expectations on Israel. It establishes a transitional administration that entirely excludes Palestinians, including the Western-supported Palestinian Authority. The executive branch of this administration would be the International Stabilization Force, whose sole job is to "stabilize the security environment in Gaza" on behalf of Israel, notably by disarming Palestinian groups. The force, according to the resolution, will operate "in close consultation and co-operation" with Israel, meaning the force will be tasked with achieving Tel Aviv's military objectives, thereby allowing Israel to determine the timing and nature of its own supposed gradual withdrawal. Since Palestinians refuse to disarm – as unconditional disarmament without meaningful international guarantees would surely lead to the full return of the Israeli genocide – Israel will certainly refuse to leave Gaza. Netanyahu made that clear last week, when he stated that Israel would not withdraw without disarming Hamas, "either the easy way or the hard way."

The partition of Gaza is a US-led attempt to change the nature of the challenge for Tel Aviv, while ultimately aiming to achieve the same objectives. The UNSC resolution fully serves Israel's interests, hence Netanyahu's enthusiasm, yet Tel Aviv is still refusing to respect it, making it clear there will be no phase two of Trump's original plan. The entire political scheme, however, is doomed to fail. Though Palestinian suffering will certainly worsen in the coming months, the US-Israeli gambit is fundamentally flawed: it is built on trickery and coercion, resting on the false assumption that Palestinians, fearing genocide, will accept any plan imposed on them. This premise ignores history. Palestinians have consistently defeated the sophisticated mechanisms designed to break them, meaning this new arrangement is equally unsustainable. Ultimately, the failure of UNSC Resolution 2803 confirms one enduring truth: the Israeli war on Gaza has not stopped. It has simply changed form. It is crucial that people around the world understand this next phase for what it is: a diplomatic maneuver designed to facilitate the ongoing Israeli plan to control the Gaza Strip and ethnically cleanse its population.

360° on the Russia – Ukraine Peace Plan

Qamar Bashir



THE search for peace between Russia and Ukraine has entered a new and complicated phase, shaped not only by events on the battlefield but by the conflicting ambitions of global powers, domestic pressures on leaders, and the shifting calculus of international diplomacy. For nearly three years, the world has watched the war drag on with unrelenting devastation, and yet none of the principal actors—Russia, Ukraine, the United States, or Europe—have fully embraced a compromise that could end the conflict. Today, diplomacy is active but still gridlocked. Negotiators produce frameworks, counter-frameworks...

THE search for peace between Russia and Ukraine has entered a new and complicated phase, shaped not only by events on the battlefield but by the conflicting ambitions of global powers, domestic pressures on leaders, and the shifting calculus of international diplomacy. For nearly three years, the world has watched the war drag on with unrelenting devastation, and yet none of the principal actors—Russia, Ukraine, the United States, or Europe—have fully embraced a compromise that could end the conflict. Today, diplomacy is active but still gridlocked. Negotiators produce frameworks, counter-frameworks, amendments, but the distance between what Moscow demands and what Kyiv can accept remains wide enough to keep real peace out of reach. A full 360° examination reveals that every stakeholder wants peace on their own terms, and those terms often collide instead of converging. The latest chapter in this ongoing diplomatic effort began when the United States unveiled a detailed 28-point peace proposal designed to force movement where the front lines had stalled. The Trump administration hoped that a comprehensive framework could bring Kyiv and Moscow toward a ceasefire, territorial compromise, and eventual normalization of relations. But the plan ignited controversy immediately. Many in Europe and Ukraine interpreted it as leaning heavily toward Moscow's demands—especially on territory, NATO membership, and the size of Ukraine's armed forces. Trump publicly expressed frustration that he could not "end the war in 24 hours" as he had long promised on the campaign trail, discovering instead that the political, military, and emotional realities of the conflict were far more complex than campaign rhetoric allowed.

Ukraine's response was swift and firm. President Volodymyr Zelensky called the idea of trading territory for peace "absolutely unacceptable," repeating his long-standing position that Ukraine cannot cede land to legitimize Russia's aggression. Kyiv also rejected any limits on the size or structure of its army, arguing that a nation under invasion must reserve the right to defend itself without external constraints. Recent speeches in European parliaments—particularly Zelensky's appearance in Stockholm—reinforced Ukraine's demand that Russia pay for the war through reparations and frozen assets. In Kyiv's view, peace without justice would simply embolden future aggression, turning Ukraine into a precedent rather than a victor.

Yet Ukraine also faces military fatigue, economic strain, and internal pressure to find a path toward stability. That is why Zelensky agreed to meet U.S. diplomats in Geneva, where a "refined peace framework" was announced. The revised American position, though not publicly detailed, signaled a shift toward accommodating Ukraine's red lines on sovereignty and security guarantees. It was a diplomatic maneuver designed to reassure Kyiv while keeping Moscow tentatively engaged. However, without

public details, the framework remains more of a political gesture than a concrete roadmap, and Russia has not formally endorsed it.

On the Russian side, President Vladimir Putin has alternated between signaling openness to negotiations and insisting that Russia's territorial gains remain non-negotiable. Moscow said the original U.S. proposal could serve as a "basis for further discussion," primarily because it reflected several longstanding Russian demands: a guarantee that Ukraine would never join NATO, international acceptance of the annexed regions, and a demilitarized Ukraine incapable of threatening Russian territory. For the Kremlin, any settlement must also include the phased lifting of Western sanctions—preferably early in the process rather than at the end. Putin has emphasized that Russia will not halt operations unless the political settlement secures these goals, and he has warned that if Ukraine rejects the deal outright, Russian forces will "resolve it on the ground."

The United States now finds itself occupying an awkward middle ground. It remains Ukraine's principal military backer, but it is also attempting to shape a diplomatic settlement that could end a war with global economic and strategic consequences. The political pressure on Washington is tangible. Inside the U.S., critics argue that the administration's proposal either forces Ukraine toward capitulation or, conversely, does too little to compel Moscow. Trump's impatience—calling for a deal "before Thanksgiving"—clashes with the slow pace of diplomatic reality. U.S. envoys have tried to smooth the fissures by insisting that Washington will not impose peace on Ukraine, while simultaneously pushing for a framework that would satisfy Moscow enough to freeze the conflict.

Europe's role has become increasingly assertive. After two years of relying heavily on U.S. leadership, European governments now insist that peace cannot be brokered through a bilateral U.S.–Russia channel. Officials in Berlin, Warsaw, Paris, and London have emphasized that European security architecture is directly affected by whatever settlement emerges. They warn that any agreement that rewards Russia could destabilize Europe for decades. Many European capitals are quietly drafting an alternative peace package emphasizing tougher security guarantees for Ukraine, long-term military support, and maintaining frozen Russian assets until reparations are addressed. European leaders publicly describe recent diplomatic movement as "promising," but privately they express concern that Washington's desire for a quick deal could undermine Ukraine's sovereignty and Europe's stability.

China, though not directly involved in the latest negotiations, continues to promote its earlier 12-point peace blueprint calling for a ceasefire, negotiation, and respect for sovereignty—while opposing unilateral

sanctions. But Beijing avoids demanding Russian withdrawal and instead emphasizes "legitimate security concerns of all parties," a phrase widely interpreted as support for Moscow's objections to NATO expansion. China's stance gives Russia diplomatic cover and economic stability but also enables Beijing to present itself as a global peacemaker without assuming real responsibility for the outcome.

India maintains a carefully balanced position, calling repeatedly for dialogue and diplomacy while avoiding any criticism of Moscow. New Delhi has become one of the largest buyers of discounted Russian oil, even as it increases exports of refined fuels—ironically, some of which end up in European markets. India portrays itself as a potential bridge between East and West, but it has not presented a concrete peace proposal. Instead, it limits its role to public messaging and quiet diplomacy.

With so many competing perspectives, what is the actual trajectory of peace? Diplomatically, activity has increased; substantively, the gap remains as wide as ever. The United States wants a deal but cannot impose one. Ukraine wants peace without sacrifice. Russia wants concessions Kyiv cannot accept. Europe wants a settlement that does not reward aggression. China wants stability without compromising its relationship with Moscow. India wants neutrality without irrelevance.

Most experts predict that a final peace deal remains distant. The war has not reached a point where either side believes the battlefield has exhausted its political value. Absent a dramatic military shift or a major political transition in Moscow, Kyiv, or Washington, the most plausible near-term outcome is not full peace but a limited arrangement—perhaps a sectoral ceasefire around the Black Sea or a monitored freeze along a defined front line. Even such limited steps, however, require trust, guarantees, and enforcement mechanisms that the parties have not yet agreed upon.

A comprehensive settlement that resolves territorial disputes, security guarantees, sanctions, and reparations may ultimately require a new geopolitical moment—one in which either Russia recognizes the cost of perpetual war or Ukraine recalibrates its conditions for peace under global pressure. Until then, the negotiations will continue, the frameworks will multiply, and diplomats will fly from Riyadh to Geneva to Ankara hoping that one day the war will finally bend toward resolution. But for now, the Russia–Ukraine peace plan remains an aspiration more than a destination, suspended between what the world hopes for and what the parties can actually accept.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)

Former Press Minister,
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Former Press Attaché to Malaysia
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Crucial Role of spokesperson in High-Performing Organizations

Imran Ghaznavi



In conclusion, the job of a spokesperson is a multifaceted and challenging one. It requires not only the ability to communicate effectively but also demands access to timely and relevant information. In high-performing organizations and the public sector...

THE role of a spokesperson is undeniably crucial, particularly in high-performing organizations and the public sector. It's important to note that unless they are part of the Board of Directors or hold the position of Chief Information Officer (CIO), the seamless functioning of these entities might not meet the expectations.

In today's fast-paced environment, information flows swiftly from diverse sources. To navigate this information landscape successfully, a spokesperson must be hands-on, equipped with relevant and up-to-date information. Without this real-time knowledge, crafting timely, accurate, and effective responses becomes an uphill battle.

Accessing information within an organization can often prove challenging. This challenge is particularly pronounced in the public sector, where information is frequently restricted to a select few. This restricted access not only hampers internal communication but also gives rise to a significant lack of transparency. The spokesperson, acting as the voice of the organization, is handicapped in delivering accurate and comprehensive information to the public and stakeholders.

In the public sector, a weak agenda-setting by the CEO or head of the organization exacerbates the spokesperson's challenges. When leaders fail to provide a clear and strong direction, it places an additional burden on the spokesperson to navigate the complexities of communication. The spokesperson's task becomes doubly difficult as they attempt to articulate the organization's stance without a solid foundation set by leadership.

In essence, the effectiveness of a spokesperson hinges on being well-versed in the organization's affairs and having access to a broad spectrum of information. This not only requires a proactive approach but also a culture of openness and transparency within the organization. The spokesperson's ability to respond promptly and accurately depends on the organization's commitment to providing them with the necessary insights.

In the context of a public sector organization, fostering transparency becomes paramount. Breaking down information silos and ensuring that relevant data is disseminated across the organization empower the spokesperson. A transparent organizational

culture not only enhances communication internally but also contributes to building trust with the public and other stakeholders.

Moreover, the spokesperson's role extends beyond mere information dissemination; they play a pivotal role in shaping the narrative surrounding the organization. The strength of their responses can influence public perception, and their effectiveness is contingent on being well-informed and aligned with the organization's goals and values.

In conclusion, the job of a spokesperson is a multifaceted and challenging one. It requires not only the ability to communicate effectively but also demands access to timely and relevant information. In high-performing organizations and the public sector, where transparency is often a hurdle, the spokesperson faces additional challenges. The success of a spokesperson is intricately tied to the organization's commitment to openness, strong leadership, and a culture that values the importance of clear and accurate communication.

– The author is an accomplished strategic communication and Reputation Management professional with over 30 year of public and private sector experience

Briefs

DG ISPR
refutes...

FROM PAGE 01

The army said in December 2024 that he was indicted by a military court on three counts — engaging in political activities, violating anti-espionage laws, and abusing his authority. The case against Gen Hameed was made following a Supreme Court ruling in November 2023, which directed petitioner Moez Ahmed Khan, owner of Islamabad's Top City housing society, to pursue grievances through appropriate channels, including the Ministry of Defence. Khan had alleged that a May 12, 2017, raid on his property by Pakistan Rangers and ISI officials resulted in the seizure of valuables, including gold, diamonds, and cash, under the pretext of a counterterrorism operation.

Islamabad
attack...

FROM PAGE 01

"Usman Shinwari was provided with the suicide jacket and carried out the attack in G-11. The terrorists intended to cause major damage but failed to reach their target," he said. He said that all planning of the attack was carried out from Afghanistan. Sajidullah alias is the main suspect and has been a member of the Afghan Taliban. During the press conference, the minister also presented a video statement of Sajidullah Shina, confessing his role in planning and facilitating the attack.

Pakistan
airspace...

FROM PAGE 01

the volcano were observed as far as Delhi, Gujarat and Rajasthan, and that the effects of the ash rising from the volcano were also observed as far as Punjab and Haryana. It said the ash clouds are moving towards China and that the ash clouds will leave India by Tuesday evening at 7:30pm. Air India said it had cancelled 11 flights on Monday and Tuesday to make precautionary checks on aircraft that had flown over some locations after the eruption, following a directive to airlines from India's aviation regulator. Smaller peer Akasa said it had scrapped scheduled flights with Middle East destinations such as Jeddah, Kuwait, and Abu Dhabi scheduled during the two days.

Security
forces kill...

FROM PAGE 01

The IBO comes a day after three terrorists were killed in an attack on Federal Constabulary (FC) headquarters in Peshawar, which also resulted in the martyrdom of three FC personnel. A suicide bomber, as per a preliminary police report, a suicide bomber approached the main gate of the FC Headquarters, covering himself. He detonated explosives at the checkpoint, martyring three personnel on the spot. Immediately following the blast, two more attackers entered the headquarters compound from a side gate. Both were armed with rifles and hand grenades.

Pakistan
conducts...

FROM PAGE 01

The New York Times' 2024 DealBook Summit, the... Geo TV Pakistan - Breaking News, World, Business, Sports, Entertainment, and Video News It features state-of-the-art guidance technology along with enhanced manoeuvrability for improved performance in complex operational environments. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, along with senior scientists and engineers, witnessed the test, the ISPR added. The military's media wing said the achievement underscores Pakistan's growing technological competence and the Navy's commitment to safeguarding national interests. President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz, outgoing Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and the services chiefs congratulated the participating units and scientists on the milestone.

Thrilling NPC Hockey match:
Legends XI beat Journalists XI

The exhibition match, held at the Nasir Bunda Hockey Ground, saw the Legends XI led by Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Secretary General Rana Mujahid, while the Journalists XI was captained by PFUJ President Afzal Butt



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD :A friendly hockey match organized by the National Press Club Islamabad between Hockey Legends XI and Journalists XI concluded with the Legends team winning by a margin of two goals. The exhibition match, held at the Nasir Bunda Hockey Ground, saw the Legends XI led by Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Secretary General Rana Mujahid, while the Journalists XI was captained by PFUJ President Afzal Butt. The event was attended by a large number of notable personalities, including President National Press Club Azhar Jatoti, Governing Body Member

Shakeel Awan, senior journalist Shehryar Ahmed, former governing body member Zulfiqar Baig, former PHF treasurer Muhammad Ikhtlaq Usmani, hockey legend Shahbaz Senior, head coach Olympian Tahir Zaman, Olympian Anjum Saeed, Secretary General Islamabad Olympic Association Rizwan-ul-Haq Razi, Deputy Head of Mission Romanian Embassy Eduard Preda and former MD PTV Akhtar Waqar Azeem, among many others. In an exciting contest, the Legends XI defeated the Journalists XI by 8-6. For the Legends XI, Rana Mujahid scored three goals, while Shahbaz Senior, Tahir Zaman, and Anjum Saeed contributed one goal each. For the Journalists XI, Ansar Bhatti, Nasir Aslam Raja, and Afzal Javed scored goals.

Benzema
Scores Twice
as Al-Ittihad
Fall to
Al-Duhail

DOHA: Karim Benzema scored twice but Al-Ittihad lost 4-2 to Al-Duhail of Qatar in the Asian Champions League Elite on Monday. It was the Saudi Arabian champion's third loss in five games in the continental competition. The top eight from the 12-team western zone group stage — the first round of the tournament is split into geographic halves — advance to the knock-out phase. Algerian forward Adil Boulbina put Al-Duhail in control with a hat trick — scoring twice in the first half and adding a third seven minutes after the restart. — DNA

Shohei Ohtani to represent
Japan in 2026 World
Baseball Classic

LOS ANGELES: Four-time MLB MVP Shohei Ohtani announced on Monday that he plans to play for Japan in next year's World Baseball Classic. Ohtani wrote on Instagram in English, "Fans, thank you for being with me through a wonderful season. I will train hard and see you again next year." He also added in Japanese, "I am happy to be able to play again representing Japan," confirming his participation in the WBC. Ohtani previously helped Japan win the 2023 WBC, striking out then-LA Angels teammate Mike Trout for the final out of the championship game against the United States. In addition to the championship, Ohtani earned his fourth MVP award this month, shortly after helping the Dodgers win their second straight World Series title. He returned to the mound this season after not pitching in 2024 while recovering from Tommy John surgery. In the postseason, he arguably delivered the great-

est game in Major League history, striking out 10 batters and hitting three home runs as the Dodgers completed a four-game sweep of Milwaukee in the NL Championship Series. Ohtani's Major League batting record includes 1,033 games, a .282 average (3,730 at-bats, 1,050 hits), 280 home runs, 669 RBIs, 708 runs scored, 165 stolen bases, and an OPS of .956. Additionally, Ohtani hit .282 in 158 games as a batter (611 at-bats, 172 hits), with 55 home runs, 102 RBIs, 146 runs, 20 stolen bases, and an OPS of 1.014. As a pitcher in 14 games (47 innings), he recorded a 2.87 ERA. Meanwhile, this edition of the WBC will be the sixth iteration of the global baseball tournament, featuring 20 teams competing in four first-round pools in Tokyo, San Juan, Houston, and Miami. The tournament is scheduled to begin in March. — Agencies

Aisam-ul-Haq announces retirement
from professional tennis career

Retirement brings to an end a remarkable journey spanning more than two decades

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's veteran tennis star Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi on Monday announced his retirement from professional tennis, bringing an end to a remarkable career spanning over two decades that firmly placed Pakistan on the global tennis map. The 45-year-old made the announcement during the inaugural ceremony of the country's first-ever ATP Challenger Cup in Islamabad, an event that also highlighted his long-standing efforts to promote tennis in Pakistan. The crowd rose to its feet as Aisam formally bid farewell to a glittering career, closing one of the most distinguished chapters in Pakistan's international tennis history. During the ceremony, Aisam reflected on the early challenges he faced and the support system that guided him throughout his career. He recounted how his long-time coach Haseeb Aslam initially refused to train him and only agreed after persistent requests from Aisam's mother. "My parents were my real strength," he



said. "Their belief, sacrifices, and constant encouragement shaped me into the player I became." He also expressed gratitude to his coaches, mentors, fellow players, and the Pakistani sports media for amplifying his achievements on the international stage. "I'm grateful to all who helped bring out the

best in me," he added. Aisam has secured numerous ATP titles, but his historic appearance in the men's doubles final of the 2010 US Open remains a standout moment, earning him international recognition and marking one of Pakistan's most notable achievements in tennis. — Agencies

Ten-Man Everton Stun
Manchester United
Despite Gueye Red

MANCHESTER: Everton beat Manchester United 1-0 on Monday to slow the home team's recent revival in a Premier League game that will be remembered for an early red card shown to Everton's Idrissa Gueye for striking teammate Michael Keane. Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall scored with a superb strike in the 29th minute, after which Everton were forced to defend their lead. United dominated the visiting 10 men in a one-sided second half but couldn't find a way past England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford. "They were the better team, with 11 players or 10," United coach Ruben Amorim said. "I felt from the first minute that we were not there with the same intensity so they deserve the win. If they have 10, let's push the opponent to the final third. We need to be near on the transition. We needed to be focused. We need to do more." It was United's first defeat since losing 3-1 at Brentford almost two months ago and the first time in 47 Premier League games that a visiting team has won at Old Trafford with 10 men. However, the night's unforgettable talking point came after 13 minutes. Gueye was furious at what appeared to be Keane's failure to pick up his pass inside the Everton penalty box. Bruno Fernandes stepped in and fired wide but an angry Gueye confronted Keane. Keane shoved Gueye, who responded with a slap to Keane's face. Referee Tony Harrington displayed the red card for "violent conduct." "The referee's call of red card to Gueye for violent conduct was checked and confirmed by VAR — with the action deemed to be a clear strike to the face of Keane," the league said in a social media post. — APP

President, PM praise...

FROM PAGE 01

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the entire nation stood with Pakistan's armed forces in this war against terrorism. "We are determined to purge the country of terrorism in all of its forms," he resolved.

Pakistan, Iran vow...

FROM PAGE 01

Before leaving for Islamabad, Larjani wrote on his X timeline in Urdu, calling Pakistan "a friendly and brotherly country" saying that the Iranian people would never forget how the Pakistani nation stood by the Iranian nation during the 12-day war imposed on Iran in mid-June. He said that being two significant and influential countries, Iran and Pakistan consistently prioritize peace and security in the region.

Pakistan conducted...

FROM PAGE 01

Iran has stepped in, making fresh efforts to mediate and promote reconciliation between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Briefs

PSX stays
bullish, loses
291 points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday witnessed a bearish trend, losing 291.59 points, a decline of 0.18 percent, to close at 161,692.49 points compared to 161,984.09 points on the previous trading day. A total of 590.53 million shares were traded in the ready market with a value of Rs22.15 billion, against 490.35 million shares worth Rs23.66 billion in the previous session. Market capitalisation decreased to Rs18.417 trillion from Rs18.469 trillion. Out of 477 active companies, 155 closed higher, 284 declined, and 38 remained unchanged.—APP

Rupee gains
04 paise
against US
Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 04 paise against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 280.56 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 280.60. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 281.55 and Rs 281.7, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs0.18 to close at Rs323.27, from the previous day's close of Rs 323.45, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.79, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of 36 paise and closed at Rs 368.07 compared to the previous day's Rs 367.71. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham remained stagnant and closed at Rs 76.39 while the Saudi Riyal came down by 01 paise to close at Rs 74.80.—APP

Gold price
surges by
Rs.7,700 per
tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of per tola of 24-karat gold on Tuesday jumped by Rs 7,700 to reach Rs 436,562, compared to Rs 428,862 the previous day, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSG-JA). Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold increased by Rs 6,601, rising to Rs 374,281 from Rs 367,680 on Monday, while the rate of 10 grams of 22-karat gold went up by Rs 6,051 to Rs 343,103 against Rs 337,052 the day before. In the international market, gold prices climbed by US\$ 77, reaching US\$ 4,142 per ounce compared to the previous rate of US\$ 4,065. Meanwhile, the price of per tola silver rose by Rs 152 to Rs 5,422 from Rs 5,270, while the rate of 10 grams silver increased by Rs 130, moving to Rs 4,648 from Rs 4,518.—APP

Xi Jinping
calls Rus-
sia-China
energy coop
exemplary

BEIJING, Nov 25 (TASS/APP): China-Russia energy cooperation has a strong foundation and serves as a model of mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries, according to a message from Chinese President Xi Jinping to participants of the 7th Russia-China Energy Business Forum "China-Russia energy cooperation has a long history and a solid foundation. It is a model of mutually beneficial interaction between our two countries and plays an active role in promoting their economic and social development and improving the well-being of their peoples," China Central Television quoted him as saying. Rosneft CEO Igor Sechin said earlier at the Russia-China Energy Business Forum that the cost of electricity for industry in Russia and China is more than twice as low as in the United States, and three to four times lower than in some European countries – a natural competitive advantage.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed during his visit to the construction site of Jinnah Medical Complex and Danish University.

Jam opens 3rd Int'l food, agriculture exhibition

Jam Kamal Khan, talking to the media at the occasion, said that participation of 850 delegates from European, African, American continents, ASEAN, Bahrain, China and other countries is an evidence that the world sees great potential in Pakistan

KARACHI: Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, on Tuesday, opened the 3rd International Food and Agriculture Exhibition FoodAg 2025 at Expo Center Karachi for three days featuring a variety of Pakistan's food and agriculture products under the theme of 'Harvesting Innovation, Cultivating Sustainability'. The Inauguration ceremony of the exhibition was attended by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Chief Executive Faiz Ahmad and Secretary Sheryar Taj, higher officials, diplomats of friendly countries as well as business delegates and leadership of trade and industrial fraternity of Pakistan. The federal minister flanked with TDAP high-ups and visiting dignitaries, visited different stalls set up in the exhibition by more than 350 leading Pakistani exporters; showcasing the country's finest staple grains, a vast variety of fruits specially mangoes, kinnows and dates, Himalayan pink salt, premium seafood, halal meat and dairy

products, spices and value-added foods to over 800 pre-qualified international buyers from more than 80 countries. Jam Kamal Khan, talking to the media at the occasion, said that participation of 850 delegates from European, African, American continents, ASEAN, Bahrain, China and other countries is an evidence that the world sees great potential in Pakistan. Pakistani companies have shown great performance in the past years while the quality of Pakistani products is excellent, he said and urged on attracting more foreign trade partners and gaining further space for Pakistani products in the foreign markets. The commerce minister said that major economic indicators in Pakistan have improved with significant decline in inflation and policy rate while overall challenges are being closely monitored and maximum possible facilitation has been extended to export sectors. The Prime Minister has taken a significant decision on the EFS surcharge under the Export Devel-

opment Fund the other day, he added, while negotiations on old FTAs with various countries were underway. He also highlighted the progress in newly tapped African markets and growing trade relations with Bangladesh and stated that the government is addressing the challenges at both macro and micro levels and extensive consultations were being made with the trade, business and industrial sectors. Terming Pakistan's security and stability as the top priority, Jam Kamal said that "Our major concern with Afghanistan is use of their territory against Pakistan and as a Pakistani security and safety of the homeland must be our first priority and what is in it." If security is not ensured across the border, Pakistan will be forced to take measures while positive measures could only be expected when Afghanistan takes necessary steps on their part, he stated. The 3rd FoodAg 2025, encompasses a large number of pre-arranged B2B meetings, nine high-level conferences on sustainability and traceabil-

ity, and a spectacular Pakistan Cuisine Pavilion featuring 21 celebrity chefs from five continents cooking live using only Pakistani ingredients. The TDAP is anticipating over \$1 billion business generation from the exhibition along with creation of thousands of jobs and long-term partnerships that will benefit farmers and exporters across the country. The buyer delegation included top importers from Asia (over 300, led by major Chinese state and private companies, Malaysia's BERNAS, Indonesia's PT Laris Manis Utama and Sri Lankan conglomerates), Europe (Surya Foods – Europe's largest basmati buyer, AIB Foods, Aytac Foods, Schepens & Co Belgium and Migros Türkiye), the Middle East and GCC (Mercury Me DMCC, Sunder Trading Qatar, D Ocean Fisheries Bahrain), Africa (over 200 buyers from Kenya, Somalia, Cameroon, Angola, Rwanda, Mauritius and others), as well as key players from Australia, Canada, USA and Russia.—DNA

OGRA review RERR of SNGPL & SSGCL for FY 25-26

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), under Section 8(2) of OGRA Ordinance, 2002, vide its decisions dated November 24, 2025 has determined the Review of Estimated Revenue Requirement (RERR) of SNGPL & SSGCL for FY 2025-26.

OGRA has carefully reviewed the revenue requirement of SNGPL & SSGCL and rationalized the demand by optimizing costs as well as revenues. Moreover, impact of deferred cargoes in case of Pakistan LNG Limited has been included to the benefit of gas consumers. Accordingly, average prescribed price for FY 2025-26 of SNGPL & SSGCL has been provisionally determined at Rs. 1,804.08/MMBTU and Rs. 1,549.41/MMBTU for FY 2025-26, thereby reducing the price by 3% and 7% respectively over current prescribed price in line with its mandate to protect consumers' interest and promote fiscal discipline. Moreover, OGRA in pursuance of Federal Cabinet decided July 01, 2024 has adjusted Rs. 13,565 million in case of SNGPL & Rs. 47,315 million in case of SSGCL against previous shortfall /stock of gas circular debt. Through the above said determination, Federal Government has been requested for advice on category-wise sale prices. Any revision, as advised by Federal Government, shall be accordingly notified by OGRA. Till such time the existing category-wise natural gas sale prices shall continue to prevail. The details of OGRA's decision regarding revenue requirements of gas utilities are available at www.ogra.org.pk.—DNA

Pakistan, China move toward joint EV technology diploma

The proposed COE will include advanced training equipment, industry-standard labs, and opportunities for joint research, internships, and practical skill development

ISLAMABAD: A high-level three-member delegation from Punjab Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) reached China to formalize agreements on cooperation for Electric Vehicle (EV) Technology Diploma Programs for Pakistani students.

This initiative is being launched under the China-Pakistan Digital Corridor (CPEC 2.0), marking a significant step forward in advancing technical education and future-ready skills in Pakistan, according to Gwadar Pro.

The collaboration has been made possible through joint efforts between Punjab TEVTA, Xiangyang Polytechnic Vocational College, ITMC Technology Co., Ltd, and UNI Services International Pvt Ltd.

The agreements will pave the way for Pakistani students to access specialized EV technology training, aligning with global industry trends and Pakistan's growing need for skilled professionals in sustainable mobility.

Speaking to Gwadar Pro, Yasser Shakoor, Director of UNI International, highlighted the significance of the part-

nership. "This collaboration will open new horizons for Pakistani students, equipping them with cutting-edge EV technology expertise and strengthening China-Pakistan cooperation in vocational education," he said.

Shakoor added that the delegation will also visit Dongfeng Motor Corporation to finalize its role as an industry partner. This partnership will support the establishment of a state-of-the-art Center of Excellence (COE) in EV Technology at the Government College of Technology (GCT) Rawalpindi, providing hands-on learning opportunities and modern training facilities for students.

The proposed COE will include advanced training equipment, industry-standard labs, and opportunities for joint research, internships, and practical skill development.

According to project stakeholders, the initiative will help bridge the technology and skills gap in Pakistan, preparing students for employment in EV manufacturing, maintenance, battery systems, and charging infrastructure sectors. — APP

PC Hospitality and China's Shiji Group sign deal to modernize hotel technology

ISLAMABAD: In a move that further strengthens Pakistan-China cooperation in the services and technology sectors, PC Hospitality has entered a strategic partnership with Shiji Group, a leading Chinese provider of hospitality technology systems. The agreement aims to modernize PC Hospitality's operational infrastructure and support its long-term plan for digital transformation across its hotel portfolio, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

As per the announcement on Monday, under the partnership, Shiji Group will provide cloud-based platforms, including Daylight PMS, Horizon Distribution, and Infrasy POS to PC. The technology shift is intended to centralize data, streamline operations, and introduce more efficient and transparent decision-making across properties.

Key objectives of the partnership include greater visibility across hotels and distribution systems, faster commercial decision-making using real-time data, and scalable digital infrastructure for upcoming developments.

Company officials said the new systems will also improve how hotels manage distribution channels and prepare the organization for future expansion within Pakistan and abroad. "This partnership represents an important step in our growth journey," said Bastien Blanc, CEO of PC Hospitality. "Strengthening our technology foundation allows us to provide better tools to our teams and partners while preparing for the next phase of expansion. — APP

Zong, JDC offer free medical diagnostics to underserved communities

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading tech innovator, has partnered with JDC Foundation to provide free, state-of-the-art diagnostic services for underserved communities in Karachi, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive healthcare.

Through this collaboration, Zong is enabling JDC Foundation to expand access to essential medical testing, removing one of the biggest barriers in Pakistan's healthcare landscape: the cost of basic diagnostics.

By covering the cost of medical tests, the initiative ensures that individuals who previously could not afford screenings can now receive accurate and reliable diagnostic services at no cost.

The free diagnostic services will include essential tests such as; Complete Blood Count (CBC), HbA1C, Kidney and Liver Function Tests (RFT/LFT). These tests are critical for the early detection and management of anaemia, diabetes, infections, and chronic illnesses; conditions that often remain undiagnosed due to affordability issues. Speaking about the partnership, Nabila Yazdani, Head of Strategy, Communications & Sustainability at Zong, said:

"Access to quality healthcare should never be limited by financial barriers. By partnering with JDC Foundation, we are empowering underserved communities to take charge of their health through free, reliable diagnostics. This initiative is a testament to Zong's commitment to using innovation and partnerships to drive inclusive growth and meaningful impact across Pakistan."—APP

Macron says France must not be weak faced with Russia threat

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday that France must not be "weak" faced with the threat from Russia, while emphasising it had no intention of "sending our young people" to fight in the Ukraine war "We would be wrong to show weakness in the face of this threat. If we want to protect ourselves, we French – which is my sole concern – we must demonstrate that we are not weak against the power that threatens us the most," he told RTL radio in an interview. Macron is expected to make an announcement later this week on a voluntary form of military service, after France scrapped compulsory service in 1997. He told RTL he would be announcing a "transformation of national service into a new form" on Thursday, but did not provide further details. A source with knowledge of the matter, speaking anonymously because not allowed to speak to the press, has told AFP that the plan is for 2,000 to 3,000 people to be trained up in the first year, aiming to increase those signing up over time to 50,000 per year.—APP

Romania, Italy launch historic cultural year 2026

BUCHAREST: Romania and Italy have officially launched the Romania-Italy Cultural Year 2026, the first major bilateral cultural project of its kind in the history of the two countries. The programme was presented in Rome on Monday in the presence of senior Italian officials, diplomats, and journalists. The initiative, held under the High Patronage of Romanian President Nicușor Dan and Italian President Sergio Mattarella, will celebrate the cultural, historical, and European ties between the two nations. Organised by the Romanian Embassy in Italy with support from both countries' Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs, as well as partner institutions, the Cultural Year is described as one of the most ambitious joint projects ever undertaken. It is also the first time Romania and Italy will host a Cultural Year simultaneously.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Commander Chattogram Bangladesh Navy Rear Admiral Md Moinul Hassan called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

Briefs

CTD
register FC
headquarter
attack case

PESHAWAR: A case has been registered with the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) under terrorism charges against unknown assailants for yesterday's terrorist attack on the Federal Constabulary (FC) Headquarters in Peshawar. According to the police, the case was filed on behalf of local SHO Abdullah Jalal. The FIR states that three motorcycle-riding terrorists attacked the FC Headquarters. One of the attackers donated himself at the main gate, while the other two entered the premises while firing. As a result of the attack, three personnel were martyred and 11 were injured. According to the FIR, more than 27 bullet casings were recovered from the scene, and the terrorists' actions caused severe damage to national security and government property. Police say the investigation is ongoing, and all angles of evidence are being examined to trace the terrorists' network. — APP

Interior
Minister
Praises
Security
Forces

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has lauded the security forces for successfully eliminating 22 India-sponsored terrorists in Bannu, calling the operation a testament to Pakistan's unwavering national resolve against foreign-backed militancy. In a statement on Sunday, Naqvi paid rich tribute to the forces, saying their timely and decisive action once again foiled the malicious designs of terrorists. He said the successful operation reflects the professionalism, courage and sacrifice of Pakistan's security personnel. The minister said that the security forces' continued achievements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are commendable, as they are playing a pivotal role in eradicating what he described as "the Indian-backed menace" from the region. He added that with the support of the nation, Pakistan is determined to completely eliminate all traces of this threat. Naqvi reaffirmed that those involved in terrorism and their facilitators will not be allowed to find refuge anywhere in the country. "The nation is proud of its brave security forces," he said, emphasizing that Pakistan's resolve against terrorism remains firm and unshakeable.

Pak, India to
clash on Feb
7 in T20

NEWS DESK

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council on Tuesday announced the schedule of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, with a high-octane encounter between arch-rivals Pakistan and India slated for February 15. The announcement was made during the unveiling ceremony as the 10th edition of the men's T20 World Cup will be played between February 7 and March 8, with India and Sri Lanka confirmed as co-hosts for the tournament featuring 20 teams. Prince Harry faced a major setback as key members of the royal family decided on his return to the Firm. As reported by The Sunday Times, the Duke of Sussex might never be able to regain the trust of his father, King... Geo TV Pakistan - Breaking News, World, Business, Sports, Entertainment, and Video News Pakistan and India are placed in Group A alongside the United States, Namibia, and the Netherlands. The arch-rivals will face each other on February 15 in Colombo, while Pakistan will play all its matches in Sri Lanka. The inaugural match will be played between India and the US on February 7, while Pakistan are scheduled to face the Netherlands in Colombo on the same day.

Gen Sahir pays farewell visit
to Field Marshal Asim Munir

The COAS highlighted General Sahir's contributions towards regional stability, military diplomacy, and the strengthening of Pakistan's partnerships with friendly countries

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), paid a farewell visit to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at General Headquarters (GHQ) today. During the meeting, the COAS commended General Sahir Shamshad Mirza for his exemplary leadership, strategic foresight, and dedicated service to the Pakistan Armed Forces. He lauded the CJCSC's pivotal role in enhancing tri-services synergy, strengthening joint operational preparedness, and advancing Pakistan's national security objectives at the strategic level. The COAS highlighted General Sahir's contributions towards regional stability, military diplomacy, and the strengthening of Pakistan's partnerships with friendly countries. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza expressed gratitude to the COAS and the Armed Forces for the support extended during his career. Upon arrival at GHQ, the CJCSC 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.

Ukraine, Russia
trade deadly strikes

KYIV: Ukraine and Russia counted casualties Tuesday after trading deadly overnight strikes, as negotiators scrambled to revise a framework to end the nearly four-year conflict ahead of a US-imposed deadline. US President Donald Trump has given Kyiv until November 27 — the American holiday of Thanksgiving — to respond to his proposal to end the fighting, a timeline and blueprint that European leaders have balked at. Kyiv and its allies nonetheless spent the weekend hammering away at Washington's 28-point plan, which initially hewed close to Russia's headline demands, requiring the invaded country to cede territory, cut its military and pledge never to join NATO. An updated version, aiming to "uphold Ukraine's sovereignty", was thrashed out over the weekend at emergency talks in Geneva. Countries supporting Kyiv — part of the "coalition of the willing" — are due to hold a video call Tuesday to discuss the state of the plan. On the battlefield, the adversaries ramped up pressure with a flurry of overnight attacks. Before dawn Tuesday, Russia's defence ministry said it had intercepted and destroyed 249 Ukrainian drones — one of the highest figures reported. In Russia's Rostov region, acting governor Yuri Slusar said at least three people were killed in the strikes. "Tonight's enemy attack brought great grief," Slusar said. In the Krasnodar frontier region, Governor Veniamin Kondratyev called the overnight bombardment "one of the Kyiv regime's most sustained and massive attacks". — APP

Govt rolls out reforms to
stabilise economy, boost growth

Major policy initiatives cover energy prices, export reforms, development spending and oversight of SOEs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has introduced several major policy measures aimed at boosting the economy, supporting exporters and providing relief to citizens. The initiatives cover energy prices, export reforms, development spending and oversight of state-owned enterprises. From withdrawing the longstanding Export Development Surcharge (EDS) to reducing prescribed gas prices, approving over Rs507 billion in development projects, and strengthening oversight of key state-owned enterprises (SOEs), the government is signalling a renewed focus on economic revival, institutional reform and public welfare. In a major policy development aimed at boosting Pakistan's export competitiveness, the government decided to withdraw 0.25% Export Development Surcharge (EDS) with an immediate effect. The decision was taken during a meeting held on Monday at the Prime Minister's House, attended by senior federal ministers and members of the private sector. The PM had earlier formed a dedicated Working Group on EDS, chaired by Musadaq Zulqarnain, to reassess the Export Development Fund (EDF) and suggest reforms to strengthen Pakistan's export ecosystem. The group included private sector leaders Shahzad Saleem, Misbah Naqvi, Khurram Mukhtar,

Arif Saeed, Ahmad Umair, and Sualah Faruqi, alongside Secretary Commerce Bilal Azhar Kiyani and officials from EDF. Speaking exclusively to The News Khurram Mukhtar said the recommendations were finalised after "a detailed evaluation of existing EDF-funded initiatives and their limited impact on export productivity." He added, "The withdrawal of EDS is a critical step. Exporters have long argued that this surcharge had become a burden rather than a facilitator. The PM's decision sends a strong signal that competitiveness is now the top priority."

During the meeting, the PM also directed for formation of an interim steering committee to be led by private-sector representatives, which will oversee the utilisation of the Rs52 billion currently available in the EDF. The committee has been mandated to ensure that funds are spent strictly on R&D, skill development, and competitiveness-enhancing interventions rather than infrastructure-related projects. Khurram Mukhtar noted that the new oversight mechanism would "ensure transparency, efficiency, and private-sector direction in how EDF resources are deployed." The meeting also touched on another longstanding concern of the export community: the disproportionately high tax burden on export-oriented industries compared to domestic businesses. A separate Working Group, led by Shahzad Saleem, has already submitted its recommendations on the taxation issue, and the prime minister is expected to call a dedicated meeting soon. According to Mukhtar, "Taxation on export-oriented sectors has become distortionary and uncompetitive. The government's willingness to examine this issue seriously is a positive sign for the industry."

Security Council must seize 'moment
of renewed hope': UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS: The ceasefire in Gaza is largely holding but recent violence by Israel and Palestinian groups put the truce at risk, the UN Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Ramiz Alakbarov, told the Security Council on Monday. Alakbarov briefed on conditions in the battered enclave and the occupied West Bank, before touching on developments in Lebanon and Syria. "Today we meet at a moment of renewed hope," he said, speaking from Jerusalem. "While progress on the ground is fragile and deep uncertainty persists, we must seize the opportunity before us to chart a better future for Palestinians, Israelis and the wider region." Last month, Israel and Hamas reached agreement on the first phase of a ceasefire and hostage release following a plan put forward by United States President Donald Trump. However, recent Israeli airstrikes on populated areas have caused numerous casualties and destruction, while Palestinian attacks on Israeli soldiers have resulted in fatalities, according to the UN. "This violence is jeopardizing the fragile ceasefire," Alakbarov said, urging all parties "to exercise restraint and fulfill their commitments under the agreement." The Security Council "has also taken an important step in the consolidation of the ceasefire" with the adoption of resolution 2803 (2025), he added. The text endorses the US plan and the deployment of a temporary international force for Gaza. "While still facing unbearable living conditions and seemingly insurmountable destruction, the people in Gaza have experienced at least the first glimmers of respite from the near constant bombardment of the last two years," he said.

At the same time, Israeli families have been reunited with relatives who were held hostage. Others have received the remains of their loved ones, although the bodies of three hostages have yet to be returned. Alakbarov reported that "the UN has redoubled efforts to mobilize and scale up humanitarian assistance" in Gaza, but efforts must be expanded. He highlighted the grim situation on the ground, including more than 1.7 million people still displaced and almost 80 per cent of buildings damaged or destroyed. The senior official visited the shattered enclave last week, where "the picture remains bleak," stressing the "critical need to transition from emergency humanitarian assistance toward enabling communities to rebuild their lives and restore essential services." He said that "the damage in Gaza — physically, economically and socially — is catastrophic." Therefore, the international community cannot only address immediate physical needs, but also psycho-social needs, social cohesion and justice issues. "There must be a restoration of dignity and hope," he said. "These efforts must be anchored in a clear political horizon for resolving the conflict, ending the unlawful occupation, and realizing the two-State solution." Meanwhile, in the West Bank "settlement expansion, the proliferation of outposts, violence, including settler violence, displacement, and evictions continue to escalate at alarming levels," he reported. Israeli military operations, particularly in the north, have resulted in deaths, destruction and continued displacement of thousands of Palestinians from refugee camps. — Agencies

US judge dismisses
cases against
Donald Trump foes

WASHINGTON: A federal judge dismissed the criminal cases against former FBI director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James, dealing a blow to US President Donald Trump's efforts to prosecute his political opponents. District Judge Cameron Currie threw out both cases on the grounds that the US attorney handpicked by Trump who brought the charges was unlawfully appointed. Comey, 64, was charged in September with making false statements to Congress and obstructing a congressional proceeding in what was widely seen as retribution by the Republican president against a political opponent. James, 67, a Democrat who successfully prosecuted Trump for fraud, was indicted the following month on one count of bank fraud and a second one of making false statements to a financial institution. Both indictments were brought by interim US Attorney Lindsey Halligan, who was described by Currie in her dismissal rulings as "a former White House aide with no prior prosecutorial experience." Top federal prosecutors are subject to Senate confirmation and Currie said Halligan had been unlawfully appointed because her predecessor was also serving in an acting capacity and US law does not allow two successive interim prosecutors. "All actions flowing from Ms Halligan's defective appointment, including securing and signing Mr Comey's indictment, were unlawful exercises of executive power," the judge said. "And because Ms Halligan had no lawful authority to present the indictment, I will grant Mr Comey's motion and dismiss the indictment without prejudice." — Agencies

Bosnian envoy highlights deepening ties with Pakistan

The event also featured a special screening of the internationally acclaimed film "Quo Vadis, Aida?", timed to coincide with Bosnia's Statehood Day celebrations

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Emin Cohodarevic delivered an inspiring address at Iqra University, underscoring the growing friendship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Pakistan, while encouraging students to embrace their responsibility as the country's future leaders. Addressing faculty members, diplomats, students, and distinguished guests, the ambassador began with warm greetings—"Good morning, Selam aleikum"—and said it was always an honor to speak to young people who represent Pakistan's future scholars, leaders, and entrepreneurs. He added that the energy and talent he witnessed in the room made him deeply optimistic about Pakistan's future as well as the future of Bosnia-Pakistan relations. The envoy highlighted the significance of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Statehood Day, celebrated every year on November 25. The day commemorates the 1943 decision of the Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation, which restored Bosnia's statehood within its historical borders and reaffirmed its identity as a multicultural, multi-ethnic nation where all citizens enjoy equal rights. "Today, we honor Bosnia's statehood and celebrate its vibrant culture, diversity, and institutions," he said. Reflecting on three decades of diplomatic ties, the ambas-



sador described relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Pakistan as warm, steady, and grounded in mutual respect. "If you have a friend far away who knows your heart, distance cannot keep you apart," he remarked. "The 3,000 miles between us can no longer separate Bosnia and Herzegovina and Pakistan. Instead, our relationship serves as a bridge bringing our nations even closer." The event also featured a special screening of the internationally acclaimed film "Quo Vadis, Aida?", timed to coincide with Bosnia's Statehood Day celebrations. The ambassador explained that the film—centered on the Srebrenica genocide of 1995—captures the emotional struggle of Aida, a UN translator trying to save her family amid the horrors of war. He urged students to reflect on the lessons of the tragedy, asking: "How many things would have been different if we had shown more empathy and solidarity? Did this tragedy have to end the way it did?" Before concluding, the ambassador extended his gratitude to Mr. Tazeen Akhtar, Chief Editor of Pakistan in the World magazine, and Dr. Shehryar Khan, Associate Professor, for organizing and supporting the event. He also thanked Iqra University for hosting the gathering. He ended his speech with a heartfelt tribute to bilateral ties: "Long live the friendship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Pakistan aur Bosnia Herzegovina ki dosti zindabad."

Perpetrators
of Peshawar
FC HQ
attack likely
Afghan
citizens

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police (IG) Zulfiqar Hameed on Tuesday said the perpetrators of yesterday's suicide attack on the Federal Constabulary (FC) Headquarters in Peshawar were likely Afghan citizens. Investigators and intelligence agencies are hunting for facilitators and support networks behind the attack, which saw three personnel embrace martyrdom and 12 sustain injuries.

The attack, which began after a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance, was swiftly repulsed as personnel engaged and shot his two accomplices dead before they could enter the installation to inflict any major damage.

Questioned about the progress of the investigation and whether any evidence had come to the fore about the assailants being Afghan citizens, IG Hameed said: "We are saying this because, based on the evidence so far, when someone does not have a citizenship record, they are assumed to be Afghan or something similar." He confirmed that authorities had identified the location where the terrorists spent the night before attacking the FC Headquarters. However, he added that no facilitators had been arrested so far. IG Hameed added that the CCTV footage showing their arrival was obtained and NADRA was working to verify their identities.

Those who
cut woman
hair arrested

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police have stated that three suspects have been arrested after a harrowing video of a girl's hair being forcibly cut went viral on social media. The video, which has been making the rounds on social media since Tuesday, shows a man standing over what appears to be a young girl and cutting her hair with a pair of scissors while others in the background watch. Subsequently, another video also surfaced on social media, purportedly of the victim, in which she alleged that the incident occurred one-and-a-half months ago in Rawalpindi's Christian Colony. She also alleged that she was beaten and threatened, adding that four men were involved in the incident. In a statement early on Tuesday, Rawalpindi police commented on the incident. The statement referred to the victim as a "girl". "A video of a girl being beaten and her hair being cut has come forward, after which a video statement also came forward," the statement said. The incident took place in Rawalpindi and Islamabad a month and a half ago, the statement said, adding that it was not reported to the police earlier.

Israel army
says Red
Cross received
body of Gaza
hostage

DNA

THE Israeli military said the Red Cross received the remains of a hostage held in Gaza on Tuesday, as part of the US-brokered ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas. "According to information provided by the Red Cross, a coffin of a deceased hostage has been transferred into its custody and is on the way to IDF (Israeli) troops in the Gaza Strip," the army said in a statement. Before the latest handover, Hamas still held the bodies of three hostages in Gaza. Heavy rain caused flooding in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, swamping the tents of thousands of homeless Palestinians facing the prospect of harsh winter storms without sturdy shelter. "This suffering, this rain - and the low-pressure weather systems haven't even started yet.