



Monday, October 19, 2026

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 40

President of Maldives to visit Pakistan to sign trade accords

Detailed News On Page-01

Pakistan's first astronaut to travel to space

Detailed News On Page-08



Bilawal says Fazl can play role in ending tussle

Detailed News On Page-01



PM Shehbaz says

Every child deserves equal opportunities

The premier noted that the richest people in the country, regardless of how they earned their wealth, had the opportunity to send their children to the best schools in Pakistan and even to North America and the south of France

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday inaugurated a Daanish School in Islamabad, saying the initiative aimed to provide quality education to talented students from underprivileged backgrounds and give them opportunities equal to those available to children from affluent families. Daanish schools, originally introduced by the Punjab government, aim to provide quality education to marginalised and talented students. It is said to be the largest network of boarding schools for girls and boys in the country. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony in the capital, the premier highlighted stories of Daanish School graduates, including a girl from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who overcame challenges and a woman from Bahawalpur who went on to become a doctor after losing her father in childhood. "Ladies and gentlemen, this was a vision we had seen in Punjab when I was its servant. How come the sons of rich people enter the iron steel gates of Aitchison College; sons of prime ministers, governors,

Continued on Page 06

Maldives president to visit Pakistan next week
Muizzu to hold talks with PM Shehbaz and participate in business forum, says Foreign Office in a statement

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Maldivian President Dr Mohamed Muizzu will undertake a three-day state visit to Pakistan from October 20 to 22 at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Foreign Office said on Sunday. President Muizzu will be accompanied by First Lady Sajidha Mohamed and a high-level delegation comprising cabinet ministers and senior officials. During the visit, Muizzu will meet President Asif Ali Zardari, who will host a state banquet in his honour.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacts with students at Daanish School Islamabad. – DNA

Pakistan defeat Lanka in first ODI

SHAHID RAJU

RAWALPINDI: A hundred from Salman Ali Agha helped Pakistan put up a formidable total against Sri Lanka in the first match of the ODI triseries at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday. Pakistan, however, failed to capitalise fully on their strong position, surrendering their last five wickets for only 26 runs. Reduced from 279-5 to 305 all out, the hosts struggled against the bowling of Eshan Malinga and Asitha Fernando. After being asked to bat first, Pakistan were bowled out for 305 in 49.5 overs, with Salman leading from the front and receiving valuable support from Babar Azam, debutant Saad Baig and Hasan Nawaz.

Continued on Page 06

Egypt to provide all support to Saudi Arabia

NEWS DESK

CAIRO: Egypt will provide Saudi Arabia with all necessary and possible support to defend its security and stability, its presidency said on Sunday. The Egyptian presidency also said it will continue and intensify political and diplomatic efforts in coordination with regional and international parties to contribute to de-escalation and crisis resolution. Rashad Al-Alimi, the head of Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council, has hailed the

Continued on Page 06

Regional issues

Dar, Iranian FM discuss regional security; OIC moot

According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office, the discussion focused on recent regional developments and issues of mutual concern

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Sunday, during which the two leaders discussed the evolving regional situation and the ongoing meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers in Baghdad. According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office, the discussion focused on recent regional developments and issues of mutual concern. During the conversation, Dar underscored the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in addressing regional challenges and promoting peace and stability.

Continued on Page 06

Saudi-led coalition says it destroyed drone over Riyadh

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: The Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted and destroyed a drone over the Riyadh region, amid a surge in missile and drone attacks targeting the kingdom. Coalition spokesperson Major General Turki al-Maliki announced the interception, according to a report carried by the Saudi Press Agency. The statement did not specify the drone's origin or intended target.

Continued on Page 06

Trump's decision to waive Russian sanctions outrages Congress

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas said "Lindsey would be appalled," referring to the late Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who worked endlessly on the bill before he died this summer. The bill is known as the Lindsey Graham Russian Sanctions Act. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said in a statement that "by giving the Russian economy life support, Trump's deal with the devil keeps getting dirtier."

Trump is "thumbing his nose" at Congress and "enabling Vladimir Putin to continue his war of aggression." She urged her colleagues to take action to reverse course. Trump's actions come as Ukraine is bracing for a stark winter confronting Russia's ongoing attacks on its energy infrastructure to heat homes and keep the lights on. Zelensky, who has endured a rocky relationship with Trump but stayed close to the US lawmakers, urged supporters to speak out on behalf of the sanctions. The next steps are highly uncertain with the House and

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Mass funerals in Gaza

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Hundreds of Palestinians attended a mass funeral on Sunday for 75 people whose remains were recovered from beneath buildings' rubble destroyed by Israeli bombings in Gaza City's Al-Daraj neighborhood. An estimated 8,000 bodies are still believed to be buried beneath the rubble across the Gaza Strip, according to the Palestine News Agency. Recovery teams lack the heavy machinery and forensic equipment needed to retrieve and identify them amid the ongoing Israeli restriction of supplies and bombardment of the Palestinian coastal enclave since October 2023.

Maulana Fazl can play role in ending terrorism: Bilawal

Bilawal invites opposition to hold talks if it genuinely wants to end terrorism, emergency in KP

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Sunday that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman can play a role in ending terrorism and addressing the situation surrounding the imposition of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Bilawal made the remarks while addressing an event in Karachi marking the anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy, which took place on October 18, 2007, when twin bomb blasts struck a procession welcoming former prime minister Benazir Bhutto back to Karachi after eight years in self-imposed exile.

Continued on Page 06

Nawaz car targeted in London

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Two masked men posing as delivery riders targeted a BMW and a Mercedes-Benz used by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif outside his Avenfield apartments in central London, damaging the vehicles and removing parts in an incident that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) officials have described as a suspected politically motivated attack.

Continued on Page 06

8 Indian-backed terrorists killed

In the Panjpai area of Quetta district, terrorists' attempt to establish a roadblock to disrupt local traffic was "intercepted by security forces, resulting in [the] killing of five India-sponsored terrorists"

DNA

QUETTA: Security forces have killed eight "India-sponsored" terrorists during three intelligence-based operations conducted in the Quetta, Nushki and Khuzdar districts of Balochistan, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday. The IBOs took place on Oct 17 (Saturday) on the "reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al Hindustan", the military's media affairs wing said in its press release. The state refers to designated Balochistan-based groups as Fitna al Hindustan to highlight India's role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan. In the Panjpai area of Quetta district, terrorists' attempt to establish a roadblock to disrupt local traffic was "intercepted by security forces, resulting in [the] killing of five India-sponsored terrorists". Separately, during a sanitisation operation in Nushki district, security forces busted a terrorist hideout and "after an intense fire exchange, two India-sponsored terrorists were sent to hell". Weapons and ammunition were also recovered, ISPR added. In another IBO in Khuzdar, a terrorist hideout was "engaged by security forces through prompt offensive action", killing one terrorist. ISPR said a large quantity of explosives (490 kilograms) was also recovered.

Continued on Page 06



ART IN EVERY DETAIL

Experience the fusion of wood and cocoa, bringing art to life. Our unique pyrography creations are crafted with precision.



YOU SEND US A PHOTO.



WE SKETCH & DESIGN.



WE BURN WITH PRECISION.



YOU RECEIVE A MASTERPIECE.



Good Ideas Live Longer in Wood

VISIT OUR BRAND FOR:

- LIVE PYROGRAPHY DEMONSTRATIONS
- EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS ON CUSTOM ORDERS
- PERSONALIZED WOOD-BURNING ARTWORK
- CUSTOM GIFT CREATIONS

CONTACT: 0337-0786232

INSTAGRAM: SOHAIBSWOODANDCOCOA

ADDRESS: GIGA MALL SHOP 13-A, 2ND FLOOR, NEAR CINEPAX, ISLAMABAD

PREMIUM QUALITY WOOD

PERFECT FOR EVERY OCCASION

SAFE DELIVERY ALL OVER PAKISTAN

100% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Preventive measures against dengue stressed

ISLAMABAD: Health experts have urged citizens to adopt preventive measures against dengue fever by eliminating stagnant water. They asked for using mosquito repellents and seeking timely medical attention to protect themselves and their families from the mosquito-borne disease. They advised people to regularly inspect their homes and surroundings for standing water, which provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and ensure that water containers, flowerpots, discarded tyres and other potential breeding sites are properly cleaned or covered. The public has also been encouraged to use mosquito repellents, mosquito nets and protective screens on windows and doors to reduce exposure to mosquito bites, particularly during periods of increased mosquito activity. Dr Saeed Naeem, a medical practitioner stressed that maintaining clean surroundings and ensuring proper waste disposal could help control mosquito breeding and reduce the risk of dengue transmission in residential areas.

He further advised citizens to wear clothing that covers the arms and legs and take additional precautions during the day, as dengue-transmitting mosquitoes are active during daylight hours, particularly in the early morning and before dusk.—APP

DC orders improved care, edu for kids

LAHORE: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali Ejaz on Saturday visited the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) Lahore to review the standard of facilities, including accommodation, food, education and training provided to orphaned, destitute and vulnerable children residing there. Chief Officer Metropolitan Corporation Lahore Kaleem Yousaf, Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Rabia Altaf and representatives of allied departments accompanied him during the visit. The DC inspected various wards, the nursery, play area and other sections of the bureau and reviewed cleanliness arrangements. He also interacted with the children and inquired about their well-being. During the visit, he directed the relevant officials to ensure high standards of care, food and accommodation for the children. He stressed the need to further improve the nursery and play area to provide a conducive environment for children's recreation, learning and development. He also directed the officials to maintain cleanliness across all sections, utilise available resources for quality education and training.—APP

FG/Din Polo clinch JPF Pink Polo Cup 2026 title



OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: FG/Din Polo were crowned champions of the JPF Pink Polo Cup 2026, sponsored by Valpaint by Master Paints, after edging out Din/FG Polo 7-6 in a thrilling final at Jinnah Polo Fields on Sunday. A large number of polo enthusiasts attended the match, which was also witnessed by Master Paints Directors Farooq Amin Sufi, Sufi Muhammad Haroon and Sufi Muhammad Hashim, along with Jinnah Polo Fields Club Secretary Major Adil Sultan Rao and a large gathering of polo players. Kian Hall led FG/Din Polo's charge with an impressive

hat-trick, scoring three goals, while Farhad M Sheikh and Abbas Mukhtar contributed two goals apiece to secure the narrow victory. Din/FG Polo mounted a strong challenge, with Raja Mikael Sami scoring three goals, Sheikh Muhammad Rafiq adding two and Zainab Kashif contributing one. Despite their efforts, Din/FG fell just short as FG/Din held on to their one-goal advantage to lift the coveted trophy. Earlier, SQ Gold/Master Paints defeated Diamond Paints 8-5 in the subsidiary final to claim the subsidiary title. The two finals brought the JPF Pink Polo Cup 2026 to a competitive conclusion, showcasing the skills of the participating players and providing an exciting spectacle for polo fans at Jinnah Polo Fields.

Theatre Wallay, Austrian embassy bring women's entrepreneurship to life

The performance was attended by Wolfgang Kutschera, Austrian Ambassador to Pakistan, who appreciated the theatrical play. Representatives of the Austrian Embassy and members of the press were also present

DNA

Theatre Wallay and Austrian Embassy in Islamabad, in collaboration with Shirakat Foundation, presented an exclusive Urdu theatre play focusing on women's empowerment and entrepreneurial independence at UC Sahang, Tehsil Gujar Khan, Rawalpindi. Shirakat Foundation is a women-led women's rights organisation that began as a volunteer initiative following the 2005 earthquake. It has since grown into a nationally recognised non-profit organisation working in community development, research, policy advocacy, and youth and women's empowerment. The organisation is currently working on three projects: Manzil, Selma and Thriving Futures. Over the past 5 years, it has supported over 4000 micro-entrepreneurs enhancing their capacity to grow their businesses to the next level through provision of a holistic training, marketing including digital marketing, exposure and mentorship programme.

Shirakat Foundation facilitated the engagement by providing access to the communities as well as women micro-entrepreneurs, enabling the community and beneficiaries to enjoy the performance. The primary objective of the performance was to raise awareness about Women Micro-Entrepreneurs (WMEs), their economic independence and their contribution to building sustainable livelihoods and businesses.

The 45-minute performance brought together 100 female entrepreneurs and beneficiaries from Manzil, Thriving Future and SELMA projects implemented by Shirakat Foundation, providing an opportunity to explore women's entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and financial independence.

Through an engaging and accessible theatrical format, the play explored the opportunities and challenges women encounter as they seek to establish livelihoods, develop businesses and become economically independent. It also highlighted social attitudes and practical barriers that can affect women's participation in economic activities, encouraging audience members to reflect on these issues and engage with the subject.

The performance was attended by Wolfgang Kutschera, Austrian Am-

bassador to Pakistan, who appreciated the theatrical play. Representatives of the Austrian Embassy and members of the press were also present. Theatre Wallay is an Islamabad-based theatre group work-

with important social issues. The performance at UC Sahang provided a platform for young women to reflect on women's empowerment and entrepreneurial independence. By bringing these themes to the



ing across theatre, education, cultural exchange and social change. Founded by Fizza Hasan, its Artistic Director, the company uses theatre to encourage dialogue, raise awareness and engage audiences

community through theatre, the initiative encouraged dialogue about the opportunities available to women and the social and practical barriers they may face in building independent economic futures.

Developed nations urged to pay climate debt

LAHORE: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPC-CI) Regional Committee on Food Convener Shahid Imran on Sunday urged developed countries to pay their climate debt and fulfill their responsibilities towards developing nations facing the growing impacts of climate change.

According to a spokesperson, speaking at a seminar on "Climate Impact on Food and Agriculture", organized by Family Food Group of Industries, Shahid Imran said the devastating floods of 2022 caused an estimated \$30 billion in losses to Pakistan, while the human cost of the disaster was immeasurable.

He said climate change had worsened food insecurity and continued to threaten agricultural production and livelihoods. Developing countries, despite contributing relatively little to historical greenhouse gas emissions, were facing severe consequences, including floods, droughts, rising temperatures and declining agricultural productivity. Shahid Imran said the transition to a low-carbon economy was a necessity rather than a luxury or choice. He stressed that climate justice, equity and historical responsibility for global warming must guide international climate policies. He urged developed countries to provide adequate climate finance, transfer technology and help vulnerable economies strengthen their resilience to climate-related disasters. He said financial assistance should be accessible, predictable and aligned with the actual needs of developing countries.—APP

Citizens warned against fake arms license websites

LAHORE: The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) on Sunday warned citizens applying for civilian arms licenses to remain vigilant against unverified websites and verify web addresses before sharing money or identity details. The warning comes after reports revealed that citizens in Punjab were being defrauded through fake websites operating under the pretext of facilitating arms license applications. Applicants were being charged exorbitant fees while placing their sensitive personal data at risk of misuse. According to NADRA officials, applicants must strictly verify the official website address prior to submitting applications or making payments to protect themselves from financial fraud and potential identity theft.—APP

NGO monitoring, financial transparency reviewed

LAHORE: Punjab Home Secretary Dr Ahmed Javed Qazi has chaired the 26th meeting of the Punjab Charities Commission, which reviewed measures to strengthen monitoring of charitable organizations and NGOs, ensure financial transparency and prevent money laundering and terrorist financing. The meeting held here on Sunday was briefed that the commission was in regular contact with 8,345 NGOs operating in Punjab and was implementing a province-wide programme to build their capacity and improve compliance with relevant laws.

Secretary Housing and Punjab Charities Commission Commissioner Noor-ul-Amin Mengal attended the meeting online, while Punjab Charities Commission Commissioner Dr Usama Siddiq was also present. Chief Executive Officer Col Shahzad Amir briefed participants on the commission's performance and future plans. The meeting was informed that NGOs were being trained to identify and prevent risks associated

with money laundering and terrorist financing. An audit management system had also been introduced to promote transparency in charitable organizations and prevent their misuse for illegal activities. The commission had established mechanisms to monitor charitable organizations, their administrators and beneficiaries, while ensuring accountability in the use of charitable funds. In cases of suspected irregularities, the relevant organization was subjected to an inquiry and audit, the meeting was told. The participants were further informed that the commission could revoke an organization's fund raising authorization in case of a violation of the law. Guidance, training and consultation were also being provided to charitable organizations, trustees and staff to improve compliance. The Punjab Charities Commission was using an integrated system, including a chatbot and a risk-based assessment framework, to guide charitable organizations and facilitate regulatory compliance. The meeting also reviewed inquiries and enforcement actions against NGOs found violating the law. Addressing the meeting, Dr Ahmed Javed Qazi said the establishment of a peaceful and harmonious society was a top priority of the Punjab government. He emphasized that all charitable organizations operating in Punjab were required to register with the Punjab Charities Commission, adding that mutual trust, transparency and cooperation between the government and civil society were essential. The home secretary said the commission was working to maintain public confidence in charitable organizations and was responsible for protecting the rights and interests of both charities and their intended beneficiaries. He directed all charitable organizations to ensure strict compliance with the law in the utilization of charitable funds and called on the commission to continue facilitating and guiding them while effectively discharging its regulatory responsibilities.—APP

DNA

DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

Connecting Pakistan to the World

Credible News. Global Reach. Trusted by All.

DNA delivers fast, accurate and balanced news from Pakistan and around the globe. Your trusted source for real-time updates on diplomacy, politics, economy and more.

REAL-TIME UPDATES
Fast and timely news from around the world.

CREDIBLE & DEPENDABLE
Committed to accuracy, fairness and integrity.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
In-depth coverage with a diplomatic lens.

WIDEST NETWORK
Connecting sources, stories and societies.

DIVERSE COVERAGE
Politics, diplomacy, economy, culture and beyond.

FOLLOW DNA
Stay informed. Stay connected. Stay ahead.

www.dnanews.com.pk

A M Bhatti

@EditorDnanews

DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

Connecting Pakistan to the World

National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

Oct 01/China National Day

Oct 01/Cyprus National Day

Oct 01/Republic of Korea Armed Forces Day

Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day

Oct 02/Guinea National Day

Oct 03/Germany Unification Day

Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day

Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day

Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day

Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day

Oct 12/Spain National Day

Oct 23/Hungary National Day

October 24/United Nations United Nations Day

Oct/25/Romania Armed Forces Day

Oct 26/Austria National Day

Oct 27/Turkmenistan Independence Day

Oct 28/Czech Republic National Day

Oct 29/Turkey Republic Day

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital...9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666

Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

ISLAMABAD: A vibrant celebration of culture and heritage at the Bangladesh Cultural Evening. Talented artists delivered mesmerizing performances, captivating the audience with music, dance, and artistic excellence. The event was organized by the High Commission of Bangladesh at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). DNA

Call for mandatory warning labels on packaged foods

They have also stressed that such labelling measures should complement broader public health initiatives, including nutrition education, awareness campaigns and policies encouraging healthier food choices. The experts said coordinated action by the government, healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders was essential to reduce diet-related health risks and promote healthier lifestyles across Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Health experts have called for mandatory, evidence-based front-of-package warning labels on food products to help consumers make informed dietary choices and address Pakistan's growing burden of diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), NCDs account for approximately 47.22 per cent of total deaths in Pakistan, highlighting the need for stronger preventive healthcare measures and policies promoting healthier diets. Doctors and public health experts emphasize that

clear, prominent warning labels on packaged foods can help consumers identify products containing excessive amounts of sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, enabling them to make healthier choices. They have stressed that simple and easily understandable warnings are particularly important because consumers often find it difficult to interpret complex nutritional information printed on food packaging. Excessive consumption of sugar, salt and unhealthy fats is associated with an increased risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other chronic conditions, placing a growing burden on individuals, families and the

healthcare system. Health experts believe mandatory front-of-package warning labels could also encourage food manufacturers to reformulate products by reducing excessive amounts of unhealthy ingredients, contributing to a healthier food environment. The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination has emphasized the importance of evidence-based nutrition policies and public awareness in addressing the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. It supports efforts to promote healthier dietary choices and strengthen preventive healthcare measures to protect public health. Experts have called for trans-

parent regulations based on scientific evidence and clear nutritional criteria to ensure that front-of-package warning labels provide reliable information and help consumers compare food products more easily. They have also stressed that such labelling measures should complement broader public health initiatives, including nutrition education, awareness campaigns and policies encouraging healthier food choices. The experts said coordinated action by the government, healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders was essential to reduce diet-related health risks and promote healthier lifestyles across Pakistan.

Ufone achieves global recognition

ISLAMABAD: Pak Telecom Mobile Limited (PTML), through its brand Ufone 5G, has won two awards at the Dragons of Asia Awards 2026, including a Gold Dragon in the hotly contested 'Best in Media' category for its 'Super 5' campaign, and a Black Dragon in the 'Marketing Discipline' category for 'Babar Azam's Lost Phone' campaign. Ufone was the only telecom brand from Pakistan to win a Gold at the prestigious awards. The Dragons of Asia recognize excellence in results-driven marketing communications across the region, and celebrate campaigns that combine strategic insight, creative thinking and effective execution. Ufone's double win underscores its ability to translate consumer insights into compelling brand experiences that resonate with audiences. Built around Ufone's Super 5 package, which enables customers to share data, calls and SMS with four friends or family members, the Gold-winning campaign brought together comedian and television host Tabish Hashmi and former Pakistan cricket stars Younis Khan, Shoaib Malik, Abdul Razzaq and Saeed Ajmal, all members of Pakistan's 2009 ICC T20 World Cup-winning squad. Launched in February 2026, the campaign sparked public curiosity through teaser videos on social media in which the cricketers hinted at a mysterious "selection", prompting speculation about a possible return to the game. The eventual reveal through the ad campaign turned the premise on its head by showing the players competing for a place in Tabish Hashmi's own Super 5 group. The campaign ran across Pakistani television channels and digital platforms, attracted coverage from multiple digital media outlets, and garnered millions of views online. The Black Dragon-winning 'Babar Azam's Lost Phone' campaign promoted Ufone's Weekly Grand Offer. Launched in February 2025, it began with cricketer Babar Azam announcing on social media that he had lost his phone and contacts. The reveal showed this to be part of a Ufone campaign, with Babar searching for his phone alongside fans before presenting the offer. The campaign immediately became a fan favorite, piqued international interest, and garnered over 10 million views. Both campaigns sparked instant, organic conversation on social media, as audiences speculated, reacted, and shared, giving each campaign momentum from the first day.—DNA

Pak set to be first country to sign AI Compact

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to become the first country to sign the Digital and AI Compact, as Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja departed for South Korea to attend the Global AI and Digital Summit 2026. During her visit, the minister will represent Pakistan at the summit and participate in the AI and Digital Ministerial Meeting, where discussions will focus on Pakistan's priorities in artificial intelligence (AI) and digital inclusion. Shaza Fatima will also present Pakistan's future roadmap during a session on the Digital and AI Compact, outlining the country's approach to advancing digital transformation and artificial intelligence. The federal minister is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Google's vice president to discuss matters of mutual interest. She will also meet the World Bank vice president to discuss areas of cooperation. During the visit, she will participate in key sessions on ensuring equitable access to the internet and digital services worldwide. These discussions will highlight the importance of digital inclusion and expanding access to emerging technologies.—APP

FUUAAT VC elected fellow of Int'l Science Council

ISLAMABAD: Professor Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari, Vice Chancellor of the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAAT) has been elected a Fellow of the International Science Council (ISC), marking a significant achievement for Pakistan's scientific and academic community. The ISC announced his election on October 16, with only two Pakistani scientists, including Professor Dr Shinwari and Professor Zulfiqar Bhutta, selected as Fellows in the announcement. Dr Shinwari is an internationally recognised biological scientist and a recipient of the UNESCO award, Sitara-i-Imtiaz and Tamgha-i-Imtiaz for his contributions to science, said a press released issued here. The International Science Council is a leading global organisation promoting scientific research, international cooperation and the use of scientific knowledge in policy making for human development.—APP

DRAP Pashto video promotes medicine safety reporting

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has developed an animated video in Pashto language to raise awareness about reporting suspected adverse events associated with medicines and improve access to medicine safety information among healthcare professionals and patients. The video has been developed by the National Pharmacovigilance Centre (NPC) as part of its efforts to strengthen pharmacovigilance and encourage the timely reporting of suspected adverse reactions and other medicine-related safety concerns. The initiative aims to overcome language barriers by providing guidance in Pashto on how healthcare professionals and patients can report adverse events through available reporting mechanisms. DRAP has encouraged healthcare professionals and patients to report suspected adverse events to the Provincial Pharmacovigilance Centre of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or the National Pharmacovigilance Centre. The authority emphasized that reporting suspected adverse events was essential for identifying potential medicine safety concerns, monitoring risks and supporting regulatory decisions to protect public health.—APP

روشن خواب
نیاباب

دانش اسکول، وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف کے آس و سون کے تعبیر ہیں،
جہاں باصلاحیت اور مستحق بچوں کے لیے معیاری تعلیم کے دروازے
اہلیت اور قابلیت کی بنیاد پر کھلتے ہیں۔

اب اسی سفر کا ایک نیا باب اسلام آباد میں کھل چکا ہے

دانش اسکول، کڑی روڈ، اسلام آباد

وزیر اعظم عزم
شہباز شریف کا عزم
جدید اور معیاری
تعلیم سب کے لیے

ادینوریہ
کھیل کے میدان اور
قومی سطح کے کوچ

سانس اور کمپیوٹر
لیز

جدید ترین
کلاس رومز

محفوظ بورڈنگ
ماحول

24 گھنٹے
طبی سہولت

اسمارت گینجس
اور جدید ٹیکنالوجی مفت کتب اور یونیفارم

وسیع لائبریری

وزارت اطلاعات و نشریات
حکومت پاکستان

PID (I) 3575-D/26

اہلیت، مساوات، معیار، مواقع

Briefs

IHRA assesses private hospital for licensing

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has conducted a licensing assessment of Life Care International Hospital to evaluate its compliance with prescribed healthcare standards and requirements for patient safety and quality of care. During the assessment, IHRA assessors evaluated the hospital against the indicators outlined in the Minimum Service Delivery Standards (MSDS) and prepared a comprehensive assessment report. The exercise forms part of IHRA's ongoing licensing process aimed at ensuring that healthcare establishments operating in Islamabad meet the required standards of service delivery, patient safety and public health. The authority's regulatory framework focuses on assessing healthcare facilities against established benchmarks to promote quality services, improve patient outcomes and ensure compliance with applicable requirements. The licensing assessment also reflects IHRA's continued efforts to strengthen oversight of healthcare establishments and encourage adherence to standards designed to safeguard patients and the wider community. Through such assessments, IHRA aims to promote accountability, improve healthcare service delivery and ensure that medical facilities maintain the required standards before the issuance of licences.—APP

Police recover stolen property worth over Rs 217.5m

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police arrested 768 suspects, including 84 members of 33 criminal gangs, and recovered stolen property worth over Rs217.5 million during a two-week crackdown against criminal elements across the federal capital. An ICT Police official told APP on Sunday that the operations targeted suspects involved in dacoities, robberies, house burglaries, vehicle theft, drug trafficking and illegal possession of weapons. He said police busted 33 criminal gangs and arrested 84 of their members involved in dacoities, street robberies, house burglaries and theft of cars and motorcycles. The official said stolen vehicles, motorcycles, gold jewellery, mobile phones and cash were recovered during the operations, with the total value of recovered property exceeding Rs217.5 million. He said police also intensified action against proclaimed offenders and criminals with previous records, arresting more than 515 proclaimed offenders during the past two weeks. In separate operations against illegal weapons and their public display, police arrested 98 suspects and recovered eight Kalashnikovs and rifles, 83 pistols of different calibres and ammunition.—APP

Driving licence services to citizens' doorsteps

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has introduced a new online facility allowing citizens to obtain learner driving permits, renew their driving licences and apply for duplicate licences from the comfort of their homes, with renewed and duplicate licences to be delivered directly to their doorsteps through courier service. An ITP official told APP on Sunday that the initiative was launched on the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry to provide citizens with modern, convenient and time-saving services. He said the new system would enable citizens to complete the application process online without visiting Traffic Headquarters or police facilitation centres. The official said applicants could access the services through the Islamabad Traffic Police's official portal, <https://dlims.islamabadpolice.gov.pk/>, where they could register and submit applications for learner permits, licence renewals and duplicate licences in case of loss or damage. He said that from Monday, October 19, these services would no longer be available at Traffic Headquarters Faizabad and other Islamabad Police Khidmat Centres, as the application process would be shifted to the online platform.—APP

Young entrepreneurs can reshape Pakistan's economic future: Zikria

Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to identify market opportunities, embrace modern technologies, maintain high quality standards, and develop sustainable business models with the potential to expand beyond domestic markets

DNA

President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia, has called for transforming Pakistan's youth potential into productive economic opportunities through entrepreneurship, innovation, and business startups, stressing that empowering young people to establish successful enterprises is essential for job creation, industrial growth, and export expansion. Addressing the Business Idea Competition 2026 ceremony at the Chamber House, organized in collaboration with Mera Brand Pakistan, the Business Incubation Centre of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), and industry partners, he said Pakistan's talented youth possessed the creativity and potential to develop innovative ideas into commercially viable businesses. He emphasized that effective mentorship, practical training, access to finance, and stronger academia-industry linkages were crucial to nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs. Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to identify market opportunities, embrace modern technologies, maintain high quality standards,



and develop sustainable business models with the potential to expand beyond domestic markets. He added that connecting young innovators with investors, experienced business leaders, and industry mentors could help bridge the gap between creative ideas and successful commercial ventures. Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatha highlighted the importance of building a supportive ecosystem in

which young entrepreneurs could access professional guidance, business development resources, and institutional support. He said initiatives such as the Business Idea Competition 2026 provided an important platform for identifying emerging talent, encouraging creative thinking, and preparing young people to contribute meaningfully to economic activity and employment generation. Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan

urged participants to translate their ideas into practical business ventures through careful planning, determination, and effective execution. He reaffirmed ICCI's commitment to supporting youth-led enterprises and strengthening cooperation between educational institutions and the business community. Head of the Business Incubation Centre at IIUI, Eng. Mohammad Ahsen Mirza; former President of the Islamabad Chamber

of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI), Zahid Qureshi; ICCI Executive Committee Member Abrar ul Haq; and senior member Azaz Mohammad also addressed the ceremony. They highlighted the importance of encouraging entrepreneurial talent, strengthening institutional collaboration, and providing young innovators with the guidance and opportunities needed to turn promising business ideas into sustainable enterprises.

Call for comprehensive water accounting, auditing system

ISLAMABAD: A comprehensive water accounting and auditing system can strengthen water governance, improve resource planning and ensure the efficient and equitable utilisation of water resources in the country, a water governance expert said. In an interview with media, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Country Representative of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Pakistan, emphasised that accurate water resource assessments and systematic accounting were essential for evidence-based policymaking, transparent water allocation and sustainable water management. He said a comprehensive assessment of water originating from glaciers, rainfall, groundwater, wastewater and hill torrents could provide policymakers with a clearer picture of available resources and help them make informed decisions about their development and utilisation. Drawing a comparison with financial accounting, Dr. Ashraf explained that water accounting involved systematically recording water inflows, consumption and outflows, while water audits could help identify losses, improve efficiency and ensure the effective utilisation of available resources. He said reliable water data is essential for planning infrastructure projects such as dams, noting that accurate assessments of current resources and future needs support sound investment decisions and ensure long-term water security. Dr. Ashraf said consultations with federal and provincial stakeholders had been undertaken to develop water resource assessment and water accounting guidelines, laying the groundwork for a more systematic and coordinated approach to water management. He emphasised that integrating water assessment, accounting and auditing into policymaking and development planning could strengthen institutional accountability, enhance transparency and build trust among stakeholders involved in water distribution. The expert said a data-driven approach would also enable authorities to identify opportunities to reduce water losses, improve allocation, promote efficient water use and develop sustainable solutions to emerging water challenges. He stressed that coordinated efforts by federal and provincial governments, relevant institutions and stakeholders were essential to translate reliable water data into practical measures for sustainable water governance and long-term water security in Pakistan.

Diplomacy must adapt to evolving global landscape

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said that diplomacy was evolving beyond traditional statecraft to meet a changing world and emphasized that economic and public diplomacy, strategic communication, and emerging technologies are now central to how nations engage and advance their interests. "We must broaden our diplomatic horizons, embrace innovation and cultivate the ability not merely to respond to change, but to anticipate and shape it," he said in a message on the Foreign Service of Pakistan Day. The foreign secretary said the generations of Pakistani diplomats had served the nation with dedication, professionalism and quiet determination, often navigating formidable challenges with limited resources but an unwavering sense of purpose. "Their legacy is our strength, and their example our inspiration," he added. Asim Iftikhar further said that they celebrated the occasion at a particularly significant moment in Pakistan's diplomatic journey as their country's growing geopolitical relevance, expanding international engagement and increasingly recognised role in fostering dialogue, building bridges and facilitating peaceful solutions reflected the enduring value of principled and purposeful diplomacy. "These achievements inspire confidence, but also place upon us a greater responsibility to sustain this momentum and explore new avenues and opportunities. Our greatest strength remains our people. The talent and fresh perspectives of our younger colleagues, the growing contributions of women diplomats, and the collective experience of our officers provide the foundation for a dynamic, inclusive and forward-looking Foreign Service," the Foreign Office Spokesperson, in a press release, quoted him as saying. He stressed the importance of keeping pace with a changing world, besides helping shape its course, ensuring that Pakistan's voice is heard, its interests are advanced, and its rightful place in the community of nations is strengthened.—APP

CDA chief inspects Islamabad jail project

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is considering introducing a SCADA system to enable real-time monitoring and automated control of Islamabad's water supply network



ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman and Chief Commissioner Sohail Ashraf on Sunday inspected the under-construction Islamabad jail and reviewed progress on the project. During the visit, the chairman was briefed on the current status of construction, development of essential infrastructure and the time-line for completion. Accompanied by the CDA director general (services), the relevant assistant commissioner and senior jail officials, Sohail Ashraf inspected different sections of the project and discussed construction standards and quality requirements with the concerned officers. He directed the officials to complete the project within the approved time-frame while ensuring that construction quality met the prescribed standards and all essential facilities were provided. The visit was part of the CDA's ongoing monitoring of development projects to ensure timely completion and effective coordination among the departments concerned. Earlier, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) is considering introducing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to enable real-time monitoring and automated control of Islamabad's water supply network. The proposed system is part of a broader initiative to modernise the capital's water man-

agement infrastructure, improve operational efficiency and identify ways to reduce electricity expenditure, Islamabad Water Agency Director General Sardar Khan Zimri told APP on Saturday. He said the proposed initiative was being discussed with representatives of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), with a technical and financial assessment planned for around 200 tube wells, 40 overhead water tanks and their associated pumping stations. The assessment is expected to examine electricity consumption, water pressure, distribution efficiency, operational performance and maintenance costs to identify areas where the existing infrastructure could be improved. If introduced, the SCADA system would allow operators to monitor water supply operations in real time, identify operational problems and use reliable data to improve the management of the distribution network. Automated controls could also help improve oversight of pumping operations and the efficiency of the water supply system. The proposed initiative aims to identify technically and financially viable measures to improve the reliability of water supply services, reduce unnecessary electricity expenditure and promote the sustainable use of water resources amid the growing needs of the federal capital.—DNA

AI Geo Navigators opens regional office in AJK

ISLAMABAD: AI Geo Navigators has officially inaugurated its regional office at the Institute of Geology, King Abdullah Campus, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), Muzaffarabad, alongside signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration between academia and industry. The initiative aims to advance geospatial intelligence, artificial intelligence (AI)-driven geoscience research and disaster resilience across the region, according to a press release issued here on Sunday. The MoU was signed by Asim Javid, CEO of AI Geo Navigators, and Dr. Rehana Kausar, Associate Professor and Director of the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (ORIC) at UAJK, representing their respective institutions. UAJK Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Jamal Khattak attended the ceremony as chief guest. Addressing the ceremony, the vice chancellor emphasised the importance of strengthening collaboration among government, academia and industry to translate technological innovations into practical solutions. He reaffirmed UAJK's support for the initiative. The MoU envisages academic and professional development through teaching assistance, guest lectures, workshops, joint research initiatives and career opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The partnership will also facilitate knowledge exchange, bridge the gap between academic learning and industry practices, and provide students with opportunities for internships and potential employment after graduation. The newly established regional office will support AI-driven geoscience research and practical applications in landslide assessment, advanced geographic information system (GIS) mapping, engineering geology and geotechnical investigations. By combining geospatial technologies with local academic expertise, the initiative aims to contribute to disaster risk reduction, environmental assessment and sustainable development across Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The event was attended by representatives of government departments, academic institutions, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations and the private sector. The participants included Shafiq Abbasi, Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), AJK; Chaudhary Muhammad Fareed, Secretary of the Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries Department; Dr. Zafar, Director of Livestock; Dr. Jahanzeb Khan, Assistant Professor at UAJK; Dr. Yasir Sirfraz, Lecturer at UAJK; and Iftikhar Ahmed of the Forest Department, along with other representatives of development organisations and the private sector.—APP

DHO intensifies disease surveillance

ISLAMABAD: The District Health Office Islamabad has intensified field surveillance to ensure the timely detection of communicable diseases and prevent their spread, alongside health awareness activities in schools to protect children from preventable illnesses. The surveillance teams are actively monitoring the field situation to identify potential health risks at an early stage and support timely preventive measures. The DHO is also conducting health awareness activities in schools to educate students about disease prevention and promote healthy practices.—APP

Pharma industry backs ministry's performance

ISLAMABAD: The pharmaceutical industry has expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination during a meeting between Abbott Laboratories (Pakistan) Limited Chief Executive Officer and Country Head Syed Anees Ahmed and Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss matters relating to the pharmaceutical sector.—APP

MOST EXPERIENCED
MANUFACTURERS &
EXPORTERS OF
MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS
IN
PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

JUDO
KARATE
KUNG-FU
JU-JITSU
TAEKWONDO
BOXING
KICKBOXING
TAEKWONDO

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

Ashraf

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
Phones: +92-53-3258000 / 3257508
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

America’s Households Work; Corporate America Collects (Part-1)

ACROSS America, millions of households are working to exhaustion while banks, insurers, lenders and corporate platforms collect their share before the family can put anything aside. The mortgage falls due. The car payment follows. Insurance premiums, utility bills, credit-card interest, protection plans and subscriptions arrive in succession. By the time the household has paid for the right to remain housed, mobile, connected and protected, little may remain for savings, a child’s education or a secure retirement. Work continues; financial freedom retreats. At the other end of these payment chains, wealth accumulates on a scale almost impossible for an ordinary wage earner to imagine. The contrast is stark: families calculate which bill can wait, while the fortunes at the top expand by billions. America has become extraordinarily successful at creating immense private fortunes. Its greater failure is allowing so many people who sustain that prosperity to live with persistent financial insecurity. Forbes’ March 2026 ranking placed 15 of the world’s 20 richest people in the United States. Its September assessment valued America’s 400 wealthiest people at a combined \$8 trillion, up from \$6.6 trillion a year earlier. The richest 20 Americans alone held approximately \$4 trillion. Those estimates measure assets, not cash taken directly from households, but they reveal the extraordinary concentration of economic power at the summit. Meanwhile, the Census Bureau counted 34.5 million Americans below the official poverty line in 2025, or 10.2 percent of the population. Its broader Supplemental Poverty Measure, which accounts for taxes, benefits and expenses including medical and work costs, put poverty at 13.1 percent. Financial insecurity extends beyond these thresholds. A household can earn too much to be classified as poor and still have too little left after essential bills to withstand illness, unemployment or a major repair. That is the dividing line this article examines: the difference between earning an income and retaining enough of it to build a life. The Federal Reserve found that 91 percent of adults were concerned about prices in 2025. Only 63 percent said they could cover a \$400 emergency entirely with cash or its equivalent, and 26 percent reported skipping medical care because of cost. A wealthy national economy can coexist with deeply insecure household budgets. The pressure is cumulative. Housing ties income to rent or a long mortgage. Employment may require a car, which brings financing, insurance, fuel and repairs. High medical prices make protection indispensable, yet insurance itself requires premiums and may leave further out-of-pocket bills. Credit covers the shortfall and creates another interest charge. Subscriptions and service contracts then add smaller claims on what remains. Each institution sees its own transaction; the family must survive their combined demand. The question is how much income a household can

Pakistan’s First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

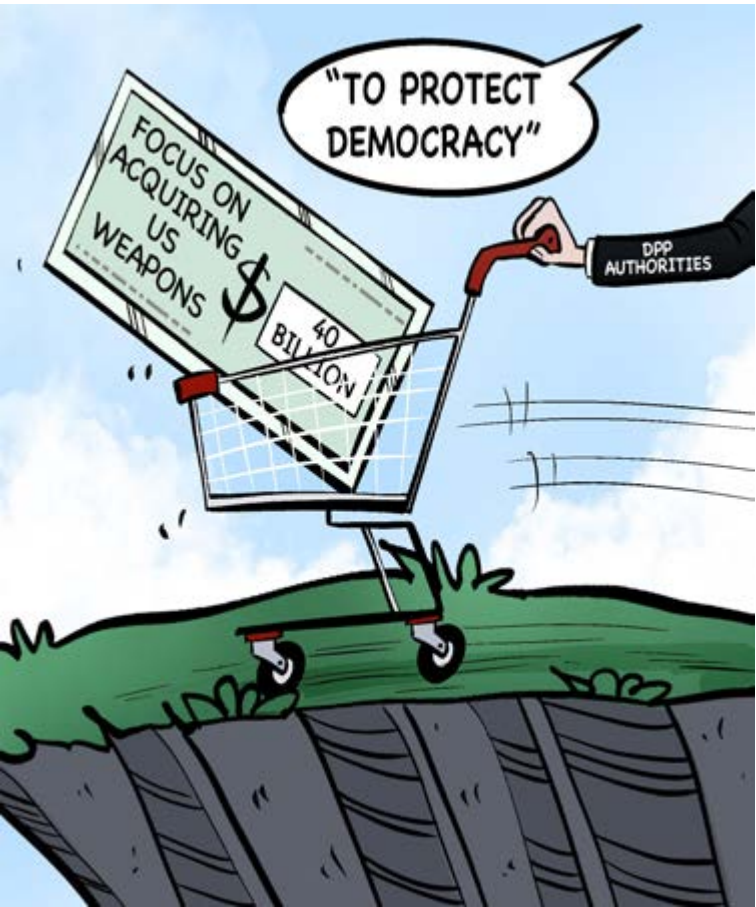
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 07 Issue: 42

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

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



retain after buying the necessities of participation in American life. When essential services become increasingly expensive and access depends on continuing payments, corporate revenue can rise while the people supplying that revenue lose their capacity to save. Housing is the first claim on income. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, median monthly owner costs for households with a mortgage reached \$2,035 in 2024, including selected costs such as insurance, taxes and utilities. Median gross rent was \$1,487. These are national figures; individual households can face much higher bills. Before a family purchases food or saves for a child, shelter has already taken a substantial share of its earnings. Transportation creates another chain of obligations. Where we live and work in Michigan, available public transport does not adequately connect our family’s different workplaces and schedules. Four people travelling in different directions can create pressure for several vehicles. Each brings some combination of a purchase payment, fuel, registration, repairs and insurance. Transportation becomes part of the cost of holding a job. Michigan requires no-fault insurance for vehicles driven legally. A lender may also require additional protection for a financed car. Homeowners insurance is generally a mortgage condition, while life insurance, extended warranties and shopping memberships are ordinarily optional. These distinctions matter. Nevertheless, the household experiences the cumulative bill, regardless of whether each component originates in legislation, a lending contract or a personal decision. The Bureau of Labor Statistics offers a revealing national comparison. In 2024, housing accounted for 33.4 percent of average consumer expenditure and transportation another 17 percent. Together, they absorbed just over half of spending. Food accounted for 12.9 percent. Our experience of groceries being a relatively small part of the pressure is therefore entirely plausible: the larger burdens often arrive before the shopping begins. Healthcare makes that pressure more formidable. KFF found that average annual premiums for employer-sponsored family health coverage reached \$26,993 in 2025. Workers contributed \$6,850 on average, with employers paying the balance. The entire premium does not come directly out of the worker’s paycheck, but the employer’s contribution remains part of the cost of employing that worker. Even after coverage is purchased, deductibles, copayments and uncovered services may remain. Dental and vision benefits are frequently arranged separately. A family can therefore pay repeatedly for protection and still face a significant bill when it actually needs treatment. Insurance provides real protection against losses that savings alone may not cover. A year without a claim does not mean the protection had no value. The deeper problem is that when treatment, repairs or replacement become prohibitively expensive, households become increasingly dependent on intermediaries to afford the underlying service. Lowering the price of care would strengthen both insured families and those struggling to obtain coverage. The scale of the American financial machinery is enormous. The NAIC’s report covering 2024 recorded 6,228 domestic insurance companies and approximately \$3.65 trillion in premiums and deposits. That figure includes commercial business, annuities and deposit-type funds; it is neither household spending alone nor industry profit. Yet it demonstrates how much economic activity passes through institutions selling financial protection.

The Story of Two Elections

Qamar Bashir



The military buildup makes that possibility urgent. Euronews reported on October 16 that the USS George Washington and USS George H.W. Bush were operating in the Arabian Sea, with the USS Theodore Roosevelt heading toward the region. Approximately 9,000 additional sailors and Marines were being dispatched, potentially bringing regional naval personnel above 20,000. DefenseScoop also reported an autonomous surface vessel deploying with Roosevelt’s strike group

TWO elections, separated by one week, could reshape the future of the Middle East. Israel votes on October 27; Americans elect Congress on November 3. Behind both contests stands the same question: has the war against Iran made ordinary people safer, or has it made their lives more expensive and their future more uncertain? For Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, the battlefield is becoming an electoral liability. These are different elections with interconnected consequences. Netanyahu is fighting to retain the premiership; Trump is fighting to preserve Republican control of Congress. An Israeli defeat could dislodge one architect of confrontation. An American congressional reversal could constrain the other. Neither outcome guarantees peace, but together they could alter the political machinery sustaining this conflict. Iran, the country Washington and Israel sought to weaken, could consequently become a central factor in weakening their leaders’ domestic authority. The military buildup makes that possibility urgent. Euronews reported on October 16 that the USS George Washington and USS George H.W. Bush were operating in the Arabian Sea, with the USS Theodore Roosevelt heading toward the region. Approximately 9,000 additional sailors and Marines were being dispatched, potentially bringing regional naval personnel above 20,000. DefenseScoop also reported an autonomous surface vessel deploying with Roosevelt’s strike group. The preparations give Washington the means to turn threats into action. Trump’s promise of no attack before the midterms offers little reassurance while American strike capacity continues to grow. On October 8, he publicly tied his pledge to November 3. His record of reversals gives reason to question whether this is electoral caution, negotiating pressure or tactical ambiguity intended to keep Iran off guard. Tehran therefore has reason to judge Washington’s military preparations more seriously than its president’s assurances. CNN subsequently reported contingency plans potentially involving the Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb. Read alongside the naval deployments, such planning gives Trump’s declaration a disturbing significance: the pause could provide time to position forces while encouraging an adversary to lower its guard. A sudden strike before the election could then be defended as deliberate deception. The political calendar shapes the danger; it does not reliably determine when that danger might materialize. For Americans, the connection between foreign policy and household hardship is becoming difficult to ignore.

Trump campaigned on restoring affordability. The BBC account places his approval near 37 percent and describes gasoline reaching approximately four dollars following disruption to Middle Eastern energy supplies. War reaches voters through fuel pumps, transport charges and household budgets. Presidential declarations of strength offer little comfort when families experience that strength as another expense they cannot avoid. Republican vulnerability is acute in the House of Representatives. All 435 seats face election, and the governing majority is narrow. The Senate presents Democrats with a harder challenge: Republicans hold 53 seats, against 47 Democrats and aligned independents. Democrats therefore need a net gain of four for an outright majority. A national mood hostile to Trump creates opportunities, but individual candidates, turnout and state loyalties will decide whether discontent becomes congressional power. History reinforces Republican vulnerability. The president’s party lost House seats in 20 of the 23 midterms from 1934 through 2022. Trump lost 41 in 2018, although Republicans gained Senate seats. Presidential unpopularity can punish the governing party without producing identical verdicts in both chambers. Why would a Democratic victory matter to Iran? Congress controls appropriations and can attach restrictions to funding, investigate military decisions and challenge the legal basis for hostilities. A hostile House could make financing an extended campaign considerably more difficult. Democratic control of both chambers would strengthen that pressure. The essential question would become whether legislators actually use these powers, rather than merely expressing dissatisfaction while approving the resources that keep military operations moving. Yet an electoral defeat would not immediately immobilize Trump. The new Congress takes office on January 3, 2027, leaving an interval after November’s vote. Trump could therefore confront a future Democratic majority with military decisions already taken. Congressional checks would remain significant, but their timing matters: an election that promises restraint could be followed by escalation before that restraint becomes effective. In Israel, Netanyahu confronts a different version of the same reckoning. A leader who has built his authority around security must answer whether successive wars have delivered it. Households also judge the cumulative burden of expensive essentials and prolonged mobilization. These pressures do not require an economy in collapse to become politically powerful. Families can hear reassuring national statistics

and still conclude that their own lives have become harder, less predictable and less secure. The electoral arithmetic offers Netanyahu little comfort, although it leaves room for survival. An October 15 Times of Israel report put Gadi Eisenkot’s Yashar party at 26 seats and Likud at 20. Its poll projected 54 seats for the Jewish opposition bloc and 49 for Netanyahu’s camp, both below the conventional 61-seat majority in the 120-seat Knesset. Other surveys differ. The broad warning is uncertainty: dissatisfaction with Netanyahu has yet to produce an assured alternative government. That uncertainty is central to his survival. Israel’s Basic Law provides for an outgoing government to continue until a successor is constituted. Netanyahu could therefore fail to secure a fresh majority yet remain prime minister during coalition negotiations or another electoral cycle. Political deadlock can prolong incumbency. An opposition that wins more seats but cannot assemble a government may discover that an adverse verdict against Netanyahu is insufficient to remove him. His legal exposure adds another dimension. Netanyahu faces domestic corruption proceedings and an International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued in November 2024 concerning alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. A warrant is not a conviction. Nor does losing office automatically produce arrest. Nevertheless, a weakened Netanyahu could face greater diplomatic isolation. Reduced American protection might make international cooperation with the Court politically easier, although enforcement depends on states, legal obligations and where he travels. Still, voters have an opportunity to interrupt the assumption that military dominance entitles leaders to unlimited political patience. Americans and Israelis will vote for different institutions, but both can demand an accounting of promises, costs and results. Neither electorate controls the region; both can influence governments whose decisions reach far beyond their borders. This is the story of two elections whose consequences will travel well beyond two countries. Iran may emerge as the issue that helped weaken the leaders who pursued war against it. The hopeful outcome is restraint, accountability and renewed diplomacy. The darker outcome is escalation pursued before restraints take effect. These ballots could open a door to peace. The world must hope their answer arrives before another devastating round of war.

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

Pakistan’s Maritime Diplomacy

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The initiative was founded on a simple yet powerful motto: “Together for Peace.” Its purpose was not merely to demonstrate naval capabilities, but to bring together countries with different political systems, strategic interests and security perspectives in pursuit of a common objective. Through joint training, professional exchanges and coordinated maritime activities, AMAN sought to strengthen interoperability among...

THE history of Pakistan’s creation is a testament to the power of political conviction, constitutional argument and determined leadership. The Two-Nation Theory, which gave intellectual and political direction to the demand for a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Subcontinent, found its fulfilment not through violence or terror, but through negotiation, reason and an organised struggle for freedom. The sacrifices of the Muslim leadership and the people who rallied behind it were directed towards the establishment of a state where dignity, security and peaceful coexistence could flourish. This historical experience continues to shape Pakistan’s understanding of peace; it is not a sign of weakness, but a principle that requires patience, wisdom and, when necessary, the courage to defend it. Since independence in August 1947, Pakistan has repeatedly expressed its desire for peaceful relations with its neighbours and the wider international community. Its history has also demonstrated that the pursuit of peace does not require a nation to surrender its right to defend itself against aggression. The country’s armed forces have consequently carried a dual responsibility; safeguarding national sovereignty while contributing to regional stability and international security. Among these institutions, the Pakistan Navy has assumed an increasingly significant role as maritime trade, strategic waterways and the security of the seas have become central to the prosperity and stability of nations. The oceans are no longer merely vast expanses separating continents. They are arteries of international commerce, connecting economies, supplying energy and sustaining the movement of essential goods. Any disruption to these routes, whether through piracy, terrorism, trafficking or geopolitical confrontation, can have consequences far beyond the immediate region. In such circumstances, maritime security cannot be the exclusive concern of a single country. It demands cooperation, mutual confidence and a shared willingness to confront common threats. Recognising this reality well before maritime security became such a prominent feature of international debate, the Pakistan Navy launched the multinational maritime exercise AMAN in 2007. The initiative was founded on a simple yet powerful motto: “Together for Peace.” Its purpose was not merely to demonstrate naval capabilities, but to bring together countries with different political systems, strategic interests and security perspectives in pursuit of a common objective. Through joint training, professional exchanges and coordinated maritime activities, AMAN sought to strengthen interoperability among regional and extra-regional navies, promote a shared understanding of maritime challenges and establish Pakistan as a bridge between nations rather than a dividing line between competing interests. The growth of the exercise over the years illustrates the increasing value attached to this initiative. The inaugural AMAN exercise, held from March 5 to 13, 2007, brought together 28 countries, with 14 warships participating from Bangladesh, China, France, Italy, Malaysia, the United Kingdom and the United States, alongside other specialist teams and observers. Subsequent editions expanded the exercise’s geographical reach and professional scope. Participation grew to 34 countries in 2017 and 46 in 2019, reflecting a widening interest in collaborative maritime security. By AMAN-23, the number of participating countries had reached 49. The ninth edition, conducted in the North Arabian Sea from February 7 to 11, 2025, marked another milestone, with 58 countries participating. Naval vessels and specialist teams from numerous states joined the exercise, while senior naval and defence representatives and observers added a wider diplomatic dimension. Such participation is significant not simply because of the number of flags represented, but because it creates opportunities for professional engagement among countries that might otherwise have limited occasions to work together. Its enduring value lies in the trust, understanding and practical cooperation that can emerge from these encounters. The exercise also reflects Pakistan’s broader contribution to international peace and security. Its participation in UN-mandated peacekeeping missions, engagement in the United Nations Combined Maritime Forces through Combined Task Forces 150 and 151, and involvement in bilateral and multilateral naval exercises demonstrate a continuing interest in collective responses to shared challenges. In the maritime domain, AMAN provides a platform to reinforce this approach by promoting a united resolve against terrorism and other illicit activities at sea, while encouraging navies to develop the professional relationships necessary for effective cooperation. The forthcoming tenth edition, AMAN-2027, is planned for January 29 to February 2, 2027. Its significance will extend beyond the operational exercises themselves through the second edition of the AMAN Dialogue, organised as an adjunct to the multinational event. The Dialogue is intended to bring together chiefs of navies, coast guards and

defence forces, alongside senior officials and other maritime experts, for discussions on emerging regional security concerns. Keynote addresses, seminars and bilateral and multilateral meetings will provide opportunities to examine existing mechanisms of maritime cooperation and consider innovative responses to evolving challenges. Such a forum is particularly relevant at a time when maritime security intersects with energy supplies, environmental concerns, technological change and the development of the blue economy. The seas offer immense economic opportunities, but their sustainable use requires security, responsible governance and cooperation among coastal and maritime nations. By placing these questions within a broader strategic conversation, the AMAN Dialogue can help connect immediate security concerns with the longer-term economic and developmental interests of the region. For Pakistan, the exercise also offers an opportunity to present its maritime capabilities, professional expertise and economic potential to the international community. Yet the strongest expression of a country’s soft image is not found in ceremony or publicity alone. It emerges from the consistency of its conduct, the reliability of its commitments and its willingness to work constructively with others. AMAN’s continued expansion provides a platform through which Pakistan can demonstrate these qualities while contributing to the security of the waters that connect nations and sustain global commerce. The true achievement of AMAN will ultimately be measured not by the number of ships assembled or countries represented, but by the strength of the relationships established and the practical cooperation that follows. Naval exercises cannot eliminate geopolitical rivalries, nor can dialogue resolve every dispute. They can, however, reduce misunderstandings, improve preparedness and create channels of communication where mistrust might otherwise prevail. As the tenth edition approaches, the principle embodied in AMAN deserves renewed attention. In a world where competition too often overshadows common interests, Pakistan’s initiative offers a reminder that security need not be pursued in isolation. The sea belongs to no single nation, and its protection is a shared responsibility. Through AMAN and the accompanying Dialogue, the Pakistan Navy has an opportunity to reaffirm a proposition that remains as relevant today as it was in 2007; lasting maritime security is best advanced when nations recognise their common interests and work together for peace.

Briefs

Every child deserves equal opportunities

FROM PAGE 01
bureaucrats, judges, civil servants, military servants, landlords, mill owners, regardless of their acumen and their level of intelligence," PM Shehbaz said. "And those millions of boys and girls, [who are] extremely intelligent, but come from the poorest of backgrounds in the four corners of Pakistan, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, cannot even imagine opening the gates of Aitchison College, let alone having the opportunity to receive a decent education," he noted. According to the premier, this vision led his team to establish Danish Schools back in 2010. "[The] concept was introduced in Punjab, not only to match the quality and level of Aitchison College and other grammar schools all over Punjab and other parts of Pakistan, but to excel," he asserted.

Maldives president to visit...

FROM PAGE 01
He will also hold restricted and delegation-level talks with PM Shehbaz. The two sides will review the full spectrum of bilateral relations and explore ways to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, health, education, tourism, agriculture, defence, maritime security, climate change and people-to-people exchanges. They will also exchange views on regional and international developments of mutual interest. A Pakistan-Maldives Business Forum will also be held during the visit to promote interaction between the business communities of the two countries and explore new opportunities for trade and investment, the FO said.

Maulana Fazl can play role...

FROM PAGE 01
More than 180 people were killed and hundreds injured in the attack targeting her homecoming procession. Speaking at the event, Bilawal said the Karsaz tragedy could never be forgotten, describing it as a painful chapter in the history of sacrifices made for democracy. He urged the JUI-F chief to openly condemn terrorist activities, noting that members of the JUI-F had also lost their lives in terrorist attacks. He said the cleric could not deny the presence of terrorism in Balochistan and KP.

Nawaz car targeted in London

FROM PAGE 01
CCTV footage released on X by PML-N Youth Wing leader Khuram Butt shows two individuals arriving on motorcycles around midnight, wearing masks and gloves to conceal their identities, before approaching the vehicles parked outside the former prime minister's residence. Nawaz is currently in London on a week-long visit for medical check-ups, with his sons Hasan and Hussain Nawaz.

Dar, Iranian FM discuss regional...

FROM PAGE 01
Both foreign ministers exchanged views on the ongoing OIC Council of Foreign Ministers meeting and stressed the need for continued cooperation among member states on key regional matters. The two sides also agreed to maintain close coordination and remain in regular contact regarding developments in the region, the Foreign Office statement added. Meanwhile, Iran's proposal to the United States to open the Strait of Hormuz with in seven days is still on the table, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told local media on Sunday. Iran presented its proposal in mid-September after a temporary ceasefire collapsed.

MOM Art Space presents Doing Earth in Germany

This exhibition is more like A Dialogue Between Cultures: Conceived as an artist-curated initiative, Ecology of Trust seeks to build a dialogue between Pakistan and Germany through art, bringing different cultural perspectives and lived experiences into conversation around climate change and our shared responsibility towards the Earth



DNA

HAMBURG: In parallel with When the Leaves Speak, Farrah Mahmood Rana's exhibition at MARKK Museum am Rothenbaum, Kunst und Kulturen der Welt, MOM Art Space presents DOING EARTH, a group exhibition featuring works by Pakistani women artists as part of Ecology of Trust, a German-Pakistani artistic and cultural exchange. Featuring 21 works by artists from Pakistan and Iran, the exhibition brings together miniature painting, drawing, painting, mixed media, objects, and film. Through diverse artistic approaches, the exhibition explores the relationship between humanity, culture, memory, and the Earth, with particular attention to ecological and climatic change. Doing Earth: The title DOING EARTH draws on Judith Butler's concept of performativity, which understands reality as continuously produced through human actions, social relations, and cultural practices. Extending this idea to our relationship with the Earth, the exhibition asks how we shape, inhabit, transform,

care for, and assign meaning to the environments and landscapes we share. The participating artists draw on personal experiences and cultural histories to reflect on memory, identity, belonging, care, coexistence, displacement, and environmental change. Their works transform intimate observations and lived experiences into broader reflections on how we inhabit and shape a changing planet. Miniature as a Contemporary Language: Speaking on this occasion, co-curator Farrah Mahmood Rana emphasized the importance of miniature painting within the exhibition, explaining that the practice is no longer confined to historical subjects or traditional formats. Contemporary miniature artists are engaging with diverse themes—including climate change, ecology, identity, memory, displacement, and cultural belonging—using a visual language that connects inherited knowledge with the concerns of the present. The exhibition highlights how the distinctive techniques of South Asian miniature painting can speak to the contemporary world. Meticulous linework, fine brushwork, layered pigments, intricate detail,

and the use of handmade Wasli paper create ways to observe, construct, and reinterpret landscapes and lived experiences. These methods can evoke the fragility of ecosystems, the accumulation of memory, and the complex relationships between people and their environments. When combined with contemporary subjects and, in some works, mixed media, miniature becomes an evolving artistic language rather than a fixed tradition. For audiences in Germany who may be encountering this art form and its techniques for the first time, the exhibition offers an opportunity to discover the depth, precision, and contemporary relevance of miniature painting. By bringing this practice into dialogue with urgent global questions, DOING EARTH demonstrates how traditional artistic knowledge can cross cultural boundaries and contribute to conversations about our shared ecological future. This exhibition is more like A Dialogue Between Cultures: Conceived as an artist-curated initiative, Ecology of Trust seeks to build a dialogue between Pakistan and Germany through art, bringing different cultural perspectives and lived

experiences into conversation around climate change and our shared responsibility towards the Earth. At its core, the project proposes art as a space for cross-cultural exchange, reflection, and collective awareness. DOING EARTH invites audiences to reconsider their relationship with nature and the landscapes they inhabit, asking not only what world we have inherited, but what kind of world we are continuously creating through the ways we live, act, remember, and care. Participating Artists are Amna Hashmi · Farida Fatima · Farrah Mahmood Rana · Suriyya Choudhary · Samreen Rehman · Ufaq Ehsan · Sara Rahanjam. The group Show presents 21 works by artists from Pakistan and Iran, spanning miniature painting, drawing, painting, mixed media, objects, and film. Exhibition: 8–10 October Venue: MOM Art Space, Hamburg Curators: Dagmar Rauwald and Farrah Mahmood Rana. Presented as part of Ecology of Trust, DOING EARTH takes place in parallel with When the Leaves Speak, Farrah Mahmood Rana's exhibition at MARKK Museum am Rothenbaum, Kunst und Kulturen der Welt, Hamburg.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Salman Ali Agha celebrates with teammate Arafat Minhas after completing 100 runs during the tri-series one-day International (ODI) cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, in the city. — DNA photo by Shahid Raju

Chinese Groups bring supplies to underprivileged Youth in Pakistan

RAWALPINDI: A charity donation ceremony celebrating the 75th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations was held here at Anjuman Faizul Islam, a social welfare and academic democratic organization, where Chinese civil society groups delivered supplies to orphaned and underprivileged youth in Pakistan. Under the theme "Gathering Love for China-Pakistan Friendship, Building People-to-People Bonds Through Youth," a Chinese Cultural and Media company donated 1,050 pairs of peace-themed shoes and 500 T-shirts to local youth. The Pakistan Fujian Chamber of Commerce contributed charitable supplies valued at 5 million Pakistani rupees, covering campus life and daily necessities for students and helping alleviate shortages of living materials among young people in the region, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. The event was guided by the Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and organized by the Pakistan Chinese Education Association and the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community with the support of multiple overseas Chinese associations, enterprises and charitable institutions. — APP

Sindh CM taps Shanghai's investment opportunities with 34 deals Inked

SHANGHAI: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah turned to Shanghai's economy as a template for his province's development, leading an investment drive in the Chinese financial hub that concluded with 34 memorandums of understanding and agreements, including 10 government-to-government and 24 business-to-business agreements across key sectors, China Economic Net reported on Saturday. Speaking at the Sindh Investment Conference organized by the Sindh Investment Department and the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai, the CM said Shanghai "has shown the world what vision, openness and hard work can achieve." Shanghai and Karachi, the capital of Sindh province, have been sister cities since 1984, he added. The CM presented Sindh's investment advantages to an audience of over 100 Chinese and Pakistani companies, citing its location and connectivity, economic base and young workforce, and natural resources. He also highlighted the track

Paki-China Forum held in Harbin to discuss future bilateral cooperation

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Youth Forum was held at Harbin Engineering University as a parallel session of the 6th Exchange Mechanism Conference of the CPEC Consortium of Universities, bringing together scholars and students from both countries to discuss the future of bilateral cooperation through an interdisciplinary lens. Under the theme "The Future of China-Pakistan Cooperation: Interdisciplinary Perspectives," the forum was held in a hybrid format, with eight online sub-venues set up at Pakistani universities. More than 120 representatives from more than 40 Chinese and Pakistani universities and research institutions gathered to exchange views on joint research, talent cultivation and higher education cooperation, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. The forum was guided by the China Association of Higher Education and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and hosted by Harbin Engineering University. It was organized by the Secretariat of the CPEC Consortium of Universities and the College of International Cooperative Education at Harbin Engineering University. Nine scholars from the two countries delivered presentations focusing on CPEC development and bilateral higher education collaboration. — APP

Saudi-led coalition says it destroyed...

FROM PAGE 01
The incident comes amid escalating attacks on Saudi Arabia by Yemen's Houthi group. In recent days, the kingdom has reported interceptions of drones and missiles targeting Riyadh, the Eastern Province and southern regions. The escalation has also affected civilian infrastructure. Houthi attacks on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh have caused casualties and disrupted air traffic, while Saudi authorities have reported damage from falling debris following interceptions.

Trump's decision to waive...

FROM PAGE 01
Senate on recess until after Election Day. Trump said he was waiving the sanctions indefinitely, citing national security concerns. It is unlikely Congress would be in a position to take any action to challenge Trump's moves until lawmakers return to Washington. Skeptics in Congress warned Trump would not follow the law it took almost a year for Graham to persuade Trump to agree to the Russian sanctions package. It was designed to impose steep tariffs on countries that import large amounts of Russian oil and energy products and was promoted as a way to halt the flow of funds fueling Putin's four-year war against Ukraine.

8 Indian-backed terrorists...

FROM PAGE 01
Sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, according to the statement. ISPR reaffirmed that the "relentless counterterrorism campaign under Vision 'Azm-i-Istehkam' (as approved by the Federal Apex Committee on the National Action Plan) by security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country". Days ago, Balochistan government officials said that six terrorists affiliated with the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), two would-be female suicide bombers, and two commanders of a banned organisation had been arrested during IBOs across the province.

Pakistan defeat Lanka in first ODI

FROM PAGE 01
The Green Shirts made a positive start as openers Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub looked to build momentum, finding boundaries at regular intervals and putting together a promising opening partnership. However, Saim was the first batter to depart, falling to Dilshan Madushanka in the fourth over. His dismissal ended the 23-run opening stand, with the left-handers scoring seven off eight deliveries, including a six. Madushanka struck again in the sixth over, dismissing Fakhar for 16 off 19 deliveries, including two fours and a six. The early setbacks left Pakistan struggling at 32-2 after 5.5 overs.

Egypt to provide all support...

FROM PAGE 01
'courageous Egyptian stance' led by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, which he described as embodies "steadfast solidarity with the sisterly Arab Saudi Kingdom, in confronting the common threats, protecting the interests of our peoples, and its national security." "Egypt's and the Kingdom's standing alongside the Yemeni people in their battle to restore state institutions is a pillar of security and stability in the region, because Cairo and Riyadh are the two wings of Arab national security, and through their unity, our nation gains greater strength, resilience, and capacity to forge the peace we aspire to," he posted on his social media account.

Abubakar, Bismel wins Aitchison College Junior National Tennis title

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Abubakar Talha won the U-18 singles title after defeated Amir Mazari by 2-1 at the Aitchison College Junior National Tennis Championship 2026 here at Aitchison College. The boys U-18 singles final proved an epic and marathon encounter, which kept the crowd and tennis enthusiasts at their seats for long. They cheered for each and every point and after a tough and long fight, Abubakar Talha succeeded in taming Aitchison's tiger Amir Mazari 6-3, 5-7, 6-4. The girls U-18 singles final, Bismel Zia beat Khadija Khalil in another epic encounter with a score of 6-3, 0-6, 10-6. The boys U-18 doubles title was claimed by the pair of Amir Mazari and Nabeel Qayum, who defeated the duo of Hamza Ali Rizwan and Omer Jawad 6-3, 6-4. The boys U-14 singles final saw M Shayan Afridi of Peshawar outpacing Muhammad Aayan 4-2, 4-0. In the girls U-14 singles final, Khadija Khalil routed Eman Shahbaz 4-1, 4-1. In the boys U-14 doubles final,

Muhammad Muaz/Aaliyan Ali beat Shayan Afridi/M Faizan 2-4, 5-4(5), 10-8. Dr. S. M. Turab Hussain, Principal Aitchison College Lahore and Fazal-ur-Rehman, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab, graced the concluding ceremony as chief



guests and distributed prizes among the winners. Other distinguished guests present on the occasion were Rashid Malik, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, Muhammad Muntaha Ashraf, Chairman Punjab Board of Investment and Trade, Waqar Nisar, Naseem Ahmad, play-

ers, their families and tennis enthusiasts. Sharing his views on the occasion, the Secretary Sports congratulated all the winners and extended his best wishes to the participants, urging them to continue working hard and strive for greater success in upcoming competitions. "The Punjab government, under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, is making every possible effort to provide the youth with world-class sports facilities. We remain committed to nurturing young talent, offering them quality platforms and creating clear pathways to help them excel at national and international levels," he said. Aitchison College Principal Dr. S. M. Turab Hussain said the championship had reached its ninth edition, reflecting the institution's continued commitment to promoting junior tennis and providing emerging players with opportunities to showcase their talent. "The primary objective of organising this national junior championship is to give young players a competitive platform to demonstrate their skills, gain valuable experience and advance their sporting careers.

Briefs

Israel urged to prosecute over 'act of terror'

JERUSALEM: US Ambassador Mike Huckabee on Saturday demanded that Israel prosecute and jail the assailants in a West Bank settler attack against a Washington Post journalist.

"Attacking a female photographer is a despicable act of terror carried out by masked cowards," Huckabee wrote on X, taking a far stronger tone than a earlier statement from Washington. Huckabee, a staunch ally of Israel who has nonetheless sharply criticized settler attacks against Americans, did not identify the culprits as settlers, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tried to sow doubt as to their identity. "Details of who under investigation, but those who attacked unarmed reporter should spend (years) in prison," Huckabee said. "We have called for a full investigation, arrest, and prosecution to the fullest extent of the law to whoever participated in this." Heidi Levine, a veteran photographer, was taken to hospital with broken vertebrae. She was listed on Saturday as being in moderate condition. She had been covering Palestinians' annual harvest of olives, which has been repeatedly disrupted by Israeli settlers.

Settlers beat her and stole her passport, telephone, wallet and equipment, according to witnesses.

Netanyahu, who wants to shore up his pro-settlement right-wing base ahead of close-fought October 27 elections, on Friday insisted that Palestinians or "far-left" activists may have been responsible. The US State Department on Friday took a cautious tone on Levine's beating, saying It condemns "criminal violence by any party.—APP

Israel steps up incursions into southern Syria

DAMASCUS: Israeli forces carried out fresh incursions into southern Syria on Saturday, detaining four people in Quneitra province and advancing into the western countryside of Daraa, in the latest incidents in a series of Israeli violations of Syrian territory and the 1974 Disengagement Agreement. The operations involved military vehicles entering several areas of Quneitra, searches of civilian homes and the detention of people heading toward agricultural land, according to the Syrian state news agency SANA. In the northern Quneitra countryside, several Israeli military vehicles advanced west of the village of Taranja, detaining two people as they headed toward farmland west of the village, SANA reported.

In the southern countryside, a force of more than 10 military vehicles entered the areas of Al-Razzaniyah and Abu Madhra farms, searched several homes and detained two people. One of them was released after several hours before the force withdrew, the report said.

Separately, two Israeli military vehicles advanced into Wadi Al-Raqad in the western Daraa countryside as Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the western Yarmouk Basin area. The latest incursions followed an Israeli advance on Friday into an area west of Al-Razaniyah farm in Quneitra, where Israeli forces opened fire toward shepherds to prevent them from grazing their livestock before withdrawing. Israeli forces also previously entered the town of Abdeen in the Yarmouk Basin area of western Daraa, surrounding the town, according to SANA. The incidents are part of a continuing pattern of Israeli military activity inside southern Syria, including incursions into villages and agricultural areas, raids on civilian homes, detentions, land-clearing operations and shelling attacks. Israel has also expanded earthworks along what it calls the "Sufa 53 Line" in Quneitra, drawing condemnation from several Arab countries over what they described as violations of Syrian sovereignty and international law. Qatar, Jordan and Kuwait have condemned the project, which involves expanding earthen berms and digging trenches inside Syrian territory near the disengagement line. The countries called for international action to enforce the 1974 Disengagement Agreement and compel Israel to end its occupation of Syrian land.—APP

Pak urges unified diplomatic action to resolve conflict

"Continued fighting in North and South Kivu, the activities of armed groups and the increasing use of drones continue to endanger civilians and undermine regional stability," Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, told the UN Security Council during a briefing on the situation in the Great Lakes region on Tuesday

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has urged greater coordination among diplomatic initiatives addressing the conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), stressing that progress in negotiations must yield tangible improvements on the ground as civilians face displacement, food insecurity and an Ebola outbreak.

"Continued fighting in North and South Kivu, the activities of armed groups and the increasing use of drones continue to endanger civilians and undermine regional stability," Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, told the UN Security Council during a briefing on the situation in the Great Lakes region on Tuesday.

In this regard, he voiced deep concern over the "fragile" situation in eastern D.R. Congo, and said the immediate priority remains an effective and durable cessation of hostilities, so as to create the necessary space for a political solution.

At stake is the State's ability to restore its authority over territory contested by the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), a Rwandan-backed armed rebel group, and other armed outfits while averting a wider regional confrontation. Parallel mediation efforts include the Washington peace agreement, signed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda on 27 June 2025, and the Qatar-facilitated Doha process between the Congolese Government and AFC/M23. ngo. In his speech, the Pakistani envoy highlighted that peace mechanisms and frameworks already exist, but the region is being undermined by continued fighting, armed groups, a devastating humanitarian crisis (compounded by an Ebola outbreak), and a gap between diplomatic declarations and real-world implementation. Ambassador Jadoon urged all involved countries and parties to move past empty rhetoric and translate their diplomatic commitments into concrete, verifiable progress on the ground

to genuinely rebuild regional trust. He reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the DRC, along with the continued revitalization of the region's Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework. At the outset, Huang Xia, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, presented his biannual report on the implementation of the 2013 Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DR Congo and the region. He underscored progress on the implementation of the Doha and Washington processes, also outlining "encouraging" diplomatic progress on implementing these agreements, through the signing of a protocol and road map by Congolese authorities and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), as well as ongoing African Union mediation efforts, including a mission by the Panel of Facilitators to Goma, Kigali and Kinshasa from 5 to 11 October. "Despite this sustained diplo-

matic effort, the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has continued to worsen," he went on, adding: "This worsening of the situation has occurred in a regional context marked by persistent tensions that continue to undermine peace efforts." A genuine ceasefire is difficult to achieve, despite the Council's unanimous calls for one, through several resolutions, including resolutions 2773 (2025). He voiced concern over persisting hostilities in several areas, armed drones aggravating civilian suffering and the spread of the Ebola virus, leading to a climate of distrust in the region between Kigali and Kinshasa and also between the latter and Burundi. Amidst such "interrelated challenges", he outlined his diplomatic efforts towards dialogue and de-escalation and called for a strengthened role for the African Union so that its various increasingly aligned mediation efforts help implement agreed commitments. —DNA

RCCI concerned over property tax amendments, sanitation fee

DNA

A delegation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), led by President Noshervan Khalil Khan, had a meeting with Nauman Khalid, Director Excise & Taxation, Rawalpindi Division, to discuss business community concerns regarding recent Finance Act amendments, property tax valuation and assessment, and the sanitation fee introduced under the Suthra Punjab programme.

The delegation included Senior Vice President Waseem Aslam, Vice President Ikram Abbasi, Executive Committee members and representatives from various business sectors.

During the meeting, the RCCI delegation highlighted the additional financial burden on businesses due to revised property tax assessments and the imposition of sanitation charges amid rising energy costs, utility bills and operational expenses. It expressed concern over possible duplication of charges, noting that businesses already pay various fees to WASA and the Excise & Taxation Department. The delegation also raised serious reservations over making payment of the sanitation fee mandatory for obtaining No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) for property transfers and commercial transactions, particularly where bills have not been issued or received. It stressed that such requirements should not obstruct legitimate business and property transactions. RCCI President Noshervan Khalil Khan emphasised that taxation policies must be transparent, equitable



and formulated in consultation with relevant stakeholders. He called for a review of property tax valuation procedures to address anomalies and ensure fair assessments. The Chamber urged the authorities to base sanitation charges on updated field surveys and actual service coverage, introduce appropriate classifications and relief for small businesses,

and review existing charges to prevent duplication. It also recommended a streamlined mechanism for resolving billing disputes, a dedicated grievance redressal system, online complaint tracking, reasonable grace periods and instalment facilities. The RCCI delegation further called for the suspension of penalties and late-payment surcharges on disput-

ed bills until resolution, along with a review of the mandatory NOC requirement. The Chamber stressed that a fair, transparent and practical implementation mechanism is essential to protect business interests, facilitate property transactions and ensure that taxation policies do not further burden the business community.

Syrian FM discusses development with Qatar, Norway

BANGKOK: Syrian Finance Minister Mohammed Yisr Barnieh has discussed enhancing financial and economic co-operation between the Syrian Arab Republic and Qatar with his Qatari counterpart, Ali bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari.

The two, who met on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group's annual meetings in Bangkok, also talked about Qatar's support of recovery and development efforts in the country. The Ministry of Finance said Barnieh expressed the Syrian government's appreciation of Qatar's support and assistance in advancing financial reforms and development projects. The minister stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in the coming phase in line with national priorities, contributing to improved public services and living conditions for citizens. The talks also addressed support for the multi-donor trust fund for Syria's reconstruction, in cooperation with the World Bank, aimed at supporting the recovery plan. Both sides emphasized the importance of continued coordination and cooperation between the two countries and of further efforts to develop areas of support and priority projects in a way that advanced economic recovery and development and helped improve basic services in Syria. Meanwhile, Barnieh also discussed ways to boost co-operation and support recovery efforts in Syria with Norway's Minister of International Development, Asmund Aukrust, and his delegation on the sidelines of the meetings. The two sides reviewed Norway's participation in the multi-donor trust fund, with the Norwegian side expressing interest in contributing to the fund and providing support, focusing on the healthcare sector. They also talked about the poverty reduction strategy being prepared by the Syrian government in cooperation with relevant ministries.—APP

SIFC lauded for resolving industrial land approval issues

ISLAMABAD: Industrialists from Punjab have appreciated the SIFC for its prompt intervention and facilitation in resolving procedural bottlenecks related to industrial land approval. In a statement issued here on Sunday, the industrialists said, this intervention reflects the Council's continued commitment to supporting investors and strengthening Pakistan's business environment. Through coordinated efforts with the government of Punjab, the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) Punjab, and industrial estate developers, including Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) and PIEDMC, SIFC facilitated the resolution of 34 pending industrial applications during September 2026, helping accelerate investment-related processes across the province.—APP

Saudi campaign provides specialized eye care to Bangladeshis

DHAKA: Volunteer Saudi doctors have over the past week provided treatment to more than 5,000 men and women needing eye surgery and specialized care in one of the poorest regions of Bangladesh. The medical campaign was funded by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center and Al-Basar International Foundation — a Saudi-based nongovernmental organization providing eye healthcare and visual rehabilitation to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The seven-day treatment program was organized last week at the Makka Eye Hospital in Rangpur, a prominent, dedicated eye care facility in northern Bangladesh managed under the supervision of Al-Basar Foundation. "A total of 5,014 patients received free eye examinations, medical consultations, medicines, and reading glasses. In addition, 586 cataract surgeries were successfully performed," Dr. Ahmed Taher Hamid Ali, the foundation's country director, told Arab News on Sunday. "Eye problems, particularly cataracts and other age-related vision problems, remain a significant concern for many people in the Rangpur region." The program targeted low-income households to mitigate the financial costs of ophthalmic care and allowed hundreds of cataract patients to regain sight, return to work, and manage their household responsibilities. Three volunteer Saudi doctors from KSR relief, alongside medical professionals from the Rangpur hospital, carried out the procedures. "Their visit reflected the importance of humanitarian cooperation and the shared commitment to providing essential eye care services to people in need," Dr. Ali said. "The campaign was particularly important because many people in the Rangpur Division of northern Bangladesh face financial difficulties and cannot easily afford specialized eye care services. By bringing essential eye care services directly to the community, the campaign helped people who might otherwise have gone without proper treatment." China Begum, a 55-year-old patient who received cataract surgery, told Arab News she was grateful for Saudi Arabia's "generous support," thanks to which she will soon be able to function independently and look after her family. She was advised to undergo surgery long ago but was not able to bear the cost of the procedure and medicines. Now, her eyesight has been restored thanks to a Saudi doctor who operated on her. "I found the doctor very humble and cordial. He treated me like a mother," she said.—DNA

Bangladesh battling measles. It's a 'real warning' to other nations

SYLHET, Bangladesh: Bangladesh is battling to contain the world's worst measles outbreak, a crisis exacerbated by weak data, inadequate outreach and vaccination gaps that experts say offers a warning to other nations about the deadly risk of falling immunization rates. Bangladesh, whose routine vaccination program faltered in 2025, reported 202,000 suspected measles cases — 22,000 of them laboratory-confirmed — since the start of the outbreak in mid-March to October 9, the World Health Organization said. That's more suspected cases than any other country this year. So far, 1,147 people have died of the highly contagious disease, with 94 percent of reported deaths among children under five years old, the WHO said.

Bangladesh's experience shows the challenge of containing an outbreak when vaccination coverage falls below 95 percent, a level the WHO says is needed to prevent outbreaks. Bangladesh almost achieved that in recent years but in 2025 coverage dropped. A Reuters review of WHO documents, alongside interviews with more than a dozen scientists, health workers and officials, shows Bangladesh was also hampered in its emergency response by data that left out millions of children, shortcomings in preparation and a failure to reach enough parents. "This is a real warning to every country," said Mark Jit, a WHO vaccine adviser and professor at the School of Global Public Health

at New York University. Preventing an outbreak through vaccinations was easier, cheaper and safer than responding to an emergency, he said. "The response will stop the outbreak eventually, but in the meantime, many will have had measles, and some will have died," he said. Ziauddin Hyder, special assistant on health affairs to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, told Reuters in September the government was doing everything it could to end the outbreak. The government did not respond to further questions sent in October for this article.

In the northeast Sylhet region, one of the worst-hit areas in the nation of 178 million people, two-year-old Arman Hosain died unvaccinated in July, 24 hours after admission to hospital for treatment paid for by selling the family's three-wheeled auto rickshaw. His unvaccinated four-year-old sister survived. His father Amin Mia, 26, said no health workers came to their remote village in Sylhet to offer vaccinations in time. "They came only after I buried my son," he said. Measles usually kills two or three people in every 1,000 cases, the WHO says, but the disease can be more deadly in poorer nations because of factors such as malnutrition. In the town of Chhatak, also in the Sylhet region, the daughter of 30-year-old carpenter Humayun Rashid died unvaccinated in June aged nine months. Labiba Akter could have received an inoculation in April when

an emergency program lowered the vaccination age to six months from nine. "No health worker came to tell us," her father said. In May, Health Minister Sardar Md. Sakawat Husain said the emergency drive had brought cases in hotspots "almost to zero" and the outbreak was under control. Yet in September, Bangladesh reported a daily average of 1,198 new cases of measles, which causes a high fever, cough and telltale rash. That was the highest total since May.

The Bangladesh outbreak comes as vaccine hesitancy is rising, particularly in wealthier nations, amid skepticism championed by figures such as US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. In Bangladesh, access to inoculations and awareness are bigger hurdles, experts said.

Until recently, Bangladesh had been a vaccination success story. The WHO and the United Nations children's agency UNICEF estimated that in 2024 it achieved 96 percent coverage for the first vaccine dose and 93 percent for the second, which is given to capture the small percentage of children who don't develop immunity after one shot.

But that same year, protests erupted that ended 15 years of rule by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In the ensuing political turmoil, health workers went on strike, vaccine orders were delayed and follow-up vaccinations that usually accompany routine programs were disrupted.—DNA

Houthi's criminal behavior calls for firm int'l stance

RIYADH: The Houthi militia's heinous attacks constitute criminal behavior that called for a firm international stance, Jaseem Albudaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said on Sunday as Gulf foreign ministers met in Manama to discuss regional and international developments.

"The Houthi's heinous attacks constitute deliberate criminal behavior," he said. Houthi attacks have targeted civilian and energy facilities in Saudi Arabia, Albudaiwi added. "We reaffirm our support for Saudi Arabia and all measures it takes to protect its security." Albudaiwi added that "Iran's dangerous actions threaten the security of maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz." He added that 7,000 ballistic missiles have targeted Gulf facilities since February 28, when the US-Iran war broke. Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Zayani, who is chairing the meeting, also reiterated his country's condemnation of the Houthi attacks against civilians in Saudi Arabia and stressed Manama's solidarity and support for any measure that the Kingdom would take in self-defense. Al-Zayani also expressed support to the continued mediation efforts of Oman and Qatar to end the US-Iran war, and emphasized that Gulf states must be involved in any negotiations affecting their security.

Asharq Al-Awsat earlier reported that the meeting will discuss a number of issues related to advancing joint Gulf action and review the latest developments in the region and the world.

The Manama meetings take on added significance with the convening of the ninth Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Gulf-Russian Strategic Dialogue on the sidelines of the GCC's 168th ministerial session. The meeting aims to strengthen relations between the two sides and broaden the scope of their partnership across various fields. The strategic dialogue meeting is taking place amid extremely delicate circumstances in the region, Albudaiwi stressed on Sunday. HE earlier said the Gulf-Russian meeting reflects the GCC states' efforts to deepen their relations with countries and regional and international blocs and to build strategic partnerships that strengthen their presence and role on the international stage. The Secretary-General said the talks will address ways to further develop Gulf-Russian cooperation and exchange views on issues of mutual concern in a manner that serves the interests of both sides.—APP

Syria foils suspected Daesh plot

DAMASCUS: Syrian authorities said on Saturday they had foiled a suspected Daesh plot to attack a police patrol near Damascus, while a soldier was killed and another seriously wounded during mine-clearance operations in eastern Syria, highlighting the security challenges facing the country in the post-Assad era. The General Intelligence Department, working with Internal Security Forces, arrested two suspects allegedly affiliated with the extremist group and seized an explosive device prepared for detonation, the Syrian state news agency SANA reported. In a statement issued Friday, the Internal Security Forces identified the suspects by their initials, M.K. and A.H., and said investigations were continuing to establish the plot's circumstances, scope and links. The operation followed the dismantling of another cell linked to Daesh, also known as ISIS, in the Al-Houla area of Homs countryside on Oct. 10. Authorities said that operation foiled plots targeting places of worship and Internal Security Forces patrols, SANA reported. The latest arrests underscore the continuing threat posed by Daesh remnants as Syria's new authorities seek to consolidate security following the ouster of President Bashar Assad in December 2024. Despite the group's loss of territorial control in Syria, its cells remain a security concern, particularly as the transitional government works to strengthen state institutions and bring the country's security apparatus under centralized control.

In a separate incident on Saturday, a Syrian Arab Army soldier was killed and another seriously wounded while clearing mines and explosive remnants in the Tanf area of eastern Homs countryside.—APP

Briefs

Pakistan-Iran border temporarily closed

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: The Balochistan government on Sunday refuted social media rumours regarding the "temporary" closure of Pakistan-Iran border, clarifying that the move aims to address security concerns, curb smuggling and improve border management.

In a statement, Adviser to the Balochistan CM Shahid Rind said that the temporary closure of the Pakistan-Iran border was necessary to address security concerns, prevent smuggling and improve the border management system.

According to Rind, positive progress was being made in resolving administrative issues related to the border through discussions between senior officials of Pakistan and Iran.

"In view of the current progress, the Pakistan-Iran border is likely to reopen soon," he said, adding that a coordinated system was being developed to improve border affairs, prevent smuggling and maintain law and order. Rind said that effective border management would help control unrest in border areas and create opportunities to provide better facilities to traders.

He urged the public not to pay heed to unverified information and rumours circulating on social media regarding the border's closure.

Serious incident' at Canada base causes deaths, sparks fire: govt

LONDON: A "serious incident" at a military base in western Canada killed and injured multiple people and sparked a huge blaze the government said. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney posted on X that "a serious incident creating a major fire" had occurred at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright military base in western Alberta province.

There were "both fatalities and injuries" as a result of the incident, the country's defence minister, David McGuinty, said at a news conference. Neither offered details on the number of casualties or the nature of the incident. "I'm saddened to share that there have been both fatalities and injuries as a result of an incident on the base," identified as Wainwright in Alberta, McGuinty said. - APP

New Saudi Ambassador meets Bahraini envoy in Islamabad



DNA

ISLAMABAD: As part of his initial introductory meetings with Islamabad's diplomatic community, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Pakistan, Dr. Raajih bin Taami Al-Buqami, held a cordial meeting today with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps, Professor Muhammad Ibrahim Abdul Qadir.

The meeting provided an opportunity for both dignitaries to exchange warm, friendly conversations and review various bilateral topics of mutual interest, underscoring the strong cooperative bonds shared among brotherly nations within the diplomatic corps in Islamabad.

BANGLADESH CULTURAL EVENING AND EXHIBITION



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Culture Aurangzeb Khichi, High Commissioner of Bangladesh Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan and others cutting ribbon to open exhibition on the sidelines of Bangladesh culture evening. A vibrant celebration of culture and heritage at the Bangladesh Cultural Evening. Talented artists delivered mesmerizing performances, captivating the audience with music, dance, and artistic excellence. The event was organized by the High Commission of Bangladesh at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). - DNA

One in 3 adults in Pakistan lives with psychological disorder

Researchers also identified significant social inequalities in mental health. Higher rates of mental disorders were found among older adults, individuals with lower levels of education and income, unemployed people, and those who were widowed, divorced or separated

NEWS DESK

KARACHI: Pakistan's first nationally representative mental health survey has shown that nearly one in three adults is living with a diagnosable mental and behavioural disorder, highlighting a major public health challenge affecting millions of people across the country.

The findings come from the largest and most comprehensive mental health study ever conducted in Pakistan, say researchers representing the Pakistan Psychiatric Society (PPS). The five-year research is published in the British Medical Journal.

The survey was led by Professor Raza-ur-Rahman from Hamdard University, Karachi, in collaboration with Brighton and Sussex Medical School UK, University of South Florida, US, and psychiatric institutions across Pakistan. Experts term findings of first national mental health survey 'most reliable'.

Nearly 18,000 adults from all four provinces participated in the 2018-2022 study, providing the first nationally representative pic-

ture of mental health in the country.

The study found that 32 per cent of adults were currently living with mental and behavioural disorders, while 38 per cent had experienced a disorder during their lifetime.

One in five adults met criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). More than one in 10 adults had depression, whereas six per cent reported suicidal thoughts in the previous month.

Researchers also identified significant social inequalities in mental health. Higher rates of mental disorders were found among older adults, individuals with lower levels of education and income, unemployed people, and those who were widowed, divorced or separated.

Mental health problems were associated with substantial impairment in family life, social relationships and the ability to work. "This survey provides the evidence needed to develop effective mental health policies and services in Pakistan. It identifies who is most at risk, where support is most needed, and the scale of the unmet need for care," said lead investigator Prof Raza-ur-Rahman, currently heading the department of psychiatry at HU.

Pakistan's first astronaut to travel to space on Nov 25

STAFF REPORT

NAROWAL: Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday announced that Pakistan's first astronaut would travel to space on November 25, marking a major milestone in the country's space programme with support from China. Addressing the closing ceremony of World Space Week in Narowal, Iqbal said friendly country China was cooperating with Pakistan in its astronauts' journey to space. "With China's cooperation, Pakistan will reach new heights in the field of space research," the federal minister said. He added that Pakistan had set a target of achieving a moon landing by 2035.

Iqbal highlighted the growing importance of satellite technology, saying it had become one of the most critical technologies not only for Pakistan but across the world. He said the country's national security system was also linked to satellite technology, while discussions globally had now moved beyond the moon towards establishing human settlements on Mars. "If we do not conduct research, we will fall behind in the race for development," the minister warned.

Court to rule on first climate lawsuit against Italian state

ROME: An Italian court is to rule on the country's first climate lawsuit against the state, with claimants hoping Rome will be ordered to slash greenhouse-gas emissions sharply. The case, known as "Giudizio Universale" (Last Judgment), was launched in June 2021 by environmental group A Sud and more than 200 other associations and individuals. They accuse the state of violating fundamental rights by failing to take sufficient action to meet the goals laid out in the landmark 2015 Paris agreement to reduce carbon emissions. - APP

Over 855 detained over protests in Paris

PARIS: Police in Paris said Sunday they had arrested a "record" 855 people over protest violence in the capital the day before, with the prosecutor's office saying more than 500 were being held in custody. The capital, and many other French cities, on Saturday experienced clashes between police and protesters, multiple street fires and widespread looting.

Paris's deputy mayor Lamia El Aaraje said the capital had been hit by "a level of violence that I believe we had never seen before." The Paris prosecutor's office said that, of those in custody, 346 were adults and 171 were minors, for a total of 517. It added that the numbers were provisional and could change. "Arrests took place throughout the night and up to 6:00 a.m. (0400 GMT) this morning," the office said.

Most of the arrests were for receiving stolen goods, association with intent to commit violence, and vandalism, it said. - APP

Iran parliament approves new defence minister

DNA

TEHRAN: Iranian lawmakers on Sunday approved Mehrdad Akhlaghi as the country's new defence minister, replacing his predecessor who was killed on the first day of the war with the United States. "Members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly today gave vote of confidence to Mehrdad Akhlaghi, the nominee for minister of defense and armed forces logistics," state television reported, nearly eight months after the initial US-Israeli strikes that sparked the conflict.

One killed in Ukraine drone attack

MOSCOW: Alexander Beglov, the governor of Russia's St. Petersburg, said on Sunday that one person was killed and five others were injured in a Ukrainian drone attack targeting the city. He added that fires broke out at the St. Petersburg oil terminal, an oil depot, and industrial warehouses. Russian e-commerce company Ozon said its logistics center in St. Petersburg caught fire, while Russian Internet company VK said one of its data centers in the Leningrad region was attacked by drones, adding that its services remain normally available to users. - APP



آپ کے وزیر اعظم

برمشکل میں آپ کے ساتھ

موٹر سائیکل، چنگی اور رکشہ چلانے والوں کیلئے ایک ٹوکن پر ایک ہفتے میں 500 روپے کی رعایت جاری

800 سی سی تک چھوٹی گاڑیوں کے مالکان کیلئے ہر دس روز میں 10 لیٹر پر 100 روپے کی لیٹر کی بچت جاری

رعایتی پٹرول کے حصول کا طریقہ کار

STEP 01

رہنشین کے بعد پٹرول ریٹیف حاصل کرنے کے لیے پٹرول پمپ جانے سے پہلے TOK لکھ کر 9771 پر بھیجیں

STEP 02

موصول ہونے والے پیغام میں ٹوکن نمبر کا ڈی کارڈ پر مشین نمبر، پٹرول کی مقدار اور ٹوکن استعمال کرنے کی مدت درج ہوگی

STEP 03

ٹوکن پٹرول پمپ پر دکھا کر آپ رعایتی قیمت پر پٹرول حاصل کر سکتے ہیں

صوبے کے نام کا پمپ احرف

اسلام آباد: P، سندھ: S، خیبر پختونخوا: K، گلگت بلتستان: G، آزاد کشمیر: A، بلوچستان: B

مزید رہنمائی کیلئے

www.pmfuelrelief.pk وزٹ کریں

QR کوڈ اسکرین کریں

REG لکھ کر Space دیں

STEP 01

اپنی قومی شناختی کارڈ نمبر 3740515196983 لکھ کر Space دیں

STEP 02

پمپ Space نمبر پر

صوبے کے نام کا پمپ احرف

اسلام آباد: P، سندھ: S، خیبر پختونخوا: K، گلگت بلتستان: G، آزاد کشمیر: A، بلوچستان: B

STEP 03

موصول ہونے والے پیغام میں ٹوکن نمبر کا ڈی کارڈ پر مشین نمبر، پٹرول کی مقدار اور ٹوکن استعمال کرنے کی مدت درج ہوگی

STEP 04

ٹوکن پٹرول پمپ پر دکھا کر آپ رعایتی قیمت پر پٹرول حاصل کر سکتے ہیں

پٹرول کی مقدار اور ٹوکن استعمال کرنے کی مدت درج ہوگی

DD/MM/YYYYY

08102010

پٹرول کی مقدار اور ٹوکن استعمال کرنے کی مدت درج ہوگی

9771 پر منت ایں ایم ایس کریں

وزیر اعظم خصوصی ریلیف اسکیم کا نیاریکارڈ

1 کروڑ 19 لاکھ سے زائد شہریوں کی جانب سے

3 کروڑ سے زائد فیول ریلیف ٹوکنز استعمال کیے جاچکے ہیں

1 کروڑ 25 لاکھ سے زائد افراد کی رجسٹریشن مکمل

عالمی منڈی میں پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی بڑھتی قیمتوں کے باوجود

الحمد للہ!

وزیر اعظم

خصوصی ریلیف

اسکیم کامیابی سے جاری