



Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 40

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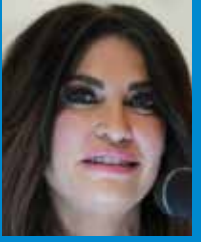
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Kundi, Naqvi say

'Can sacrifice development, not security'

Noting the scourge of terrorism in the province, Kundi said, "People have no freedom to live, travel and do other things," in districts such as Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, and Waziristan

DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY / DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi co-chaired a meeting of the KP apex committee on Monday, a day after the imposition of the governor's rule and emergency in the province. Addressing the meeting, Governor Kundi asserted that under the new set-up, tackling terrorism would be the priority. "We can sacrifice our development, but never security," Kundi vowed. He noted a "lack of synergy" in counterterrorism efforts in the province. "Now it will show that there is (synergy)," he said, adding that the administration will "fulfil the demands of the counterterrorism department and police". He stressed that the administration will "work 24/7" as the federal government and the "people had put faith in us". "We have to show the difference," he said, adding that there was no time for holidays or weekends. He stressed that the administration was moving towards "result-oriented" actions, rather than cosmetic measures. Noting the scourge of terrorism in the province, Kundi said, "People have no freedom to live, travel and do other things," in districts such as Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, and Waziristan. He stressed working towards restoring freedom of movement for people in terrorism affected districts of KP. "People from our province also want peace, prosperity, and development," he said.

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APEX committee vows to root out terrorism

DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Apex Committee has directed all departments to take effective, decisive and coordinated actions to root out terrorism and establish durable peace in the province, Radio Pakistan reported on Monday. The committee issued the directives at a meeting held in Peshawar, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in the chair, alongside Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. At the outset, the meeting paid tribute to the brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty for maintaining peace. The meeting reviewed in detail the overall security situation in the province and measures required to completely eradicate terrorism and establish sustainable peace. The meeting decided to pay special attention to long-standing issues faced by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa related to education, health and quality of life and improving socio-economic development in underdeveloped and terrorism-affected areas.

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Riyadh airport cancels about 60% of flights

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: About 60% of scheduled flights at Riyadh airport in Saudi Arabia were cancelled on Monday, data from aviation analytics firm Cirium showed, after attacks from Yemen's Houthis killed over a dozen people over the weekend. King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh cancelled 99.7% of all scheduled flights on Sunday, according to Cirium. The Saudi capital's airport remained closed on Sunday after an attack that killed one and left nearly a dozen hurt, which followed another deadly strike claimed by the Houthis the previous day, in which 13 people died and more than 300 were wounded.

At least 34 flights from airports across Pakistan to Riyadh have reportedly been cancelled today.

According to the flight schedule, all six flights from Karachi to Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport have been cancelled, while 14 flights from Islamabad to the Saudi capital have also been called off. The cancellations include 12 flights from Lahore and two from Peshawar to Riyadh. Meanwhile, four flights from Karachi to Madinah and Dammam have been cancelled, along with three flights from

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CM Afridi in police custody

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry said on Monday that the now-dysfunctional Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and some cabinet members were taken into preventive custody. "Yes, I can confirm that the [now-dysfunctional] chief minister [Sohail Afridi] and some of his cabinet members have been taken into preventive custody," minister Talal Chaudhry told Reuters. If any of them have any cases to be tried against them, they will be charged and tried, but the others will be released, he said, adding that the detentions happened on Sunday. President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday proclaimed an emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, citing the province's worsening security situation. "The President approved and signed the summary upon the Prime Minister's advice under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution of Pakistan,"

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RAWALPINDI: A high-level delegation from the Federative Republic of Brazil, led by Admiral Renato Rodrigues De Aguiar Freire, Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Brazil, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. – DNA

Field Marshal says

Pak committed to strengthen defence ties with Brazil

The visit reflects the shared resolve of Pakistan and Brazil to deepen defence cooperation and strengthen bilateral military ties

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A high-level delegation from the Federative Republic of Brazil, led by Admiral Renato Rodrigues De Aguiar Freire, Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Brazil, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi. Upon arrival at GHQ, the visiting dignitary was presented a Guard of Honour by a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, the regional security environment and avenues for enhancing bilateral defence and security cooperation.

They expressed satisfaction with the long-standing cordial relations between Pakistan and Brazil and agreed to further strengthen military-to-military collaboration. COAS & CDF emphasised Pakistan's commitment to strengthening defence ties with Brazil. The visiting dignitary appreciated the professionalism and operational preparedness of the Armed Forces of Pakistan and acknowledged their contributions towards regional peace and stability. The visit reflects the shared resolve of Pakistan and Brazil to deepen defence cooperation and strengthen bilateral military ties.

Achakzai draws Balochistan parallel

Both KP and Balochistan have been facing terrorism, and according to the data compiled by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), 199 terrorist attacks were recorded in August across Pakistan, out of which KP, excluding the merged districts, recorded 54 terrorist attacks, while Balochistan recorded 89

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Opposition Leader Mehmood Khan Achakzai on Monday drew a comparison between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, criticising the government's move to impose emergency and governor's rule in the former. The federal government on Sunday imposed emergency in 12 districts of KP, and placed the province under governor's rule, taking note of the "provincial government's deliberate disengagement from the fight against terrorism".

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the federal cabinet meeting that approved the measure, and said regarding terrorism in KP and Balochistan that "the way common citizens are being martyred, the way police officials and security officials, children and mothers [...] there can be nothing more heart-wrenching". Speaking to media outside the Parliament House on Monday, Achakzai claimed that there was no writ of the state in half of Balochistan. "But you don't impose it there, because

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Briefs

Russian interior minister arrives in Pakistan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokolstev arrived in Pakistan on Monday and would hold "important meetings" with the leadership here, according to a statement by the interior ministry. The statement said Kolokolstev was undertaking the four-day visit at the invitation of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, marking the first instance of a Russian interior minister visiting Pakistan. Kolokolstev was received by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry upon his arrival in Islamabad, it added. During his stay in Pakistan, the Russian interior minister would participate in "important discussions" on strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing mutual cooperation, and would also hold key meetings with the country's leadership, the statement said.

IRGC may be behind UK incident

NEWS DESK

LONDON: British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said on Monday that a suspected plot targeting the RAF Fairford air base in Britain was "highly likely" to have been coordinated in Iran, and almost certainly directed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. "We will not tolerate these threats on our soil," he told parliament. "We will crack down on Iran's use of criminal networks, using our full range of powers to target them and their funding streams, and we will bring further sanctions to restrict the capacity of Iran and the IRGC to do us harm."

PAF plane crashes; both pilots embrace shahadat

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of Major Husnain Shehzad Humayun and Captain Abdul Samad in the Pakistan Army Aviation training aircraft crash



DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistan Army Aviation Mushshak training aircraft crashed near Nawan Killi, Quetta, on Monday afternoon due to a technical fault. According to initial reports, the aircraft was on a routine training mission when it developed a technical malfunction, resulting in the crash near the outskirts of Quetta. Both pilots on board embraced Shahadat in the line of duty. The martyrs have been identified as Major Husnain Shehzad Humayun, Instructor Pilot, and Captain Abdul Samad, Student Pilot. The tragic incident has been met with profound grief, and tributes have been paid to

the two officers for their dedication, professionalism, and sacrifice in service to the nation. Further investigations are expected to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the crash. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of Major Husnain Shehzad Humayun and Captain Abdul Samad in the Pakistan Army Aviation training aircraft crash near Nawan Killi, Quetta. The Prime Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences on the tragic accident involving a Pakistan Army Aviation training aircraft. The martyred officers included Instructor Pilot Major Husnain Shehzad Humayun and Student Pilot Captain Abdul Samad, who lost their lives while performing their professional duties. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to the sacrifice of both officers and expressed sympathies with the bereaved families, praying for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks and strength for their loved ones to bear the loss.

Envoys of Switzerland, Norway, Azerbaijan present credentials

The President felicitated the ambassadors on their appointments and wished them successful tenures in Pakistan. He discussed opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on economic cooperation, trade and investment, alongside areas of shared interest

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors-designate of the Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Azerbaijan and Switzerland presented their credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr today. The President felicitated the ambassadors on their appointments and wished them successful tenures in Pakistan. He discussed opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on economic cooperation, trade and investment, alongside areas of shared interest. Ambassadors-designate of Norway, Azerbaijan and Switzerland presented credentials to President Zardari. In his meeting with Ambassador-designate of Norway, Sigvald Hauge, the President reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its long-standing friendly relations with Norway. He expressed appreciation for Norway's support during Pakistan's devastating floods in 2022 and wel-

comed the bilateral MoU on climate cooperation signed in April 2026. He highlighted opportunities for cooperation in renewable energy, maritime affairs, technology, trade and investment, and acknowledged the Pakistani diaspora's contribution to relations between the two countries. Ambassadors-designate of Norway, Azerbaijan and Switzerland present credentials to President Zardari. Talking to Ambassador-designate of Azerbaijan, Irfan Shakiroglu Davudov, the President reaffirmed the close and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and stressed the need to translate strong political relations into greater trade and investment. He highlighted the potential for cooperation in energy, regional connectivity and defence, welcomed progress in defence-industrial cooperation and noted the contribution of direct air links to tourism and people-to-people contacts. During his meeting with Ambassador-designate of Switzerland,



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari receiving the credentials of Ambassador-designate of Norway, Sigvald Hauge; Ambassador-designate of Azerbaijan, Mr Irfan Shakiroglu Davudov; and Ambassador-designate of Switzerland, Mr Stéphane Laurent Rey, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

Stéphane Laurent Rey, the President appreciated Switzerland's role in mediation and peace efforts, including its facilitation of technical talks between the United States and Iran at Bürgen-

stock. He emphasised the importance of continued cooperation for regional peace and highlighted opportunities in trade, investment, pharmaceuticals, IT and cybersecurity, renewable energy,

water management and tourism. Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Saleem Mandiwala and Secretary Foreign Affairs Asim Iftikhar Ahmad were also present during the meetings.

Over 1.3m youths register for Punjab e-bike scheme

LAHORE: The Punjab government's e-bike scheme attracted significant interest from young people, with more than 1.3 million registering for the initiative and over 607,000 applications submitted, according to an official announcement.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed the relevant authorities to complete the process as soon as possible, saying that providing affordable transport to young people and facilitating access to education, particularly for female students, are among the government's priorities. Under the CM E-Bikes Scheme, 100,000 young people will be selected through a balloting process to receive e-bikes. Successful candidates will pay monthly installments of Rs3,000, while the Punjab government will cover the interest on the bikes, according to the announcement. On the chief minister's instructions, free driving lessons will also be arranged for successful applicants to help them travel safely and conveniently for educational purposes. Ms Maryam said the government would provide all possible resources to help young people, particularly female students, progress. She added that e-bikes would make commuting easier for female students and reduce their monthly travel expenses.—APP

IHC seeks replies on case against stadium project

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday issued notices to respondents to an intra-court appeal challenging a decision to establish an international cricket stadium and sports arena in Islamabad. The federal government, Capital Development Authority (CDA), Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) were among those who were served notices. A division bench comprising Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas and Justice Shahrulh Arjumand heard the appeal filed by Hameed Nawaz and Muhammad Khurram Javed against a single bench ruling dated September 22, 2026. The court also sought responses from the Ministry of Climate Change, the Islamabad chief commissioner and the chairperson of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board. In their appeal, the petitioners stated that land in Zone III of Islamabad, including Sector D-12 and the village of Shah Allah Ditta, was intended to be used for the project. They argued that the project required an assessment of its potential impact on the environment, wildlife and natural landscapes, as well as consideration of relevant international laws and the United Nations' global charter. The appellants said the government had designated 82 wildlife sanctuaries across the country.—APP

Life brings to normal in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: The life in Peshawar started back to normalcy after imposition of Governor Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where traffic is on roads and government offices remain opened. All major roads in Peshawar, Nowshera and adjoining districts have been opened for traffic. Government and private offices have also reopened, while educational institutions remained closed as a precautionary measure. Legal and constitutional experts on Monday termed the imposition of Governor's Rule and emergency measures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as constitutional options in view of the deteriorating security situation and what they described as the provincial government's failure to effectively discharge its constitutional responsibilities especially in combating terrorism. Talking to media, senior lawyer Malik Ashfaq Advocate said the Constitution empowered the President to take necessary measures regarding the affairs of a province when the provincial government was unable to function in accordance with constitutional provisions. He said Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution provided mechanisms for dealing with extraordinary situations involving threats to the security, peace and constitutional functioning of a province. Malik Ashfaq said that where the law and order situation deteriorated beyond the effective control of the provincial administration, constitutional measures could be considered to restore peace, strengthen the writ of the state and ensure continuity of governance. He said the extraordinary measures could remain in force for as long as constitutionally permissible and until the security situation returned to normal. The lawyer welcomed the formation of an Advisers Council to assist Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in handling the affairs of the province, saying that the members possessed considerable experience in their respective fields. The

council includes Lt Gen (R) Nigar Johar, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Usman Saifullah Khan, Advocate Amir Javed, Dr Muhammad Irshad, Kafayatullah Khan, Dr Syed Amir Abdullah, Maulana Tayyab Qureshi, Dr Sarfraz Ali Shah and Asif Rafiq. He expressed the hope that the members would utilise their professional and administrative experience in the best interest of the people and help improve governance and public service delivery. Addressing the first meeting of the Advisers Council, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi reaffirmed the government's commitment to restoring peace, strengthening the writ of the state and taking coordinated action against terrorism across the province. The Governor welcomed the council members and congratulated them on assuming their new responsibilities. He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was facing serious challenges and assured that all matters would be addressed responsibly and in a timely manner. He categorically stated that corruption would not be tolerated under any circumstances and announced that a meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee would also be convened to review the prevailing security situation. In his message to the people of the province, Governor Kundi said certain constitutional measures had been taken in view of the extraordinary circumstances in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stressing that the objective was not political point-scoring but restoration of peace, security, stability and development. He paid tribute to the sacrifices rendered by police personnel, armed forces, Levies, civil servants, religious scholars, teachers, traders and ordinary citizens in the fight against terrorism. "The time has come to give Khyber Pakhtunkhwa its right to peace," he said, adding that the fight was against terrorism and the networks, facilitators and environment that enabled the menace to flourish.—DNA

Shaza for global laws to protect kids from online threats

She said 12,500 students, teachers and parents had received digital safety training in 100 public schools through a joint initiative involving Telenor and the National Cyber Crime Research Centre (NCRC). She added that progress had also been made in collaboration with Meta to introduce stricter AI-based controls for children's accounts

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Monday called for global laws to protect children from the harmful effects of the internet. Addressing the "Safe Scroll: Protecting Our Children Online" event, she said children's interest in information technology was growing worldwide, with even young children achieving major milestones in the field. Children could not be kept away from information technology, she added. Shaza Fatima said there was a need to determine the appropriate level of internet access and screen time for children and establish clear limits. She said several countries, particularly 20 to 25 member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), were considering frameworks and laws to regulate children's use of social media and the internet. Australia, Malaysia and Thailand were among the countries taking steps in this direction. The minister said governments alone could not verify the age of every child online or fully monitor their activities. Therefore, major technology companies and digital platforms also needed to take responsibility for age verification and content monitoring through artificial intelligence (AI) and other advanced tools. Highlighting awareness initiatives, she said the Ministry of IT had launched the "Safe Raho" programme in collaboration with Google, focusing on parental controls and family safety. She said 12,500 students, teachers and parents had received digital safety training in 100 public schools through a joint initiative involving Telenor and the National Cyber Crime Research Centre (NCRC). She added that progress had also been made in collaboration with Meta to introduce stricter AI-based controls for children's accounts. Meanwhile, the "Junior Cyber Heroes" initiative, launched in collaboration with PK-CERT and UNICEF, was raising awareness among children about online safety. Regarding legislation, Shaza Fatima said the proposed Personal Data Protection Bill and the National Cyber Security Policy prioritised the protection of children's data and privacy, as well as the establishment of a framework for parental digital consent. She said these measures aimed to prevent the misuse of children's personal information and photographs. The minister said around 25 million children in Pakistan were out of school, adding that internet access and digital tools could help provide modern education and teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. She warned that completely shutting down modern digital platforms would make it difficult to meet future educational needs. She said Pakistan must equip children to become creators in technology, artificial intelligence and mathematics. Otherwise, the country would struggle to preserve its cultural identity, language and narrative at the global level. Shaza Fatima urged educational institutions and parents to reduce unneces-



sary screen time in primary schools and revive civic education and moral training. She stressed that addressing cyber threats required not only legislation but also improvements in the social environment. She said the government was working seriously to address cyber-related issues in the country. The minister said the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and other government institutions were taking steps to promote cyber awareness and education. She empha-

sised the need to teach children to use the internet responsibly and protect them from its harmful effects. She added that parents and society must play their part in guiding children towards the positive use of digital platforms and developing a sense of responsibility among them. A balanced approach was needed to ensure children's safety in the digital world while allowing them to benefit from technological advancements, she said.—DNA

Pakistan's efforts on consumer protection highlighted

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), Farid Ahmad Tarar, represented Pakistan at the First International Conference on "Consumer Rights Protection in the Digital Era" in Moscow, Russia, highlighting the country's efforts to promote responsible business practices, combat deceptive marketing, and address consumer-protection challenges across traditional and digital markets. Organised by the Federal Service for Surveillance

on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being (Rospotrebnadzor), the conference brought together international organisations, regulators, government institutions, technology platforms and businesses. According to CCP press release issued here on Monday, the chairman while addressing the session on responsible business and safe products, emphasised that effective competition and consumer welfare were closely connected. Compet-

itive markets encourage businesses to innovate, improve quality and offer better value, while accurate and transparent information enables consumers to make informed choices.

Referring to Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010, he said businesses could compete vigorously, but their claims must remain truthful, verifiable and transparent. He cited selected CCP cases involving Strepsils, Dettol, Lifebuoy and frozen dessert marketed as dairy ice cream to demonstrate how misleading representations could harm consumers and distort competition. The Chairman also highlighted CCP's technology-enabled market surveillance, including web-scraping tools, AI-assisted analysis of product claims and advertisements, Meta Ad Library and social-media monitoring.—APP

Four regular Deans appointed at IUB

BAHAWALPUR: The Higher Education Department, Government of Punjab, has issued notifications for the appointment of four regular Deans at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), following approval by Punjab Governor and Chancellor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

According to the notifications, Prof Dr Amir Sohail has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Languages, Prof. Dr. Qaiser Jabeen Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Prof. Dr. Rao Imran Habib Dean of the Faculty of Law, and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Amjad Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology. The appointments have been made with immediate effect for a period of three years or until the respective appointees attain the age of superannuation, whichever occurs earlier.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Kamran congratulated the newly appointed Deans and extended his best wishes to them for a successful tenure. He expressed confidence that their academic expertise, professional experience and leadership capabilities would contribute significantly to strengthening academic standards and promoting research, innovation and institutional development at the university. The Vice Chancellor emphasized that effective academic leadership, collaborative decision-making and efficient administration were essential for achieving the university's educational and research objectives. He expressed hope that the newly appointed Deans would work closely with faculty members, researchers and university administration to enhance the quality of teaching, encourage research activities and create further opportunities for academic and professional growth. He also underscored the importance of collective efforts to improve educational standards, foster an environment conducive to learning and research, and further strengthen the university's academic reputation at national and international levels. The appointment of regular Deans in four faculties marks an important step towards reinforcing the academic leadership and administrative structure of The Islamia University of Bahawalpur. The university administration expressed optimism that the appointments would help advance its mission of providing quality education, promoting research and innovation, and contributing to social and economic development through higher education. —APP

Nehal stresses unity of Ummah

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi attended the closing ceremony of the summit of chancellors, vice chancellors and rectors of universities from the Muslim world at Jamia Al-Ghazali as the chief guest. In his address, he emphasized the need for unity among the Muslim Ummah, promotion of knowledge and research, stronger trade relations, and collective efforts to advance global peace. The Governor appreciated the efforts of Jamia Al-Ghazali Chancellor Mufti Abdul Rahim for bringing Islamic scholars and academic leaders together on a common platform. He remarked that representatives of the Islamic world and distinguished scholars had gathered under one roof, making the occasion a memorable day for Karachi. He described the gathering of academic leadership from across the Muslim world at Al-Ghazali University as the beginning of a new era, offering opportunities to bring centres of learning closer and establish new avenues of cooperation. He also expressed the hope that Muslims would become proficient in understanding and speaking Arabic to gain a deeper understanding of Islamic teachings. Nehal Hashmi stated that the Holy Quran

and the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) call upon Muslims to uphold unity, brotherhood, peace and love. He stressed that the Muslim Ummah's strength and success lie in unity and collective efforts. He added that Muslim countries must draw upon their rich intellectual heritage while advancing in modern sciences, research and technology. The Governor underscored that education is the foundation of national progress, self-reliance and a brighter future. He called on universities across the Muslim world to strengthen cooperation in artificial intelligence, digital technology and advanced research. He emphasized that universities must go beyond awarding degrees and prepare talented, responsible and enlightened individuals, who promote peace, tolerance and mutual respect in society. Expressing hope for tangible outcomes from the summit, the Governor said that it could pave the way for exchanges of academic, educational and trade delegations among universities in Muslim countries.

He highlighted the potential benefits of faculty and student exchanges, joint research projects and educational partnerships for Pakistan and other Islamic nations.—DNA

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- 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

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NUML celebrates 580th Hangul Day

Korean envoy highlights language as bridge b/w cultures



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad King Sejong Institute (IKSI), department of Korean Language and Culture at NUML celebrated the 580th Hangeul Day with great enthusiasm, highlighting the significance of the Korean language in fostering cultural understanding and strengthening people-to-people ties between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. The ceremony was graced by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, H.E. Han Sung-ho, as the Chief Guest. Rector NUML, Maj Gen Shahid Mahmood Kayani, HI(M) (Retd), Director General NUML, Brig Muhammad Rafiq Khan, along with Deans, Directors, faculty members and students, also attended the celebrations. The event featured an essay writing competition, a calligraphy competition and vibrant cultural performances showcasing the richness of Korean language and culture. The activities provided students with an opportunity to demonstrate their linguistic abilities, creativity and appreciation of Korean traditions. In his welcome remarks, Rector NUML, Maj Gen Shahid Mahmood Kayani, HI(M) (Retd), commended the Korean people for their profound love for their language and their enthusiasm for celebrating Hangeul Day. He reaffirmed NUML's commitment to promoting languages as a means of fostering mutual understanding and strengthening people-to-people connections between Pakistan and friendly countries. The Rector emphasized that learning a foreign language opens doors to diverse educational, professional and cultural opportunities. He also congratulated the winners of the essay writing and calligraphy competitions and appreciated the students for their impressive cultural performances. He underscored that sustained engagement through language and cultural exchange can contribute significantly to stronger bilateral relations, emphasizing that people-to-people contact remains one of the most effective ways to bring the two nations closer. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea H.E. Han Sung-ho expressed his gratitude to the Rector NUML for his enthusiasm and commitment to the celebration and promotion of the Korean language in Pakistan. He congratulated the winners of the various competitions and appreciated the efforts made by NUML to promote Korean language and culture among Pakistani students. The Ambassador emphasized that language is not merely a means of communication but also a bridge that connects people, cultures and nations. He observed that individuals learning Korean contribute to bringing Pakistan and Korea closer by developing a deeper understanding of each other's cultures, traditions and values. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of prizes among the competition winners, recognizing their talent and dedication. Souvenirs were also presented to the Korean Ambassador as a gesture of respect and goodwill.

OGDC targets 68% rise in oil output by FY31

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDC) has set a five year target to increase crude oil production by 68% to 60,384 barrels per day and natural gas sales by 46% to 1,167 million standard cubic feet per day by FY2030-31, aiming to strengthen domestic energy supplies through 140 development wells, 200 field interventions, brownfield revitalisation, pressure maintenance measures and major gas compression projects. According to official documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the company plans to raise crude oil production from 36,013 barrels per day in FY2025-26 to 60,384 barrels per day by FY2030-31, while natural

gas sales are projected to increase from 797 MMscfd to 1,167 MMscfd over the same period. The expansion strategy includes 19 brownfield revitalisation initiatives, 10 greenfield development and old-discovery projects, 12 pressure-maintenance and enhanced oil recovery (EOR) projects, and the expansion of seven existing production plants. Under its production roadmap, crude oil output is projected to rise to 41,076 barrels per day in FY2026-27 and 51,239 barrels per day in FY2027-28, reaching 57,028 barrels per day in FY2028-29. Production is expected to climb further to 59,747 barrels per day in FY2029-30 before reaching the five-year target.

NAB honours DHO for public health initiatives

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has recognized the District Health Officer (DHO) Islamabad for its efforts to eliminate Hepatitis C and promote public health through various initiatives. District Health Officer Islamabad Dr. Syeda Rashida Batool visited NAB Headquarters, Islamabad, and met with the Director General NAB. During the visit, a shield was presented to Dr. Syeda Rashida Batool in recognition of the DHO Islamabad's ongoing efforts to combat Hepatitis C and its contributions to public health initiatives. The recognition highlights the importance of sustained efforts to strengthen disease prevention, improve healthcare awareness and promote public health in the federal capital.—APP

CIA team lauded for nabbing suspect in Laiba case

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry honoured the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) team for arresting the main suspect in the Laiba Ijaz case involving a gold medalist student of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI). A police official told APP on Monday that IGP Sohail invited DSP CIA Suleman Shah and his team to the Central Police Office and awarded them commendation certificates in recognition of their efforts in tracing and apprehending the suspect. The suspect, identified as Muhammad Nauman, was taken into custody in connection with allegations of financial fraud involving Laiba Ijaz and her family. Laiba Ijaz, a 22-year-old gold medalist of IIUI, was found dead on a green belt in Islamabad's Sector G-10 in an apparent suicide. Following the incident, FIA Islamabad Zone Director Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari personally visited Laiba's family, expressed condolences and obtained details of the alleged fraud. The family also submitted a complaint to the FIA, seeking legal action against those involved. The FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Islamabad subsequently registered FIR No. AHTC-ICT-977/26 on October 10 against Muhammad Nauman and Fatima Sarwar over allegations of fraud involving Rs9.3 million. According to the FIR, the suspects allegedly received the money by promising to arrange a US visa, university admission and scholarship. The family alleged that fake scholarship letters, admission offers and fee payment receipts were provided to mislead them. The case was registered under Sections 419, 420 and 109 of the Pakistan Penal Code and Sections 18 and 22 of the Emigration Ordinance, 1979.—APP

AIOU postpones exams in KP

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has postponed examinations scheduled for October 12 and 13 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province due to the prevailing law and order situation. According to an important announcement issued by the Examination Branch of the university on Monday, the papers of the Spring 2026 semester scheduled to be held on October 12 and 13 have been cancelled in the province. The university announced that the postponed examinations will now be held on November 2 and 3, 2026. However, examinations in all other regions of the country including Tahseem and Hazara Division will be held as per the already announced schedule. The university has advised the students to stay in touch with official sources or nearest regional offices for further information regarding the examinations. The AIOU administration expressed regret for the inconvenience caused to the students due to the rescheduling of papers.—APP

Road safety awareness campaign in full swing

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi have conducted an awareness session at an educational institution to educate students about traffic regulations, road signs and promote a culture of safe driving and responsible road use. Inspector Tahira Kanwal, In-charge of the Traffic Education Wing, along with her team, is conducting awareness sessions to educate students about traffic rules and road safety. During the sessions, students are being briefed on traffic signs, zebra crossings, stop lines, traffic signals, seat belts and other essential road safety regulations. The Traffic Education Wing team is also providing students with practical training on traffic rules through a road map designed for educational purposes. Speaking on the occasion, CTO Farhan Aslam said that children are the future of the country and that traffic education, alongside formal academic learning, is essential for their proper upbringing and development. He emphasized that traffic education should be made part of the academic curriculum so that every child understands how to behave responsibly on roads and protect themselves and others from road accidents. The CTO further stated that understanding and following traffic laws responsibly is a hallmark of a civilized nation. He added that traffic signs on roads serve as vital safeguards, and understanding and obeying them is key to ensuring safe travel.—APP

3 held, including 2 women, recover diamonds, gold worth Rs 60m

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Kohsar Station have nabbed three suspects, including two women, involved in a house theft case and recovered diamonds, gold jewellery and cash worth Rs60 million from their possession. A police official told APP on Monday that the Kohsar police team carried out a successful operation against the suspects involved in stealing valuable items from a house in the federal capital. He said the recovered valuables included precious diamonds, gold ornaments and cash, with a total estimated value of Rs 60 million. The official said a case had been registered against the suspects, while further investigation was underway to establish the full details of the theft. DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem said those involved in stealing citizens' valuable property would be brought to justice. He said Islamabad Police were committed to protecting citizens' lives and property and taking effective action against criminal elements.—APP

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Briefs

**IRSA releases
115,500
cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 115,500 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 85,400 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1518.68 feet, which was 116.68 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 46,300 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1201.00 feet, which was 151.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 5,600 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs, respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu, and Sukkur was recorded as 75,600, 63,200, 47,300, and 12,200 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 13,400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 6,800 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala. **APP**

**ANF seizes
over 117 kg of
narcotics**

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Monday arrested seven suspects and recovered 117.61 kg of narcotics worth over Rs 91.5 million in eight operations conducted near educational institutions, airports and other locations across the country.

In an operation near a university in Attock, 210 grams of ice (methamphetamine) was recovered from a motorcyclist. According to the ANF, the arrested suspect confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions.

At Islamabad International Airport, authorities recovered 5.7 kg of ice, allegedly soaked into clothes, from the luggage of a passenger travelling to Riyadh. In a separate operation at the airport, 3.1 kg of cocaine concealed in books was seized from the luggage of a passenger arriving from Muscat. In domestic operations, 3 kg of hashish was recovered from a suspect near a hotel on National Highway in Hyderabad, while 2.4 kg of hashish was seized from a motorcyclist near Fateh Garh Road, Sialkot. Near GPO Sialkot, 1.2 kg of hashish was recovered from two motorcyclists. In a major seizure, 72 kg of ice was recovered near Kalmat Beach in Pasni, while 30 kg of heroin was seized from a compound near Tehsil Winder in District Hub. Cases have been registered under the Control of Narcotic Substances Act (CNSA), 1997, and further investigation is underway. **APP**

**Wheat
cultivation in
rain-fed areas
from Oct 15
advised**

FAISALABAD: Farmers have been advised to commence cultivation of wheat in rain-fed areas of Punjab from October 15 and complete it by November 15. A spokesman for the Agriculture (Extension) Department said here on Monday the use certified seed along with adoption of modern techniques help growers to improve crop establishment and obtain maximum yield. Therefore, farmers in rain-fed areas should cultivate the approved wheat varieties including Shiraz-23, Urooj-22, Nishan-21, MA-21, Markaz-19, Barani-17, Fateh Jang-16 and Pakistan-13. He advised the growers to use 40 to 50 kilograms of seed per acre and ensure that the seed were certified and obtained from approved varieties to achieve better crop establishment. He said the recommended sowing period for wheat in rain-fed areas was from October 15 to November 15. Therefore, farmers should complete sowing within the period while taking into account local conditions and the moisture available in their fields, he added. He stressed that farmers should accurately measure their fields before determining the quantities of seed, fertilizers, agricultural pesticides and other inputs required. **APP**

Zikria for business models to boost Pak-China trade

Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia offered Chinese manufacturing companies the opportunity to display their products at the ICCI Display Centre, providing a platform for information sharing, product assessment and market exploration

ISLAMABAD :President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia has reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to strengthening Pakistan-China economic cooperation by promoting practical business models, joint ventures, technology transfer and mutually beneficial investment opportunities for the business communities of both countries. He expressed these views while welcoming a five-member Chinese business and investment delegation led by Ms. Cindy Chen of MERA PC, an organization that regularly arranges visits of Chinese entrepreneurs to Pakistan, particularly to ICCI, to explore opportunities for commercial cooperation and business development. The ICCI President said that China is not only Pakistan's trusted strategic partner but also a major source of technological advancement, industrial expertise and manufacturing excellence. He emphasized that translating the longstanding friendship between the two countries into tangible economic gains requires stronger business-to-business linkages, direct engagement between entrepreneurs and the development of workable joint venture models. He added that Pakistan's strategic location, expanding consumer market, entrepreneurial talent and investment potential offer promising opportunities for Chinese enterprises seeking to expand their presence in the region. Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia offered



Chinese manufacturing companies the opportunity to display their products at the ICCI Display Centre, providing a platform for information sharing, product assessment and market exploration. He said this initiative would enable Pakistani businesses to evaluate Chinese products, identify suitable import opportunities and develop commercial partnerships. He further announced that ICCI was ready to establish a dedicated facilitation desk at its premises to guide members on visa procedures, import-export regulations and relevant Chinese trade policies, helping them navigate business processes more efficiently.

Ms. Cindy Chen, in her remarks, said that she had consistently promoted Pakistan as a promising destination for Chinese businesses and investors. She expressed the hope that an increasing number of Chinese entrepreneurs would visit Pakistan, explore its commercial potential and establish lasting business relationships with their Pakistani counterparts. ICCI Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan highlighted the importance of structured business-to-business (B2B) meetings in converting investment interest into concrete business transactions and assured the delegation of the Chamber's full co-

operation and facilitation. ICCI Executive Member Abrar Ul Haq moderated the session and briefed the visiting delegation on the Chamber's milestones and initiatives to promote trade and investment. The meeting concluded with an agreement to pursue a structured framework for bilateral trade facilitation, institutional cooperation, product information exchange and business development between Pakistani and Chinese stakeholders. The initiative is expected to strengthen direct business contacts, encourage market access and create new avenues for joint ventures and investment. **—DNA**

Lucky Islamic capital protected fund plan-I launched

ISLAMABAD: Lucky Investments Limited ("Lucky Investments") announces the launch of Lucky Islamic Capital Protected Fund Plan I (LICPPF I), a Shariah-compliant capital protected investment plan designed to provide investors with competitive returns while ensuring principal protection through a dynamic asset allocation strategy. The Fund seeks to balance growth potential and capital protection by dynamically allocating investments between Shariah-compliant listed equity securities and Shariah-compliant money market/fixed-income instruments. This approach is designed to provide investors with an opportunity to participate in equity market growth while maintaining a focus on protecting their invested principal over the investment plan's duration. With a two-year duration and a medium risk profile, LICPPF I is designed for investors seeking a structured Shariah-compliant investment

solution that combines potential capital growth with a focus on principal protection. The minimum initial investment is Rs. 5,000, with subsequent investments starting from Rs. 1,000. The Fund launched on October 8, 2026, with its subscription period running from October 9 to October 30, 2026. Commenting on the launch, Mohammad Shoaib, CFA, Chief Executive Officer of Lucky Investments Limited, said: "We are pleased to introduce Lucky Islamic Capital Protected Fund Plan I as another innovative addition to our growing range of Shariah-compliant investment solutions. Many investors seek the opportunity for growth while remaining mindful of protecting their capital. This Plan is designed to address that need through a disciplined and dynamic asset allocation approach. Our focus remains on providing investors with solutions that combine Shariah compliance, professional investment management and greater choice. **—DNA**

IGP orders removal of containers from Islamabad roads

ISLAMABAD : Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry has ordered the removal of containers placed along major roads across the federal capital as part of security arrangements during recent protests, to ensure smooth traffic flow and provide relief to citizens. A police official told media on Monday that the containers had been placed along roadsides as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order and protect citizens during the protest situation. He said the IGP Sohail directed the concerned officers to remove the containers from roads across Islamabad to facilitate motorists and restore normal traffic movement. The official said the containers had been placed as part of security arrangements to deal with any possible law and order situation and ensure public safety. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry invited Pakistan Ball and Deck Hockey Team coach and Islamabad Police Constable Muhammad Yousaf, along with Sports Officer Head Constable Shahid Hussain, to the Central Police Office and awarded them commendation certificates in recognition of their services in sports. A police official told that the IGP Sohail appreciated the efforts of both police personnel and praised their contribution to sports alongside their professional duties. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry said police personnel who showed their abilities in sports while performing their official responsibilities were a source of pride for Islamabad Police. He said the achievements of Muhammad Yousaf and Shahid Hussain reflected their hard work, dedication and commitment to sports. The IGP Sohail appreciated their services and encouraged them to continue representing the department with the same spirit and dedication. He said Islamabad Police valued the efforts of its personnel who brought recognition to the department through their performance in different fields, including sports. **—APP**

IESCO notifies power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday and Wednesday on limited feeders due to ongoing development works being carried out by the district administration. According to an IESCO spokesperson, electricity supply will remain suspended in Rawalpindi City Circle from 07:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Al-Noor Colony, Qadeer Road, KRL, AFOSH, from 08:00 AM to 12:00 PM, EME Complex, Jhangi, P&T Wani, Azharabad, CWO, A-Block, Faizabad, Haidri Chowk, feeders. In Attock Circle power supply will remain suspended from 07:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Lalazar, Hussainabad, Col Sher Khan, from 08:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Pind Parian, Multi

Garden B-17, Cabinet Division, Saray Kharbuza, Vally, Sangjani, Shah Allah Ditta, Gulshan Sehat, Paswal, AWT-1, AWT-4, feeders. Similarly, in Chakwal Circle power supply will remain suspended from 07:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Mureed, Al-Qaim Mills, Bhoun, Karyala, KSM Unit-3, feeders. On Wednesday, in Rawalpindi Cantt Circle electricity supply will remain suspended from 07:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Sector-A, Sector-C, Askari Tower, Sector-F, Feeder no. 3, Feeder No.4, ARC-I, Sector A-2, Sector B-2, Askari Heights (IV), Sector-D, Pine Hills-1, Commercial-I, Commercial-II, feeders. In Attock Circle power supply will remain suspended from 07:00 AM to 02:00 PM, AWC Housing, Munirabad, Rashid Minhas, Shahia, POF Emergency, Lalazar, feeders. IESCO management apologized to its valued consumers for this temporary interruption in electricity supply. The sole purpose of these shutdowns was to facilitate the timely completion of development projects included construction of flyovers, underpasses, installation of new 11kV feeders, road widening and other related development activities. For the convenience of consumers, temporary electricity shutdown schedules were also uploaded on IESCO's official website, www.iesco.com.pk, and its official social media platforms, including Facebook (IESCO Updates) and Twitter/X (IESCO Official Pk). For further information, consumers may call the IESCO Helpline at 118. **—APP**

Tarar vows to fight terrorism with full force

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar on Monday welcomed a positive change in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying the province's people were determined to fight terrorism and wanted the menace eradicated permanently. Addressing an international conference on Pakistan's Evolving Counter-Terrorism Landscape and Regional Peace and Security, he said the fight against terrorism would continue with full force to eliminate the menace from Pakistan and the region. He said Pakistan had remained at the forefront of the war against terrorism for decades, losing more than 90,000 lives and suffering economic losses exceeding \$100 billion. He said Pakistan stood as an ambassador of peace, a proponent of regional security and a symbol of resistance against violent extremism. Every Pakistani life sacrificed in the fight against terrorism contributed to the country's security and global peace, he added. Referring to Pakistan's recent mediation efforts between the United States and Iran, Atta Tarar said the country had demonstrated its commitment to resolving international conflicts. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir had contributed to the process, which was being acknowledged by the international community. The minis-

ter said Pakistan had consistently pursued regional stability, particularly in Afghanistan, as a peaceful and stable country would benefit the region through increased trade with Central Asia, foreign investment, cooperation and connectivity. He said Pakistan had participated in negotiations in different parts of the world involving the deputy prime minister, defence minister and national security adviser, seeking to convey to the interim Afghan government its commitment to peace and prosperity, particularly for the Afghan people. However, these efforts had not yielded the desired results, he said, adding that Pakistan had hosted more than four million Afghan refugees for over four decades and borne a heavy cost, but its hospitality and generosity had not been reciprocated. Atta Tarar said Pakistan continued to face terrorism emanating from safe havens across its international border with Afghanistan. Citing United Nations and independent assessments, he said more than 6,000 Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists were estimated to be present in Afghanistan, while the total estimated terrorist presence exceeded 20,000. Since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021, the TTP had continued to exploit Afghan territory for recruitment, training, facilitation, planning and attacks against Pakistan, he said. **—APP**

**Rizvi reviews
pending
cases**

ISLAMABAD: Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NC-CIA), Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, on Monday chaired a meeting with Director Operations Irfanullah Khan and Additional Director Islamabad Muhammad Shoaib Khan to review ongoing operations against cybercrime, progress in investigations and legal action against suspects. An official said that the meeting discussed the performance of investigation teams, pending cases and measures to strengthen action against individuals involved in cybercrime. The DG Rizvi directed officers to improve operational strategies, ensure evidence-based investigations and take effective legal action against suspects to bring cases to their logical conclusion. He stressed the need for timely action on public complaints and better coordination among investigation teams to address problems faced by citizens. Rizvi said officers should perform their duties with professionalism and responsibility while ensuring that investigations were conducted fairly and in accordance with the law. **APP**

**SC says
employees
must be heard
before seniority
revision**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has ruled that government employees must be given a fair opportunity of hearing before their seniority is changed, even if the original seniority determination was contrary to the relevant service rules. A three-member bench comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan issued the judgment while deciding review petitions filed by Sindh Police sub-inspectors. The court observed that revising the petitioners' seniority list in 2020 without hearing them violated the principles of natural justice and due process guaranteed under Article 10-A of the Constitution. The petitioners maintained that they had been assigned their proper positions in the seniority list issued on April 28, 2015, but were placed below their colleagues when the list was revised on November 18, 2020, without issuing show-cause notices or providing an opportunity to present their case. The court held that seniority was an important service right linked to employees' career progression. Even if the original seniority list was inconsistent with service rules, the affected employees had to be heard before any adverse change. **—APP**

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Why Houthis target Riyadh

DR. ABDEL AZIZ ALUWAISEH

THE Houthis' repeated attacks on Riyadh airport, resulting in hundreds of casualties among innocent passengers and staff, have demonstrated their disregard for international humanitarian law, which prohibits attacking civilian targets such as airports. It also considers targeting them intentionally a war crime. These attacks repeat the same wanton indifference to the loss of human life that was clear in earlier attacks targeting the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah and other Saudi airports, where civilians congregate in large numbers. Among the victims of the most recent Riyadh airport attacks were many pilgrims on their way to Makkah. The Houthis have attacked Saudi Arabia because it plays a key role in the important coalition set up in 2015 to support the Yemeni government against their project. The rebels have spread violence and chaos, fragmented the state and impoverished the Yemeni people. Millions of civilians have been driven out of their homes – as refugees abroad, mostly in Saudi Arabia, or internally displaced, mostly in Marib province, which is under government control. The Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen has supported the Yemeni government in wresting control of Bab Al-Mandab back from the Houthis, defeating their latest effort to seize the waterway and threaten international shipping in the Red Sea. The rebels have spread violence and chaos, fragmented the state and impoverished the Yemeni people.

The Houthis resent Saudi Arabia's leadership role in the Muslim world and do not hide their quixotic quest to invade the Kingdom and seize control of the Islamic holy cities of Makkah and Madinah themselves. It is never clear whether that is a fantasy they feed their followers or if they actually believe that bizarre delusion. Either way, it seems peculiar to then target the same holy places with missiles and drones, while also espousing ideas at odds with the beliefs of the majority of the world's 2 billion Muslims.

They target Saudi Arabia for signing the Makkah Joint Defense Agreement with Pakistan and Türkiye. The alliance's defense and foreign ministers met in Riyadh last week to activate the mechanisms of defense and deterrence stipulated in the pact, including the deployment of forces and materiel to help defend the Kingdom. They attack Saudi Arabia to undermine its ambitious development plans and drive away investors. The country has put to shame the Houthis' own ignoble achievement of impoverishing Yemen. By attacking visible targets, including airports and energy installations, they hope to tarnish the image of Saudi Arabia as a place of stability and prosperity and a magnet for outsiders who seek their fortunes, with more than 16

Islamabad POST

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 07 Issue: 37

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394

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



million expatriates living there. It is ironic that most of the 2 million Yemenis who live in Saudi Arabia send remittances home to keep the economy afloat, including in areas under Houthi control. The Houthis resent that demeaning dependency on their No. 1 foreign foe.

The Houthis target Saudi airports and energy installations to make up for military setbacks on the front lines, as the government has been able to reverse some of their gains, including the temporary control of Bab Al-Mandab, the Houthis' main strategic goal in their recent campaign.

The Houthis have left no room for peace and reconciliation and the UN and other mediators have failed to break this impasse. They have rejected the calls of the Yemeni government and the international community to stop the war. So, the government's decision last week to move militarily against them came after years of trying to sit with them at the negotiating table. The Houthis target Saudi airports and energy installations to make up for military setbacks on the front lines.

In addition to the Makkah Joint Defense Agreement, the world is more united today than ever in its support for the Yemeni government and the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen. Many countries have already designated the Houthis as a terrorist organization, especially after their attacks on maritime shipping and energy supply chains. The UN Security Council has also adopted several decisions against the rebels, including some adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, providing an additional legal basis for the use of force against them. The UN has established outfits to implement those resolutions but the Houthis have made it difficult to function in Yemen and have detained scores of UN staff. The Yemeni government's efforts have demonstrated its will to lead and the coalition has supported those efforts.

They are defending not only Yemen but also the international order, including maritime security and the safety of supply chains. However, in the face of Houthi aggression and stonewalling, the international community is asked to do more to shore up the Yemeni government's capabilities to hold its ground and reverse recent Houthi advances.

First, it is necessary that those countries with the means should provide support for the government's military operation to restore its authority throughout Yemeni territory and safeguard its institutions. Second, they should help Yemenis keep their unity and prioritize defeating the Houthis over other demands, which can be handled later. Third, the Makkah Joint Defense Agreement must continue in activating the defense and deterrence instruments announced last week. Fourth, the Multinational Maritime Defense Coalition, led by Saudi Arabia, should be given the task of coordinating internationally for the defense of Bab Al-Mandab. It should seek to consolidate the work of the multiple maritime outfits spread throughout the region, including American, European and international groups. Fifth, diplomatic efforts should resume to help the Yemeni parties arrive at a political solution as soon as possible. Sixth, more funds should be raised to support the economic and humanitarian program launched by the Yemeni government.

Trump's Contradictions: Fueling Unrest in America and Abroad

Qamar Bashir



The contradiction could hardly be sharper: award yesterday's immigrants while closing the door on tomorrow's innovators. America cannot know in advance which foreign student, engineer, physician or entrepreneur will become the next Nadella, Huang or Brin. A visa system designed only for already famous "geniuses" misunderstands how achievement develops. Talent needs entry, education, opportunity, failure and time

WITHIN forty-eight hours, Donald Trump displayed three contradictions defining his presidency. He opened the door to Russian diesel, honoured immigrant innovators while restricting skilled immigration, and presented both decisions as "America First"—even as he moved the country away from its immigrant-built, pluralistic tradition toward narrower nationalism. The Russian diesel decision is the most immediate reversal. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Washington has tried to deny Moscow the energy revenue financing its war. Yet on October 9, Trump announced a deal with Vladimir Putin for an immediate shipment of 300,000 tons of Russian diesel, followed by much larger deliveries. The Treasury Department simultaneously issued a licence authorizing transactions involving the sale, delivery and importation of Russian diesel until April 2027.

Trump defended the deal as relief for farmers, truckers and consumers facing punishing fuel prices. Lowering costs is legitimate. But a president who speaks constantly of strength has chosen dependency on a state sanctioned for aggression. Six senators from both parties called for an immediate reversal, and Republican Senator Thom Tillis questioned its legality. "Peace through strength" becomes difficult to understand when economic discomfort produces retreat from a policy designed to constrain the aggressor. The second contradiction is even more revealing. On October 8, Trump presented the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation to six technology leaders. Five—Elon Musk, Sergey Brin, Jensen Huang, Lisa Su and Satya Nadella—were born outside the United States. Trump praised them as national treasures and celebrated their contributions to American supremacy in space, semiconductors, computing and artificial intelligence.

These honours unintentionally proved what anti-immigration nationalism tries to deny: much of America's scientific greatness has an immigrant face. Nadella came from India and previously worked in the United States on an H-1B visa. Brin arrived from the Soviet Union. Musk came from South Africa, while Huang and Su were born in Taiwan. America did not lose by admitting them. It multiplied its wealth, knowledge and global power. Yet hours before the ceremony, Vice President JD Vance accused Microsoft of abusing skilled-worker programmes, and the administration suspended Microsoft from a process used to sponsor foreign employees for permanent residence. Trump has also extended restrictions on certain H-1B entrants. Visa abuse should be investigated, American workers must not be displaced through fraud, and wage suppression should not be tolerated. But reform is different from treating for-

eign talent first as a threat and later—after producing billions and historic inventions—as a national treasure.

The contradiction could hardly be sharper: award yesterday's immigrants while closing the door on tomorrow's innovators. America cannot know in advance which foreign student, engineer, physician or entrepreneur will become the next Nadella, Huang or Brin. A visa system designed only for already famous "geniuses" misunderstands how achievement develops. Talent needs entry, education, opportunity, failure and time. If fear replaces openness, the next generation of innovators will build its companies, laboratories and patents in Canada, Europe, China or the Gulf—not in America. This brings us to the third and deeper shift: the movement from American pluralism toward exclusionary nationalism. Trump designated English as the country's official language and speaks of immigration largely through the vocabulary of invasion, crime and cultural loss. A common language can strengthen communication, and secure borders are a legitimate responsibility of the government. But unity is not uniformity. The United States became powerful because it converted different languages, cultures and experiences into a common civic identity. Nationalism becomes destructive when it demands that newcomers erase themselves before they can belong. It forgets that immigrants harvest American food, staff hospitals, conduct research, found companies, pay taxes and serve in the armed forces. Trump celebrates their achievements only after success makes them impossible to ignore, while policies and rhetoric make the path harder for those still trying to contribute. That is not a coherent national strategy. It is economic self-sabotage dressed as patriotism. The same contradiction runs through Trump's conduct abroad. At the United Nations, he presented himself as a peacemaker while asking whether he should "annihilate" the Islamic Republic of Iran and drive it "into hell." In Oklahoma, he mixed nuclear installations with unsupported claims about Iranian "drug factories." In Nebraska, he spoke of Iran taking out Los Angeles or San Diego and called the situation a "small price to pay." The White House later said he meant that war was preventing such destruction. That may explain his intended message, but it cannot delete the words the world heard.

Trump praises law while attacking institutions that might restrain powerful governments. He called the International Criminal Court "evil" and "rogue" and urged member states to abandon it. He defends sovereignty, yet his administration controls Venezuelan oil-related revenue and gold sales while refusing to provide Congress with a complete public accounting. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent described

the arrangement as potentially one of the largest assets ever placed on the United States balance sheet, yet could not clearly say whether funds were flowing to the American government, private companies or other U.S. persons. At home, Trump celebrates constitutional freedom while retaliating against critical journalism. His administration excluded CNN, MS NOW and Politico from White House access; a federal judge ordered temporary restoration. When major television networks suspended pool coverage in solidarity, the Justice Department opened an antitrust inquiry. A press permitted to praise but punished for criticism is not free. It is merely tolerated until it becomes useful.

Trump also claims unmatched economic credibility while repeatedly inflating announced investment. He has cited more than \$20 trillion, whereas the White House's own published figure is about \$11 trillion—and much of that consists of pledges and long-term announcements rather than completed investments. He praises technological leadership while renaming artificial intelligence "superintelligence," as though branding resolves genuine dangers involving surveillance, employment, autonomous weapons and human control. He mocks climate warnings while withdrawing America from international climate cooperation. Even his oath to defend the Constitution sits uneasily beside repeated flirtation with a third term. Such ideas are introduced as jokes, repeated as trial balloons and gradually normalized. If his party ever obtained the required congressional supermajorities, Trump would not hesitate to pursue an amendment creating a third-term route. Three-fourths of the states would still have to ratify it, but constitutional limits survive only when citizens refuse to treat attacks upon them as entertainment. These are not isolated slips. They form a governing pattern: sanction Russia, then buy its diesel; honour immigrants, then obstruct their successors; proclaim peace, then threaten annihilation; invoke sovereignty, then control another nation's assets; praise freedom, then punish the press; defend the Constitution, then test its limits. America's greatness was never created by nationalism alone. It came from constitutional restraint, scientific openness, immigrant energy, credible alliances and the disciplined use of power. Trump's contradictions weaken each of those foundations. Unless confronted, "America First" may leave America paying Russia, losing innovators, dividing its people and alarming the world.

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

Muslim Unity and the Designs of Great Powers

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Iraq provides perhaps the clearest warning against accepting the assurances of powerful states without independent scrutiny. The United States-led invasion of 2003 was justified in large part by claims concerning weapons of mass destruction. Subsequent investigations failed to find the stockpiles that had been presented as a principal justification for war. The invasion destroyed the existing political order, unleashed years...

HISTORY is a stern teacher, but nations that refuse to learn from its lessons are condemned to repeat its tragedies. The Muslim world, blessed with immense natural wealth, strategic geography, a common faith and a civilisation that once illuminated the world with knowledge and wisdom, has too often found itself divided, weakened and exposed to the ambitions of powerful nations. The question that demands serious reflection is whether these calamities are merely the consequences of internal failures or whether external powers have repeatedly exploited Muslim divisions to advance their own strategic interests. The Holy Qur'an offers believers a warning that deserves thoughtful consideration. Allah Almighty declares in Surah Al-Ma'idah, verse 51, "O believers! Take neither Jews nor Christians as guardians—they are guardians of each other. Whoever does so will be counted as one of them. Surely Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people". This verse is a solemn reminder for Muslims, to remain vigilant about alliances that may compromise the interests of the Muslim community.

The history of the Middle East demonstrates how rivalry, foreign intervention and miscalculation have repeatedly devastated Muslim societies. The Iran-Iraq War, which began with Iraq's invasion of Iran in September 1980, consumed eight years and inflicted enormous human and economic losses upon both countries. Iraq's subsequent invasion of Kuwait in 1990 brought another devastating confrontation to the Gulf. These events arose from particular regional ambitions and political calculations, yet outside powers also pursued their own interests amid the resulting instability. The lasting tragedy was that Muslim nations exhausted their resources fighting one another while their populations endured bereavement, displacement and economic ruin. The rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran further complicated the region's political landscape. Sectarian differences, competing regional ambitions and proxy conflicts created opportunities for external intervention. The United States and other Western powers established extensive security relationships with Gulf monarchies, while the question of Israel's security remained central to American policy in the Middle East. Such arrangements may be presented as guarantees of protection, but they also create strategic dependencies and give outside powers considerable influence over regional affairs. No nation should ignore the possibility that a protector

may simultaneously pursue interests of its own.

The events that followed the Arab Spring offered further painful lessons. Popular uprisings beginning in 2010 challenged entrenched political systems across the Arab world. Egypt's elected president, Mohamed Morsi, was removed by the military in July 2013. Libya descended into prolonged instability after the intervention that contributed to the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi. Syria became a devastating battleground involving domestic factions and numerous foreign powers. These developments cannot honestly be reduced to one centrally directed conspiracy; their causes included authoritarian rule, popular grievances, internal rivalries and international intervention. Nevertheless, their consequences strengthened the argument that foreign involvement, however nobly justified, can leave Muslim societies more fractured and vulnerable than before.

Iraq provides perhaps the clearest warning against accepting the assurances of powerful states without independent scrutiny. The United States-led invasion of 2003 was justified in large part by claims concerning weapons of mass destruction. Subsequent investigations failed to find the stockpiles that had been presented as a principal justification for war. The invasion destroyed the existing political order, unleashed years of violence and inflicted consequences that extended far beyond Iraq's borders. The episode demonstrated that even the pronouncements of powerful governments must be examined critically, for the price of misplaced trust may be paid by generations. The Abraham Accords, announced in 2020, introduced a new phase in regional diplomacy by establishing or normalising relations between Israel and several Arab states. Supporters described them as an opportunity for peace and cooperation; critics feared that normalisation without a just settlement of the Palestinian question would leave the central grievance unresolved. Saudi Arabia's insistence on a credible path towards Palestinian statehood has remained an important consideration in regional diplomacy. Peace cannot be made durable by disregarding the rights and aspirations of an occupied people.

The suffering of Yemen provides another warning. The conflict involving the Houthis, the internationally recognised Yemeni government and the Saudi-led coalition has brought immense hardship to civilians and repeatedly threatened regional security. The Houthis have also carried out attacks against Saudi territory. Such

violence demonstrates how local conflicts, external support and competing regional ambitions can combine to endanger entire populations. The answer cannot be an endless succession of retaliation and counter-retaliation; it must be a just political settlement that protects civilians and respects national sovereignty.

Pakistan, too, must remain alert to the dangers surrounding its security. Its difficult relations with India, the instability emanating from Afghanistan and the threat posed by militant groups operating across borders demand vigilance, sound diplomacy and capable defence. Pakistan's armed forces have a constitutional responsibility to defend the country, but lasting security also requires political cohesion, economic strength and cooperation among Muslim states. Militancy cannot be defeated by military action alone if the conditions that nourish extremism remain unaddressed.

The hour, therefore, demands a revival of Muslim solidarity founded not upon slogans but upon practical cooperation. The Gulf states, Pakistan, Iran, Türkiye and other Muslim nations must strengthen consultation, pursue economic partnerships, resolve disputes through dialogue and refuse to allow external rivalries to dictate their relationships. They must also uphold justice in Palestine, protect innocent lives and recognise that the blood of Muslims is no less sacred when shed by another Muslim.

Allah Almighty commands in Surah Al-Anfal, verse 46, that believers should not dispute among themselves lest they lose courage and their strength depart. This warning speaks directly to an age in which division has become a strategic weakness. The Muslim world must open its eyes before mistrust, proxy warfare and dependence upon external patrons reduce its collective influence still further. No foreign power can be expected to place Muslim interests above its own national interests.

The path forward lies in faith joined with wisdom, strength disciplined by justice and unity sustained by mutual respect. The Qur'an calls Muslims towards solidarity, not reckless confrontation; vigilance, not blind hostility; and justice, not revenge. If Muslim nations learn to settle their differences before others exploit them, their immense resources may become instruments of prosperity rather than causes of conflict. Otherwise, the continuing fragmentation of the Muslim world will remain a gift to those who benefit from its divisions and a tragedy for generations yet unborn.

Briefs

'Can sacrifice development, not security'

FROM PAGE 01
Kundi expressed hope that he and his administration should be remembered well. "It should be written in history that these people came and restored peace in the province." The governor added that he will hold apex committee meetings regularly. Co-chairing the meeting alongside Kundi, Naqvi remarked: "Today is the first time I can proudly say that the federal and the provincial governments are on the same page." He recalled, "In the past 2.5 years, we have seen many ups and downs." The minister stated that the most difficult work was that of people fighting this war with "no backend support". "I remember we would reach from Islamabad, but the people living here would not even attend those funerals." Criticising the PTI-led government, he said: "It was the [provincial] government's job to lead this war against terrorism, but they did not do it. They kept bowing their heads only because they did not want to compromise. "But any war, no matter how many resources you have, cannot be won until the government there leads it," he stressed. "Not once, not twice; we requested them to work with us dozens of times," Naqvi emphasised. "One thing I will ask you to note is that this is the same force, these are the same people, but the only difference you will see in them is that when the government is leading, the same people will show you the results." The people haven't changed; they're all the same. But you will see when a government leads, the results will be very good, Naqvi said. The minister said the advisors do not have to worry about the "ups and downs." "It's not like things will change in a day; there will be difficult times. But all of us, including the governor, police, administration, and federal government. "We have to face and defeat them together. Our intentions are pure; god will help us produce results." A day earlier, Kundi addressed the first meeting of the KP Advisory Council – formed by the federal government after the imposition of emergency and governor's rule – where he outlined similar directions. "We have to fast-track things. There will be zero tolerance for corruption. Things should be done in a timely manner," he said, adding that they would have to demonstrate a clear difference from the work done by their predecessors.

Al-Ittihad's coach Wessing draws lessons from May 2024 loss

DNA

RIYADH: Al-Ittihad head coach Jens Wessing has revisited the club's 3-2 defeat to Al-Hilal in May 2024, citing the errors from that fixture as key benchmarks as he maps out the squad's tactical overhaul for the current campaign. Wessing, who took the helm earlier this season, reflected on the previous encounter at Kingdom Arena, where Al-Ittihad fell two goals behind before mounting an unsuccessful fightback. "It was a painful defeat, and we faced one of the best teams," Wessing said. "We fell behind by two goals, managed to score the second goal, and we were able to come back, but we were unlucky and also made some mistakes that helped Al-Hilal score." The manager insisted the earlier setback stemmed from execution rather than tactical flaws, using it as a case study to build player resilience ahead of upcoming domestic and continental commitments. "The loss was not due to tactical aspects, but Al-Hilal capitalized on some mistakes and scored their goals," he said. "We will take the positives from the match, overcome the negatives, and I am happy with the players' mentality." Wessing emphasized that closing the chapter on past stumbles is vital as Al-Ittihad gear up for high-stakes fixtures, including their AFC Champions League campaign against Shabab Al-Ahli.

Pakistan Stands Shoulder to Shoulder with Saudi Arabia

The Federal Minister highlighted that the global energy sector was entering a new investment cycle in which energy security, affordability and sustainability must advance together

DNA

RIYADH: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik attended the 17th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Addressing the plenary session titled "Investment and Trade in Sustainable Energy Solutions: Making Energy Clean, Accessible and Affordable," the Federal Minister stated that the Government of Pakistan stood shoulder to shoulder with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this moment of trial. He said his participation in the meeting was a manifestation of Pakistan's solidarity with the Kingdom, on the personal instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. Pakistan strongly condemns the terrorist attacks by the Houthi militia on Saudi soil, the Minister said, while offering condolences over the precious lives lost. The Federal Minister highlighted that the global energy sector was entering a new investment cycle in which energy security, affordability and sustainability must advance together. He emphasized that investment was needed not only in renewable energy but also in hydrocarbons, critical minerals and essential infrastruc-



ture, including grids and pipelines. Referring to the unprecedented global energy supply shock of 2026, the Minister noted that the crisis extended beyond oil and gas to shipping and insurance. Despite its heavy dependence on imported energy, Pakistan had navigated the crisis without resorting to rationing of major energy sources, supported by the government's response and cooperation from brotherly

countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait. He thanked HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman for personally steering cooperation with Pakistan. The Minister said Pakistan was working to strengthen its long-term energy security architecture through the development of strategic reserves, a world-class bonded reserves scheme, greater indigenous energy production, critical infrastructure includ-

ing refineries and tank farms, competitive electricity and gas markets, and targeted relief mechanisms. He stressed that international investment and trade frameworks must balance innovation and sustainability with affordability, equity and access. Pakistan, he added, looked forward to working with all IEF member countries to advance shared energy security objectives for future generations. On the sidelines of the IEF Ministerial Meeting, Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Khalifa Rajab Abdulsadek, Minister of Oil and Gas of Libya, to discuss avenues for strengthening cooperation in the oil and gas sector.

The Federal Minister informed his Libyan counterpart that Pakistan had encouraged its refineries to explore imports of Libyan crude oil. He emphasized that Pakistan aimed to diversify its crude oil supply sources to strengthen energy security and maintain alternative supply options in the event of disruptions to key maritime routes, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait. The Libyan Minister described Pakistan as an important country for Libya and said he would encourage Libya's national oil company to allocate greater volumes of crude oil to Pakistani companies. He also noted that Libya was planning to upgrade its refineries and expressed interest in learning from Pakistan's experience in refinery upgradation.

Pakistan scores its 2nd highest total in T20 cricket

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan: Pakistan posted its second highest total in Twenty20 cricket and beat scrappy Sri Lanka by 82 runs on Sunday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Fast-improving Maaz Sadaqat (96) and captain Sahibzada Farhan (73) both profited from dropped catches to score second successive rapid half centuries in Pakistan's 215-3. Pakistan's highest-ever T20 score is 232-6 against England in 2021. Pakistan pacer Mohammad Imran, playing in only his second T20, then did the damage with his incisive swing bowling. He took 3-11 in four unchanged overs as Sri Lanka only managed 133-7 to lose its third suc-

cessive T20 series away from home. Sri Lanka lost 2-1 in the West Indies and came to Pakistan after it was swept 3-0 by England. Rawalpindi, where Pakistan won the first match by four wickets, will host the final game on Tuesday before England joins the two teams for the ODI tri-series, starting next Sunday. Sloppy Sri Lanka fielding in the power play allowed Farhan to accelerate the scoring with left-handed Sadaqat, who recently scored back-to-back centuries in the Caribbean Premier League. Maheesh Theekshana dropped a difficult chance from Farhan at mid-wicket in Binura Fernando's second over before Sineth Jayawardene floored an easy catch when the Pakistan skipper was on 11. The two let-offs cost Sri

Lanka heavily as Farhan smashed five sixes and four boundaries overall. Theekshana caught Farhan in the 15th over after the batter sliced Dasun Shanaka's delivery, but couldn't clear the fielder at the boundary. Nuwan Thushara couldn't hold onto a return catch which should have ended Sadaqat's knock at 44. Sadaqat hit seven sixes and six boundaries in his 51-ball knock. Eshan Malinga (1-41) denied Sadaqat his century in the final over when Sadaqat holed out to deep cover off the final ball of the innings. "I was trying to make the most of my form," Sadaqat said. "I had belief in myself that I can hit the ball ... I play with positive intent and pick my balls to hit boundaries." Fast bowler Salman Mirza, the only

change Pakistan made from the first game, had Lahiru Udara caught behind in the first over of Sri Lanka's run chase. Imran then picked up three quick wickets of Jayawardene (22), captain Kusal Mendis (9) and Sahan Arachchige (0) as Sri Lanka, which chose to field first, slipped to 49-4 in the eighth over and couldn't recover. Theekshana top-scored for his team with an unbeaten 32 off 26 balls and Chamindu Wickramasinghe made 29 off 24. "Batters need to take responsibility including me," skipper Mendis said. "It was a batting pitch and we needed to score 200 runs at least ... We have done well in terms of fielding in the last few tournaments but unfortunately we have not been up to the mark in the last two matches.

Dubai Basketball maintain unbeaten start

DNA

DUBAI: Dubai Basketball continued their strong start to the 2026-27 ABA League season with a 92-85 victory on Sunday over U-BT Cluj-Napoca in Romania, securing their second consecutive win in Group B action at the Btarena. The result keeps Dubai Basketball unbeaten in the competition, with two wins from two games, while Cluj-Napoca suffered their first defeat of the campaign. The hosts started strongly, with the opening quarter closely contested before Cluj-Napoca took control in the second period. An effective offensive display allowed the Romanian side to build a nine-point lead, heading into half time with a 45-36 advantage. Dubai Basketball responded emphatically after the break, turning the game around with a dominant third-quarter performance. The visitors scored 21 points in the opening six minutes of the period while limiting Cluj-Napoca to just six, overturning the deficit to take a 57-51 lead. Dubai continued to build momentum, ending the quarter ahead 68-59. A 32-point third quarter proved decisive, with Dubai Basketball combining disciplined offence and strong team play to establish control of the contest. Despite the host's attempt to mount a comeback in the final period, Dubai maintained their advantage to secure a seven-point road victory. Following the game, Head Coach Xavi Pascual praised his team's determination and resilience, highlighting the mental strength required to overcome a difficult first half.

Al-Ahly beat Zamalek in Cairo Derby

DNA

CAIRO: Al-Ahly defeated reigning champions Zamalek 2-0 on Sunday night at Cairo Stadium to leapfrog Pyramids to the top of the Egyptian Premier League table. With 16 points, Al-Ahly now lead and wait for the result of Monday night's match between Pyramids and Ceramica Cleopatra. Zamalek suffered their first defeat of the season in Matchday Six and remain in third place with 13 points. Al-Ahly right-back and Man of the Match Mohamed Hany opened the scoring with a shot outside the Zamalek penalty box on 39 minutes to give his team a welcome lead at the break. Zamalek were unable to breach Al-Ahly's defense and Algerian forward Monsef Bekrar scored the second goal with another long-range effort with 10 minutes left on the clock. Slovenian referee Rade Obrenovic took charge of the 133rd Cairo Derby in front of 40,000 fans. It was the first win over Zamalek for Al-Ahly's new Moroccan coach Hussein Ammouta, who joined the club earlier this year. Ammouta said at the press conference after the game that it was "a difficult match," and his players had shown good concentration throughout. Zamalek coach Motamed Gamal said that his team's change of playing style had been forced due to absences and injuries. He also claimed that Zamalek deserved at least two penalties in the match. Gamal added that despite the disappointment, his players had put in a great effort, and they must now focus on Friday's CAF Champions League match at Rwandan club APR. Former Al-Ahly player Yasser Rayan told Arab News that the overall level of the match was "average" and the result expected.

Mid-Autumn Poetry Gala held marking 75 Years of China-Pakistan ties



ISLAMABAD: The 2026 Mid-Autumn Poetry Gala, held here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), unveiling two long-term cultural initiatives to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. The Shouyang Book House Islamabad Public Reading Station was officially launched, creating a regular venue for reading, learning and exchange between Chinese and Pakistani people, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

In addition, a call for entries for artworks, photographs and video works under the theme "75 Years of Friendship, Forging Peace and Amity Together" was formally opened, inviting submissions from all sectors of society to capture friendship through images and convey peace through art. The gala brought together more than 400 guests from the political, academic, cultural and educational communities of both countries. – APP

10-man Al-Shabab overcome Al-Taawoun to grab first SPL win of the season

Al-Shabab head coach Thomas Letsch responded by withdrawing striker Roger Martinez and introducing Mamadou Barry to shore up the defense, with Ricardo Mathias operating as the lone striker in a 4-4-1.

DNA

RIYADH: In a battle between two sides in search of their first victory in the 2026/27 Saudi Pro League season, 10-man Al-Shabab overcame a Vuk Rasovic-led Al-Taawoun at the SHG Arena in Riyadh 3-0 to move to seven points – four clear of the relegation zone. Al-Shabab came into the game without key players – Thomas Partey and Gulf Cup Best Player of the Tournament Hammam Al-Hammami were both sidelined through injury. Al-Hammami was honored by the Al-Shabab board ahead of the game for his Gulf Cup performances and spent the evening cheering his side from the stands. Al-Taawoun – who parted ways with Zarko Lazetic after their heavy defeat to Al-Hilal before the international break – were in the hands of experienced SPL head coach

Rasovic. Fortunes, however, did not improve for the Qassim side on the night. He may not have been credited with an assist in the first half, but it would be remiss not to highlight Carrasco's impact on both goals. For Al-Shabab's opener in the 18th minute, Carrasco spotted right winger Abdullah Matouq driving toward the box and delivered a defense-splitting pass, as Matouq slipped in behind Al-Taawoun defender Muteb Al-Mufarrij and beat left-back Marin Petkov to backheel the ball into the net. Before Al-Shabab's second, however, Ali Al-Bulayhi was shown red after a lengthy VAR review in the 33rd minute. Yacine Adli drove back toward him, with Al-Taawoun winger Mohammed Al-Kuwaykibi winning possession before being brought down as the last man by Al-Bulayhi. Al-Shabab head coach Thomas Letsch responded by withdrawing striker Roger Martinez and introducing Mamadou Barry to

shore up the defense, with Ricardo Mathias operating as the lone striker in a 4-4-1. Carrasco's quality proved decisive despite being a man down. Capitalizing on a loose ball in midfield, Josh Brownhill played a long ball toward the Belgian on the left flank into acres of space. Carrasco drove toward goal and shot at goalkeeper Mailson, whose parry fell to Mathias to finish. The second half brought little change, as Al-Shabab were happy to cede possession while sitting deep to protect their lead. In the 70th minute, a scuffle broke out after Al-Taawoun's Rakan Al-Tulayhi clashed with Brownhill over a loose ball. Order was restored shortly after – and Carrasco finally got on the scoresheet in the 85th minute. Following a poor clearance from the Al-Taawoun defense, Adli pounced to win possession and release Mathias, who found Carrasco in space to curl a shot toward goal – the ball bouncing off the post

before going in. Al-Taawoun, who finished a respectable sixth last season, remain winless and rooted to the relegation zone after the defeat. With just three points in eight fixtures following the departure of club icon Pericles Chamusca at the end of last season, Al-Taawoun are in desperate need of a turnaround. Meanwhile, Al-Shabab can now look forward to building on their first win of the season. Elsewhere, Al-Fayha and Al-Riyadh played out a 1-1 draw after Trezeguet scored a late equalizer for Al-Riyadh on his return from injury, cancelling out Lazaro's 16th-minute opener. The third match of the night between Abha and Al-Faisaly was postponed to Oct. 27 following a review of circumstances surrounding the game by the SPL. Matchday Nine of the SPL gets underway on Thursday, with the weekend's headline fixture – Al-Ahli against Al-Nassr – taking place at 9 p.m.

Achakzai draws Balochistan parallel

FROM PAGE 01

the chief minister there is your favourite," he alleged. Achakzai's claim of a lack of the state writ in half of Balochistan was apparently in connection with the security situation in the province. Both KP and Balochistan have been facing terrorism, and according to the data compiled by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), 199 terrorist attacks were recorded in August across Pakistan, out of which KP, excluding the merged districts, recorded 54 terrorist attacks, while Balochistan recorded 89. Speaking alongside Achakzai, Senate Opposition Leader Raja Abbas Nasir also drew the Balochistan parallel. "If terrorism and peace were an issue ... you should have imposed emergency in Balochistan first," he said. Voicing his criticism of the government's Oct 11 move, he said: "They call themselves the torchbearers of the law and the Constitution. However, they first attacked the Constitution by coming into power through Form-47 and now by signing the orders of imposing emergency against a government that held a two-thirds majority."

Riyadh airport cancels...

FROM PAGE 01

Lahore to Dammam, according to the flight schedule. Türkiye, Pakistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia condemned attacks by Yemen's Houthis on Riyadh's international airport, saying they were a "dangerous escalation that cannot be justified or accepted under any pretext". The group of regional powers – dubbed the R4 – reaffirmed their solidarity and support for Saudi Arabia, including full support for all "legitimate measures and steps" it takes to counter the attacks, deter threats and prevent them from happening again.

CM Afridi in police custody

FROM PAGE 01

the President Secretariat's Media Wing said in a press release. The decision followed recommendations from the federal cabinet, formal advice from the prime minister and law-and-order reports submitted by relevant security institutions. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, while condemning the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, called the move a "grave political mistake". In a post on X, Gohar warned that the federal government's decision would undermine democratic rights and provincial autonomy. The emergency rule came a week after Khan's supporters had rallied for days in the province, intending to march to Islamabad to demand his release and provide medical treatment. The march began in Lakki Marwat on October 4 after negotiations between the government and opposition failed to reach an agreement. The talks broke down over disagreements concerning counterterrorism cooperation in KP and access to incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan, including a meeting with his personal doctor. The government and opposition traded accusations over the failure to reach an agreement as Afridi continued leading the march through the province.

APEX committee vows to...

FROM PAGE 01

Underscoring the need to enhance the operational capacity of the Police and Counter-Terrorism Department, the forum decided to upgrade these institutions with modern, effective logistics and the required manpower. The forum made it clear that intelligence-based operations against terrorism will continue and all available resources will be utilised to improve the law and order situation.

Briefs

Rupee gains 03 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD: Rupee on Monday appreciated by 03 paise against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 276.97, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 277.00.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the dollar's open-market buying and selling rates were Rs 277.60 and Rs 278.20, respectively.

The price of the Euro against the rupee decreased by Rs 0.94, closing at Rs 310.01 against the previous day's rate of Rs 310.95, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.74, and the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of Rs 0.21 and closed at Rs 366.64 compared to the previous day's Rs 366.85.

The exchange rate of the Emirate Dirham and the Saudi Riyal came down by 01 and 04 paise to close at Rs 75.40 and Rs 73.74, respectively.—APP

Gold prices decline by Rs2,100 per tola

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices witnessed a decline in the local market on Monday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs2,100 to settle at Rs439,936, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs1,800 to Rs377,174, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs1,650 to Rs345,755. In the international market, the price of gold fell by \$21 to \$4,174 per ounce, the association reported.

Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola decreased by Rs23 to Rs6,532, while the price of 10 grams of silver declined by Rs19 to Rs5,600.

The price of silver in the international market also decreased by \$0.23 to \$60.54 per ounce, the association added.—APP

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses over 1964 points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) remained bearish on Monday, losing 1,964.87 points, a negative change of 1.18 percent, to close at 165,124.41 points against 167,089.28 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 362.954 million shares, compared to 309.412 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value decreased to Rs14,507 billion from Rs15,437 billion. Market capitalisation declined to Rs18,359 trillion from Rs18,569 trillion recorded a day earlier.

Out of 500 companies that traded in the ready market, 135 posted gains, 322 suffered losses, while 43 remained unchanged, reflecting a highly bearish trend in the market. Treet Corporation led the volume chart with 27.311 million shares, followed by LSE Financial (R) with 20.828 million shares and WorldCall Telecom with 20.349 million shares. Among the top gainers, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited surged by Rs207.49 to close at Rs25,262.50, while Khairpur Sugar Mills Limited advanced by Rs74.55 to settle at Rs820.02. On the losing side, PIA Holding Company Limited B declined by Rs294.00 to close at Rs14,200.00, while Khyber Textile Mills Limited fell by Rs95.81 to Rs1,688.92. In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 97.870 million shares with a traded value of Rs7,623 billion, compared with 78,244 million shares worth Rs5,276 billion in the previous session. Of the 326 companies traded in the DFC market, 46 advanced, 280 declined and none remained unchanged.—APP

WB mobilizes \$3.2b private capital for Pak since 2022

WASHINGTON: The World Bank Group has mobilized a record \$112 billion in private capital for developing economies in fiscal year 2026, more than tripling the amount over four years, including nearly \$3.2 billion mobilized for Pakistan since 2022. The record mobilization marks the highest annual amount in the institution's history, with private capital mobilization rising from \$35 billion in FY2022 to \$112 billion in FY2026. Combined with the World Bank Group's own financing, the total financing and mobilization in developing economies exceeded \$200 billion during FY2026, a news release said. The growth was broad-based, with private capital mobilization for lower-middle-income countries increasing from \$14 billion in FY2022 to \$37 billion in FY2026, while the amount for upper-middle-income countries rose from \$12 billion to \$50 billion. In low-income countries, where attracting private investment remains challenging, mobilization was maintained at around \$3 billion. Across Africa, private capital mobilization increased from approximately \$9 billion to \$22 billion during the period, representing a rise of nearly 150 per cent. The WB attributed the results to three years of

institutional changes aimed at improving engagement with the private sector, simplifying procedures, strengthening coordination between its public and private sector operations, and expanding financing and investment instruments. It has introduced a single point of contact for its public and private sector operations in each country and begun developing integrated country strategies aligned with national needs and development priorities.

The Private Sector Investment Lab has also helped identify practical barriers to investment in developing economies and develop measures to address them. The Group's efforts include improving the business and regulatory environment, expanding guarantees and local-currency financing, addressing foreign-exchange challenges, increasing equity financing options and enabling institutional investors to participate at scale.

The WB issued more than \$25 billion in guarantees in FY2026, surpassing its target of \$20 billion in annual issuance by 2030 four years ahead of schedule. The growth was led by the World Bank Group Guarantee Platform, established in 2024 to provide clients and investors with a single point of access to guarantee products

across the institution.

"Three years ago, our shareholders and clients were clear: utilize World Bank Group financing and knowledge to mobilize more private capital and become a better partner to the private sector. We changed how we work to do that – faster, simpler, and as one World Bank Group," World Bank Group President Ajay Banga said.

"The result is \$112 billion mobilized this year, more than three times where we started. But the number only matters if the capital goes where it can create opportunity and jobs. That is the work ahead: keep removing barriers, keep expanding the pool of investors, and keep driving more capital into developing economies," he added.

Job creation remains the World Bank Group's central priority, as 1.2 billion young people in developing economies are expected to reach working age over the next 10 to 15 years, while only around 420 million jobs are projected to be created. The private sector accounts for nine out of every 10 jobs in these economies.

The Group's jobs strategy focuses on three mutually reinforcing drivers: investment in human and physical infrastructure, business-ready regulatory environments, and

support for private-sector expansion. It targets five sectors with strong employment potential: infrastructure and energy, agribusiness, healthcare, tourism, and value-added manufacturing.

During FY2026, around 55 per cent of the Group's total financing, including its own-account financing and mobilized capital, went to these job-intensive sectors to support private investment, business growth and employment.

It said private investment was also reaching lower-income economies, where regional and local investors were increasingly complementing global capital in financing businesses and creating jobs.

To build on the progress, the World Bank Group is working to expand the range of investors participating in developing economies through its originate-to-distribute (O2D) initiative. The initiative aims to package and distribute investments to institutional investors on a larger scale, connecting long-term capital with investment opportunities in developing economies. The Group aims to mobilize more capital from a wider range of sources and channel it into job creation and economic opportunities.—DNA

EU establishes new Lebanon support mission

BRUSSELS: European Union foreign ministers on Monday adopted a decision establishing a new support mission in Lebanon aimed at advising the country's military and internal security forces.

The mission "will advise and assist the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces to strengthen territorial control, border security, and internal security," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said in a statement, adding that "Europe is invested in Lebanon's future." The Council of the EU said the mission will have an initial mandate of three years.—APP

Algeria arrests 61 Moroccans accused of planning 'acts of sabotage'

ALGIERS: Algerian authorities announced on Sunday that they had arrested 61 Moroccan nationals earlier this month on suspicion of planning "acts of sabotage." In a statement carried by public media, the General Directorate of National Security (DGSN) referred to "an international Moroccan criminal network" but did not provide details of the alleged plots.

The 61 people, including a former soldier in the Moroccan army, "were preparing to commit acts of sabotage undermining security and public order," the DGSN said.

It added that the suspects had entered Algeria via mountain trails from neighboring Tunisia.

Relations between Algeria and Morocco have been strained for years, and their shared land border has been closed since 1994. In 2021, Algiers decided to sever diplomatic relations. The two countries have long been at odds over the issue of Western Sahara. The mineral-rich former Spanish colony has been largely controlled by Morocco since 1975, and is considered a non-self-governing territory by the United Nations.

Rabat regards Western Sahara as an integral part of its territory, while Algiers supports the territory's pro-independence Polisario Front and its demands for self-determination.—APP

Norway fund withdraws \$661m from Israeli banks amid ethical review

LONDON: Norway's sovereign wealth fund has withdrawn \$661 million in investments from five Israeli banks, valued as of last June, as part of an ethical review of its holdings in the Israeli banking sector.

The decision, announced on Monday, affects First International Bank of Israel, FIBI Holdings, Bank Leumi, Mizrahi Tefahot Bank, and Bank Hapoalim, according to the Palestine News Agency.

Norway's Government Pension Fund Global is the world's largest, valued at around \$1.9 trillion, with investments in more than 8,600 companies worldwide. The Norwegian Central Bank manages it through Norges Bank Investment Management. In August 2025, it decided to divest from the US-based Caterpillar Inc. and five Israeli banks for "ethical reasons." It said then that it excluded the entities "due to the unacceptable risk that the companies contribute to serious violations of individuals' rights in situations of war or conflict." Israeli authorities have long used Caterpillar-manufactured bulldozers to demolish Palestinian properties in the occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem and in the Gaza Strip. The fund noted that these violations are occurring in both Gaza and the West Bank, adding that "the company has also failed to implement any measures to prevent such use." It also said it sold its investments in 11 Israeli companies in August 2025 after reports that it had invested in an Israeli jet engine maker even as the war in Gaza raged.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Commerce Jawad Paul, Dutch Ambassador to Pakistan Robert-Jan Siegert, Special Secretary Commerce Syed Hamid Ali, and senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce with the visiting Dutch business delegation led by Ms. Merlin Melles, following a business dinner hosted to strengthen bilateral trade investment and business cooperation between Pakistan and the Netherlands.

Lebanese army seizes explosives

DUBAI: The Lebanese army said on Monday it had seized about 200 kg of explosives in the Al-Qasr area of Hermel, northeastern Lebanon, as smugglers fled into Syrian territory. The army said the explosives had been intended for smuggling from the Syrian Arab Republic into Lebanon. Salam vows firm action Lebanon will not tolerate anyone who threatens its security and will deal firmly with those responsible, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said on Monday, following the seizure of half a ton of explosives in the country. "The Lebanese people's concern stems from the fact that the shipment of explosives contained C-4, a substance used in political assassinations," Salam said. Lebanese authorities arrested two suspected Hezbollah members accused of secretly transporting the explosives, a judicial source told AFP on Saturday. The two men were arrested on Thursday afternoon at a security checkpoint in Dahr Al-Baidar in eastern Lebanon, near a road linking the country with Syria, the source said. They were traveling in a car toward Beirut when security forces searched the vehicle and seized "250 kg (551 pounds) of TNT-type explosives and 250 kg of C-4-type, a highly explosive substance," the source added. One of the suspects is the son of a Hezbollah official, while the other is also a member of the Iran-backed group, according to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The intended destination of the explosives remains unknown. Lebanese authorities have not confirmed the source's account. Justice Minister Adel Nassar vowed on X on Saturday that the investigation into the seized explosives "will continue to the very end." He also said efforts to disarm illegal groups, combat terrorism and prosecute those responsible were irreversible and would be accelerated. Lebanon approved a plan to disarm Hezbollah in 2025, following a ceasefire in November 2024 that ended a devastating war between the group and Israel. The conflict reignited in March 2026 when Hezbollah attacked Israel in support of Iran during the regional war. Israel responded with an invasion and continues to occupy a strip of territory in southern Lebanon. A new ceasefire was reached in June, and Israel and Lebanon agreed to a framework deal involving Hezbollah's disarmament, a gradual Israeli withdrawal and the deployment of the Lebanese army in the region. Syria, under former President Bashar Assad, a Hezbollah ally, served as a major route for weapons and other supplies sent to the group by Iran. Since the toppling of Assad at the end of 2024, Syria has repeatedly announced the interception of weapons shipments destined for Lebanon. Hezbollah, which fought alongside Assad's forces during Syria's civil war, denies having a presence on Syrian territory.—DNA

Jordan approves \$564m sukuk for Amman Municipality

RIYADH: Jordan has approved its first municipal Islamic sukuk issuance, worth 400 million Jordanian dinars (\$564.2 million), offering a 5.5 percent annual return over five years to strengthen the Greater Amman Municipality's financial governance. The issuance will use an ijara muntahia bittamleek structure, an Islamic financing arrangement in which leased assets are eventually transferred to the lessee. It forms part of a broader plan to improve financial management, lower borrowing costs and tap into opportunities in the domestic Islamic finance market.

The municipality expects to save around 70 million dinars over five years, with total savings potentially doubling to 140 million dinars if the agreement is extended for another five years, the state-run Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. A Petra statement said: "Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Muhanad Shehadeh described the Cabinet's approval of the GAM issuing Islamic Sukuk as a landmark step that gives the municipality significant flexibility in managing debt-service costs." The issuance is the first phase of a wider plan to restructure the GAM's debt of approximately 1 billion dinars through three sukuk tranches. The plan calls for an initial 400 million dinar issuance, followed by two additional tranches worth 300 million dinars each, Petra reported in April. The issuance comes as Jordan seeks to attract investment and strengthen domestic financing under its Economic Modernization Vision, which targets 41.4 billion dinars in investment by 2033. Public-private partnerships are expected to account for 30.3 billion dinars, or 73 percent of the total, while government investment is projected to contribute the remaining 11.1 billion dinars, according to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The newly released Petra statement said: "Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Muhanad Shehadeh described the Cabinet's approval of the GAM issuing Islamic Sukuk as a landmark step that gives the municipality significant flexibility in managing debt-service costs." The Central Bank of Jordan will oversee the issuance, which is aimed at banks, insurance companies, and savings, investment and pension funds. The sukuk will also be eligible for trading on the Amman Stock Exchange, in accordance with the approved terms and applicable regulations. The project follows months of economic and financial studies conducted by GAM in collaboration with government bodies and private-sector partners, particularly Islamic banks. Shehadeh emphasized that the government is actively engineering national debt management by addressing both debt stock and debt service costs through diversified financing mechanisms to ease borrowing burdens, narrow financing gaps, and curb debt growth. Government-backed Islamic sukuk issuances have totalled around 800 million dinars, reflecting efforts to diversify debt-management instruments, the minister said. The government is also considering extending their use to other sectors, including public universities, although no decision has been made.—APP

Egypt's core inflation eases to 14.1%

RIYADH: Egypt's annual core inflation slowed by 0.8 percentage points to 14.1 percent in September, although rising vegetable prices pushed up monthly consumer costs, highlighting persistent pressure on household budgets.

The Central Bank of Egypt reported the decline, while data released by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics showed annual urban headline inflation slowing to 13.9 percent from 14.5 percent. Monthly urban inflation rose to 1.3 percent in September from 0.1 percent in August, but remained below the 1.8 percent recorded in September 2025. Monthly core inflation also increased, climbing to 0.8 percent from 0.3 percent in August. Despite the annual slowdown, inflation in Egypt remains substantially higher than in several Gulf economies. The rate in Saudi Arabia held at 1.8

percent in August, while Oman's reached 3.4 percent, according to official data. S&P Global expects Egypt's inflation to average 12.9 percent in fiscal 2026/27 before easing to 9 percent by fiscal 2028/29. Ramzi Abou Abdallah, senior market analyst at Phystone Financial Advisory, told Arab News that easing annual inflation does not necessarily translate into lower consumer prices, noting that food-price volatility, particularly in vegetables, disproportionately affects lower-income households. "For households, the distinction between slower inflation and falling prices is crucial: even when inflation eases, living costs generally continue rising," he said. Abou Abdallah highlighted that elevated global energy prices, regional uncertainty and annual inflation nationwide edged up to 12.8 percent in September from 12.7 percent in August, according to CAPMAS. The nationwide consumer price index rose 1.5 percent month on month to 294.2 points, the agency said. Vegetable prices surged 15.1 percent during the month, while fruit prices climbed 2.6 percent and meat and poultry prices increased 2.5 percent, underscoring the continuing impact of food-price volatility on consumers. Food and beverage prices rose 3.2 percent month on month, according to CAPMAS data. Clothing and footwear prices increased 0.8 percent, while audio-visual and photographic equipment prices fell 1.1 percent and organized tour prices declined 0.6 percent.—APP

D-8 advances trade cooperation

The D-8 Secretariat reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating policy coordination, mobilizing institutional partnerships and supporting concrete initiatives that enhance trade, investment and shared prosperity among Member States. It expressed appreciation to ICDT and ISDB for convening the Forum and fostering dialogue among regional and international partners.

ISLAMABAD: The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening trade, investment and economic integration among member states at the 6th Consultative Forum of Regional Cooperation Organizations (RCOs) in the OIC Region, held in Casablanca, Morocco, on 5-6 October 2026.

Represented by Dr. Ismail Bello, Executive Assistant at the D-8 Secretariat, the Organization participated in the Forum jointly convened by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), said a press release issued on Monday. The meeting brought together regional organizations, development banks and United Nations agencies to discuss economic integration and cooperation.

The D-8 Secretariat highlighted its coordinating role in advancing the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030 through trade facilitation, improved market access, investment promotion and stronger private-sector engagement. It underscored efforts to develop the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) into a more comprehensive arrangement that supports expanded intra-D-8 trade and reduces barriers to commercial exchange.

The Secretariat also outlined institutional initiatives to connect businesses and attract investment, including the planned Permanent Secretariat of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) in Istanbul. It emphasized the role of the D-8 Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Centre in Abuja in supporting entrepreneurship, building SME competitiveness and facilitating access to

regional markets and value chains. To translate these priorities into practical outcomes, the Secretariat explored technical assistance, capacity-building and partnership opportunities with development institutions. The IsDB indicated its readiness to consider appropriate proposals from the D-8 Secretariat. Bilateral consultations on the Forum's sidelines further addressed possible cooperation in trade facilitation, SME development and related areas.

The D-8 Secretariat reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating policy coordination, mobilizing institutional partnerships and supporting concrete initiatives that enhance trade, investment and shared prosperity among Member States. It expressed appreciation to ICDT and ISDB for convening the Forum and fostering dialogue among regional and international partners.—Agencies

Briefs

Iran still reviewing US diplomatic proposal

DNA

IRAN is still reviewing a US response to its proposal regarding the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and will reply to Washington via intermediaries when the review is over, foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said on Monday. Baghaei also told a press conference that Iran continues to exchange messages via the intermediaries.

US, Yemen discuss sanctions on Houthis

DUBAI: US Charge d'Affaires to Yemen Neil Hope discussed strengthening international pressure on the Houthi militia with Yemeni Foreign Minister Afrah Al-Zoubi, the US Embassy to Yemen said on Sunday. The discussions included expanding international support for sanctions against the Houthis, holding their leaders accountable for recruiting child soldiers, and empowering democratic institutions to improve services for Yemenis, the embassy said. Hope leads the US embassy team in implementing the Trump administration's National Security Strategy priorities in Yemen and the region, including safeguarding freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and preventing the region from becoming a safe haven for terrorism. — APP

32 killed in Sudan

KHARTOUM: At least 72 workers were killed by airstrikes on a gold mine on the Sudan-Egypt border, a Sudanese rights group said on Sunday, after survivors described scenes of chaos in the mountainous region. The Emergency Lawyers rights organization accused the Egyptian air force of carrying out the attack. AFP could not independently confirm the account and Egypt has issued no official comment. The attack on Saturday was the second this year on Jabal Al-Uqaydat, after airstrikes, reportedly by Egypt, killed 23 workers in the informal gold mining site in June. The Egyptian army did not claim the strikes but said at the time that it had conducted a "large-scale operation" against illegal gold mining within its borders. The border between Sudan and Egypt is disputed, with both countries claiming the resource-rich Halayeb triangle. — APP

Top NATO commander set to issue warning to Russia over any attack

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS, Belgium: NATO's top military commander is expected to deliver a warning to Russia on Monday over the alliance's ability to counter any attack, as worries grow over the threat from Moscow. NATO officials have said US General Alexis Grynkevic — alliance's Supreme Allied Commander Europe — will elaborate his "theory of victory"

over any potential attack at a security conference in Warsaw. The move from the top military commander comes as NATO seeks to send a message to Moscow to halt what Western officials say is a "hybrid" campaign of sabotage and interference against Ukraine's backers in the war against Russia. Fears have grown in recent months that the Kremlin is stepping up its actions after high-profile incidents including the discovery of an explosive-laden drone at a German

airport. "The Supreme Allied Commander Europe's theory of victory is simple: maintain NATO's advantage, which is consistent with and grounded upon the alliance's deterrence and defense plans," Col. Martin O'Donnell, a spokesman for the US general, said last week. "But given unsettled and complex global security environment, we need to set conditions now to deter aggression and, if necessary, win if attacked," O'Donnell said, noting theory sets out a framework to do just that.

Pakistan eyeing over \$1bn from privatisation of 5-6 entities

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy is expected to grow by more than 4% this fiscal year despite elevated oil prices, as the government looks to push for the privatisation of five to six entities that could raise upwards of \$1 billion, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb told Reuters on Monday. Pakistan's economy is considered to be highly vulnerable to a prolonged Middle East conflict given its dependence on Gulf energy imports, remittances and financing support from the region, even as it remains reliant on external financing to bolster foreign exchange reserves and meet debt repayments. The South Asian country of 255 million people has been able to procure adequate quantities of fuel, successfully avoiding any shortages, and critical sectors such as agriculture were holding up, Aurangzeb said. "So I'm still quite clear that we should clock north of 4%," he said in an interview on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Bangkok. "And on the inflation side, obviously, we are keeping a very close eye because it does have a knock-on impact in terms of the commodity prices."

Following a period of severe economic turmoil exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the cash-strapped economy has recovered some of its footing, supported by a \$7 billion, 37-month IMF loan program known as the Extended Fund Facility signed in 2024 that includes some tough measures such as raising tax revenue on farm income. The US-Israeli-led war with Iran, now in its eighth month, and the inflation and hardship it has caused, will dominate the agenda and sideline conversations during the meetings that are being held outside Washington for the first time in three years. Pakistan, which reached a staff-level agreement with the IMF last week, potentially unlocking about \$1.21 billion in financing under the Extended Fund Facility and a climate program, is continuing discussions with the United States for a proposed \$10 billion exchange stabilisation facility, Aurangzeb said. But he declined to provide a time frame for the conclusion of negotiations. "If it comes through, this will be a great help for us," he said, referring to the facility, which is in addition to ongoing talks with the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC). "If it doesn't come through, this does not, you know, create any problem for us in terms of access to market."

Pakistan urges end to cross-border terrorism



He said more than 90,000 Pakistanis had lost their lives in the war against terrorism, while the country had also suffered significant economic losses. Referring to recent incidents, including the Jaffar Express attack and militant violence in Balochistan, he said Pakistan had faced terrorism with courage, resilience, and determination

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar has termed terrorism the biggest challenge facing the region and the world, stressing that terrorism originating from Afghan soil is unacceptable and that attacks against Pakistan from across the border must come to an end. Addressing an international conference on the evolving landscape of terrorism in Pakistan, organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on Monday, Dar said Pakistan has rendered unparalleled sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and called upon the international community to acknowledge and support the country's efforts against the menace. He said more than 90,000 Pakistanis had

lost their lives in the war against terrorism, while the country had also suffered significant economic losses. Referring to recent incidents, including the Jaffar Express attack and militant violence in Balochistan, he said Pakistan had faced terrorism with courage, resilience, and determination. The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that every province must play its role in combating terrorism and safeguarding citizens' lives, property, and the national economy. He said the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, had adopted a comprehensive strategy to eliminate terrorism, while security forces continued to conduct daily operations against militants. Ishaq Dar said Pakistan had repeatedly engaged with Afghanistan on security concerns and urged the Afghan authorities to

ensure that their territory is not used for attacks against Pakistan. He noted that despite diplomatic engagements, including a trilateral meeting involving Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan, Islamabad's concerns regarding militant sanctuaries remained unresolved. He warned that the presence of banned militant groups, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), in Afghanistan posed a serious threat to regional peace and security. He added that Pakistan had already fenced much of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border to prevent cross-border infiltration by terrorists. Commenting on the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dar said imposing emergency measures had not been an easy decision, but the government had no other option in view of the prevailing security challenges. He added that all available resources were

being utilized to restore peace and eliminate terrorism in the province. The Foreign Minister also highlighted the economic impact of protests and prolonged sit-ins, saying such activities had caused substantial damage to the national economy in the past. Calling for international cooperation, Dar urged the global community to assist Pakistan in strengthening the capacity of its law enforcement agencies and confronting extremist threats. He reiterated that Islam does not permit extremism or terrorism and stated that those who target innocent civilians have no connection with the true teachings of the religion. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to peaceful coexistence and the peaceful resolution of disputes, Dar said the country would continue working with regional and international partners to promote stability, peace, and security.

Trump's energy ceasefire creates confusion

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump sowed confusion on Sunday, announcing an "energy ceasefire" between Ukraine and Russia that sparked astonishment in Kyiv, silence from Moscow and support from Ukraine's Western allies. But the ceasefire appeared shaky at best as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia struck multiple Ukrainian power plants on Sunday, including one in the capital and another in Kharkiv, leading to power outages and outrage. Trump's announcement came two days after he declared a temporary easing of US sanctions on Russian diesel, prompting outrage by European allies and Kyiv, who said it would only embolden Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Effective immediately, there is an ENERGY CEASEFIRE in the War between Russia and Ukraine," Trump said early Sunday on Truth Social. "Both parties have agreed. Do not break it!" Zelensky appeared to express surprise at the announcement, saying he was seeking further details, but added that "Ukraine supports the ceasefire, and it is important that Russia support it as well." Russia has yet to confirm its agreement. Zelensky later said that multiple Ukrainian power stations had been hit and that "Ukrainian skies have been infested with Russian 'shaheds' all day," referring to a type of drone originally designed by Iran that is now used extensively by Russia. Since launching a full-scale invasion of its neighbor in 2022. — APP

Trump, Rubio weigh firing US envoy to Greece

DNA

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio are considering firing US Ambassador to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle after a series of reports alleging she has engaged in improper and possibly illegal conduct before and during her tenure in Athens. A senior US official said that Trump and Rubio are "extremely pissed off" by Guilfoyle's reported conduct and would likely decide on what action to take this week after Monday's Columbus Day



holiday, official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said Rubio had been particularly angry, not least because he visited Athens just last week and Guilfoyle attended most, if not all, of his events and greeted him on his arrival with a bear hug as the allegations swirled. In a series of stories, Wall Street Journal has reported questionable conduct by Guilfoyle, including an alleged threat to a host country official, accepting improper gifts and services and offering to use her influence inside the administration in return for the payment of a large credit card bill.

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