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US President says China not a trusted and reliable partner

Detailed News On Page-08

Vawda: new KP arrangement has to deliver

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Aurangzeb talks about banking opportunities

Detailed News On Page-07



Post-emergency scene

Govt claims people welcomed governor rule

At the outset of the press briefing, the law minister noted that the province in the recent past had witnessed a hike in terrorist incidents, noting a "195 per cent" rise, with 8,600 terrorist attacks recorded in 2024-2026 compared to 2,900 in 2020-2024

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday claimed that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had "welcomed" the federal government's move to impose governor's rule and emergency in the province, saying the measures had given them "hope". The federal government on Sunday imposed an 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". On Tuesday, Attaullah addressed a joint press conference alongside Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar in Islamabad. Attaullah noted, "Had the people of KP supported the pro-terrorist stance of the PTI government, you would have seen millions on the street." He went on to claim that "barely a dozen" people had gathered in protest. Defending the move, the information minister said: "The people of KP have welcomed the step because they believe there is now hope for them. They believe they will now be provided with safety and security, their lives and livelihoods will be protected, and this political-crime nexus will be eliminated." At the outset of the press briefing, the law minister noted that the province in the recent past had witnessed a hike in terrorist incidents, noting a "195 per cent" rise, with 8,600 terrorist attacks recorded in 2024-2026 compared to 2,900 in 2020-2024. Azam emphasised that it was essential that counterterrorism efforts taken by feder-

Allama Nasir calls for meeting with Imran

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Senate Opposition Leader Allama Nasir Abbas has once again called for a meeting with PTI founder Imran Khan to discuss solutions to the country's problems and explore political reconciliation. Addressing in the Senate, Allama Abbas said he would urge Imran Khan to work together for political harmony, adding that ego and arrogance were dangerous obstacles to dialogue. Nasir Abbas criticised the government's approach to protests, warning that its actions could increase unrest and terrorism. He also questioned why Parliament had not held a session for 21 days, describing the situation as a sign of the country's decline.

al and provincial agencies be "harmonised", adding that such an approach was standard practice globally. "All these arrangements are made to run the country in a way that people feel safe," he remarked. At this, the law minister noted the "non-serious" attitude of the previous PTI-led KP government, which he said, "has now ceased to exist".

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ISLAMABAD: Mr. Magnus Brunner, European Union Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad. - DNA

Pakistan test-fires missile

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army conducted successful test launch of Hypersonic Ballistic Missile, Fatah-2 Extended Range (ER). The weapon system is equipped with advanced navigation and state of the art avionics. It is capable of engaging targets with high precision and defeating enemy's Missile Defence Systems due to its unique trajectory and maneuverability features. Fatah-2 ER with its extended range will further enhance Army's reach and capability of engaging deep targets. Today's launch was witnessed by Commander Army Rocket Force Command (Comd ARFC), senior officers from Pakistan

Continued on Page 06

Omani FM arrives in Pakistan

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi arrived in Pakistan on a two-day visit on Tuesday, during which he would head his country's delegation at the eighth Pakistan-Oman Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) session. According to the Foreign Office (FO), he was received upon his arrival by the Economic Affairs Division secretary and the foreign ministry's additional secretary (Middle East). He would also hold a bilateral meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar during his stay in Pakistan, the FO statement said.

Continued on Page 06

Chairs parliamentary meeting

KP security situation worsened in recent months: PM Shehbaz

He alleged that the provincial government had tried to obstruct the country's development and promoted sit-ins and abusive language instead of strengthening CTD in KP. He also criticised the Imran Khan-founded party for not speaking out against terrorists

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the federal government had been left with no choice but to impose governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, describing the situation as a "now or never" moment. Addressing the PML-N parliamentary party meeting, the premier said that the security situation in the province had deteriorated significantly in recent months, adding that the people of KP had always made sacrifices for Pakistan's prosperity. The prime minister said terrorism

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Pak eyeing greater strategic cooperation with the EU

Commissioner Brunner appreciated the measures taken and the cooperation extended by the Government of Pakistan

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Magnus Brunner, European Union Commissioner for

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Vawda: option to 'reboot' Pakistan being considered

Vawda also criticised the previous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's performance, saying it had failed to deliver in the education and health sectors during its 13-year rule

NEWS DESK

Senator Faisal Vawda has said that an option to "reboot" Pakistan is being considered, claiming that no political party currently

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

PTI-backed lawmakers stage protest in NA

FIAZ CH

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed lawmakers protested against the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the National Assembly session after Speaker Ayaz Sadiq barred the opposition leaders from delivering political speeches. The speaker reminded the PTI lawmakers that Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk, who had been their colleague for two and a half years, had passed away last month, saying the house should pay tribute to the deceased rather than engage in politics. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said the assembly session was usually adjourned to offer prayers following the death of a member. He added that "the funeral of this house" had already taken place on October 11. Rejecting the PTI's demand, the speaker said the parliamentary tradition could not be abandoned and that the house was paying tribute to Virk. The speaker added that government had offered big deal during the negotiation but the opposition was not ready for it.

Joint session on Oct 15

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A joint session of Parliament has been summoned for Thursday, October 15, at 11am, well-placed sources said. The joint session is likely to approve the imposition of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the sources added.

Former KP CM Afridi's brother approaches court

The petitioner requested the court to direct the CCPO to submit a detailed report on the alleged incident that took place at around 2pm on October 11, 2026, at the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: The brother of non-functional Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Tuesday approached the Peshawar High Court (PHC) to trace his whereabouts. On October 11, the federal government imposed emergency and governor's rule in KP, invoking Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution. On the same day, the PTI claimed that the Afridi, along with some of his cabinet ministers and party leaders, had been abducted. The next day, officials, however, confirmed that Afridi and some of his cabinet members were in preventative custody. The state minister for interior had stated that those against whom cases were pending would be charged and tried, while the others would be released. Muhammad Amir, Afridi's brother, filed a petition in the high court, seeking multiple directives for the respondents, including the KP inspector general of police (IGP), Peshawar capital city police officer (CCPO) and others, to immediately take all lawful and effective measures to

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'Terror incidents doubled during Sohail Afridi's tenure'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said terrorism incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa doubled during Sohail Afridi's tenure, as he defended the decision to impose emergency in the province. Speaking in the Senate, Dar said he had been a strong advocate of political reconciliation and that the government had made every possible effort in this regard. However, he said, "Matters have gone far beyond political reconciliation." Dar said KP had continued to receive 1% under the NFC Award for the fight against terrorism, with Rs800 billion going to the

Continued on Page 06

Brazil's Admiral Freire lauds professionalism of Pak Navy

At Naval Headquarters, discussions focused on regional maritime security and strengthening bilateral naval cooperation through professional training, exchange visits and joint exercises

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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, separately called on Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), TBt, Chief of the Naval Staff and Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff. At Naval Headquarters, discussions

focused on regional maritime security and strengthening bilateral naval cooperation through professional training, exchange visits and joint exercises. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Navy's Regional Maritime Security Patrols initiative and its contribution to regional stability. At Air Headquarters, the Air Chief highlighted PAF's modernisation and indigenisation efforts, including the integration of kinetic, space, cyber, artificial intelligence and electronic warfare capabilities, with emphasis on technological advancement and self-reliance. Admiral Freire appreciated the professionalism and operational capabilities of Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Air Force. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening professional exchanges, institutional cooperation and bilateral defence collaboration.

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Agri holds potential to swiftly steer to eco growth: PM

During the meeting, briefings were also given on the steps taken for agricultural development in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, terming agriculture as the backbone of the national economy, said it has the potential to steer Pakistan's economy on the path of development in a short span of time. The prime minister chaired the first meeting of the National Agriculture and Food Security Council (NAFSC). During the meeting, the prime minister observed that the livestock sector also possessed vast potential to increase national exports and the government was taking steps to increase Pakistan's halal meat exports. He said the federal government would provide all kinds of cooperation to the provinces for agricultural development, adding that providing farmers with low-cost fertilizer, quality seeds, modern machinery, and equipment and technical capabilities for the better use of water is a top priority. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad

Ishaq Dar, Ministers Rana Tanvir Hussain, Dr. Musadik Malik, Jam Kamal Khan, Ahad Khan Cheema, Ahsan Iqbal, Attaullah Tarar, Khalid Hussain Magsi, Mian Moeen Wattoo, Advisors Rana Sanaullah and Haroon Akhtar, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Sindh Agriculture Minister Makhdoom Mehboob-uz-Zaman, and relevant senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister expressed his satisfaction at the availability of wheat to meet domestic requirements and warned that no leniency would be shown to those hoarding wheat. He further stressed that ensuring a fair price for farmers' crops, especially small and medium-scale farmers, is a priority, adding that it was necessary to determine the correct price of wheat before sowing so that farmers received appropriate compensation for their hard work. "We want farmers to get the right price for wheat and consumers to avail of afford-

able wheat. The decision regarding the price of wheat will be made in consultation with the provinces," the press release quoted him as saying. The prime minister lauded chief minister Punjab for taking commendable steps such as farmers' development, aquaculture, shrimp farming, and providing direct subsidies to farmers through the Kisan Card. He also appreciated the chief minister Sindh for his hard work for the development of farmers and providing them with facilities. During the meeting, the chief minister of Punjab and the Sindh minister for food highlighted the steps taken by their respective provincial governments for the development of farmers in their respective provinces. During the meeting, briefings were also given on the steps taken for agricultural development in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner on Tuesday agreed to enhance cooperation in border security, legal migration and border management.

IHRA assesses Polyclinic hospital for licensing

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has conducted a licensing assessment of the Federal Government Polyclinic Hospital (FGPC) to evaluate its compliance with prescribed healthcare standards and ensure the provision of safe and quality medical services. During the assessment, IHRA evaluators examined the hospital against the indicators outlined in the Minimum Service Delivery Standards (MSDS) and prepared a comprehensive report documenting their findings. The assessment forms part of the ongoing licensing process and reflects IHRA's regulatory mandate to ensure that healthcare establishments meet the required standards of patient safety, quality of care and public health before a licence is issued. The exercise aims to assess the hospital's compliance with established service delivery requirements and promote improvements in healthcare quality and patient safety. Through such assessments, IHRA seeks to strengthen regulatory oversight of healthcare facilities in the federal capital and ensure that medical institutions adhere to prescribed standards for delivering safe, effective and reliable healthcare services.—APP

Pakistan, ALECSO to explore coop in art fields

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) have agreed to explore joint initiatives in the fields of music, drama, arts and dance to promote cultural exchange and strengthen people-to-people ties between Pakistan and the Arab world. The understanding was reached during a meeting between Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aunaz Khan Khichi and a high-level ALECSO delegation, led by its Director-General, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ould Amar of Mauritania, at the minister's office on Tuesday. The delegation included Prof. Dr. Mohammed Sanad Subeh Darwish, Director of the Department of Science and Scientific Research (Jordan); Prof. Dr. Mohamed Jemni, Director of the Department of Information and Communication (Tunisia); Mourad Mahmoudi, Secretary of the Executive Council and the General Conference (Algeria); and Muhammad Murata Noor, National Coordinator of the Inter-University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan (IUCPSS). Secretary of the National Heritage and Culture Division Asad Rahman Gillani was also present. During the meeting, both sides discussed potential areas of collaboration and agreed to explore joint initiatives in music, drama, visual arts and dance to promote cultural exchange and strengthen people-to-people ties. The ALECSO Director-General introduced the organization and briefed the minister on its mandate, programmes and initiatives. He highlighted that ALECSO comprises 22 member states and expressed its interest in expanding cultural engagement and cooperation.—APP

SECP guidebook strengthens safeguards

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a guidebook on Targeted Financial Sanctions (TFS) for its regulated entities to strengthen safeguards against terrorist financing and other illicit activities and protect the integrity of Pakistan's financial system. The guidebook explains, in practical terms, the steps regulated entities should take to meet their obligations under applicable TFS requirements, said a news release here on Tuesday. These include screening customers, prospective customers and beneficial owners against relevant sanctions lists and notifications; assessing potential matches; freezing the funds and assets of designated persons and entities without delay; and reporting to the relevant authorities within the required time. It also highlights the need for clear internal procedures, regular screening, proper record-keeping, staff awareness and effective compliance controls. SECP encourages regulated entities to use the guidebook to review and strengthen their existing arrangements. The guidebook follows a series of TFS awareness sessions for SECP-regulated entities, conducted by SECP in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA). The sessions and guidebook support stronger understanding and implementation of Pakistan's Anti-Money Laundering, Countering Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/PPF) framework. The guidebook is intended as a practical reference and should be read alongside applicable laws, regulations.—APP

DPM vows to boost Pak-EU partnership

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ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its partnership with the European Union. He was talking to European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner in Islamabad today. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen cooperation on migration and mobility, a key pillar of the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan (2019). The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's efforts to curb irregular migration and combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking. He



stressed that these efforts should be complemented by greater opportunities for legal migration for skilled Pakistani workers and professionals. Ishaq Dar expressed satisfaction with the positive momentum in Pakistan-EU relations. The European Commissioner appreciated Pakistan's progress in curbing irregular migration and noted the scope for expanding legal migration pathways.

Pak, EU explore coop in electric vehicle skills uplift

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Tuesday met a delegation of the European Union (EU) and discussed avenues for cooperation in electric vehicle (EV) skills development, technical training and capacity building to support Pakistan's transition towards sustainable mobility. During the meeting, Haroon emphasized that promoting electric vehicles and developing the skilled workforce required by the emerging sector were important components of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's vision for a modern, competitive and sustainable industrial economy, said a news release. "Pakistan has set a target of increasing the share of electric vehicles to 30 percent by 2030. Achieving this transition requires more than introducing new vehicles; it demands a skilled workforce, technical expertise and the development of a supporting industrial ecosystem," the advisor said. He noted that several companies had entered Pakistan's electric vehicle market, creating a growing need for trained technicians, engineers and other professionals equipped with modern EV-related skills. He stressed that timely investment in skills development would help prepare Pakistani youth for emerging employment opportunities while strengthening the country's capacity to adopt and manufacture new technologies. "Pakistan missed important opportunities during earlier phases of the global automobile revolution, but we will not afford to miss the electric vehicle revolution. Our objective is to build local capabilities, develop technical expertise and ensure that this transition creates jobs and industrial opportunities for Pakistan," Haroon remarked. The advisor said that the government's forthcoming Auto Policy, expected to be rolled out in the coming weeks, would place particular emphasis on electric vehicles and the development of the automotive sector. He said that work was also underway on a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Policy, which would support the broader transition towards cleaner energy technologies and strengthen the enabling environment for emerging industries.—DNA

RCCI, Chinese delegation for bilateral trade promotion

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) organized a Business-to-Business (B2B) meeting and interactive session with a visiting Chinese delegation at Chamber House, RCCI, to explore new avenues for trade, investment, and business collaboration between Pakistan and China. The session was chaired by RCCI President Noshervan Khalil Khan and attended by Senior Vice President Waseem Aslam, Vice President Ikram Abasi, former presidents Raja Amer Iqbal and Malik Shahid Saleem, members of the Executive Committee, and repre-

sentatives from various business sectors. Addressing the session, RCCI President Noshervan Khalil Khan appreciated the delegation's support and cooperation in facilitating the participation of RCCI members in the upcoming 140th China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair). He highlighted that more than 75 business entities from RCCI are participating in the fair, reflecting the growing interest of Pakistan's business community in exploring international markets and strengthening trade relations with China. The Chinese delegation was led by Ms. Cindy Chen, who briefed participants on the 140th Canton Fair and highlighted the business opportunities it offers to Pakistani entrepreneurs. She noted that the fair provides an important



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Oct 01/Nigeria Armed Forces Day

Oct 02/Guinea National Day

Oct 03/Germany Unification Day

Oct 03/Republic of Korea National Foundation Day

Oct 05/Indonesia Armed Forces Day

Oct 06/Egypt Armed Forces Day

Oct 09/Uganda Independence Day

Oct 12/Spain National Day

Oct 23/Hungary National Day

October 24/United Nations United Nations Day

Oct/25/Romania Armed Forces Day

Oct 26/Austria National Day

Oct 27/Turkmenistan Independence Day

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Oct 29/Turkey Republic Day

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Capital becomes hub for global dialogue on poverty reduction

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar appreciated PPAF’s sustained efforts to combat poverty and improve the economic prospects of disadvantaged communities

ISLAMABAD : The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) on Tuesday inaugurated a two-day international conference on inclusive and resilient economic empowerment and growth in Islamabad, bringing together federal ministers, international delegates, development partners and poverty reduction experts to explore sustainable solutions to poverty, strengthen livelihoods and promote inclusive economic growth under the theme “Poverty to Prosperity”. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Syed Imran Ahmad Shah, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajiha Qamar, and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Senator Rubina Khalid attended the inaugural session along with other dignitaries. Addressing the conference while representing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Ahsan Iqbal emphasised that poverty reduction required sustained investment in human development, education, healthcare and skills. He said poverty extended beyond income deprivation to unequal access to opportunities and essential services, calling for greater investment in human capital, empowerment of women and youth, and support for less-developed regions, particularly Balochistan.



Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar appreciated PPAF’s sustained efforts to combat poverty and improve the economic prospects of disadvantaged communities. He highlighted the importance of grassroots initiatives that translate support into tangible livelihood opportunities, enabling people to build businesses, improve living

standards and achieve economic self-reliance. Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said Pakistan’s economic progress depended on bringing marginalised communities into the mainstream of development and turning their skills and potential into productive opportunities.

He emphasised that cultural heritage also encompassed traditional skills, crafts and knowledge that could generate livelihoods, calling for better market access for artisans and expanded economic opportunities for women and youth. He also appreciated Syed Imran Ahmad Shah and his team for their efforts to alleviate poverty.—DNA

Regional coop stressed to counter cross-border terrorism

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at an international conference organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) have called for stronger regional and international cooperation, effective border management and intelligence-sharing to counter terrorism and address cross-border security threats. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar attended the conference titled “Pakistan’s Evolving Counterterrorism Landscape: TTP, Cross-Border Threats and Regional Security” as the chief guest, said a press release

issued on Tuesday. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, in his keynote address, highlighted the immense sacrifices Pakistan had made over the past four decades in the war against terrorism. In working Session I, moderated by Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad, Ambassador Abrar Hussain, Pakistan’s Former Ambassador to Afghanistan highlighted militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan and growing tactical convergence between the TTP and BLA, calling for coordinated diplomatic engagement with Kabul involving China, Russia and Iran.

Giorgio Cafiero, CEO & Founder, Gulf State Analytics, USA observed that Gulf states seek Pakistan’s stability while maintaining engagement with Kabul, although their diplomatic channels have yet to translate into meaningful leverage over the Taliban. Naseem Zehra, Anchor & Security Analyst stressed that counterterrorism must address recruitment drivers through legal accountability, constitutional political space, and civilian-led prevention. In working Session II, moderated by Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Ambassador Asif Durrani, Pakistan’s Former Special Representative on Afghanistan called for sustained dialogue with Afghanistan, effective border management, and protection of legitimate trade. Professor Joseph Siracusa, Professor of Human Security and International Diplomacy at the Royal Melbourne, Australia advocated intelligence-led counterterrorism, lawful accountability, disengagement pathways, and greater international recognition of Pakistan’s sacrifices.—DNA

Moot on sustainable future inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: Scientists, policymakers and young scholars from across the Global South and beyond gathered in Islamabad on Tuesday for the opening of the three-day ANSO-COM-SATS-TWAS Conference, calling for science that works for every living species on Earth. The conference is aimed at turning research into practical action on sustainability, climate resilience and equitable access to knowledge. The conference, titled “A Sustainable Future for All Living Species on Planet Earth,” is organised by COMSATS in collaboration with the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS-UNESCO), with support from the University of Trieste.

It is an official activity of the UNESCO-led International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD) 2024-2033. Federal Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr. Shahid Baloch, was the chief guest. He stressed equitable access to scientific progress and the need to ensure that developing countries benefit from scientific knowledge, emerging technologies and research opportunities. COMSATS Executive Director Ambassador Zakaria underscored the need for international scientific partnerships. He highlighted the potential of artificial intelligence, Earth observation, biotechnology and renewable energy to strengthen environmental resilience and turn scientific knowledge into practical solutions.

The conference is built around three themes: Sustainability Education and Planetary Health; the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus for Sustainability; and Science-Policy Dialogue for a Sustainable Future. The inaugural ceremony was attended by the ambassadors of Jordan, Azerbaijan and Sri Lanka, and diplomats from Zimbabwe and Sudan. Also present were Prof. Jibin Sun, Chairman of the COMSATS Coordinating Council; Dr. Max Paoli, Coordinator of TWAS-UNESCO; Prof. Buratti of ICGEB; and eminent scientists and members of the COMSATS Technical Advisory Committee. Representatives of the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and the Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) also joined.—APP

Russian minister reviews Islamabad Police Parade

ISLAMABAD: Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev, accompanied by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, visited Islamabad Police Lines and the Pakistan Monument, where he reviewed a police parade, received a salute from special units and paid tribute at the Martyrs’ Memorial. During his visit to Islamabad Police Lines, the Russian interior minister witnessed a parade by Islamabad Police. Special units presented a salute, and the national anthems of Pakistan and Russia were played. Kolokoltsev inspected the parade and was presented with the Pakistani national flag. He kissed the flag as a mark of respect. Islamabad Inspector General of Police Sohail Chaudhry, deputy inspector generals and other police officers were also present on the occasion. Later, Kolokoltsev arrived at the Pakistan Monument with Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, a contingent of the Federal Constabulary presented a salute to the Russian interior minister. Kolokoltsev also visited the Martyrs’ Memorial and laid flowers there to pay tribute to those who lost their lives. During his visit to Shakarparian, the Russian minister viewed the federal capital and the Margalla Hills from the site. He appreciated Islamabad’s natural landscape and beauty. The visit included engagements with Islamabad Police personnel, a parade inspection, the presentation of awards to police officers and a visit to the Pakistan Monument and Martyrs’ Memorial.—APP

President reaffirms Pakistan’s commitment to regional peace



ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General (Rtd.) Nauman Mahmood, the first Secretary General pursuant to Makkah Joint Defence Agreement called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr today. He will lead the General Secretariat of the Alliance being established at Riyadh. The President expressed confidence that the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, signed by Pakistan, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia on 7 August 2026, would strengthen re-

gional peace and stability through defensive cooperation guided by the principles of the UN Charter and international law. The President underscored that the Accord is purely defensive in nature, is not directed against any country and does not constitute the formation of a new bloc. He emphasised that Pakistan remains committed to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and enhanced regional and multilateral cooperation to address emerging challenges.—DNA

NBF, Iranian Embassy to translate, publish Iranian kids books in Urdu

ISLAMABAD :Majid Meshki, Cultural Counsellor at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited the National Book Foundation (NBF), Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, and met with Managing Director Dr. Kamran Jahangir. The meeting featured detailed discussions on expanding literary and cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Iran, publishing Urdu translations of Persian literature, and introducing the rich intellectual and literary heritage of both countries to a wider readership. The Iranian Cultural Counsellor highlighted the rich traditions of Iranian literature, particularly the creative dimensions and intellectual diversity of children’s literature. He also presented several books comprising Urdu translations. During the meeting, both sides agreed to work towards the translation and publication of 40 Iranian children’s books in Urdu and their distribution across Pakistan. Under the proposed arrangement, the Iranian Embassy will provide the Urdu translations of the selected books, along with the relevant copyrights and publishing rights, while the National Book Foundation will undertake their publication, promotion and nationwide distribution. This collaboration is expected to introduce Iranian literature to Urdu readers and improve the availability of quality and diverse reading material for children. Director Headquarters, National Book Foundation, Murad Ali Mohmand, was also present on the occasion. Both sides emphasised that literature and translation serve as effective means of fostering intellectual dialogue, cultural awareness and mutual understanding among different languages and societies. In this context, the proposed initiative was viewed as an important step towards strengthening the literary and cultural dimension of the longstanding friendly relations between Pakistan and Iran. It was also agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be signed to formalise the collaboration. The signing ceremony is expected to take place in the near future at the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.—APP

MoU inked to promote science, tech coop

ISLAMABAD: The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) and the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (OIC-COMSTECH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in science, technology and innovation, with the aim of accelerating economic development and delivering tangible benefits to their Member States. The MoU was signed during a virtual ceremony by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Secretary-General of the D-8, and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTECH, said a press release issued on Tuesday. In his remarks on the occasion, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood underscored the growing importance of science and technology in driving economic growth, improving productivity and addressing common development challenges faced by Member States. He highlighted COMSTECH’s extensive experience in scientific and technological cooperation among OIC Member States, describing it as a valuable partner for the D-8. The Secretary-General emphasised that the D8-COMSTECH partnership would provide a practical framework for exchanging knowledge and expertise, undertaking joint research, organising training programmes and strengthening institutional capacity. He further expressed confidence that the cooperation would contribute to advancing the objectives of the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030, particularly in promoting sustainable economic development and technological progress. Under the MoU, both organizations will explore cooperation in key priority areas, including agriculture and food security, energy and minerals, environmental sustainability, Artificial Intelligence, digital transformation and emerging technologies. The partnership will also promote capacity-building, youth empowerment, technical exchanges and stronger linkages among universities, research institutions and centres of excellence.—APP

UNICEF, WHO hail Pakistan’s anemia reduction plan

ISLAMABAD: UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday welcomed Pakistan’s National Anemia Reduction Plan (2025–2030), which aims to reduce anemia among women and adolescent girls by 50 per cent by 2030. Jennifer Melton, Deputy Country Representative of UNICEF, commended the federal and provincial governments, academia and development partners for advancing the national initiative, stressing that coordinated, multisectoral interventions and stronger health systems were essential to addressing anemia and reaching vulnerable and underserved communities. She noted that anemia affected approximately two in five women of reproductive age and more than half of adolescent girls and young children, undermining their health, education, productivity and economic growth. She reaffirmed UNICEF’s commitment to supporting the government in implementing the plan. Dr Ellen Thom, WHO Country Representative, congratulated the government and its partners on the initiative, highlighting the serious implications of anemia for maternal health. She noted that anemia was a major contributing factor to postpartum hemorrhage, a significant cause of maternal deaths in Pakistan. She said the national plan would contribute to global targets for reducing anemia among women of reproductive age and reaffirmed WHO’s commitment to supporting evidence-based interventions and adapting global best practices to Pakistan’s needs. The plan envisages reducing anemia among women and adolescent girls by 50 per cent by 2030 through measures including strengthening maternal nutrition, expanding iron and folic acid supplementation, improving screening and treatment, ensuring reliable supplies of essential commodities, and establishing robust data and accountability systems. Provincial ownership, predictable financing and stronger frontline services were identified as critical to its effective implementation. Addressing the launch ceremony, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal called for the establishment of dedicated task forces in all provinces to urgently address anemia and child stunting, stressing that Pakistan must translate its understanding of development challenges into effective action and measurable results. He said identifying problems was not enough, as the real test of governance lay in implementing solutions that improved people’s lives. He emphasized that tackling anemia and stunting required sustained political commitment, coordinated national action and effective implementation at the provincial and local levels. “Pakistan’s future depends on the health, education and quality of life of its people. Investing in the health and development of women, girls and children is essential for building our human capital and achieving sustainable economic growth,” he said. The minister stressed the need to expand social-sector programmes and devolve greater administrative and financial authority to district and local governments, observing that highly centralized systems could not adequately address grassroots challenges without bringing decision-making, monitoring and accountability closer to communities. Highlighting early childhood development, he said the first five years of a child’s life were critical for physical, cognitive and emotional development. Children growing up today would shape Pakistan in 2047, making investment in their nutrition, health, learning and well-being a national development priority. He appreciated the plan’s comprehensive, evidence-based approach, describing anemia not merely as a medical concern but also as a major human capital and economic development challenge. He called for coordinated action across health, nutrition, education, social protection, food systems, and water, sanitation and hygiene to address its underlying causes.—DNA

Briefs

ICT Police nab six in nawab of Bahawalpur family house theft

ISLAMABAD :Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have arrested six suspects involved in a major theft at the residence of the Nawab of Bahawalpur family in Sector F-8/3 and recovered stolen valuables, precious items, and cash worth over Rs70 million.

A police spokesperson told on Tuesday that the Margalla Police Station team traced and arrested the suspects with the help of modern technology, Safe City cameras and human intelligence. He said the police recovered stolen property, valuable items and cash worth more than Rs70 million from the possession of the arrested suspects. The spokesperson said the arrests were made following efforts by the Margalla police team to identify and trace those involved in the theft. SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza appreciated the police team's efforts and said action against criminals involved in stealing citizens' valuable property would continue without discrimination. He said Islamabad Police were committed to protecting citizens' lives and property and taking effective action against those involved in criminal activities. The SSP Qazi said all legal requirements would be completed to ensure that the arrested suspects were prosecuted and brought to justice in accordance with the law. —APP

IRSA releases 101,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 101,600 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 78,100 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1518.77 feet, which was 116.77 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 42,900 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1200.20 feet, which was 150.20 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 70,100, 54,700, 47,700, and 12,000 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 13,500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 5,200 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala. —APP

Pirzada greets Channar brothers, reaffirms commitment to Bahawalpur

ISLAMABAD: Malik Munir Iqbal Channar, Member-elect of the National Assembly from NA-168 Bahawalpur, along with his brother, Zaheer Iqbal Channar, Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly, called on the Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada at his office in Islamabad.

Both leaders expressed their profound gratitude to the Federal Minister and his family, particularly his son, for their unwavering support during the by-elections held in September 2026, in which they secured a decisive victory with a lead of nearly 40,000 votes.

The Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly thanked the Federal Minister for his wholehearted support, not only in the National Assembly but also during the electoral campaign. He expressed confidence that this electoral success would further strengthen their resolve to serve their people with renewed commitment. Congratulating them on their success, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada termed the victory a landmark achievement for Bahawalpur, reflecting the confidence and trust of the people in their elected representatives. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the integration of databases between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

Ahsan calls for integrated action to reduce anemia

He said that anemia was not merely a health issue but a major barrier to learning, well-being, maternal and child health and economic participation, adding that no nation could realize its full potential if a significant proportion of its girls and women remained held back by preventable health and nutrition challenges.

ISLAMABAD :Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday stressed the need for an integrated, coordinated and results-oriented approach to reduce anemia among women, adolescent girls and children, terming the National Anemia Reduction Plan (2025–2030) vital to strengthening human capital and achieving sustainable economic development. Addressing the launch ceremony of the plan, the minister said approximately two out of every five women of reproductive age and more than one out of every two adolescent girls and young children were affected by anemia, describing the figures as deeply concerning.

He said that anemia was not merely a health issue but a major barrier to learning, well-being, maternal and child health and economic participation, adding that no nation could realize its full potential if a significant proportion of its girls and women remained held back by preventable health and nutrition challenges.

The minister appreciated the comprehensive design of the plan, which addressed both nutritional and non-nutritional causes of anemia across the life course, and said it provided a framework for better

coordination and more effective interventions.

He said that anemia could result not only from iron deficiency but also from other nutritional deficiencies, infections, inflammation, reproductive health conditions, inherited blood disorders and wider social determinants.

Therefore, he said that an effective response required coordinated action across health and nutrition, education, social protection, food systems, water, sanitation and hygiene, and community-level services.

Ahsan Iqbal said that the plan offered an opportunity to move away from fragmented interventions towards a unified national effort with clearly defined responsibilities and a strong focus on measurable results. He said that the plan complemented the country's broader development agenda under URAAN Pakistan, its Five Es Framework and the 13th Five-Year National Development Plan, which recognized stronger human capital, higher productivity and inclusive opportunities as essential pillars of sustainable development.

Improving the health and nutrition of girls and women, he added, was integral

to this vision and would also advance Pakistan's commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals and the wider global health agenda.

Highlighting the importance of translating the plan into tangible improvements in people's lives, the minister called for sustained provincial ownership, adequate and predictable financing, stronger service delivery, improved diagnosis, reliable data and continued investment in research and innovation.

He stressed that underserved communities required particular attention to ensure that girls, women and children facing the greatest barriers were not left behind. The minister said progress should be measured not merely by activities undertaken but by concrete outcomes, including improved access to support for girls, better women's health, wider coverage of vulnerable communities and stronger systems for the early identification and treatment of anemia.

He underscored the importance of evidence-based policymaking, effective coordination and accountability in implementing the plan, while acknowledging the contributions of the Ministry of National Health Services, provincial governments,

academia and development partners, particularly SAACR, UNICEF and WHO.

Calling for sustained collaboration among all stakeholders, Ahsan Iqbal said that investment in the health and nutrition of girls and women was central to nation-building rather than a peripheral concern. "Better nutrition and health can support stronger educational outcomes, healthier mothers and children, greater productivity and a more resilient economy," he said, adding that such investment generated benefits extending across generations. The minister said national development should not be confined to physical infrastructure, such as factories, cities, power plants and transmission lines. He said that infrastructure was an important component of development, but genuine and sustainable progress depended on human resource development. Pakistan could not be considered a developed country merely by constructing buildings and cities without investing in the development of its people, he added.

He expressed the confidence that evidence-based policies, effective coordination and sustained commitment could help Pakistan move towards a healthier, more productive and equitable society.

Qawwali maestro Nusrat remembered

ISLAMABAD: Legendary Pakistani Qawwali maestro Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, popularly known as the "Shahenshah-e-Qawwali," was remembered on his 78th birth anniversary on Tuesday. Born in Faisalabad on October 13, 1948, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan earned international acclaim for his powerful voice and remarkable contribution to Qawwali and music. He was widely admired for his captivating performances, which often left audiences spellbound. The maestro played a pioneering role in blending Eastern and Western musical traditions, introducing the art of Qawwali to audiences around the world. His popular musical compositions include Dum Mast Qalandar, Wohi Khuda Hai, Jane Kab Honge Kam and Tumhein Dillagi Bhoole Jani Paray Gi, which continue to captivate music lovers. In recognition of his contributions to music, he was awarded the Pride of Performance award by the Government of Pakistan.

He was also honoured with the UNESCO Music Prize and the Legends award at the UK Asian Music Awards in 2005. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan passed away on August 16, 1997, leaving behind a rich musical legacy that continues to inspire artists and audiences worldwide. —APP

NCCIA keeps Eagle eye on AI misuse

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad Circle has registered a case after an inquiry into allegations that a man expressed an intention to kill his former female friend and allegedly sought information about murder methods using artificial intelligence (AI) and digital platforms.

An NCCIA official told on Tuesday that the case was registered following an inquiry into the alleged threats and possible misuse of digital technology. According to the First Information Report (FIR), the suspect allegedly attempted to obtain information and ideas about methods of committing murder. The official said the allegations were still under investigation and the facts would be established through the legal process. He said the matter had raised concerns about the misuse of AI tools and digital communication platforms for threats, intimidation and other unlawful activities. The NCCIA stressed that AI tools and online platforms should be used responsibly and must not be used to threaten individuals, spread fear or support criminal activities. —APP

Murder over marriage refusal case

SC rejects plea to commute death sentence

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has ruled that murdering a woman for rejecting a marriage proposal is a grave offence and that her refusal cannot justify the killing or serve as a mitigating factor for reducing the sentence.

The court dismissed a review petition filed by Muhammad Kamran, who was sentenced to death for murdering Maimoona Shaheen, and upheld his death sentence.

A three-member bench comprising Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, Justice Salahuddin Panhwar and Justice Ishaq Ibrahim announced the verdict after hearing the case. In its judgment, the court observed that every woman has the fundamental right to accept or reject a marriage proposal according to her own wishes, and taking her life merely for refusing a proposal could not be justified under any circumstances. Marriage is a relationship based on the mutual consent of two individuals, and neither a man, a family nor society has the right to impose its will on a woman, it added. The court held that treating a woman's refusal as provocation or a ground for reducing punishment would endorse the notion that her

will is subordinate to a man's desires. Anger, resentment or emotional distress cannot justify reducing the sentence for a serious crime such as murder, it observed. According to the judgment, Kamran shot and killed Maimoona Shaheen at her home after she and her family rejected his marriage proposal, as stated by the prosecution. The trial court sentenced him to death under Section 302(b) of the Pakistan Penal Code and ordered compensation. The high court and subsequently the Supreme Court upheld the sentence. In his review petition, the convict argued that he had spent nearly 14 years in prison and requested that his death sentence be commuted to life imprisonment. The Supreme Court, however, clarified that the time already spent in custody was not, by itself, sufficient grounds for commuting a death sentence, noting that death and life imprisonment carry different legal consequences.

The judgment stated that, under the principle of life expectancy, commuting a death sentence to life imprisonment required at least 25 years of imprisonment, additional compelling mitigating circumstances and a crime that was not of an exceptionally grave nature. The court noted that Kamran was arrested on September 5, 2012, and had served approximately 14 years in prison, making him ineligible for relief under this principle. The Supreme Court also addressed social attitudes underlying violence against women and forced marriages, observing that a woman's consent could not be disregarded in the name of honour, family traditions, ego or emotions. Referring to practices such as ghag, swara and watta satta, the court observed that attitudes treating women as commodities were among the underlying causes of violence against them. —DNA

Natalie for early detection to combat breast cancer

She added that sustained awareness initiatives and timely medical intervention were crucial to improving health outcomes and ensuring a healthier future for coming generations

ISLAMABAD: Ms Natalie A. Baker, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, has highlighted the importance of public awareness and early diagnosis in combating breast cancer, saying timely detection can significantly improve treatment outcomes and help save lives.

Urging women to seek timely medical advice and remain vigilant about warning signs, Ms Baker said awareness was the first step towards fighting breast cancer and preventing the disease from becoming life-threatening.

Talking to the media on the sidelines of a breast cancer awareness event at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), she said the disease affected women across the world, underscoring the need for sustained awareness campaigns and improved access to screening and health-

care services. She expressed concern that young girls and women in Pakistan were also being affected by breast cancer, stressing the importance of educating people about its symptoms, risk factors and available treatment options. Ms Baker said awareness initiatives played a vital role in encouraging women to recognize warning signs and consult healthcare professionals without delay. She emphasized that coordinated efforts by healthcare professionals, institutions and communities were essential to strengthening breast cancer awareness, promoting early diagnosis and protecting women's health. She added that sustained awareness initiatives and timely medical intervention were crucial to improving health outcomes and ensuring a healthier future for coming generations. —APP

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Many leaders yet to realize that Israel acts as a bully

CHRIS DOYLE

THE huge leap forward in terms of the UK taking a more principled and assertive stance toward Israel and Palestine witnessed in September suffered a partial reverse in early October. The UK and Israel concocted what can at best be described as a fudged deal over the future of the British Consulate in Jerusalem. This arose following the retaliatory measures announced by Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar in response to the pledged UK sanctions on settlements and arms that his counterpart Ed Miliband announced on Sept. 8. Saar pledged three actions in addition to banning 11 British members of Parliament. The common factor in Saar's measures was that the penalties would ultimately be paid by Palestinians. Kicking Britain out of the International Gaza Support Center reduces international oversight of Israeli crimes in Gaza. Ending the UK training program for the Palestinian Authority does likewise. But arguably the most serious was the pledge to close the British Consulate within 30 days, a deadline that expired last week. This represents a blatant attempt to weaken and reduce the Palestinian connection to the city, a strategic aim of every Israeli government in history but in particular the current coalition, which aside from being the most extreme historically is also fighting for its political survival, with an election scheduled for Oct. 27. It fits into the Israeli strategy of denying international access to Gaza and the West Bank including East Jerusalem. Its leaders know they have plenty to hide. The deal sees the consulate, which was founded in 1839, renamed the "UK Mission, Jerusalem." The consul general will be among those departing as the mission will have a highly reduced staff of just seven diplomats. Israel claims it has hit British interests. Saar boasted: "We established a clear principle: It is not possible to act against Israel without Israel taking appropriate measures in response." If UK ministers wanted proof of illegal Israeli actions, the view from the mission supplies ample evidence. The British government can assert that it has ensured that Israel did not close the diplomatic premises, so an important legal principle was maintained. Miliband put a brave face on the British climbdown. "We have

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been clear that we do not accept that the government of Israel has the legal right to close the British Consulate General in Jerusalem," he said. Questions remain. Exactly how much activity will the revamped and shrunken mission be allowed to carry out? Israeli authorities will be watching closely. We do not know what was agreed behind the scenes. Miliband claimed that the mission will "deliver vital services and our work with the Palestinian people," but this does not accord with Israeli statements. Seven other states still have consulates in East Jerusalem. They will need to work together to fight any threat to their presence. Israel has not yet closed any other consulates, suggesting it holds London responsible for the recent measures 11 other states have promised to take. Sources within the British Foreign Office told me that the threat of expelling Israeli diplomats had a significant impact on the Israeli authorities. The plan was to expel an equal number of Israeli diplomats from the UK, which could have been as many as 27. The threat is left hanging. Miliband said: "We will work in the coming months to build back up our presence and we will not take reciprocal action while such discussions are underway and credible." It appears like this is kicking the hand grenade down the road until after the Israeli elections. If UK ministers wanted proof of illegal Israeli actions, the view from the mission supplies ample evidence. In the valley below in Shaikh Jarrah, a settler movement has been busy for years in taking over Palestinian homes. Families have been forced out or even made to share buildings with extremist settlers. One project includes building a huge yeshiva at the entrance to the neighborhood. This is a totally unwarranted action by Israel. What it should be doing is ending its flagrant breaches of international law and realizing that its conduct has compelled major states to take action to end these violations. Israel is expelling diplomats from territory it has unlawfully occupied for nearly 60 years. It is not the sovereign power The UK acted legally in support of international law; Israel continues to act in flagrant violation of international law and responded to legitimate international actions with further unlawful measures. Israel is expelling diplomats from territory it has unlawfully occupied for nearly 60 years. It is not the sovereign power. Take the precedent of Kuwait. In 1990, the Iraqi regime wanted to close the British Embassy in occupied Kuwait but the UK kept it open, with its diplomatic staff even reduced to drinking from the swimming pool. The 2026 British government requires that sort of resolve. What many international leaders have yet to realize is that Israel acts as a bully. The Burnham government blinked. It needed to stand up to the pressure. The challenge is to ensure not just that this is a one-off error of judgment but that it is reversed in weeks, not months. As importantly, the UK and others should be looking to tighten, not loosen, sanctions and to demonstrate their strength and commitment to addressing war crimes, not weakness and disunity.

Israel's Global Reach: From Latin America to Africa and Asia

Qamar Bashir



Political lobbying adds another layer. Former Australian foreign minister Bob Carr criticized what he considered excessive pressure from a hardline pro-Israel lobby on government policy. His account raises a fundamental democratic question: can elected officials exercise independent judgment when organized advocacy enjoys privileged access to executive leadership? The answer requires examining meetings, funding, communications and policy changes. Citizens should know whether decisions reflect publicly...

ISRAEL'S expanding international reach raises a question that governments can no longer comfortably avoid: when does cooperation become dependence, and when does dependence begin to compromise sovereignty? Weapons, surveillance systems, intelligence partnerships, diplomatic advocacy and investment can establish enduring influence inside another country's institutions. Examined together, these relationships reveal how a state can acquire leverage far beyond its territory without formally governing the societies affected by its decisions. The central issue is the conversion of access into power. A weapons contract opens a relationship with a defense ministry. Technical support creates continuing contact with military personnel. Surveillance technology enters intelligence institutions. Political advocacy cultivates sympathetic decision-makers. Commercial partnerships establish constituencies interested in preserving cooperation. These channels can reinforce one another until challenging the relationship carries significant institutional and political costs. Influence becomes most consequential when governments stop asking whether those costs have narrowed their freedom to act. Ideology matters because it shapes how political leaders justify the exercise of power. Religious nationalism can turn territorial ambitions into sacred obligations and portray compromise as betrayal. Where officials invoke divine entitlement or historical destiny, their language deserves close examination against their policies. The danger is the translation of claims about exceptional entitlement into governmental practice: unequal rights, territorial expansion or the belief that ordinary restraints should yield to a privileged national mission. Such claims must be attached to identifiable leaders, movements and decisions. Their political force lies in what they authorize. A government that presents its objectives as beyond legitimate challenge creates conditions in which critics become enemies and civilian suffering becomes an acceptable instrument. International partners then face a choice: impose meaningful limits or help normalize exceptional treatment. Strategic friendship becomes dangerous when it functions as permission to evade accountability. Israel's international security industry supplies material foundations for its reach. Its defense ministry reported approximately \$14.8 billion in new export contracts during 2024. These transactions can establish relationships lasting far beyond delivery. Advanced equipment requires maintenance, training, replacement parts and software. A government purchasing such systems must consider the political implications

of relying on an external supplier for essential capabilities. The resulting vulnerability deserves as much attention as the advertised military advantage. Latin America illustrates several pathways through which these relationships develop. Guatemala's military governments received Israeli arms and assistance during a period of brutal repression. Colombia's longstanding reliance on Israeli equipment, including Kfir aircraft and Galil rifles, complicated disengagement when diplomatic relations broke down. Argentina under Javier Milei and Honduras under Juan Orlando Hernández supplied prominent diplomatic backing through commitments concerning Jerusalem. Ecuador under Daniel Noboa pursued cooperation across defense, security, agriculture and water. Together, these cases show military, political and developmental relationships creating multiple points of institutional attachment. Elsewhere, diplomatic openings and strategic partnerships expand the network. Bolivia restored relations in December 2025. Venezuela's foreign ministry confirmed continuing technical cooperation following Israeli earthquake assistance in 2026. Recognition of Somaliland introduced Israel into a sensitive sovereignty dispute in the Horn of Africa. India developed extensive defense cooperation, while Austria established a strategic partnership. These relationships differ, but their cumulative significance is international access across security, technology, development and diplomacy. Each deserves examination for the commitments it creates and the interests it advances. Political lobbying adds another layer. Former Australian foreign minister Bob Carr criticized what he considered excessive pressure from a hardline pro-Israel lobby on government policy. His account raises a fundamental democratic question: can elected officials exercise independent judgment when organized advocacy enjoys privileged access to executive leadership? The answer requires examining meetings, funding, communications and policy changes. Citizens should know whether decisions reflect publicly defensible national interests or pressure operating beyond effective scrutiny. Surveillance exposes an especially intrusive form of power. Citizen Lab has documented Pegasus attacks involving journalists and human rights defenders. Such capabilities can penetrate the communications through which societies investigate corruption and organize opposition. Responsibility extends through the supply chain, from developers and licensing authorities to purchasing agencies and political leadership. Governments that conceal surveillance abuses cannot credibly claim to protect the freedoms those abuses undermine.

Economic sovereignty requires equally rigorous scrutiny. Banking infrastructure, telecommunications, investment platforms and critical software should be examined for ownership, access rights, contractual dependence and security vulnerabilities. Claims about foreign control must be established through records and technical evidence. Governments should identify who can access sensitive information, interrupt essential services or influence strategic decisions. Confidential contracts cannot substitute for public accountability where national systems and citizens' rights are at stake. The United States provides the principal institutional foundation of Israel's strategic support. Its longstanding military-assistance framework makes clear that international protection rests on identifiable decisions by legislators and administrations. Those decisions carry responsibility. Officials cannot authorize assistance and then treat its foreseeable consequences as someone else's concern. An alliance becomes a mechanism of impunity when support continues without meaningful examination of conduct. Gaza gives this argument its moral urgency. UN satellite analysis based on July 2025 imagery identified damage affecting approximately 78 percent of structures. The scale demands answers from Israeli authorities and the governments sustaining their military and diplomatic position. Palestinian rights cannot remain subordinate to the convenience of strategic partnerships. International standards lose their authority when powerful relationships determine whose suffering produces consequences. Every government should therefore audit its dependencies, disclose sensitive agreements, investigate unlawful surveillance and scrutinize political influence. Where relationships facilitate abuse or compromise independent decision-making, they should be restricted, renegotiated or ended through lawful processes. Sovereignty requires the capacity to refuse. Israel's international influence deserves sustained scrutiny because power exercised through dispersed institutions can escape the accountability attached to visible force. The response must be concrete: expose the mechanisms, identify the beneficiaries and impose enforceable limits. No government should enjoy exceptional permission to override another society's independence or another people's rights.

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

The Makkha Pact's First Test

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The situation in Yemen illustrates the difficulty. The Saudi-backed Yemeni government launched a new offensive and claimed that its forces, supported by Saudi air strikes, had retaken coastal positions around Bab el-Mandeb and advanced towards Mokha. The Houthis were reported to have withdrawn towards the highlands. Government forces also claimed progress around Taiz...

THE decision by Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan to move from political declarations towards the practical implementation of their Mecca defence pact marks a significant moment for the Middle East. The agreement has acquired greater importance because it comes at a time when the region's security architecture is under severe pressure, Yemen has again become a battlefield, Iran remains locked in confrontation with Washington, and the world's two most important oil shipping routes the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb are exposed to military disruption. The three countries met in Riyadh on Monday to convene the defence committee established under the Mecca agreement. Their joint statement called for the immediate implementation of collective defence commitments and the rapid deployment of agreed forces in Saudi Arabia. Although the statement did not identify any adversary, its timing leaves little doubt about the circumstances behind the decision. Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman described the move as the activation of collective measures to deter threats. Türkiye's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, however, stressed that the three countries were also discussing ways to resolve the crisis through dialogue. That distinction matters. A defence arrangement becomes useful not merely when it demonstrates military strength, but when it prevents that strength from becoming another source of escalation. For Pakistan, the development presents both an opportunity and a serious responsibility. Islamabad has traditionally sought to maintain close relations with Saudi Arabia while avoiding direct involvement in conflicts between regional powers. The Mecca pact could strengthen Pakistan's strategic position, but it will also require careful judgement over where collective defence ends and participation in another country's war begins. The situation in Yemen illustrates the difficulty. The Saudi-backed Yemeni government launched a new offensive and claimed that its forces, supported by Saudi air strikes, had retaken coastal positions around Bab el-Mandeb and advanced towards Mokha. The Houthis were reported to have withdrawn towards the highlands. Government forces also claimed progress around Taiz, although reports differed over whether the principal road into the city had actually been cut. Bab el-Mandeb is not an ordinary stretch

of water. It connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and provides a vital route for trade between Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Any prolonged fighting in its vicinity therefore has consequences well beyond Yemen. A military advance along the coast may improve the government's position, but it can also encourage the Houthis to widen attacks elsewhere. That danger is already visible in warnings directed at commercial aviation and shipping. If Saudi territory and neighbouring sea lanes become targets, the conflict could quickly move from a Yemeni civil war into a wider regional confrontation. Washington's position adds another layer. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said that Washington has a defence and security agreement with Saudi Arabia and intends to honour it. American support for Saudi Arabia therefore carries considerable strategic weight. Reports that US personnel are assisting with target selection and that American aircraft are supporting Saudi operations suggest that Washington's involvement is not confined to diplomatic statements. Yet American involvement also raises the question of how far the United States intends to go. Supporting an ally's defence is one thing; becoming directly involved in an expanding regional war is another. The distinction could become increasingly difficult to maintain if attacks on Saudi territory, shipping or American interests continue. Tehran's position remains equally important. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has described negotiations with Washington as meaningless while simultaneously leaving the door open to talks. His contradictory-sounding statements reflect the reality of the situation. Iran wants to avoid appearing weak, but it also has strong reasons to prevent a prolonged war that could further damage its economy and military capacity. The crisis has also placed extraordinary pressure on the Strait of Hormuz. Reports of tankers being struck and vessels being ordered to change course demonstrate how vulnerable energy supplies are when a major maritime passage becomes part of a military confrontation. The United States has also said that it has redirected scores of commercial ships and taken action against vessels associated with the blockade. Yet the oil market has so far shown greater resilience than many expected. Middle Eastern crude exports excluding Iran have, on several days, moved above their pre-war average. Brent crude fell by almost two per cent on Monday, settling at around \$100 a barrel. This

suggests that producers and traders have been able, at least temporarily, to adjust to disruptions. But markets should not be mistaken for evidence of stability. Oil can continue flowing while insurance costs rise, shipping routes change and governments divert enormous resources towards protecting trade. A single successful attack on a major tanker or pipeline could rapidly alter calculations. The situation in Iraq is another indication that regional governments understand the danger of uncontrolled escalation. Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi said five armed factions had agreed to surrender their weapons and that three had already done so, while Kataib Hezbollah had refused. If Baghdad can persuade armed groups to reduce their independent military activity, Iraq could avoid becoming another front in the wider confrontation. For Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan, the Mecca pact therefore faces its first major test. Its credibility will depend not simply on how many troops can be deployed, but on whether the three countries can combine military preparedness with political restraint. Saudi Arabia needs security. Pakistan needs to protect its long-standing strategic relationship with Riyadh without being drawn into an open-ended conflict. Türkiye wants a greater regional diplomatic role. All three have an interest in preventing the present crisis from becoming a permanent war. The Middle East does not need another arrangement based solely on military calculations. What it needs is a balance between deterrence and diplomacy. The Mecca pact can contribute to that balance if its members make clear that collective defence is intended to prevent war, not expand it. The real test will come if fighting intensifies around Yemen, Hormuz or Saudi territory. At that point, the pact will have to answer a difficult question: can three regional powers demonstrate that military cooperation can preserve stability without becoming another mechanism for regional confrontation? That is the challenge before Riyadh, Ankara and Islamabad. The answer will determine whether the Mecca pact becomes a meaningful instrument of regional security or merely another alliance shaped by the wars it was created to confront.

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Briefs

Govt claims people welcomed governor rule

FROM PAGE 01
He recalled that the PTI, allegedly using government resources, "launched an onslaught on the capital". However, at the time, the imposition of governor's rule and emergency did not come under discussion. Describing the situation on the ground in the province, the law minister said: "The KP police were under attack, armed forces deployed in the province were under attack [...] innocent people lost their lives." "You cannot shut your eyes after receiving such reports and seeing this rise in terrorist activity," Azam added. Recalling the events leading up to the federal government's decision, Azam said the government had held "constant engagement" with the provincial authorities. "Unfortunately, their response was somewhat different. Maybe their politics were more important to them than having the national interest at heart," he said. He maintained that the federal government had exhausted "all possible avenues" to resolve the differences. Azam said the provincial government should have intervened amid "internal disturbances or the likelihood or apprehension of such disturbances". Referring to Article 232, under which the emergency was imposed, Azam said it "deals with internal disturbances where the law and order situation is such, and the onslaught is of a nature that the provincial government cannot fight against it".

Former KP CM Afridi's brother...

FROM PAGE 01
trace and recover his brother and, if he was found to be in custody, produce him before the high court so that the legality of his detention could be examined in accordance with Article 199(1)(b)(i) of the Constitution. The petition was filed through senior counsel Bashir Khan Wazir. He contended that the impugned detention and disappearance of the abductee were "wholly illegal, unlawful, without lawful authority and of no legal effect", as the respondents had "failed to disclose any lawful order, warrant, abduction order or other legal authority under which the abductee was taken into custody". Amir also sought further directives requiring the respondents concerned to submit a comprehensive report on the whereabouts, present condition and legal status of the abductee, along with details of the steps taken to trace and recover him. The petitioner requested the court to direct the CCPO to submit a detailed report on the alleged incident that took place at around 2pm on October 11, 2026, at the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar. The report would include the circumstances in which the abductee was allegedly taken away, the security arrangements in place, the persons present and the action taken immediately afterwards.

KP security situation worsened...

FROM PAGE 01
had been eliminated from the country by 2018. He alleged that terrorists had been brought into the province during the former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led government. PM Shehbaz said the federal government had made every effort over the past two and a half years to improve matters in the province. He added that assurances of cooperation had also been extended to former chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur and that meetings had been held with dysfunctional Chief Minister Sohail Afridi. He alleged that the provincial government had tried to obstruct the country's development and promoted sit-ins and abusive language instead of strengthening the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in KP. He also criticised the Imran Khan-founded party for not speaking out against terrorists.

Nizar Nayani leads Pakistani runners at Chicago Marathon 2026

"Chicago Marathon is always very close to my heart, no matter the results, no matter the conditions. I will keep coming back as long as Allah allows me to, and if I'm in shape," he said

DNA

KARACHI: US-based Nizar Nayani was the prominent Pakistani runner at the Chicago Marathon 2026, completing the 42.195-kilometre race in 3 hours and 45 seconds, as runners representing Pakistan and members of the Pakistani diaspora participated in one of the world's most prestigious marathons. Nayani, who lives in Tomball, Texas, narrowly missed the sub-three-hour marathon mark by just 46 seconds, leading the Pakistani contingent in the race. Karachi-based Mustafa was the second-fastest Pakistani runner, finishing in 3:29:18, while Brooklyn-based Basherri Anjum finished as the most prominent Pakistani woman and third-fastest overall among the Pakistani runners identified, clocking 3:31:01. Abu-Bakr Mohammad Afzal followed with 3:32:39, while Pakistani-American Babar Ghias completed the marathon in 3:42:44. An analysis of Nayani's splits showed that he maintained a strong pace during the first half of the race, reaching the 5km mark in 20 minutes and 16 seconds and completing the first 10km in 40:22. He crossed the halfway point in 1:25:41, put-

ting him on course for a finish comfortably inside three hours. However, his pace slowed during the second half as he reached 30km in 2:03:49 and 40km in 2:50:45, eventually crossing the finish line in 3:00:45. Speaking after the race, Nayani described Chicago as a special event for him, regardless of his finishing time. "Chicago Marathon is always very close to my heart, no matter the results, no matter the conditions. I will keep coming back as long as Allah allows me to, and if I'm in shape," he said. "Today was not ideal conditions, but this is what 26.2 miles does to you. It brings every single grit out of you," he added. Nayani also expressed pride in the Pakistani running community, saying he was glad to be part of the Pakistani team and proud of his fellow runners. Meanwhile, Basherri Anjum produced a strong performance in the women's field, covering the first 5km in 23:49 and reaching the 10km mark in 47:35. She completed the half marathon in 1:41:34 before slowing during the latter stages of the race, reaching 30km in 2:26:35 and 40km in 3:19:43. She eventually finished in 3:31:01. Her performance placed her ahead of the other Pakistani women whose results were available, including Sara Rathore, Zara Ordenez and

British-Pakistani Wardah Mir. Among other runners, Riyadh-based Ibrahim Abdul Khalique finished in 3:44:01, followed by Lahore's Hamid Butt, a six-star finisher competing in the 65-69 age category, who completed the marathon in 3:49:48. Taimoor Malik clocked 4:05:34, while British-Pakistani Hassan Ali finished in 4:14:55. Austin-based Basil Khan completed the distance in 4:16:56. Sara Rathore recorded 4:22:06, while Amaad Shaikh finished in 4:38:09. British-Pakistani Wardah Mir completed the race in 5:03:55, followed by Ghassan Tayyab in 5:12:21, Zara Ordenez in 5:16:36, Hasan Saleem in 5:17:05 and Danyal Ameer Lakdawala in 5:18:06. Karachi-based Anis Kasmani completed the marathon in 5:25:00, while British-Pakistani Hamad Ali recorded 5:29:05 and Ahmad Zubair finished in 5:32:08. Karachi's Aisha Intesar clocked 05:35:14. Former British diplomat to Pakistan Mike Nithavrianakis also participated in the Chicago Marathon, completing the race in 3:18:04. Nithavrianakis ran to raise funds for The Citizens Foundation (TCF), supporting education projects for underprivileged children in Pakistan. The Chicago Marathon, held on Sunday, October 11, is one of the eight Abbott World Mar-

athon Majors and is renowned for its flat, fast course. This year's event attracted more than 55,000 runners, with the 42.195km route taking participants through 29 Chicago neighbourhoods. Starting and finishing in Grant Park, the course passed through the city's downtown area, northern neighbourhoods, western districts and southern sections before returning to the finish line. The route, which has produced several world records over the years, is particularly popular among runners seeking personal bests and qualification times for other major marathons. In the men's elite race, Kenya's Amos Kipruto claimed victory in an impressive 2:01:09, finishing ahead of Ethiopia's Tadesse Bikila, who clocked 2:02:56, and compatriot Milkesa Mengesha, who took third place in 2:03:46. Kipruto's performance was a personal best and moved him to joint fifth on the world all-time marathon list. In the women's elite race, Ethiopia's Hawi Feysa successfully defended her Chicago Marathon title, finishing in 2:13:33. Kenya's Sharon Lokedi secured second place in 2:14:07, while former world record-holder Brigid Kosgei completed the podium in 2:14:55. It was the first marathon in history in which three women finished under two hours and 15 minutes.

Australia sets 421-run target and South Africa struggling at 102-4 on Day 4

DNA

DURBAN: Australia set South Africa a 421-run target and the Proteas were laboring at 102-4 after the first full day of cricket in the first test at Kingsmead on Monday. Another innings-leading score by Matt Renshaw of 82 helped Australia declare its second innings at 314-6 just before scheduled tea. Bad light ended play early on the previous three days but sunshine allowed the action to continue past 4:30 p.m. local time for the first time in the test for another hour in an extended three-hour session. Unable to be saved by bad light, South Africa lost two more wick-

ets after 4:30 p.m.; captain Temba Bavuma and Tristan Stubbs, both on 1. At stumps, Aiden Markram was 45 not out with Wiaan Mulder on 5 and South Africa was struggling on a decent pitch at 2.48 runs per over, especially against spinners Nathan Lyon and part-timer Renshaw. Renshaw was enjoying a dream test: A career-best 190 followed by a 99-ball 82 and a bonus first test wicket. He got Bavuma bat-pad and caught at short leg by Nic Maddinson. South Africa had already lost Ryan Rickelton on 2, out caught off Josh Hazlewood for a second time in the match, and David Bedingham, out lbw to Hazlewood. Again, Bedingham

fell short of a half-century, 46 following 49 in the first innings. Pat Cummins claimed the fourth wicket when Stubbs was caught behind. South Africa was 86-4 and facing a tall task on the final day. Australia resumed from 33-0 overnight and was 174-4 by lunch. Maddinson set the tone for a faster scoring pace with 48 off 38 balls, including two sixes, and negating his duck in the first innings. Fellow opener Travis Head was out for 11. Australia had two aggressive partnerships in the morning. Steve Smith (27) and Marnus Labuschagne (37) added 53 off 77 balls. Smith was hit on the head off Anrich Nortje's rising delivery and didn't field

during South Africa's second innings pending the result of a concussion test. Smith has a history of concussion and vertigo. He continued after the knock on his helmet and was out caught off Simon Harmer. Labuschagne and Renshaw added 32 off 31 balls before lunch when Labuschagne mis-hit a drive and was out for 37 off 58 balls, identical to his first innings figures. Its the 12th known instance of runs scored and balls faced in men's test cricket. Australia lost four wickets in the morning but led by 280 runs at lunch. After the break, Renshaw reached 50 off 75 balls while Nortje bowled Carey for 24. The duo took Australia past 200.

Jens Wissing: Al-Ittihad face difficult challenge

JEDDAH: Al-Ittihad coach Jens Wissing said his team faces a difficult challenge when they return to AFC Champions League action against Shabab Al-Ahli Dubai, just two days after their Saudi Pro League defeat to Al-Hilal. The German coach was speaking to the media on Monday at the pre-match press conference along with midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum ahead of tomorrow's match against the UAE's Shabab Al-Ahli in the AFC Champion League Elite. "We are excited to play in the AFC Champions League again," Wissing said at Monday's pre-match press conference. "We played just two days ago and now we face another difficult challenge. I am looking forward to the match after the long break." Asked about preparing for the Asian Champions League fixture, Wissing said his approach remained the same as for any other match. "My preparation is like any other match. We are working to correct our mistakes," he said. "I don't want to reveal the plan, but we want to score goals. That is our way." Wissing also stressed the importance of improving the quality of his players' decision-making. "We are working to improve the quality of our decisions, and sometimes we lack a bit of luck," he said. - DNA

Al-Nassr rebound from Al-Ain hammering with AFC Champions League win against Neftchi

DNA

RIYADH: After a heavy 4-0 away defeat at the hands of Emirati side Al-Ain on Matchday 1, Al-Nassr kick-started their 2026/27 AFC Champions League Elite campaign on Monday with a 3-1 victory over Neftchi of Uzbekistan at Al-Awwal Park. The match, scheduled to start at 9:15 p.m. local time, was delayed for an hour when the Saudi Civil Defense issued an alert in Riyadh just 15 minutes before kickoff. The stadium announcer reassured fans when the threat had passed and the players emerged for a 10-minute warm-up ahead of the rescheduled 10:15 p.m. start. Angelo opened the scoring in the 33rd minute and celebrated alongside his teammates with a salute, in tribute to Saudi Arabia amid recent attacks against the Kingdom during the wider regional conflict. His goal came when he latched onto a cutback from Nawaf Boushal and put the ball past goalkeeper Botirali Ergashev. Cristiano Ronaldo continued to edge ever closer to the career landmark of 1,000 goals when he grabbed No. 981, which was also his first of the tournament this season, in the 42nd minute. Aiman Yahya chested down a cross from Sadio Mane, directing it toward the captain, who turned and fired past Ergashev to extend the lead.

Eala stunned by world number 217

EALA, the 13th seed, missed last week's China Open in order to compete in the Asian Games in Japan, where she claimed a bronze medal for the Philippines. Her return to the tour did not go as planned. Just one week separates Eala and Shi in age, and despite the gulf in their experience, very little separated the two 21-year-olds on Monday. Eala is ranked 19th in the world, a title winner on the WTA Tour and a former semi-finalist at the WTA 1000 level. Shi, meanwhile, is ranked outside the top 200 and entered the clash with just two tour-level victories under her belt. For large stretches of their showdown, though, their contrasting positions were completely unnoticeable. Eala shook off trouble on her own serve and converted her first break point opportunity of the match to scoop the opening set in 54 minutes. The second set followed a similar pattern, but this time Shi utilised her powerful backhand to break Eala for a 4-3 advantage, and she soon drew level to force a decider. Riding a wave



of momentum, Shi grabbed a seventh game in a row to leap to a 3-0 lead in the final set as Eala faded. Shi finished the job to claim the first tour-level top-100 victory of her career and book a second-round date with former US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez. Earlier, world number 91 Wang Xiyu opened up the evening session with a near-flawless 6-2, 6-0 performance against her compatriot Wang Xinyu in what was a highly anticipated Chinese derby. The left-handed Xiyu, who recently clinched the gold medal at the Asian Games to secure qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, won the last nine games of the contest with Xinyu to set up a second-round meeting with fellow wildcard Mia Pohankova. Meanwhile, freshly-crowned China Open champion Zheng Qinwen announced her withdrawal from her home tournament in Wuhan, citing fatigue and a right shoulder injury, a day after becoming the first Chinese player to clinch the Beijing title. - DNA

Maaz Sadaqat's journey from Peshawar's streets to Pakistan's T20I spotlight

DNA

THE two innings came on the back of a remarkable Caribbean Premier League campaign in which Maaz struck two centuries for Jamaica Kingsmen, including one in the final. He made 112 off 49 balls in the eliminator before scoring 114 off 58 deliveries in the title decider. Although Jamaica lost the final, his performances had established him as one of the most exciting young batters in the tournament. His innings against Sri Lanka have now brought that promise to a wider audience. Sunday's knock featured six fours and seven sixes, taking Pakistan to 215-3 and equalling the record for the most sixes by a Pakistan batter in a men's T20I innings. Maaz fell four runs short of a maiden international century, but by then he had already helped Pakistan secure an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. After Maaz's 96, former Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan recalled on social media how the young batter had visited his home in Peshawar as a boy, accompanied by his elder brother, Haroon, with the ambition of one day representing Pakistan. "It feels like yesterday when a young boy came to meet me in my Peshawar home with his brother Haroon, carrying a dream of one

day playing for Pakistan," Rizwan wrote on X, adding that seeing Maaz in the national shirt had brought him immense happiness. The message offered a glimpse into the journey behind the sudden international attention, featuring a progression from tape-ball cricket in Peshawar to age-group cricket, domestic competition and, eventually, performances that could no longer be overlooked. Born in May 2005, Maaz grew up playing cricket on the streets with plastic and tape balls. His elder brother, a first-class cricketer, helped introduce him to organised cricket after he completed his matriculation, taking him to Ashnagar Cricket Club. "I was a school kid and was hitting big sixes in my first club cricket game and everyone was super impressed," Maaz had earlier recalled in a video posted by the Pakistan Cricket Board. His family subsequently encouraged him to attend trials, opening the way into the board's pathways programme. He progressed through district and regional under-19 cricket for Peshawar and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, finishing among the leading run-scorers in youth competitions before representing Pakistan at the 2021 Under-19 Asia Cup and the 2022 Under-19 World Cup. The experience gave him an early grounding in competitive cricket, but the transition to senior level would require more than the ability to strike the ball cleanly.

Maaz made his first-class debut for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the 2022-23 Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. He soon demonstrated that his attacking instincts could translate into the longer format, scoring 91 in one of his early matches. He also gained experience overseas, making his List A debut for City Club in Bangladesh's Dhaka Premier Division in 2023. Raffatullah Mohmand, his regional head coach and a former Pakistan player, was among those who helped guide his development. He recommended Maaz for the Bangladesh opportunity after the youngster impressed in Peshawar, believing he deserved greater exposure. "Apart from being a quick learner and skilled cricketer, Maaz's success also lies in in-depth preparation of all the challenges in fronting him," Raffatullah had said. According to the coach, Maaz had begun observing and speaking to experienced players, including Rizwan, Ifthikhar Ahmed and current Pakistan Sahibzada Farhan, from his teenage years, applying what he learned from them to his training and preparation. That willingness to learn, Raffatullah suggested, had helped accelerate his progress. The first major glimpse of Maaz's potential on a national stage came in the Pakistan Super League in May 2025. Making his debut for Peshawar Zalmi against Islamabad United, he walked in with his side in

trouble at 38-3 while chasing 144. Rather than allowing the situation to dictate his approach, he counterattacked, scoring 55 off 33 balls in a match-winning partnership of 102 with Babar Azam. Babar remained unbeaten on 53, while Sadaqat's contribution earned him the Player of the Match award. For the young batter, sharing a partnership with one of Pakistan's leading players was a moment of personal significance. "With Babar at the other end, I felt no pressure and I turned to my natural game, acquiring more belief," Maaz had said. "That time also helped me realise how much I have trained all my life to get here and do well." The innings appeared to announce the arrival of a promising new talent. Yet the attention it generated soon faded amid the demands of a crowded domestic calendar and the steady competition for places in Pakistan's white-ball sides. Maaz's next breakthrough came later that year at the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars in Doha. Representing Pakistan Shaheens in November 2025, he delivered an outstanding all-round campaign that made it difficult for selectors to ignore him. He began with an unbeaten 96 off 54 balls against Oman and then produced one of the tournament's defining performances against India 'A', taking two wickets for 12 runs before hitting an unbeaten 79 off 47 balls to help Pakistan Shaheens win by eight wickets.

'Terror incidents doubled...

FROM PAGE 01
province for the purpose. "They put all that money into the budget. Ask them," he said, adding that the provincial government had failed to establish the required counterterrorism infrastructure, including a forensic laboratory and CTD.

Vawda: option to 'reboot' Pakistan...

FROM PAGE 01
health sectors during its 13-year rule. He said KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi would also be replaced if he failed to perform. "We will not spare economic terrorism," the senator said, while also claiming that recent arrests had taken place with "collusion".

Pakistan test-fires missile

FROM PAGE 01
Army and committed scientists and engineers. Commander ARFC appreciated the dedication and technical prowess of scientists and engineers. The President and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces and Services Chiefs congratulated the scientists and engineers on successful test launch of Extended Range version of Fatah-2 weapon system.

Pak eyeing greater strategic...

FROM PAGE 01
Internal Affairs and Migration, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad. The meeting focused on strengthening Pakistan-EU cooperation in the areas of migration and mobility, one of the eight pillars of the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan 2019. Welcoming Commissioner Brunner on his first visit to Pakistan, the Prime Minister underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to its partnership with the European Union. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening cooperation across all pillars of the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan. The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's sustained efforts to curb irregular migration and combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking through legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, effective enforcement, and international cooperation. He emphasized that efforts to address irregular migration should be complemented by practical opportunities for safe, orderly, and regular migration. He noted that expanding legal pathways for Pakistani skilled workers and professionals would help meet the labour-market needs of European countries while reducing the vulnerability of prospective migrants to smuggling networks. Commissioner Brunner appreciated the measures taken and the cooperation extended by the Government of Pakistan. He expressed confidence that these efforts would contribute positively to the expansion of legal migration pathways and the promotion of mutually beneficial labour mobility between Pakistan and the European Union.

Omani FM arrives in Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01
In an earlier statement, the FO had said the JMC session would "serve as an important platform to review the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Oman bilateral relations and to further strengthen cooperation in diverse fields". The visit "reflects the longstanding fraternal relations between Pakistan and Oman and is expected to further deepen mutually beneficial cooperation across multiple sectors", it had added. On Saturday, DPM Dar chaired an inter-ministerial meeting in Islamabad to review the preparations for the upcoming JMC session, according to state-run Radio Pakistan.

Briefs

PSX loses
over 347 more
points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 347.97 points, a negative change of 0.21 percent, to close at 164,776.44 points against 165,124.41 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 383.746 million shares, compared to 362.954 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value decreased to Rs13.104 billion from Rs14.507 billion.

Market capitalisation declined to Rs18.325 trillion from Rs18.359 trillion recorded a day earlier.

Out of 500 companies that traded in the ready market, 223 posted gains, 226 suffered losses, while 51 remained unchanged, reflecting a bearish trend in the market.

LSE Financial (R) led the volume chart with 32.283 million shares, followed by Waves Home App with 21.848 million shares and WorldCall Telecom with 19.528 million shares.

Among the top gainers, Khairpur Sugar Mills Limited advanced by Rs66.97 to close at Rs886.99, while Fateh Industries Limited surged by Rs34.89 to settle at Rs383.83. On the losing side, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited declined by Rs235.50 to close at Rs25,027.00, while PIA Holding Company Limited B fell by Rs200.00 to Rs14,000.00. In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 106.801 million shares with a traded value of Rs8.948 billion, compared with 97.870 million shares worth Rs7.623 billion in the previous session. Of the 326 companies traded in the DFC market, 148 advanced, 170 declined, and 8 remained unchanged.—APP

Gold prices
rise by Rs900
per tola

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices witnessed an increase in the local market on Tuesday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola rising by Rs900 to settle at Rs440,836, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold increased by Rs771 to Rs377,945, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold rose by Rs707 to Rs346,462.

In the international market, the price of gold increased by \$9 to \$4,183 per ounce, the association reported.

Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola remained unchanged at Rs6,532, while the price of 10 grams of silver also remained stable at Rs5,600. The price of silver in the international market remained unchanged at \$60.54 per ounce, the association added.—APP

Congo's Ebola
infections
surpass 9,000

BRAZZAVILLE: The number of confirmed Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo has risen above 9,000, government data showed on Tuesday, as responders struggle to slow transmission in multiple hotspots.

The latest situation report from Congo's public health institute put the number of cases at 9,066 and deaths at 4,381. The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, was declared in May and has become the largest and deadliest in Congo's history, overtaking the 2018-2020 epidemic. The strain currently has no approved vaccines or treatments. Globally it is second only to the 2014-2016 West African outbreak, which infected over 28,600 people and killed more than 11,000 across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, according to the World Health Organization. The current outbreak has also affected other countries. Uganda reported 20 cases and two deaths earlier in the year but was declared Ebola-free in August. Last week Kenya confirmed its first imported case, a Kenyan national who had traveled from Congo via Uganda and died in Nairobi. APP

Capital positioned as hub for
Pak-China industrial coop

The ICCI President also proposed organizing a major Pakistan-China Expo in Islamabad in March 2027 ahead of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) engagements to showcase products, promote investment opportunities and facilitate direct business-to-business connections

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia has called for enhanced China-Pakistan industrial cooperation through joint ventures, technology transfer and investment in manufacturing, emphasizing that industrialization is vital to Pakistan's sustainable economic growth, export development and job creation.

He expressed these views while addressing a 13-member delegation of the Pakistan-China Business Forum (PCBF), led by Lt. General (R) Abdul Qayyum, Chief Patron, and Sheikh Ejaz Asghar, Co-Chairman.

He stressed that consistent follow-up, effective business matchmaking and a clear understanding of mutual commercial interests were essential to translating bilateral engagements into tangible economic outcomes. He proposed compiling a com-



prehensive directory of Chinese companies and their products, establishing a product and

technology display centre at ICCI, and setting up a dedicated facilitation desk for Chinese business-

es in Islamabad. Highlighting the need for modern industrial infrastructure,

Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia said he was advocating the establishment of a new industrial

estate in Islamabad, potentially spanning 8,000 acres or more, with Chinese companies invited to participate in its development. He said the proposed estate could attract investment in manufacturing, electric vehicles and other emerging industries, while Chinese expertise could support infrastructure development, modern waste management, recycling and waste-to-energy projects. He emphasized that Islamabad's strategic location and proximity to government institutions made it an attractive destination for investment. The ICCI President also proposed organizing a major Pakistan-China Expo in Islamabad in March 2027 ahead of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) engagements to showcase products, promote investment opportunities and facilitate direct business-to-business connections. He said sustained cooperation, effective institutional facilitation and practical engagement were essential to transforming the longstanding friendship between the two countries into mutually beneficial commercial partnerships.

Aurangzeb highlights eco reforms,
investment opportunities

The Finance Minister highlighted Pakistan's progress in fiscal consolidation, reducing inflation and rebuilding foreign exchange reserves

DNA

BANGKOK: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, participated in a panel discussion titled "Mitigating Sovereign Risks in Market-Access Countries" on the sidelines of the World Bank Group-IMF Annual Meetings 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Finance Minister highlighted Pakistan's progress in fiscal consolidation, reducing inflation and rebuilding foreign exchange reserves. He



emphasized revenue mobilization, tax administration reforms, expenditure

restraint and privatization to strengthen economic resilience. He outlined debt

management measures to lower financing costs, extend maturities and reduce rollover risks. He noted that renewed market access supports a strategy to improve the external debt profile without increasing the overall size. The Finance Minister reaffirmed national ownership of taxation, energy, state-owned enterprises and pension reforms under the IMF-supported programme. He stressed the sustained reform implementation to translate macroeconomic stability into sustainable growth and public welfare.

AAOIFI's 24th
annual Shari'ah
Boards moot
concludes

MANAMA: The Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), the leading global standard-setting body for Islamic banking and finance, today concluded its 24th Annual Shari'ah Boards Conference, held with the support of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and a number of sponsoring institutions on 11 and 12 October at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The conference brought together around 1,000 Shari'ah scholars, regulators and Islamic finance experts from around the world in person, while more than 4000 participants followed the proceedings online. The conference is one of the longest-established and most influential gatherings across the global Islamic finance industry. For more than two decades, it has served as a principal platform for harmonising Shari'ah opinion and strengthening Shari'ah and compliance governance across the indus-

try. The programme comprised five specialised sessions addressing a number of pressing contemporary Fiqh and technical issues, including the harmonisation of the AAOIFI Shari'ah Standards with legal systems, the estimation of the actual direct cost of lending, the controls governing dual-tranche syndicated financings that combine an Islamic



tranche with a conventional one, the impact of newly arising circumstances on contracts and financial obligations, and the exchange of value against a binding commitment. The conference concluded with closing remarks, followed by the AAOIFI General Assembly meeting. The opening ceremony featured keynote speeches by H.E. Shaikh Ebrahim bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman of the AAOIFI Board of Trustees; H.E. Dr. Ali Yassin Sheikh, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Somalia; H.E. Dr. Rabiul Olowo, Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria; and Mr. Omar Mustafa Ansari, Secretary General of AAOIFI.—DNA

Top Pakistan fighters set sights on gold at World C'ship

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The successful athletes of Pakistan Open MMA Championship 2026 have expressed their determination to win gold medals for Pakistan at the World Championship scheduled to take place in Georgia in November. The finals of the Pakistan Open Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Championship have concluded, featuring exciting contests across multiple weight categories for male and female fighters. In all, 28 fighters, including 18 men and 10 women, with 14 fights across 14 weight categories competed in the event that was conducted to hunt promising talent nationwide. The participation of female fighters was particularly noteworthy, as they demonstrated their skills and competitive spirit across different divisions.

In the women's atomweight (47.7 kg) category, Saria Khan defeated Momina Irshad, while Bushra Akhtar overcame Bano in the strawweight (52.2 kg) division. Maham Baig secured victory over Hajra Bibi in the flyweight (56.7 kg) category. In the men's competitions, Mohibullah defeated Moheez Satti in the flyweight (56.7 kg) division. Muhammad Saif overcame Aurangzeb Ahmed in the strawweight category, while Shayan Mehdi defeated Tayyab in another contest in the same division. Rashid Gujjar secured victory over Muhammad Jibran in the featherweight (65.8 kg) category, while Shams Khan defeated Zeeshan Akbar in the bantamweight (61.2 kg) division. Ibrahim Butt triumphed over Shahid Mahmood in the lightweight (70.3 kg) category. In the welterweight (77.1 kg) division, Asif Achakzai defeated Muhammad Talha, while Khizar Rehman overcame Mustafa in the middleweight (83.9 kg) category. The gold medalists credited the support of the Pakistan MMA Federation especially of its president Omar Ahmed for providing them with opportunities to showcase their abilities and compete at a higher level. They expressed their resolve to build on their performances and win gold medals for Pakistan at the World Championship in Georgia in November. PakMMAF president Omar Ahmed said that the champion-

ship was organised after identifying promising talent from all four regions of Pakistan and bringing the selected fighters together to compete at the national level. He expressed confidence that the Pakistani fighters would deliver strong performances at the World Championship in Georgia in November and strive to win gold medals for the country. Omar Ahmed also expressed his gratitude to the stakeholders whose collective efforts contributed to the success

of the event. "I am highly thankful to all the stakeholders whose sincere and collective efforts made this event a huge success. I am especially grateful to ACTIVIT and its CEO, Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed, whose 360-degree support consistently helps the federation and talented athletes excel at both national and international levels. The recent international achievement of the Ali sisters is a great example of their dedication to sports and sportspeople," he said.

Pakistan's satellite
internet framework
nearing completion

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday said that Pakistan is in the final stages of preparing a Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) framework for satellite internet services. Addressing the APT Symposium on Digital Transformation and the Universal Service Fund (USF), she said the framework would be finalised soon after consultations with relevant institutions.

The government would provide a favourable and business-friendly environment for companies investing in the satellite internet sector, she added. The minister said Pakistan had made significant progress in expanding digital connectivity, improving internet infrastructure and narrowing the gender gap in mobile internet usage. She said the gender gap in mobile internet usage had declined from 38 per cent to 8 per cent. Citing the GSMA, she said Pakistan had recorded the world's fastest progress in reducing the gap over the past two years. Shaza Fatima said three new submarine internet cables had landed in Pakistan over the past two and a half years. Work was also underway on alternative routes and new cable connections to improve international internet connectivity. Through the Universal Service Fund, more than 17,000 kilometres of optical fibre had been laid across the country, she added.

The number of fibre broadband home passes had increased from fewer than three million in 2024 to more than five million, the minister said. She added that the proportion of mobile towers connected to fibre had risen from less than 15pc to over 19pc. The government aimed to increase this rate to at least 60pc. The minister said Pakistan had introduced fifth-generation (5G) technology through the auction of 480 megahertz of spectrum in March 2026. She stressed that connecting mobile towers to optical fibre was essential for delivering effective 5G services. The government was also creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs to provide internet services at the district level through Class Value Added Services (CVAS) licences, she said. Work was underway on a new business model that would allow people in rural areas to become internet service providers, she added. Shaza Fatima said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired meetings every fortnight to review progress on the National Connectivity Plan. She also highlighted the use of technology to deliver public services. More than 10 million people had received fuel subsidies through a technology-based system, she said. The government had not made smartphones a requirement for receiving the subsidy to ensure that as many citizens as possible could benefit from the programme, she added. The minister said around 2.2 billion people worldwide still lacked internet access. In the Asia-Pacific region, approximately 48pc of the population remained unconnected, a figure higher than the global average.—DNA

Trump asks
Greece envoy
to resign after
allegations
of improper
conduct

WASHINGTON: Trump appointee Kimberly Guilfoyle, the US ambassador to Greece, has been asked to resign from her post after coming under severe criticism over allegations she has engaged in improper and possibly illegal conduct before and during her tenure in Athens, new Trump press secretary Katie Zacharia said Tuesday. Guilfoyle's requested departure comes after its possibility was previewed to The Associated Press over the weekend and President Donald Trump registered his unhappiness with reports about Guilfoyle's alleged conduct on Monday.

"Well, we're looking at it," Trump told reporters at the White House when asked if he was considering firing Guilfoyle. "We're not happy. Those comments came a day after The Associated Press, citing a senior US official, reported that Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio are "extremely pissed off" by Guilfoyle's reported conduct and will likely decide on her future this week. Zacharia, in her first press briefing, said Guilfoyle "has been a wonderful asset to the team, and we wish her well." It wasn't immediately clear if Guilfoyle had resigned. In a series of stories dating to late last month, The 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. Guilfoyle has not addressed the reports directly. But in a statement released late Sunday, her lawyers denied she had done anything wrong and claimed that the money she was seeking from the Trump donor was payment for services — public appearances and speaking engagements that predate her ambassadorial nomination — that had not been paid. The lawyers, David Schwartz and Jesse Binnall, also rejected allegations of impropriety related to Guilfoyle's travel on private planes, saying that before every such trip she "sought, obtained and followed State Department guidance and followed the Department's travel regulations," they said. After defending Guilfoyle following the first report, Rubio has declined to comment publicly on the growing allegations. Last week, Rubio said: "Our ambassador has been a strong ambassador here." But after another report appeared later, Rubio on Thursday before leaving Athens berated journalists for asking about the allegations, saying he didn't know if they were true and that he would not respond if he could not confirm them. "You guys walk around thinking that because some source told you something and you reported it, it's the gospel. It's not the gospel. It's not the gospel for me. —Agencies

Briefs

Trump says he does not believe China

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said late on Monday he did not believe that China and Russia were helping Iran "at all," adding that Moscow and Beijing had "too much to lose" if they enabled Tehran.

Trump said on Truth Social that he had seen comments from his critics and opponents that China and Russia were helping Iran.

"If they are, it's at a very low level, but I don't believe they are at all. They have too much to lose, and we would know about it, and know about it very fast," Trump wrote. Trump said in July he trusted China and Russia not to help Tehran in the Iran war, but warned that if they did get involved "it would be very bad for them."

The United States and Iran have been at war since February 28 when the US and Israel attacked Iran and Tehran responded with its own strikes on Israel and Gulf states that host US bases. US-Israeli strikes on Iran and Israeli attacks on Lebanon have since killed thousands and displaced millions.

Trump has previously described Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin as "neutral" during the Iran war. Moscow and Beijing maintain close ties with Tehran. Russia has said the Iran war could lead to a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

Beijing has condemned Washington's attacks on Tehran as a brazen violation of Iran's sovereignty.

Five of a family found dead in Karachi

KARACHI: Five members of a family were found dead on Tuesday in a locked one-room apartment in Karachi's Bin Qasim Town, police said. Those dead included a middle-aged couple, along with their two daughters under the age of six, and the husband's sister who was in her early 20s, according to Bin Qasim Station House Officer (SHO) Faisal Rafiq. Police said the apartment in Gulshan-e-Falaknaz Block J was locked from the inside. The SHO said the couple had suffered fatal injuries, adding that a pistol was recovered from the incident site. Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar and the provincial police chief ordered that the deaths be probed from all possible angles. The Edhi rescue service said the bodies had been transferred to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC). Home minister takes notice Taking notice of the incident, the home minister sought details from the Malir senior superintendent of police (SSP). — APP

At least six killed, 30 injured as Rehman Baba Express derails

PM Shehbaz directs authorities to speed up rescue work and provide injured with best possible medical care

DNA

MULTAN: At least six passengers were killed and 30 others injured after all 14 coaches of the Rehman Baba Express derailed near Sher Shah Bridge in Multan early Tuesday, police and rescue officials said, prompting rescue operations and a response from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The injured were shifted to Nishtar Hospital in Multan for treatment, while rescue teams continued operations at the accident site. The accident occurred at around

5:15am, according to a passenger. The train was travelling from Karachi to Peshawar, according to earlier police information. Rescue officials said 13 coaches had been cleared, while rescue work was continuing in one coach. Further details about the condition of the injured and the circumstances surrounding the deaths were awaited. A passenger told reporters that workers had repaired the nuts and bolts of coach number nine near Rohri before the accident. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took notice of the incident and expressed concern over the passengers injured in the accident. He directed the relevant authorities to

speed up rescue operations and ensure the injured received the best possible medical treatment without delay. The cause of the derailment has not yet been officially established. Pakistan Railways and relevant authorities are expected to provide further details as rescue operations progress.

Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi expressed grief over the incident and directed officials to ensure the best possible medical care for injured passengers. Abbasi departed for the accident site to assess the situation and review the ongoing rescue and relief operations in person, according to a statement

issued by the Railways spokesperson. Abbasi said that compensation would be provided to passengers killed or injured in the accident in accordance with the Railways insurance policy. Meanwhile, Railway spokesperson said train operations via Lodhran and Jahania had been fully restored. The accident adds to a series of serious railway incidents in Pakistan. In August 2023, the derailment of the Hazara Express near Nawabshah in Sindh killed at least 30 people and injured more than 100, raising renewed concerns about railway safety and maintenance.

New Delhi police detain top 'cockroach' leaders

DNA

NEW DELHI: Opposition parties and supporters of the movement have taken to the streets in recent days, defying a security clampdown to demand the resignation of the head of India's election commission, accusing it of manipulating voter rolls to benefit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party.

The Election Commission of India, which oversees the voting process in the world's most populous nation, has denied any wrongdoing. Delhi Police said on Monday that Jantar Mantar in the heart of the capital had been taken off the list of designated official protest sites. The site has been sealed off for several days by yellow metal barricades and guarded by a heavy police presence.

But a video posted online by CJP leader Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday showed protesters clambering over the barricades, running into the empty space and waving the national flag — before police chased and detained them.

"CJP sneaks inside to reclaim Jantar Mantar," the group said in a post on social media, adding that those detained included leaders Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka and Ajinkya Shinde.

"All of them have been detained by Delhi Police," it added. Delhi Police had announced three official sites on Monday as alternatives to Jantar Mantar, where protesters have gathered for decades — including CJP demonstrations that led to the education minister stepping down over an examination scandal in July. "You cannot denotify the resistance," Dipke said, tagging Modi in his post.

IMF raises Pakistan's inflation forecast to 9.9% in FY27

Global growth projected to slow to 3.1% in 2026 and rebound to 3.4% in 2027, says IMF report

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's inflation rate is projected to rise to 9.9% in FY2026-27, while economic growth is forecast to remain at 3.5% in the current fiscal year, unchanged from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) previous projection, according to the lender's World Economic Outlook (WEO) report released on Tuesday.

The IMF data showed that inflation is projected to increase to 9.9% in the current fiscal year from 7.1% in 2025-26. Pakistan's gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow by 3.5% in this fiscal year, down from 3.6% in 2025. The country's current account balance remained unchanged in 2026, and the deficit is expected to reach 1% of GDP in the current fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the report forecasts the unemployment rate to stand at 6.5% in the current fiscal year, down from 6.9% in the previous fiscal year. Meanwhile, the global economy will still manage to top 3%

real GDP growth this year as strong AI investment offsets the energy shock from the war in the Middle East, but downside risks are mounting and more countries are being left behind and vulnerable to rising debt loads, the lender said in its report. Despite a more protracted conflict that has kept oil prices above \$100 a barrel, the IMF is forecasting 2026 global growth at 3.1%, a slight uptick from the 3.0% it predicted in July. For 2027, the IMF predicts 3.4% global growth, flat with the July forecast and up 0.2% from April. The slight improvement is largely due to continued strong investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure, prompting growth upgrades for key advanced economies building AI platforms and especially for countries supplying AI hardware, including South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand, which is hosting the meetings this week. "The global economy has been resilient, but that resilience is under strain, with risks to growth tilted to the downside," the IMF's new chief economist, Silvana Tenreiro, told reporters.

President Zardari approves foreign visits of SC, FCC chief justices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the advice of the prime minister, President Asif Ali Zardari has approved ex-Pakistan leaves and issued no-objection certificates (NOC) for the chief justices of the Supreme Court (SC) and the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) to make upcoming foreign visits. In a press release issued late on Monday, the Presidency said that President Zardari has approved the trips of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi and FCC Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan. CJP Afridi would visit the "United Kingdom, South Korea and Japan from Oct 14 to 21 and from Oct 27 to Nov 4", the Presidency said. Justice Aminuddin would visit Azerbaijan from Oct 19 to 22

to attend TÜRK-AY — a conference of constitutional courts and bodies exercising constitutional jurisdiction in the Turkic world. The FCC was admitted as an observer to TÜRK-AY in July this year, about four years after the forum was established. The president is the competent authority to grant leave to the SC and FCC chief justices under Rule 14 of the 1997 and 2025 orders regarding leave, pension and privileges for the respective court. Under the same rules, the chief justice of each court is the competent authority to grant or refuse leave, or to revoke or curtail leave already granted to other judges of their court. In April 2025, CJP Afridi headed a delegation to the 20th Conference of Chief Justices of the Supreme Courts of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member states in Hangzhou, China.

Pakistan, EU agree to boost cooperation against illegal immigration

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner on Tuesday agreed to enhance cooperation in border security, legal migration and border management. The understanding was reached during a meeting between the two in Islamabad, which was followed by delegation-level talks. Brunner appreciated Pakistan's measures against illegal migration, describing the 64 per cent reduction in illegal migration to Europe resulting from the country's efforts as commendable. He said the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had demonstrated professional competence despite limited resources, which was commendable. He added that the decline in illegal migration would pave the way for legal migration. Naqvi said Pakistan had adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal migration. "After a 64 per cent reduction in illegal migration, our next target is its complete elimination," the interior minister said,

describing illegal migration as a serious global issue. The two sides also discussed the promotion of legal migration and enhancing opportunities for skilled workforce between Pakistan and the European Union. Both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in immigration, institutional coordination and border management, and to work together on the EU's Eastern Corridor Initiative to eliminate illegal migration. They also discussed increasing mutual cooperation to enhance the capacity of Pakistan Coast Guards and agreed to increase collaboration to promote border security and legal migration. Brunner assured Pakistan of all possible cooperation in this regard. The meeting was attended by the interior secretary, special and additional interior secretaries, FIA director general, Federal Constabulary inspector general, NCCIA director general, passports director general, Islamabad chief commissioner and other officials. Last month, Naqvi said Pakistan had recorded a 64pc reduction in illegal migration to Europe, describing the achievement as challenging despite limited resources.

Kazakhstan Appoints Yerkin Tukumov as Ambassador to Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Republic of Kazakhstan has appointed Mr. Yerkin Tukumov as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, marking a new chapter in diplomatic relations between the two countries. A distinguished diplomat, political scientist, and strategic affairs expert, Ambassador Tukumov brings nearly three decades of experience in foreign policy, international relations, and national security. Prior to his appointment, he served as Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and as the Special Representative of the President of Kazakhstan for Afghanistan from 2025 to 2026. Born on July 2, 1973, Ambassador Tukumov graduated from the Institute of International Relations at the University of Warsaw in Poland in 1997. He later completed studies at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in the United States in 2016 and holds a PhD in Political Science. Throughout his career, Tukumov has occupied a number of senior positions within Kazakhstan's foreign policy and strategic research institutions. He began his profes-



sional journey at the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, where he served in research and leadership roles from 1997 to 2005. He later headed the Public Fund "Central Asian Fund for the Development of Democracy" and worked in analytical and strategic positions within the Presidential Administration. Between 2008 and 2010, he served as Deputy Director and subsequently Director of the Department of Central Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. He then led the Analytical Department of Kazakhstan's Security Council from 2010 to 2018, contributing to the country's security

and foreign policy planning. His diplomatic career includes service as Consul General of Kazakhstan in Kazan, Russian Federation, from 2018 to 2019, followed by his role as Minister-Counselor at the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Russia from 2019 to 2022. From 2022 to 2025, Tukumov served as Director of the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies, one of the country's leading policy research institutions, where he played a key role in shaping research on regional and international affairs. Ambassador Tukumov holds the diplomatic rank of Second Class Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and is proficient in English and Polish. His appointment is expected to further strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Kazakhstan and Pakistan, particularly in areas of trade, connectivity, regional security, and people-to-people exchanges. Officials from both countries are expected to work closely to enhance bilateral ties and promote greater regional cooperation. As Ambassador to Pakistan, Tukumov is anticipated to leverage his extensive experience in diplomacy, strategic studies, and regional affairs to advance Kazakhstan's foreign policy objectives and deepen engagement with Islamabad on issues of mutual interest.





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