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Detailed News On Page-08

Malaysia values its relations with Pak, says Amb.Azhar

Detailed News On Page-03



Bilawal says PTI committed political suicide

Detailed News On Page-08



PM says Pakistan wants to diversify ties with Russia

The Russian Interior Minister conveyed Russia's desire to further strengthen bilateral ties and expand cooperation in areas of shared interest

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received Mr. Vladimir Kolokoltsev, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, who is currently on an official visit to Pakistan. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the positive momentum in Pakistan-Russia relations and emphasized the importance of building on this momentum to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further deepening its friendly relations with the Russian Federation and making effective use of existing bilateral mechanisms to advance mutually beneficial cooperation. He underscored the need to expand cooperation across areas of mutual interest, particularly trade and investment, energy, and economic development. The Russian Interior Minister conveyed Russia's desire to further strengthen bilateral ties and expand cooperation in areas of shared interest. Appreciating Pakistan's support at various multilateral forums, particularly the United Nations, he also highlighted the significant potential for expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Russia. He expressed his country's readiness to work close-

Pakistan to deepen its relations with Russia: field marshal

COAS & CDF reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to deepen its longstanding relations with Russia and expand tangible cooperation in areas of shared interest, particularly in the security domain

DNA

RAWALPINDI: H.E. Mr. Vladimir Kolokoltsev, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest and the regional security environment, with particular emphasis on strengthening bilateral security cooperation. They underscored the importance of closer institutional linkages and improved coordination between the security institutions of Pakistan and Russia. COAS & CDF reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to deepen its longstanding relations with Russia and expand tangible cooperation in areas of shared interest, particularly in the security domain. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's contributions to regional peace and stability and acknowledged the professionalism and sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism.

ly with Pakistan to further enhance bilateral engagement. The Prime Minister also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Strengthening Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime.

Briefs

Navi Pillay blasts Trump

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Nobel Peace Prize winner Navi Pillay on Wednesday hit out at Donald Trump's "illegal" sanctions against the International Criminal Court (ICC), saying the US president needed a lesson in international law. In an interview with AFP, Pillay also said it was no coincidence the US sanctions on the ICC were announced just hours after her Nobel, as a "reaction to the fact that the award was not given to President Trump". Asked what her message was for Trump, the 85-year-old judge told AFP: "Call in your legal advisors to explain to you what international law is. He should call in his advisors to tell him why we say that it is unlawful for him to interfere with an independent international court."

'No economic collapse of Iran'

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: US claims that Iran's economy is collapsing are an illusion, the governor of Iran's central bank said on Wednesday, as Tehran faces a US naval blockade aimed at driving its oil exports to zero and draining state coffers. Washington reinstated its blockade of Iranian ports in July and launched "Operation Economic Outcast" on Aug. 24, a campaign aimed at severing Iran's remaining financial and commercial links with the global economy. According to energy intelligence platform Vortexa, Iran's seaborne crude exports fell to zero in the second week of September from a 14-day average of 230,000 barrels per day at the start of the month, and remained there as of Oct. 5.

Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia 'unacceptable': Dar

"Pakistan-Oman friendship remains strong and forward-looking," he told media. The two ministers would after the press conference sign "a number of bilateral agreements", Dar said

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia were "totally unacceptable". He made the remarks while addressing a joint press conference alongside Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, who is currently on an official visit to Pakistan, following the eighth session of the Pakistan-Oman Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC). At the outset of the press conference, Dar said that the two sides would sign a protocol relating to the commission. He said that this reflected "a shared resolve to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest". He said that the two sides would also sign an agreement for mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports. "Pakistan-Oman friendship remains strong and forward-looking," he told media. The two ministers would after

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Houthis vow more attacks

DNA

SANAA: Yemen's Houthi rebels said on Wednesday they had targeted facilities belonging to Saudi Aramco, after Saudi officials reported a strike on a building in an area in Riyadh housing the energy giant's operations centre. Powerful explosions meanwhile rattled the Saudi capital, as the coalition fighting the Houthis said it had intercepted a missile fired by the group towards Riyadh. Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude oil exporter, has in recent days come under sustained attack in a dramatic escalation in the war with the Houthis. It has hit back with strikes against

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ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Oman H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad. – DNA

Senate, NA endorse governor rule

The opposition lawmakers staged a protest and chanted slogans against the government

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly has approved a resolution calling for the imposition of emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) by a majority vote amid protests by opposition members. During the session, treasury and opposition members debated the resolution for more than four hours before it was passed by a majority vote. The opposition lawmakers staged a protest and chanted slogans against the government. Later, the National Assembly session was adjourned until 11 am on Friday. The Senate has approved a resolution calling for the imposition of an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) by a majority vote, despite a walkout by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members. During the session, PTI members protested against the resolution and chanted slogans before walking out.

'Diesel ties to open new avenues'

MOSCOW: The US-Russia diesel deal can pave the way for further economic cooperation between the two countries, Kremlin envoy Kirill Dmitriev said on Wednesday, adding that Moscow would overcome any sanctions-related difficulties to ensure the diesel supplies. The example of diesel cooperation with the US "will open other opportunities as well," he told reporters. – APP

Legal battle kick-starts

PTI challenges governor's rule

Following the petition, Barrister Gohar said that governor's rule and the imposition of an emergency had resulted in the removal of a democratically elected govt in the province

NEWS DESK

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has challenged the imposition of governor's rule and an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) before the Peshawar High Court. Following the petition, Barrister Gohar said that governor's rule and the imposition of an emergency had resulted in the removal of a democratically elected government in the province. He expressed hope that the court would restore the provincial government, saying he had sought an early hearing on the petition. The PTI chief vowed that the party would continue its constitutional and legal struggle. Meanwhile, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that the government had no option but to consider imposing an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), alleging that CM Sohail Afridi had been taking instructions from a person based in Afghanistan. Recalling his own imprisonment,

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KP Governor Kundi vows no compromise on national interests

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that peace will be the priority for the province, adding that no compromise will be made on national interests despite difficulties related to the border. Speaking to the media in Peshawar, Kundi said development work would be carried out, but maintaining peace would come first. He added that the government would cut funds, if necessary, to ensure peace. The governor said the people of the province had emerged from a tunnel towards

Continued on Page 06

Saudi attacks may have spill-over consequences

DNA

BANGKOK: International Monetary Fund head Kristalina Georgieva said Wednesday that recent attacks on Saudi Arabia could impact people "everywhere," as conflict in the region adds to wide-ranging economic concerns. The Houthi strikes on Riyadh's international airport at the weekend led 13 people dead and operations suspended in the worst attack since 2015. "The Saudi economy is important for the region and the world," IMF managing director Georgieva said at a news conference during the Annual Meetings of the Fund and World Bank in Bangkok. "In that sense, these developments have potentially negative spillovers for everybody, everywhere," she said. The warning comes as officials and experts gather in the Thai capital to discuss chal-



lenges facing the global economy, including higher energy costs and concerns about the sustainability of an artificial intelligence boom. Other hurdles include ballooning debt in advanced economies, with bond yields at multi-decade highs as pressure grows on

Continued on Page 06

President receives credentials from French and Saudi envoys

During his meeting with the French envoy, President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening its longstanding ties with France through regular dialogue and enhanced bilateral cooperation

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday received the credentials of the newly appointed ambassadors of France and Saudi Arabia during separate ceremonies held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad. The President welcomed Jean-Noël Poirier, Ambassador-designate of France, and Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy, Ambassador-designate of Saudi Arabia, and congratulated them on their appointments. He expressed confidence that both diplomats would play an important role in further strengthening Pakistan's relations with their respective countries and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest. During his meeting with the French envoy, President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening its longstanding ties with France through regular dialogue and enhanced bilateral cooperation. He stressed the importance of multilateralism, high-level exchanges, and maintaining an independent and constructive bilateral relationship. The



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia and France presenting credentials to the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari. – DNA

President also highlighted the potential for greater collaboration in trade, investment, parliamentary exchanges, education, culture, and defence cooperation. In a separate meeting with the Saudi ambassador-designate, President Zardari underscored the close strategic partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the Kingdom's security and defence and emphasized the importance of institutional mechanisms and the Makkah Alliance for Defence in strengthening bilateral cooperation. The President appreciated Saudi Arabia's continued financial assistance and support through oil supply arrangements, while also acknowledging the valuable contribution of the Pakistani community residing in the Kingdom. He expressed confidence that Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations would reach new heights during Ambassador Albugamy's tenure. The credential ceremonies reflected Pakistan's commitment to strengthening diplomatic engagement and promoting mutually beneficial partnerships with both France and Saudi Arabia.

Mandokhail for private sectors coop to promote sports

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on Wednesday said that effective collaboration among relevant institutions, sports organizations, and the private sector is essential for the promotion of boxing and other sports. He expressed these views while meeting a delegation of International Boxing Championship officials led by Abdul Hameed Sarbrah, President of the Pakistan Professional Boxing Association. The delegation also included national boxers Musa Hazara, Abdul Aziz Khilji, and Khuda Bakhsh Lashari. The Governor said that the province holds all its international players and athletes in high regard, considering it a responsibility to encourage and appreciate them. Balochistan has produced numerous renowned and distinguished boxers who have brought fame to Pakistan and the province on the international stage, earning honors for both. He said that last year, the provincial capital, Quetta, demonstrated its capabilities at national and international levels by hosting the first Pakistan International Boxing Championship, this event helped promote sports in Balochistan and highlighted a positive image of the province. Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail remarked that effective collaboration among relevant institutions, sports organizations, and the private sector is essential for the promotion of boxing and other sports. He emphasized the need to focus specifically on training young athletes, providing modern facilities, improving coaching standards, and increasing opportunities for participation in national and international competitions. Governor Mandokhail hoped that sports competitions would continue to be organized in Quetta and Balochistan in the future, providing the province's athletes with opportunities to showcase their talent and benefit from the experience of international players.—APP

Inspection Team asked to boost transparency

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday directed that vacant posts in the Governor Inspection Team (GIT) be filled at the earliest to enhance the institution's performance and improve transparency and accountability in government departments. The directives came while chairing a review meeting on the performance of the Governor Inspection Team at the Governor House. Chairman of the Governor Inspection Team Mukhtiar Ahmad, General Member Arshad Khan Afridi and Secretary Shazeel Arshad Khattak attended the meeting. Mukhtiar Ahmad presented detailed briefing on the administrative structure and overall performance of the institution. He also informed the meeting about previous inquiries conducted by the team and inspections carried out in various government departments. The meeting also discussed a number of proposals aimed at further improving the effectiveness of the Governor Inspection Team. Governor Kundi directed that the proposed recommendations be submitted without delay and stressed the need for expediting progress on all related matters. He said the Governor Inspection Team should play an effective role in ensuring transparency and accountability in public institutions, adding that the inspection.—APP

Pak, Russia discuss expanding bilateral coop

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday held a meeting with Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry also attended the meeting. Mr Dar expressed satisfaction over the positive momentum in Pakistan-Russia relations and welcomed recent high-level visits and exchanges between the two countries. The two sides discussed opportunities to enhance cooperation in trade, investment, culture and tourism. They also emphasised the importance of strengthening people-to-people contacts and maintaining close coordination at multilateral forums, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The meeting underscored the two countries' interest in further strengthening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest. It is pertinent to mention that last July, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk called the two countries "natural allies." After Western sanctions over the Ukraine conflict, Moscow looked for new buyers for its energy, while Pakistan sought cheaper fuel to cut its import bill. In 2023, Pakistan formally added Russian crude oil to its energy mix. In June, Energy Minister Awaiz Leghari said the two sides had agreed to sign an Economic Cooperation Programme running through 2030. He also said a recently signed "readmission agreement" should ease visa arrangements and strengthen people-to-people contacts. In August, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev and welcomed the "positive momentum" in relations.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meeting with Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi were also present.

The visit also follows a difficult stretch over Afghanistan. At the eighth Moscow Format meeting on October 5, delegates from Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Iran,

India and Central Asian states discussed Afghanistan's political, security and economic situation, including counterterrorism and regional connectivity.

Pakistan needs affordable housing schemes

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Programme Manager (DPM) UN-Habitat Pakistan Hamid Mumtaz Khan has said that Pakistan needs affordable, adequate and climate-resilient housing solutions to address its growing housing deficit, rapid urbanization and recurring natural disasters. In an interview with APP, he said that rapid and often unplanned urbanization was contributing to the expansion of informal settlements and slums, while recurring disasters had further intensified the country's housing challenges, with millions of houses affected since the 2005 earthquake. Addressing the growing housing crisis required a comprehensive approach that focused not only on increasing housing supply but also on ensuring affordability, adequate basic services and the resilience of existing and future homes, he added. Khan emphasized the need for affordable and incremental housing solutions, access to serviced land, appropriate financing mechanisms and the upgrading of existing informal settlements through meaningful community participation.—APP

UBG nominates SM Tanveer for FPCCI president

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Business Group (UBG) has unanimously approved the nomination of its Patron-

ed via video link, while all participants endorsed S.M. Tanveer's nomination by raising their hands. On the occasion, UBG leaders described S.M. Tanveer's nomination as a sym-

Ghulam Farooq said that S.M. Tanveer's nomination was an excellent decision in the broader interest of the business community, adding that they had complete confidence in his abilities.



in-Chief, S.M. Tanveer, for the upcoming presidency of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). At a meeting held in this regard, a resolution presented by UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari was unanimously approved by all members. Some members also participat-

bol of unity, confidence, and strong leadership within the business community. Zafar Bakhtawari said that S.M. Tanveer was an effective voice for the business community and that, under his leadership, the concerns and issues of the business community would be highlighted vigorously.

Khalid Tawab said that S.M. Tanveer's experience and business acumen would play an important role in making the FPCCI more active and effective. Abdul Rauf Alam said that the unanimous nomination of S.M. Tanveer was clear evidence of the group's unity and its strong confidence in his leadership.

Stronger child protection system stressed

LAHORE: Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) Punjab Chairperson Sarah Ahmad has stressed the need for stronger child protection measures, effective reporting mechanisms and coordination among educational institutions, parents and government departments to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation. She was speaking at an awareness dialogue held at Fatima Jinnah Women University in Rawalpindi to strengthen the child protection system. The dialogue marked the launch of an awareness campaign titled "Child Protection Is Everyone's Responsibility" by the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO), said a spokesperson for CPWB here on Wednesday. Under the campaign, around 30,000 children studying in public and private schools in Rawalpindi, along with their parents, will be educated about child protection, the chairperson said. She emphasized that protecting children from violence, abuse and exploitation required effective safeguards and coordinated efforts by educational institutions, families and relevant government departments. The chairperson stressed the need to raise awareness among teachers and parents about child protection policies and available support services. She also called for strengthening mechanisms for the timely identification and reporting of child abuse and exploitation. "Providing every child with a safe, peaceful and supportive educational environment is our collective responsibility," she said, adding that government institutions and all segments of society must play their role in safeguarding children's rights and preventing abuse. Sarah Ahmad said that child protection was not the responsibility of any single institution but a shared responsibility of the entire nation. The dialogue was attended by Member of the National Assembly Asia Naz Tanoli, Punjab Assembly members Tahira Mushtaq, Tahseen Fawad and Riffat Abbasi, Head of the Department of Sociology at Fatima Jinnah Women University Dr Adeela, SSDO Executive Director Syed Kausar Abbas and representatives of civil society.—APP

KP to see improved law, order within 90 days: Samar

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Special Assistant for Information, Samar Haroon Bilour on Wednesday expressed confidence that the province would witness a visible improvement in law and order within 90 days, citing better coordination among security institutions and government departments. Talking to journalists here, she said the measures taken under Governor's Rule and the emergency arrangements would help improve the performance and morale of police and Frontier Constabulary (FC), contributing to a better security situation on the ground. She said improved coordination among the federal and provincial governments, armed forces and police would also facilitate trade, ease public movement and help remove road blockades across the province. Samar said the government would address public issues in a phased manner and would not resort to political victimisation. However, she said, those found responsible for misappropriating public resources would face action after a review of relevant evidence. She said the authorities would examine each case on merit and take strict action against anyone found guilty in accordance with the law.—AP

Ayaz holds PTI responsible for breakdown of talks with govt

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday held the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) responsible for the breakdown of talks with the government, saying negotiations should not have been abandoned. Speaking in the National Assembly, he recalled that government representatives were seated in his chamber while opposition members were waiting in an adjoining room during the negotiations. He said both sides had been hopeful of a positive outcome and expected an agreement to be signed. "Everyone was happy that things were moving towards improvement and that the agreement would be signed," he said. Ayaz Sadiq recalled that when the opposition members came out, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Allama Nasir Abbas expressed regret over the failure of the talks. He said Allama Nasir was disappointed that the negotiations had failed and that he had to leave with a heavy heart. Other opposition leaders also left afterwards. The speaker said he had urged the opposition not to close the door to negotiations and to return to the table. He recalled telling them that they could come back within five minutes.—APP

Pakistan, Canada to strengthen cooperation in agri, food security

FAISALABAD: Pakistan and Canada have significant opportunities to further strengthen agricultural and trade cooperation, modernise dairy and poultry production, and improve food security through research-based technologies and knowledge sharing. A spokesman for the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) said here on Wednesday that the need for enhanced bilateral collaboration came under discussion during a meeting between University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali and a high-level delegation from the High Commission of Canada in Pakistan, comprising Political, Economic and Commercial Counsellor Daniel Arsenault and Trade Commissioner Zohaib Khan. The discussions focused on climate-smart agriculture, modernization of the dairy sector, innovation in the poultry industry, agro-food processing and improving supply chain efficiency to reduce post-harvest losses and ensure the availability of safe and quality food.

Speaking on the occasion, Daniel Arsenault lauded the strategic role of UAF in addressing agricultural challenges, particularly food security and safety. He stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between industry and researchers to ensure that scientific discoveries and laboratory findings are translated into practical solutions and commercially viable technologies for farmers and businesses. Referring to bilateral trade, Arsenault said that Canada was a major supplier of canola seed to Pakistan and welcomed Pakistan's lifting of the restriction on genetically modified (GM) canola import. He said that the decision, following engagement between the two governments, had paved the way for the resumption of Canadian canola exports to Pakistan. He said that canola was among Canada's major agricultural exports to Pakistan, adding that Canadian research and expertise

could contribute to improving agricultural productivity and supporting the country's food and nutrition needs. Mr Arsenault said that the delegation was also engaging with Pakistani importers to explore opportunities for supplying Canadian pulses and lentils, which could help diversify food supplies and strengthen food security. Highlighting the potential for cooperation in the dairy sector, he said that Pakistan could benefit from Canadian expertise in modern dairy farming, including through institutions such as the University of Guelph. He noted that incorporating canola into animal feed could increase daily milk production by up to one liter under appropriate feeding conditions, offering potential benefits to small-scale dairy farmers. He said that both countries could work together to improve farm productivity, strengthen agricultural value chains and expand opportunities in domestic and international markets.—APP

Perveen Shakir trust launches 'as one lamp lights another

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The renowned activist of Pakistan Movement, writer, editor of literary magazine Makhzan Shiekh Abdul Qadir's legacy is live and being carried to next generations by his extended family members. The poetry book "As One Lamp Lights Another" is a visionary contribution in the same connection that has been launched by the Per-



veen Shakir Trust at Islamabad Club. Sir Abdul Qadir was the author of preface of Iqbal's Bang e Daraa. Lady Abdul

Qadir was a leading light in promoting the education of females and inducting them into the society and economy of Punjab. The launch was very well hosted by Perveen Qadir Agha while 7 family members of Sir Abdul Qadir were sitting on the stage who contributed their poetry to compile and edit the book by Basharat Qadir and published by Shahid Awan from Emel Publications. Basically it is a collection of Pakistani poems in English. Sir Abdul Qadir and Lady Abdul Qadir had five sons but no daughter. The sons and their children are among the seven contributors in the book. They are Basharat Qadir, Asghar Qadir, Khuram Qadir, Rabia Qadir Zia, Ghazal Qadir, Mekyle Ali Qadir and Junaid Qadir. Perveen Qadir Agha in her welcome address shed light on the services of Sir Abdul Qadir and Lady Abdul Qadir for promotion of Urdu and education in the society. She appreciated the work of the family members to keep the memories and heritage alive. She shared that the trust is hosting 25th launch event of any book. Raja Chingez Sultan former DG PNCA, renowned artist and poet was the Chief Guest at the occasion. He paid rich tributes to Qadir family and said that having them around and presiding over this event is honor for him. Basharat Qadir, Asghar Qadir, Dr Sofia Hussain, Rukhsia Waqas, Raa'na Seerat, Shabbir Ahmad were among the speakers at the launch who expressed their views on different aspects of the work of the family.

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National Day

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Oct 01/Republic of Korea
Armed Forces Day

Oct 01/Nigeria
Armed Forces Day

Oct 02/Guinea
National Day

Oct 03/Germany
Unification Day

Oct 03/Republic of Korea
National Foundation Day

Oct 05/Indonesia
Armed Forces Day

Oct 06/Egypt
Armed Forces Day

Oct 09/Uganda
Independence Day

Oct 12/Spain
National Day

Oct 23/Hungary
National Day

October 24/United Nations
United Nations Day

Oct/25/Romania
Armed Forces Day

Oct 26/Austria
National Day

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TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pakistan, Malaysia vow to deepen trade, edu ties

Emphasising the importance of educational cooperation, he said Malaysia was keen to attract more Pakistani students to its universities, which offered internationally recognised qualifications and an educational environment compatible with their cultural values

DNA

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan Dato Mohammad Azhar bin Mazlan on Tuesday called for enhanced trade, investment, educational and tourism cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia, saying the two countries could further strengthen their longstanding bilateral relations through collaboration in multiple sectors. Pakistan travel guide

Addressing a “Meet the Press” programme at the National Press Club (NPC), he said the two countries enjoyed longstanding brotherly relations, underpinned by shared cultural values, religious affinities and people-to-people contacts. Buy Maps He said Pakistan and Malaysia had maintained diplomatic relations since 1957, shortly after Malaysia’s independence, and elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership in March 2019 to broaden cooperation in defence, trade, energy, telecommunications and the halal sector. He described Pakistan as an important market for Malaysian palm oil and highlighted an ongoing joint venture between Pakistani and Malaysian companies for edible oil refining at Port Qasim, Karachi. Emphasising the importance of educational cooperation, he said Malaysia was keen to attract more Pakistani students to its universities, which offered internationally recognised qualifications and an educational environment compatible with their cultural values.

He said Pakistan ranked among the top five countries of origin for international students in Malaysia. Highlighting defence cooperation, the High Commissioner referred to the longstanding military ties between the two countries and said a joint committee on defence cooperation was scheduled to meet during the week.

He also highlighted opportunities for expanding tourism cooperation, noting that thousands of Malaysian tourists visited Pakistan last year, many of them travelling to the country’s northern areas. Pakistan travel guide

He said Malaysia had extended its “Visit Malaysia” campaign through 2027 as part of its efforts to promote tourism and attract international visitors. The High Commissioner also



highlighted the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), which has provided training opportunities to participants from 189 countries, including Pakistan. He expressed hope for greater trade and investment between the two countries and invited Pakistani media representatives to attend a business engagement scheduled to be hosted by the Malaysian High Commission later in the week. Emphasising the role of the media, he said responsible journalism was essential for national development, warning that fake news and irresponsi-

ble reporting could damage a country’s reputation. He urged media practitioners to ensure accurate and responsible reporting to keep the public informed. Earlier, NPC Secretary Furqan Rao welcomed the High Commissioner and appreciated his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations. He said bilateral trade between the two countries was worth around \$1.5 billion and highlighted Malaysia’s role in providing educational opportunities to Pakistani students. Rao also proposed cooperation between the NPC and Malaysian media organisations, including journalist

associations and press clubs, through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate professional exchanges and strengthen media collaboration. NPC President Razzak Sial delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the High Commissioner for visiting the press club and interacting with journalists. He expressed hope for enhanced cooperation between the two countries to further strengthen bilateral ties. The visit was a part of the press club’s engagement with diplomatic representatives to discuss matters of mutual interest.

CDA plans to increase electric bus ridership to 250,000 daily

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) will increase daily ridership on Islamabad’s electric bus service from around 150,000 to 250,000 passengers by expanding the network and improving supporting infrastructure.

At least 160 electric buses were currently operating on 21 routes across the federal capital, providing public transport to commuters, students, employees and other residents, its spokesperson told APP on Wednesday. The authority is pursuing the expansion under the vision of Interior Minister Syed

Mohsin Raza Naqvi and the leadership of CDA Chairman Sohail Ashraf, with a focus on providing safe, comfortable, affordable and environment-friendly transport facilities.

The spokesperson said the CDA was working to improve route coverage, operational efficiency and passenger facilities to meet Islamabad’s growing travel requirements. The expansion also aims to encourage the use of public transport, promote sustainable urban mobility and help reduce harmful vehicle emissions and air pollution. Alongside the expansion of

the bus fleet, the authority is developing supporting infrastructure, including modern bus depots and electric charging facilities, to ensure more efficient and reliable operations. A recently inaugurated electric bus depot, has the capacity for 64 charging units, which is expected to support the growing operational needs of the network, the spokesperson said. The CDA has also received positive feedback from residents regarding the service. According to the authority, commuters, students and employees have expressed satisfaction with the convenience, comfort and reliability of the buses for daily travel. The spokesperson said public feedback was important for assessing the accessibility and performance of the service and identifying areas requiring further improvement. The authority is continuing efforts to improve the network and associated facilities, with the broader objective of providing residents with an alternative to private vehicles. —APP

AIOU to hold Russian language course certificate ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will hold a Certificate Distribution Ceremony for its One-Month Russian Language Course for Beginners on Friday. The one-month course was aimed at providing basic Russian language skills to beginners and promoting educational and cultural exchange between Pakistan and Russia. Students who successfully completed the course will be awarded certificates at the ceremony. The ceremony is being organized by the International Collaboration and Exchange Office of AIOU in collaboration with Ural State Pedagogical University, Russia. The event will take place on Friday, October 16, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the AIOU Theater Hall, Academic Complex, AIOU, H-8/2, Islamabad. —APP

NBF publishes Nadeem’s science fiction book

ISLAMABAD: National Book Foundation (NBF), under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, has published renowned writer and poet Nadeem Akhtar Ghazali’s unique science fiction book for children, “Sonora” (The Magical Universe of the Solar System).

The 206-page informative and engaging book is priced at Rs. 670 and is available at a 50 percent discount at NBF offices, bookshops and outlets established across the country. “Sonora” offers an engaging blend of scientific knowledge, imagination and adventure for school and college students. The central character, Sono, has a deep curiosity about the stars and the universe. Driven by this curiosity, he enters the fascinating world of the Solar System through two mysterious characters from the distant fictional planet Flokian: the space girl Setlarin and the space boy Zinoma. The three embark on journeys to different planets aboard a unique capsule-like spacecraft, the Flash Time Modular, equipped with modern scientific devices. They explore hidden secrets of the universe and become part of fascinating adventures. The book presents information about the Solar System, the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, along with various celestial phenomena, in an engaging storytelling style. The author skillfully combines scientific facts with imagination and adventure, making the pursuit of knowledge an enjoyable experience for young readers. —APP

Tarar criticizes PTI leadership over KP security situation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday criticized the PTI-led government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for lack of commitment to counter-terrorism, saying that the provincial leadership had failed to demonstrate the maturity required to address the security challenges facing the province. Talking to reporters outside the Parliament, Atta Tarar said PTI leaders who had participated in negotiations congratulated one another following their apparent outcome. However, he said, Chief Minister Sohail Afridi subsequently refused to commit to taking action against terrorism. —APP

Over 200 people screened for Hepatitis C

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Medical and Dental College (IMDC), in collaboration with Dr Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital (ANTH), screened more than 200 people for Hepatitis C during a community outreach camp in Bhara Kahu. The screening camp was organized by the Department of Community Medicine and Family Medicine at IMDC at The Smart School, Bhara Kahu Campus, as part of the Prime Minister’s National Hepatitis C Elimination Programme. The initiative aimed to promote early detection, improve public awareness and facilitate timely medical guidance for people potentially affected by the viral infection. The camp was led by the Hepatitis C Community Outreach Core Team, comprising Dr Mian Muhammad Saad Irfan and Abdul Ghaffar Mastoi, with the support of trained phlebotomists. The two individuals who tested reactive were identified for further medical guidance and evaluation to determine the appropriate course of care. —APP

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Briefs

IHC clubs cases against increases in toll tax

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered the consolidation of all cases challenging increases in toll tax on motorways and major highways and the imposition of a 50 per cent surcharge on traffic fines, directing that the matters be fixed for hearing next week. Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar issued the directions while hearing a petition filed by the Judicial Activism Panel. During the hearing, an associate of petitioner's counsel Azhar Siddique appeared before the court along with representatives of the National Highway Authority (NHA). The chief justice remarked that toll charges had continued to rise, questioning how the NHA could increase them on its own. He observed that the toll had exceeded Rs1,100. The NHA's counsel responded that toll rates had not been increased for four years and said he would assist the court on the matter. The chief justice directed the lawyer to submit the authority's response in a form that could be uploaded online. The NHA's counsel also informed the court that a similar case pending before another bench involved a stay order concerning M-Tag requirements, adding that motorists were no longer getting M-Tags. He said the other case was pending before Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir. The chief justice directed that the related case be summoned along with other petitions so that all matters could be heard together next week. He also asked the associate counsel to ensure the petitioner's lawyer appeared at the next hearing, adding that the court would proceed with the cases even if the counsel failed to attend. The court subsequently adjourned the hearing until next week.—APP

RDA inflows rise to \$14.157b in Sep 2026

ISLAMABAD: The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$14.157 billion by the end of September 2026 as compared to US \$13.906 billion by August (2026) end. The data showed that the inflows of remittances during September 2026 were recorded at US\$ 251 million as compared to US\$ 259 million in August and US\$ 282 million in July 2026, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and investment activities in Pakistan. The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 9,458 to 975,602 in September 2026 from 966,144 accounts in August 2026.—APP

IRSA releases 101,800**cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 14 (AP-P):Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 101,800 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 82,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1518.88 feet, which was 116.88 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 43,400 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1199.45 feet, which was 149.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 6,800 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu, and Sukkur was recorded as 62,800, 54,500, 47,700, and 12,000 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 17,100 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 4,700 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

A Blessing, not a burden: Abdul Rehman's journey of courage

DNA

ISLAMABAD: World Cerebral Palsy Day is an occasion to speak about inclusion, accessibility and equal opportunities. But for families living this journey every day, it is also an occasion to celebrate courage, perseverance and the countless achievements that may appear ordinary to others but represent extraordinary determination. For our family, that journey has a name: Muhammad Abdul Rehman. Abdul Rehman is a young student with cerebral palsy who has successfully completed Grade 9 and is now studying in Grade 10 at a special education institution under the Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE). His journey through school has required determination, patience and continuous support, but every stage has strengthened his resolve to move forward. A Blessing Entrusted by Allah We have never regarded Abdul Rehman as a burden. To us, he is a blessing and mercy from Allah Almighty. Being parents of a child with cerebral palsy undoubtedly brings additional responsibilities. There are concerns about mobility, education, accessibility, health, transportation and future independence. Tasks that other families may take for granted sometimes require careful planning and considerable effort. But responsibility



should never be confused with burden. Allah entrusts every family with different responsibilities, and our responsibility has been to provide Abdul Rehman with love, education, confidence and every possible opportunity to develop his abilities. His achievements have brought us happiness

and taught us lessons in patience, gratitude and resilience that perhaps we would never otherwise have learned. A Mother's Unseen Contribution Behind Abdul Rehman's progress lies the dedication of both parents, but particular recognition belongs to his mother. In families raising children with disabilities,

mothers often spend the greatest amount of time attending to their children's everyday needs. From childhood through adolescence, she has remained beside him through his education, routines, difficulties and achievements. A father may be away from home because of professional responsibilities, but a mother frequently becomes the constant companion in the child's daily journey. Much of this work happens quietly and receives little public recognition. Abdul Rehman's progress therefore represents not only his own determination, but also years of patient and devoted parenting. Technology Opens Another Door One particularly encouraging aspect of Abdul Rehman's personality is his strong interest in information technology and social media. The digital world fascinates him. He enjoys using Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube and takes an active interest in creating, viewing and sharing digital content. In many ways, he has developed the instincts of a young social-media content creator and aspiring influencer. For a young person whose physical mobility presents challenges, technology can offer something particularly valuable: a space where ideas, creativity and communication can travel without physical barriers. His family therefore hopes that his enthusiasm for IT will develop beyond a pastime.

FCCP restores status of 123 successful PPSC candidates

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan (FCCP) on Wednesday accepted the petitions of 123 candidates who had qualified examinations conducted by the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC), restoring their status and rejecting the commission's stance. A two-member bench headed by Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan heard the case. During the proceedings, Justice Ali Baqar Najafi observed that the leaked examination papers had been recovered after the candidates had cleared the examinations and the PPSC had issued its recommendations for their appointments. Justice Najafi asked how many PPSC officials had faced action in connection with the paper leak. The commission's counsel informed the court that four officials had been dismissed. The judge observed that the candidates had neither been issued show-cause notices nor given an opportunity to explain their position before being removed from their jobs.—APP

Nation urged to stand with state against terrorism

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Wednesday urged the nation to stand with the state and armed forces in the fight against terrorism, saying Pakistan's security and survival must take priority over political interests. Speaking in the National Assembly, he criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), saying the party should not ignore its past actions while criticising the government. He said the armed forces were making sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the provincial government must fully support their efforts. "Our relationship with Pakistan takes precedence over all other relationships," he said, adding that the country's security and survival were more important than political interests. Khawaja Asif said terrorists had killed innocent people, including children, and stressed that all political parties must unite to defeat them. Referring to negotiations between the government and the PTI, the defence minister said the government had shown flexibility to make the talks successful, but the process had failed to produce an agreement. He claimed that some matters agreed upon during the negotiations were later challenged by the PTI leadership.—APP

Emergency imposed in KP due to worsening situation

ISLAMABAD, Oct 14 (APP):Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Wednesday that imposing an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was a last resort due to the worsening law and order situation and rising terrorist attacks. Speaking in the National Assembly during a discussion on the proclamation of emergency issued by the president for KP on October 11, 2026, the minister said the federal cabinet had recommended the move after nearly two-and-a-half hours of deliberations and a detailed review of the available evidence. He said the decision was aimed at protecting the lives and property of citizens and addressing growing security challenges in the province. Tarar said Article 232 of the Constitution dealt with emergencies arising from internal disturbances and external aggression, while Article 234 covered situations in which a provincial government could not function in accordance with the Constitution. He said the cabinet had reviewed reports from various security agencies, focusing on the rising number of terrorist attacks, casualties and injuries. The minister said the constitutional provisions had been invoked only after examining the available evidence and considering other possible measures. He added that administrative responsibility for provincial affairs had been assigned to the governor following the proclamation. Similar constitutional provisions had been invoked in the past, he said, adding that related matters had also been examined by the courts. Tarar said the matter had been placed before Parliament in line with the constitutional procedure, which requires an emergency proclamation to be presented to both houses for approval within the prescribed period. Giving figures on terrorism, the minister said 2,911 incidents had been reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between 2021 and 2024. Another 3,787 incidents were recorded between October 15, 2025, and October 9, 2026. He said the number of incidents reported during the latter period was higher than the combined total recorded over the preceding three years, underlining the seriousness of the security situation. Tarar stressed the need for the federal and provincial governments to work together to combat terrorism. He paid tribute to the armed forces, police, security personnel, religious scholars and civilians who had sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism. National unity was essential to defeating the menace, he added. The minister criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf-led provincial government, saying it had given greater priority to political activities than to tackling security challenges.—DNA

FCCP CJ, BBC delegation discuss judicial reforms

ISLAMABAD: A six-member delegation of the Balochistan Bar Council met Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan on Wednesday and discussed judicial reforms, the rule of law and measures to improve the delivery of justice. During the meeting at the Federal Constitutional Court, the chief justice reaffirmed the court's constitutional mandate in ensuring constitutional interpretation through institutional expertise, upholding judicial supremacy and strengthening the rule of law. He said the court was committed to the timely and effective delivery of justice in accordance with constitutional principles. The discussions covered the strengths and challenges

IBCC advances NEQSI for 27 Public-Sector boards

ISLAMABAD: Pursuant to the directives of the Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) convened the first meeting of the Steering Committee on the National Examination Quality Standardized Index (NEQSI) at the IBCC Secretariat, here. The meeting, chaired by Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, Executive Director, IBCC, reviewed the proposed framework for establishing common, internationally benchmarked standards across Pakistan's 27 public-sector examination boards. The initiative reflects the Federal Government's commitment to improving the quality, transparency, fairness and credibility of educational assessment nationwide. The Steering Committee reviewed the proposed indicators, performance targets and implementation milestones. To further strengthen the framework, a Sub-Committee was constituted to refine the proposed

of the existing judicial system, with both sides emphasizing the need for reforms to improve judicial performance, transparency and public confidence in the justice system. The delegation also exchanged views with the chief justice on legal affairs, the functioning of the judicial system and measures to ensure effective delivery of justice. The delegation comprised Pakistan Bar Council member Munir Ahmed Khan Kakar, Vice Chairman; Jadain Dashti, Chairman of the Executive Committee; and Executive Committee members Ayaz Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Afzal Harifal, Najeebullah Kakar and Nadir Ali Chalgahri. FCC Registrar Muhammad Hafeez Ullah Khan and Secretary Mazhar Javed Bhatti were also present at the meeting. The delegation formally invited Chief Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan to visit the Balochistan Bar Council. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening cooperation between the judiciary and the legal community, improving service delivery, ensuring institutional integrity and promoting public confidence in Pakistan's constitutional justice system.—APP

indicators and targets and present its recommendations at the next meeting. NEQSI aims to establish a robust and consistent mechanism for evaluating examination quality across the country. It will support evidence-based improvements in assessment practices, promote greater comparability among examination boards, strengthen public confidence in educational qualifications and contribute to the international recognition of Pakistan's secondary and higher secondary qualifications. The initiative is also expected to benefit students seeking admission to higher education institutions in Pakistan and abroad. Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, Executive Director, IBCC, emphasized that NEQSI represents an important step towards transforming Pakistan's examination system through standardized quality benchmarks and continuous improvement. He stated, "NEQSI will help improve the quality of examinations and assessment across the country, align our examination systems with international benchmarks, and strengthen the global recognition of Pakistani qualifications. Through a consistent and transparent quality assurance framework, we aim to enhance the credibility of our examinations and expand educational opportunities for our students." The IBCC will continue working in coordination with relevant stakeholders and examination boards to advance this national initiative and promote a more transparent, reliable and internationally comparable examination system across Pakistan.—DNA

Achieving export targets essential to breaking dependency trap: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said achieving the \$100 billion export target by 2035 was essential for Pakistan to break the cycle of economic dependency, ensure sustainable growth and strengthen its economic independence. Addressing the inaugural session of the 39th International Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), themed "Mission \$100 Billion: The National Race for Sustainable Export-led Prosperity," he said Pakistan must shift from consumption-driven growth to production- and export-led growth to avoid recurring economic crises. "If Pakistan succeeds in exporting \$100 billion by 2035, then we will reach the level of economic independence. But if we fail to do this, then we will never be able to break the cycle of dependency traps," he said. The minister said a country unable to generate sufficient income to meet its needs had to rely on borrowing, which eventually constrained its decision-making, slowed development and left the aspirations of its youth vulnerable to recurring balance-of-payments crises. Comparing Pakistan's export performance with that of other countries, he said its goods exports stood at approximately \$32 billion in calendar year 2024, compared with

\$47 billion for Bangladesh, \$330 billion for Malaysia and \$404 billion for Vietnam. He said Pakistan's goods exports stood at around \$6 billion in 1990, compared with \$2.5 billion for Vietnam. By 2024, Vietnam's exports had surged to \$404 billion, underscoring the need for Pakistan to reassess its economic choices and production strategy. Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan had repeatedly experienced a cycle in which economic growth increased imports, put pressure on the exchange rate and eventually necessitated restrictive measures to restore stability. Referring to the 6 per cent economic growth recorded in 2022, he said it was accompanied by record imports of \$80 billion and a trade deficit of \$50 billion, illustrating the risks of consumption-led expansion. "There are only two ways of growth. Either you get it through consumption, or you get it through production and export," he said, adding that production- and export-led growth offered a sustainable alternative. He said the government's URAAN Pakistan framework prioritised exports to strengthen the country's capacity to generate foreign exchange and maintain economic stability over the next five, 10 and 20 years. The minister stressed that Pakistan needed to organise economic development around competitive industrial clusters, complete value chains and integration into global supply chains.—DNA

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Why UK Greens’ ‘Zionism is racism’ vote matters

DR. RAMZY BAROUD

THE Green Party has put the conversation back on track: the problem is not the lack of creative solutions to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. The problem is Zionism itself. To appreciate the significance of Motion A105, adopted by the Green Party of England and Wales on Oct. 4, consider its basic tenets. The party is now formally anti-Zionist. It endorses the Palestinian right of return, supports one democratic state throughout historic Palestine, reaffirms its commitment to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, distinguishes anti-Zionism from antisemitism, and calls for a full arms embargo against Israel. Though the decision may seem revolutionary within British politics, it is hardly revolutionary when examined against the history of Palestinian dispossession, which began long before the Nakba of 1948. Indeed, the Greens are not the first to equate Zionism with racism. That history owes much to Africa’s anticolonial movements and their struggle against apartheid. Ideas once dismissed as radical are increasingly challenging the boundaries of mainstream British politics. In 1975, the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Kampala, Uganda, drew explicit parallels between the racial systems governing South Africa, Zimbabwe and occupied Palestine, identifying their common imperialist origins. This position helped lay the groundwork for UN General Assembly Resolution 3379, adopted on Nov. 10, 1975, which determined that Zionism was a form of racism and racial discrimination. Under intense American and Israeli diplomatic pressure, the UN eventually reversed that determination in 1991. Israel, however, was not required to dismantle the discriminatory structures that had prompted the original condemnation. The revocation changed the UN’s position, not the realities confronting Palestinians. Those who yielded to American pressure in 1991 must therefore confront a troubling question of moral responsibility: Did their decision help legitimize the political structures that have sustained Palestinian dispossession, occupation and settler colonialism? The Greens have now reopened that historical debate. But they have also done something more consequential. By adopting the motion with 1,022 votes in favor and 813 against, party members demonstrated that ideas once dismissed as radical are increasingly challenging the boundaries of mainstream British politics. Yet within this achievement lie important fault lines, revealing the nature of the struggle ahead. Four of the party’s five MPs opposed the resolution. More tellingly, Sandy Ruthven, chair of Amnesty International UK’s charitable trust, resigned his Green Party membership altogether. In explaining his decision, Ruthven accused the party of seeking to court the hard-left vote while failing to confront prejudice within its own

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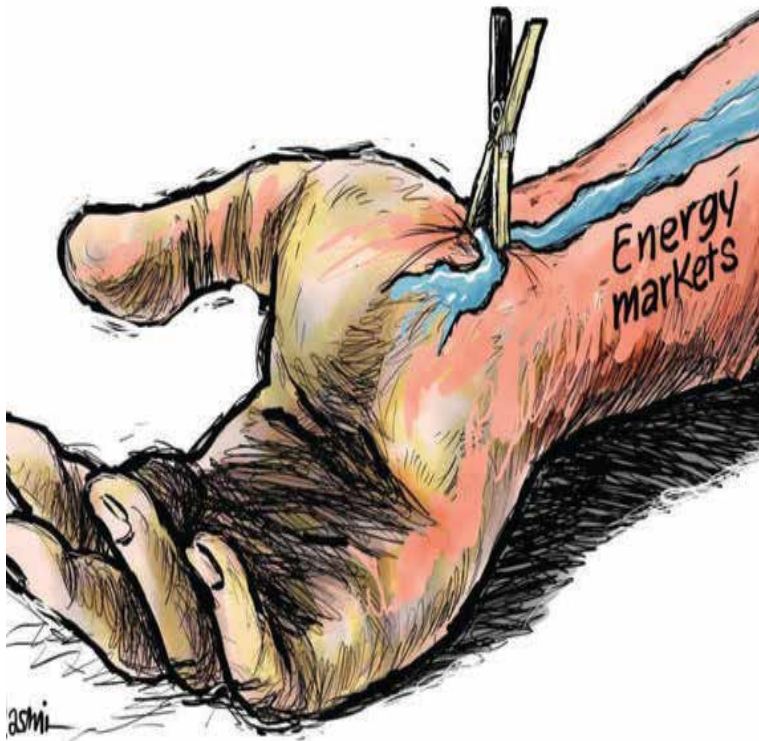
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ranks. His resignation exposes a contradiction worth examining, particularly given his association with an organization that has already documented Israel’s apartheid against Palestinians. Due to the genocide in Gaza, the Greens have effectively declared that the time for carefully managed criticism has passed. In February 2022, Amnesty International published a landmark report concluding that Israel maintained an institutionalized system of oppression and domination over Palestinians that amounted to apartheid. That recognition was belated but critically important. Apartheid, however, does not emerge in an ideological vacuum. It is sustained by political assumptions about belonging, sovereignty, demographic control and the unequal distribution of rights. The question, therefore, is not merely whether Israeli apartheid exists but what political principles made its establishment and perpetuation possible. The Zionist movement emerged in late 19th-century Europe as a nationalist project seeking a Jewish homeland, eventually pursuing Jewish statehood in Palestine. Its implementation ultimately led to the mass displacement of Palestinians in 1948. The connection between that foundational project and the discriminatory structures documented by Amnesty is impossible to ignore. How, then, can the likes of Ruthven condemn apartheid without confronting the ideology that underpins it? And if that ideology is not Zionism, what is it? The larger issue, however, is not a lack of historical knowledge among Britain’s political and intellectual elites. Rather, these elites have long positioned themselves as guardians of the permissible discourse on Israel and Palestine — a narrative that accommodates occasional criticism, sometimes even harsh condemnation, but rarely permits a fundamental challenge to the political structures themselves. The Green Party’s grassroots have now challenged that conventional wisdom. They have crossed the boundary separating what may be criticized from what must remain politically untouchable. Due to the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza, the Greens have effectively declared that the time for carefully managed criticism has passed. In doing so, they have opened a political space that others may eventually occupy, including the Labour Party, which is divided between its historically progressive grassroots and an increasingly centrist leadership whose policies, particularly on Palestine, have become virtually indistinguishable from those of the political right. The vote could also encourage similar debates across Europe, challenging political parties to confront the relationship between Zionism, antisemitism, Palestinian rights and the future of historic Palestine. But perhaps the Greens’ most consequential contribution is that they have challenged the very premise of the debate. For decades, international diplomacy has focused overwhelmingly on finding solutions while leaving the ideological foundations of the existing political order largely unexamined. The Greens have reversed that approach, essentially declaring that no political solution in Palestine, however idealistic or supposedly pragmatic, can coexist with Zionism. The backlash against the Greens was, of course, expected. But so too is the growing determination of British voters to challenge the boundaries of permissible debate across the political spectrum. This could finally open the way for a serious conversation about how the world can hold Israel accountable.

America: Where Corporate Elites Govern and the People Pay

Qamar Bashir



Donald Trump brings this convergence directly into the presidency. His family’s expanding defense investments place relatives of the commander-in-chief within businesses positioned to benefit from wartime demand. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Richard Blumenthal questioned safeguards surrounding his sons’ investment in drone manufacturer Powerus; Associated Press reporting described its efforts to sell interceptors to Gulf countries facing Iranian attacks. The pattern invites a disturbing conclusion...

PRODUCE a drone without China.” With that challenge, Simon Dixon—former investment banker, BnkToTheFuture co-founder, author of *Bank to the Future*, and host of Simon Dixon Hard Talk—questions the foundations of American power. Dixon, whose biography describes postgraduate economics training, advanced these ideas on Julian Dorey’s podcast. His argument connects military dependence, banking incentives, corporate influence, and digital manipulation. Sovereignty must be measured by who controls the factories, minerals, processing facilities, and components beneath the arsenal. When those foundations lie elsewhere, declarations of supremacy become vulnerable to decisions beyond Washington’s control. China’s position gives this warning substance. The International Energy Agency reports that China supplied 91 percent of refined magnet rare earths and 94 percent of sintered permanent magnets in 2024. These supply chains support critical civilian and defense technologies. The 2022 interruption of F-35 deliveries over a Chinese-origin alloy illustrated how dependence penetrates subcontracting networks. Rebuilding processing, technical skills, electricity infrastructure, and competitive manufacturing requires years. Financial dominance cannot instantly manufacture industrial independence. Dixon describes talk of world war as psychological theater concealing these constraints. Existing weapons provide immediate power; replacement capacity determines endurance. A confrontation disrupting critical supplies could impose severe production bottlenecks precisely when demand accelerates. Citizens therefore need an honest accounting of industrial resilience, rather than threats detached from manufacturing capacity. The strategic question is whether America can sustain the conflict its political rhetoric appears prepared to invite. The second concept concerns public borrowing becoming private revenue. Governments finance military commitments, contractors receive payments, and investors anticipate orders. Taxpayers carry obligations that outlast campaigns. Continued conflict can strengthen demand for weapons, logistics, surveillance, maintenance, and reconstruction while weakening the society financing them. What citizens experience as national sacrifice can become recurring business for commercial beneficiaries. The public balance sheet records debt and devastation; suppliers record contracts and opportunities. Afghanistan gives this divergence devastating clarity. Brown University’s Costs of War project estimated \$2.313 trillion for the Afghanistan and Pakistan war in its 2021 accounting, excluding future interest and lifetime veterans’ care. After twenty years, the Taliban returned to power. Dixon interprets this outcome as evidence that expenditure served powerful interests regardless of the mission’s failure. Who prospered while the stated purpose collapsed? A system rewarding continued contracting more reliably

than durable peace can sustain its beneficiaries through repeated strategic disasters. The banking example carries the argument into history. In March 1939, after Germany occupied Prague, Czech gold held through the Bank for International Settlements at the Bank of England was transferred to a Reichsbank account under instructions issued through coercion. The BIS acknowledges that the order should never have been executed and records wartime German payments involving looted gold. While populations suffered invasion and dispossession, financial procedures preserved institutional continuity, converting stolen national wealth into transactions. The critique of capitalism follows from this separation between responsibility and reward. The East India companies demonstrated how private commercial power could exercise governing functions. The modern charge is that powerful firms demand market freedom during expansion and public protection during collapse. The 2008 banking rescue became a defining symbol: households faced foreclosure while institutions received emergency support. Socialized losses and privately retained gains turn risk-taking into privilege when beneficiaries influence the rules governing their rescue. Corporate encroachment now reaches beyond lobbying into governing itself. The Pentagon’s September 2026 announcement that Elon Musk, Palmer Luckey, and Newt Gingrich would help lead Project Meridian, studying future warfare, makes this boundary consequential. Musk’s and Luckey’s companies have substantial defense interests. When prospective suppliers help define future military requirements, commercial ambition enters the machinery of public decision-making. Expertise does not remove the need for independent scrutiny and enforceable safeguards. Donald Trump brings this convergence directly into the presidency. His family’s expanding defense investments place relatives of the commander-in-chief within businesses positioned to benefit from wartime demand. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Richard Blumenthal questioned safeguards surrounding his sons’ investment in drone manufacturer Powerus; Associated Press reporting described its efforts to sell interceptors to Gulf countries facing Iranian attacks. The pattern invites a disturbing conclusion: the presidency shapes the conditions of war while family-linked enterprises pursue the commercial opportunities those conditions create. The war’s continuation sharpens that conclusion. On April 25, Trump canceled a negotiating trip involving his representatives, citing excessive travel and an inadequate proposed document. Viewed alongside the family’s defense investments, interrupted diplomacy and continued military demand suggest a system in which prolonged insecurity can serve private financial interests. This is an inference from the convergence of decisions, incentives, and beneficiaries. For ordinary Americans, delay means continuing

costs; for businesses selling protection, it sustains a market. The power to pursue peace becomes entangled with interests capable of profiting while peace remains elusive. Jared Kushner embodies the fusion of private finance and public diplomacy. Trump’s son-in-law has participated in sensitive negotiations while his firm, Affinity Partners, manages money from Gulf investors. In April 2026, House Judiciary Committee ranking Democrat Jamie Raskin opened an inquiry into this dual role, citing approximately \$6.16 billion in managed assets and overwhelmingly foreign funding. Here, corporate power participates directly in governing: the businessman retains commercial relationships while acting for the state. The resulting inference is that national diplomacy risks being shaped by the same financial networks whose interests the negotiator serves commercially. Corporate prominence at presidential gatherings reinforces the broader imbalance. Citizens petition from outside; wealthy executives enjoy proximity to decision-makers. Influence operates through familiarity, dependence, and agenda-setting, especially when the same firms control communications, investment, and essential services. Across capitalist economies, the danger is a gradual transfer of practical governing authority to private interests while constitutional offices retain their formal titles. Corporate access becomes most corrosive when it escapes disclosure, competition, and democratic oversight. Big data carries this influence into everyday judgment. Reactions, searches, purchases, and pauses reveal preferences and vulnerabilities. Dixon’s “boxes” describe audiences classified by belief and supplied material likely to hold attention. PNAS research found political out-group language strongly predicted sharing and angry reactions. Hostility therefore has commercial value. His “social credit” metaphor captures the fear that accumulated behavioral profiles can become instruments of influence. Citizens help feed systems capable of shaping their subsequent choices. These concepts converge on one imbalance: soldiers seek security, citizens seek prosperity, and elected representatives promise accountability, while powerful intermediaries can benefit from debt, dependence, conflict, and division. Aligned incentives and concentrated ownership can serve a narrow class without one secret command center. America’s escape requires breaking corporate capture, enforcing conflict rules, restraining monopoly, rebuilding productive capacity, and protecting public deliberation. National strength must be judged by people’s independence and well-being, rather than wealth accumulated through managing their insecurity.

Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister,
Embassy of Pakistan to France
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Houthi attacks and the price the world pays

Dr. Abdellatif El-Menawy

Trade is another casualty. In 2023, the Suez Canal, part of the Red Sea shipping route, handled about 12 percent to 15 percent of global trade, according to UN Trade and Development. The organization estimated that rerouting ships around the Cape of Good Hope adds about 12 days to journeys between Asia and Europe. Those extra days mean higher fuel, insurance and wage costs, delayed goods, tied-up capital and added pressure on food supplies and industry. Attacks on airports threaten the movement of people as well. Airport closures...

WHEN the Houthis attack Saudi Arabia, the consequences quickly extend to global interests in energy, trade and aviation. The first price is paid by civilians, whose lives and safety are put at risk. The repercussions then reach economies and societies far removed from the attacks themselves. Treating this as a Saudi problem or a regional dispute understates a threat to the foundations of international security, leaving the world to pay for its failure to confront it. Saudi Arabia sits at the heart of the global energy system, close to some of the world’s most important shipping routes. Its airports are hubs for travel and business across vast regions. Attacks on these assets give an armed group influence beyond its borders far out of proportion to its economic and political weight. That raises a fundamental question: How should the world respond when missiles and drones become instruments of pressure on states, people’s lives and the cost of everyday necessities? Understanding the threat begins with the Houthis themselves. The movement emerged in northern Yemen, particularly Saada, from a Zaydi religious revival in the 1990s. It later evolved into an armed organization that fought successive wars against the state and seized Sanaa in 2014. The movement’s local roots do not make its ties to Iran any less significant. Iranian weapons, training and expertise have helped develop Houthi military capabilities, particularly missiles and drones. Houthi operations also align with Tehran’s policy of extending its influence and pressuring its adversaries through allied armed groups. Yet the Houthis retain their own local interests and independent ambitions. We therefore cannot assume that every attack follows a direct Iranian order. This degree of autonomy leaves the Houthis responsible for their decisions, while their backer remains responsible for enabling the attacks. The global cost begins with energy. Saudi Arabia is one of the world’s largest oil exporters and the security of its facilities and export routes directly affects manufacturing, transport and prices. The US Energy Information Administration’s October outlook noted that attacks on the Kingdom’s East-West Pipeline temporarily disrupted a vital route bypassing the Strait of Hormuz and helped push Brent crude to \$131 a barrel on Sept. 15. The connection between an attack on Saudi infrastructure and higher costs

for consumers thousands of miles away could hardly be clearer. The UN’s condemnation underscores the violation of international law. But protecting civilians requires action beyond statements. The danger grows when alternative export routes also come under pressure. The East-West Pipeline carries oil to Yanbu on the Red Sea coast, helping Saudi Arabia bypass the Strait of Hormuz. But this outlet depends on secure facilities, ports and shipping routes. Cargoes heading south toward Asia must also pass through Bab Al-Mandab. Risks can therefore accumulate across several routes, weakening the market’s ability to absorb shocks and increasing the cost of securing supplies. Trade is another casualty. In 2023, the Suez Canal, part of the Red Sea shipping route, handled about 12 percent to 15 percent of global trade, according to UN Trade and Development. The organization estimated that rerouting ships around the Cape of Good Hope adds about 12 days to journeys between Asia and Europe. Those extra days mean higher fuel, insurance and wage costs, delayed goods, tied-up capital and added pressure on food supplies and industry. Attacks on airports threaten the movement of people as well. Airport closures and flight diversions disrupt airline networks and connections, affecting travel, business and tourism. Operators and passengers bear the costs. More damaging still is the erosion of confidence in the safety of civilian facilities. The consequences also reach Egypt and other Red Sea countries, whose interests depend on secure shipping and the restoration of trade through Suez. The world pays a political price whenever an attack succeeds in forcing others to accept its terms. Allowing this pattern to continue encourages other groups to use missiles and drones to blackmail states, while undermining international commitments. It also consumes resources through constant protection and military readiness and raises the risk of a miscalculation opening another front. Yemen itself remains among the greatest losers: every expansion of the group’s military adventures beyond its borders further diminishes the prospects for peace and development. The UN’s condemnation underscores the violation of international law. But protecting civilians requires action beyond statements. The UN Security Council must monitor enforcement of the arms embargo on the Houthis, strengthen investigations into smuggling and financing

networks, and impose targeted sanctions on those responsible and their supporters. These measures should be accompanied by documentation of the attacks, investigations and accountability, while safeguarding the flow of food and medicine into Yemen. To be effective, pressure must reach the sources that sustain the attacks. The US and Europe have a responsibility to support the defense of airports and critical facilities, share intelligence and protect shipping. Protective measures are likely to continue but ending the threat requires broader coordination and a clear political objective for military action: stopping attacks and preventing their recurrence. Deterrence requires capability and credibility. Diplomacy needs that deterrence behind it. Intermittent action gives the Houthis time to rebuild their capabilities and wait for international attention to fade. China and Russia also have a role. Their energy and trade interests give them a direct reason to act, while their relations with Tehran offer an opportunity to exert pressure. Iran must be pressed to halt military supplies and use its influence to stop the attacks. Any Iranian offer of mediation gains credibility when words are matched by verifiable steps. The Houthis’ relative autonomy makes direct engagement with them necessary, alongside pressure on their backers. Within the region, Saudi Arabia has the right to protect its people and infrastructure and its security deserves practical Arab support. Egypt, the Gulf states and Red Sea countries share an interest in coordinating the protection of shipping routes, exchanging intelligence and supporting the legitimate Yemeni government to strengthen security and prevent the conflict from widening. Oman’s channels of communication could help secure clear commitments to halt attacks as part of a UN-led effort to revive a Yemeni settlement. A lasting resolution must connect that settlement with rebuilding a capable Yemeni state, bringing weapons under the authority of state institutions and securing guarantees against cross-border threats. Saudi security, international shipping and peace in Yemen are interdependent interests. The world will keep paying the price as long as it recognizes the source of the danger and does no more than describe it.

– Dr. Abdellatif El-Menawy has covered conflicts worldwide. He is the author of “The Copts: An Investigation into the Rift between Muslims and Copts in Egypt.”

Briefs

Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia 'unacceptable': Dar

FROM PAGE 01

the press conference sign “a number of bilateral agreements”, Dar said. He added that the two ministers had also agreed to hold a business-to-business investment forum in Pakistan. The ministers discussed the situation in Gulf as well, he said, adding that “Pakistan remained committed to contributing constructively to diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region”. Dar said that the two sides also exchanged views on recent Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia. He said that he conveyed Pakistan’s condemnation of the attacks. “I underscored that attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure are totally unacceptable. My brother [Albusaidi] actually fully endorses this. Violations of international law pose a serious threat to regional peace and security,” he said. “I reaffirmed Pakistan’s full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and our unwavering commitment to the kingdom’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and security in accordance with the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement,” he said. They also “emphasised the urgent need for unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza”, Dar said. DPM Dar also stressed that India’s unilateral abeyance of the Indus Water Treaty was “a material breach of international law”. “This action threatens the water, food and energy security of Pakistan’s 250 million people,” Dar said. Speaking at the occasion, Albusaidi said the JMC had “provided an important opportunity to review the state of bilateral relations”. He said that two sides “reaffirmed the strength of the longstanding ties” between the two countries. “Both Oman and Pakistan attach great importance to dialogue and diplomacy as essential means of addressing regional challenges, easing tensions and promoting peace and stability,” Albusaidi said. He also appreciated Pakistan’s diplomatic role in the US-Iran war. He reaffirmed the two countries’ “shared commitment to further deepening our bilateral partnership and broadening cooperation across centres of mutual benefit”. The two countries agreed that dialogue and diplomacy were “the only way forward” to resolve regional conflicts, Dar said in response to a reporter’s question. “We are both on the same page,” he said. Meanwhile, Dar told reporters that a free trade agreement between Pakistan and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would help expand business activities, adding that he was told that barring one, all countries had consented to the agreement. Responding to a question about the gaps in between bilateral talks between the two countries, Dar said Albusaidi’s visit was previously delayed because Pakistan had been involved in mediation efforts between US and Iran. Albusaidi added that discussions had continued “behind the scenes”. Responding to a question about the Strait of Hormuz, Albusaidi said that Oman was committed to “unhindered navigation” through the strait “because of its vitality to the global economy and the region”. Albusaidi arrived in Pakistan on Tuesday on a two-day visit. Speaking at the outset of the 8th session of the JMC, Dar said the two had “worked out” certain areas of bilateral interest and discussed global issues in detail, including the US-Iran war, the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, Bab Al-Mandab and Gaza in their restricted meeting. Dar said the two sides had also discussed Jammu and Kashmir and other pressing regional issues. He commended Albusaidi’s leadership and efforts towards regional peace in the Middle East. “I personally greatly admire your efforts. I know how much hard work you have put in,” he said, noting that Pakistan’s position on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was “very unique”. “We are members of both the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and, obviously, the United Nations and other multilateral bodies,” Dar said.

Pak Army team wins Silver at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026

Exercise Cambrian Patrol was held in Wales from 2 to 13 October 2026. The exercise is widely regarded as one of the most demanding international military patrolling competitions

DNA

WALES: High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK, Tipu Usman hosted Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026 Silver Medal winning team of Pakistan Army at the High Commission. Pakistan travel guide The High Commissioner discussed their experience of the exercise and congratulated them on their achievement. Exercise Cambrian Patrol was held in Wales from 2 to 13 October 2026. The exercise is widely regarded as one of the most demanding international military patrolling competitions. This year 140 teams from 36 countries

took part. Pakistan’s entry, drawn from 59 Punjab Regiment, consisted of one officer and seven soldiers, and earned a Silver Medal. The result adds to Pakistan Army’s consistent record at the event. Its teams won Silver in 2022 and 2023, followed by Gold in 2024 and 2025. With this year’s Silver, Pakistan has now medalled in five consecutive years. The visit to the High Commission gave the team a chance to share their experience with mission staff and to be recognised for their efforts. Their performance reflects the professionalism and fitness of Pakistan Army personnel and adds to the country’s standing in international military competition.



DP World to transport Rory McIlroy’s performance environment around the world

Yuvraj Narayan, group CEO, DP World, said: “Moving goods reliably across borders is what we do for customers in every corner of the world

DNA

DUBAI: Rory McIlroy’s season takes him around the world, but his training and recovery environment will not have to change with it. In a new multi-year global partnership announced on Tuesday, DP World will transport McIlroy’s personalized fitness and recovery environment to every tournament, using its smart end-to-end global logistics network to give him and his team greater consistency. At the heart of the partnership are two personalized fitness and recovery trailers that will travel with McIlroy across his PGA Tour and DP World Tour schedules. DP World is set to manage every stage of their journeys, from collection and customs clearance to

storage and delivery, so everything McIlroy needs to train and recover is ready when he arrives at each tournament. McIlroy said recently: “When you’re competing around the world, consistency really matters. “Having the same environment to train and recover in every week gives me and my team one less thing to think about and lets us focus on preparing and performing. “DP World knows how to make that happen wherever I am playing. I am really excited to have DP World on the team as we continue to push the boundaries of performance together.” Under the multi-year agreement, McIlroy becomes a Global Ambassador for DP World, while the firm becomes his exclusive partner in logistics and supply chain globally.

Each trailer is equipped with strength and cardio equipment, an infrared sauna, a cold plunge and a Hyperice recovery station, giving McIlroy and his team the facilities they need to train and recover on site. Yuvraj Narayan, group CEO, DP World, said: “Moving goods reliably across borders is what we do for customers in every corner of the world. “Applying our global scale, network and logistics expertise to help Rory perform at his best is a natural fit, and a powerful way to show what a smart, end-to-end supply chain makes possible. “It’s a groundbreaking partnership that sets a new standard for how a business can support an athlete’s performance. We’re proud to have him on our team.

Old trends resurface for Al-Ittihad

DNA

DUBAI: Al-Ittihad have failed to secure a victory in their first two matches of the AFC Champions League Elite for the second season running, after suffering a 2-1 defeat against the UAE’s Shabab Al-Ahli on Tuesday at Al-Nama Stadium in Jeddah. The loss in the second round of the West Zone group stage marked Al-Ittihad’s first defeat in this season’s continental competition, following a 1-1 draw with Al-Shamal of Qatar in the opening round. This mirrors last year’s scenario, where they also failed to win in their first two matches, suffering consecutive defeats against Al-Wahda of the UAE (2-1) and compatriots Shabab Al-Ahli (1-0). On Tuesday in Jeddah, Al-Ittihad trailed Shabab Al-Ahli early in the first half, conceding two goals from Sardar Azmoun in the seventh and 16th minutes. After the break, the Saudi club managed to reduce the deficit through Colombian midfielder Richard Rios in the 66th minute, but the goal was not enough to salvage any points from the match.

Sahibzada Farhan shatters Abhishek Sharma’s all-time T20I record

DNA

PAKISTAN captain Sahibzada Farhan on Tuesday broke India’s Abhishek Sharma’s record for the most runs scored in a three-match bilateral T20I series between two full member nations. Farhan, who was named Pakistan’s full-time T20I captain ahead of the series against Sri Lanka, made his first home assignment in the leadership role memorable as the right-handed batter registered half-centuries in each of the three fixtures. The Pakistan captain finished with 238 runs at an astounding average of 79.33 and a strike rate of 165.27, and was thus adjudged the Player of the Series. As a result, Farhan broke Abhishek’s record of scoring the most runs in a three-match bilateral series between two full-member International Cricket Council (ICC) nations. The Indian opener set the record during the world champions’ three-match home series against Afghanistan earlier this year, during which he accumulated 229 runs at 76.33, scoring one century and a fifty. Farhan started the series against Sri Lanka with a match-winning 53-ball 89, featuring 10 fours and four sixes, which helped the home side comfortably chase down the 183-run target and prevail by four wickets. The 30-year-old was equally exceptional in the subsequent fixture as he scored 73 off just 44 deliveries, which helped the Green Shirts pile up a mammoth total of 215/3. In turn, Sri Lanka could only manage 133/7 in their 20 overs and thus succumbed to a series-conceding defeat. Farhan continued his rich vein of form in the last fixture of the series and played a defiant 76-run knock, which came off just 47 deliveries, and lifted Pakistan to a formidable total against Sri Lanka.

Saudi Toyota C’ship Time Attack to be decided in Jeddah

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi racing drivers Mamoun Amr Al-Kabbani and Faisal Soufyan Al-Kabbani will renew their season-long rivalry when the Saudi Toyota Championship Time Attack holds its third and final round on Oct. 15-16 at Jeddah Corniche Circuit. The final round will feature competition across 11 categories, in addition to the Ladies Cup. Mamoun won the opening round with a record time of 1 minute, 12.279 seconds. Faisal responded in the second round, lowering the mark to 1 minute, 11.377 seconds and edging Mamoun by just nine-thousandths of a second. Mustafa Nabeel Al-Atari finished third overall in the second round, which drew 67 male and female competitors. Reem Al-Aboud, meanwhile, won the Ladies Cup, followed by Yasmine Al-Sayed and Enas Abtini. Unlike wheel-to-wheel racing, time attack competition ranks drivers by their fastest recorded lap on a designated circuit layout. The format emphasizes driving skill and precise car control rather than overtaking or starting position. The final round begins on Thursday, Oct. 15, with administrative checks and vehicle inspections at 2 p.m., followed by a drivers’ briefing at 5 p.m. and free practice at 6 p.m. Competitive sessions on Friday, Oct. 16, are scheduled for 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., before the round and season conclude with the prize-giving ceremony at 11 p.m.

Season title on the line at Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Jiu-Jitsu C’ship

ABU DHABI: The eighth and final round of the third Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Jiu-Jitsu Championship takes place at Mubadala Arena in Abu Dhabi from Oct. 16 to 18. Organized by the UAE Jiu-Jitsu and Mixed Martial Arts Federation, the round will decide the Gi champions, with the top finishers in the season’s overall Gi and No-Gi standings honored at the closing ceremony. Baniyas Jiu-Jitsu Club lead the overall Gi standings heading into the finale, followed by Al-Ain Jiu-Jitsu Club and Palms Sports - Team 777. With athletes across all age groups and weight categories earning points for their teams, the title race remains open and every result could make a difference. The competition begins on Friday, Oct. 16, with the under-18, Adults and Masters categories for men and women. Boys and girls in the Kids’ categories take to the mats on Saturday. Athletes under 12, 14 and 16 compete on Sunday. Fahad Ali Al-Shamsi, secretary-general of the federation, said recently: “The final round is the culmination of a full season of hard work, consistent training and careful preparation by clubs and academies. “The closely contested title race reflects that effort, with male and female athletes across all age groups contributing to their teams’ points totals throughout the season.” He said the competition “allows clubs and academies to track their progress and identify areas for

improvement, helping prepare athletes to compete at higher levels and represent the UAE internationally.” He added: “The championship also builds pride in representing a club, with families, coaches and administrative staff working together to support each athlete’s progress. “Their contribution goes beyond winning titles and helps us develop new talent and maintain the high standards of UAE jiu-jitsu. Among the standout young athletes competing in the final round are Khaled Al-Kathiri of Baniyas Jiu-Jitsu Club, Alyazia Al-Shamsi of Al-Ain Jiu-Jitsu Club and Zayed Ali Al-Teneiji of Palms Sports - Team 777. Al-Kathiri, who competes in the under-16 category, said: “In every match, I have a responsibility to my club and teammates. Regular training, listening to my coach and support from my family have helped me improve. I want to help my team finish the season in first place.” Al-Shamsi, an under-18 competitor, said: “The championship has helped me improve my skills and feel more confident. My team, family and coaches have encouraged me to give my best. I want to finish the season with my best performance.” Al-Teneiji, who competes in the under-14 category, said: “After each round, I look at my performance and work on what I can improve. That has helped me get better throughout the championship. I want to earn points that help the academy move up the overall standings. – DNA

Barcelona and Arsenal win in Champions League

DNA

BARCELONA survived a scare against Galatasaray in the Champions League on Tuesday. But Bayern Munich was stunned by a late equalizer from Viking in a 3-3 draw in Norway. Arsenal rolled over Lille and it was more misery for Manchester United. Barcelona’s 100 percent start to the season was under threat down 1-0 to Galatasaray in Istanbul, but the Spanish champion rallied to a 4-1 win. Bayern was in even more trouble against Viking, trailing 2-0 at half-time before Harry Kane turned the game around with two goals after the break. Luis Diaz looked to have completed the comeback, but a red card for Michael Olise and a 90th minute goal from Herman Haugen provided another twist. Arsenal cruised to a 3-0 win at home over Lille and Atletico Madrid piled more pressure on United coach Michael Carrick with a 2-0 win at the Metropolitano. Inter Milan fell to a surprise 4-3 home loss to Club Brugge, and Villarreal beat Napoli 3-1. It’s 10 straight wins for Barcelona after it maintained its perfect record in all competitions despite early trouble in Turkey.

Aleksey Batrakov gave Galatasaray the lead before his team had a second goal ruled out for a tight offside. Joao Cancelo’s goal leveled the score just before halftime and it was all Barcelona after that with goals from Fermin Lopez, Anthony Gordon and Karim Adeyemi. “In the second half, we dominated the game,” Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said. “We have to play like this, control the game, move the ball. This is our quality. This is our strength, and we have to show our level.” A bizarre sending-off for Olise paved the way for Norwegian team Viking to rescue a draw in its first Champions League home game since 1992. Shortly after Bayern went ahead 3-2, Olise picked up two yellow cards in quick succession – the second for tossing the ball at opponent Zlatko Tripic while the referee was still booking him for his first foul. Tripic then provided the cross that allowed Haugen to head in the equalizer in the 90th minute. “We were dominant, but at the moment it feels like every chance for the opposition leads to a goal,” Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said. Lisandro Martinez hit out at Manchester United’s hierarchy after the club extended its winless run to five games. Michael Carrick’s team has won just two games in all competitions this

term and fell to a fourth loss after goals from Pablo Barrios in the first minute and Ademola Lookman in the second half. Speaking afterward, Martinez was critical of United’s offseason recruitment. “I have to control myself a lot. But sometimes it’s a reflection in the mirror of how is our club at the moment,” the Argentina defender told Amazon Prime. “We did a fantastic season last season. And now we expect more from the top, from up, to bring more players to compete because many teams bring many players as well, and today also Atletico they have an amazing team and they deserved to win today. “I expect more from our technical director. I would have to be honest, as the players, we have to do more, but it’s just important when you make a strong squad to be ready for this kind of night.” In London, Bukayo Saka stepped off the bench to score a goal in Arsenal’s 3-0 win over Lille. The England forward came on after 65 minutes at the Emirates and within two minutes set up at goal for Eberechi Eze. Four minutes later he was on the score sheet himself. Jurrien Timber had given Arsenal the lead in the 64th. Nicolo Tresoldi is emerging as one of the brightest prospects in Europe and he enhanced his reputation

with a hat trick in Brugge’s seven-goal thriller against Inter. The Italian-born Germany under-21 international opened the scoring with a first-half penalty and completed his hat trick with two more after the break. Lautaro Martinez scored twice for Inter. “It was my dream as a kid to play here,” he told broadcaster Proximus Belgium. “I was here in the stands as a kid watching Milan and tonight I played against Inter. It can’t get any better. I was shaking before the penalty, but it was the perfect moment.” There was also defeat for Napoli at Villarreal despite going ahead early on through Amir Rahmani. Azerbaijani outsider Sabah claimed its first win in the league phase of the competition by beating Slavia Prague 2-0. Second-half goals from Kaheem Parris and Joy-Lance Mickels secured the historic win in Baku. The club was only founded nine years ago. Sporting Lisbon also sealed a 2-0 win at Lens through goals from Luis Suarez and Issa Doumbia. Brajan Gruda’s first Champions League goal lifted Leipzig to a 1-0 win over PSV Eindhoven to rebound after a heavy opening loss to newcomer Como. Leipzig keeper Maarten Vandevoort earlier saved a penalty from PSV’s Ivan Perisic.

Houthi vow more attacks

FROM PAGE 01

the group’s stronghold in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, which for years has been under their grip. Yahya Saree, Houthi military spokesman, said their forces had conducted “a high-quality military operation targeting Aramco in Dhahran” as well as strikes targeting Riyadh airport and a refinery in the capital. “This was carried out using a large number of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones,” he said, adding that “operations toward Saudi depths will continue in the coming days, targeting Saudi enemy airports and oil facilities”. Earlier, a Saudi energy ministry official said a building belonging to Aramco in Dhahran was struck, resulting in a “limited fire” but “no casualties or fatalities”. Dhahran is home to Aramco’s headquarters, a vast complex comprising numerous buildings and residential compounds.

Saudi attacks may have spill...

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central banks to hike interest rates to cool inflation. “What is our loudest call to policymakers right now? Make urgent repairs to the fiscal house before the cracks widen,” Georgieva said. “Now is the time to enhance revenues, to rationalize spending and improve public financial management.” In its closely watched World Economic Outlook released on Tuesday, the IMF raised its 2026 global growth forecast by 0.1 percentage points to 3.1 percent. However, it warned that while new economic activity has been sparked by rising investment in AI, poorer countries are not benefiting as they deal with soaring energy costs. The global economy “remains resilient in the face of very frequent repetitive shocks and in the face of uncertainty,” Georgieva said. “But this resilience is reaching its limits.” The IMF chief called for greater support for low-income countries to “strengthen their fundamentals so they can withstand shocks.” She noted that a global rise in interest rates had also caused debt servicing costs to increase from around six percent of government revenues a decade ago to 14 percent today. And in its Global Policy Agenda released on Wednesday, the Fund warned that debt servicing challenges had become particularly acute for “low-income and vulnerable economies.” Georgieva said the IMF had been “ringing the alarm bell on excessive global economic imbalances growing.” “To put it very simply, China needs to spend more, the US has to save more and Europe has to invest more,” she added. Advanced economies have seen their debt-to-GDP ratios skyrocket since the Covid-19 pandemic and wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, with governments forced to increase spending to cushion the impact of those shocks. In China, a persistent slump in domestic demand has coincided with a historic surge in exports, accumulating trade surpluses that are becoming more and more politically problematic abroad. Addressing the issue of how to tackle spiking bond yields, Georgieva admitted “there is no magic.”

PTI challenges governor’s...

FROM PAGE 01

the light and that their suggestions would be heard. Referring to the federal government’s policy on terrorism, Kundi said that for the past 13 years, those in the province had not taken ownership of policies issued by the federation to combat terrorism. “We will take ownership,” he said, adding that he had previously been fighting with the federal government and would continue to do so. Kundi also pledged to address gas load-shedding during winter and resolve the flour shortage in the province. He said there were 17,000 vacant posts in the provincial police force and that he had directed the inspector general of police to proceed with recruitment and promotions.

Briefs

Gold prices fall
by Rs3,000 per
tola

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices witnessed a decline in the local market on Wednesday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs3,000 to settle at Rs437,836, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs2,572 to Rs375,373, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold fell by Rs2,358 to Rs344,104.

In the international market, the price of gold declined by \$30 to \$4,153 per ounce, the association reported.

Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola decreased by Rs172 to Rs6,360, while the price of 10 grams of silver fell by Rs148 to Rs5,452.

The price of silver in the international market also declined by \$1.72 to \$58.82 per ounce, the association added.—APP

Rupee gains
01 paisa
against Dollar

ISLAMABAD: Rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 276.95, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 276.96.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the dollar's open-market buying and selling rates were Rs 277.60 and Rs 280.30, respectively.

The price of the Euro against the rupee increased by Rs 0.11, closing at Rs 310.05 against the previous day's rate of Rs 309.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 1.74, and the British Pound witnessed an increase of Rs 0.71 and closed at Rs 367.40 compared to the previous day's Rs366.69. The exchange rates of the Emirate Dirham remained stagnant at Rs 75.40, while the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 73.75.—APP

PSX turns
around, gains
over 641 points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) reversed its bearish trend on Wednesday, gaining 641.07 points, a positive change of 0.39 percent, to close at 165,417.51 points against 164,776.44 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 585.894 million shares, compared to 383.746 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value increased to Rs20.073 billion from Rs13.104 billion.

Market capitalisation advanced to Rs18.391 trillion from Rs18.325 trillion recorded a day earlier.

Out of 501 companies that traded in the ready market, 256 posted gains, 200 suffered losses, while 45 remained unchanged, reflecting a bullish trend in the market. WorldCall Telecom led the volume chart with 87.347 million shares, followed by Pak Refinery with 42.296 million shares and Nergico PK with 41.183 million shares.—APP

Pakistan's
Mapak Edible
Oil wins
Primaduta
Award

JAKARTA: Pakistan's entrepreneur has achieved a significant international milestone as "Mapak Edible Oil Private Limited," a Pakistani entrepreneurial venture in the edible oil sector, won the prestigious Primaduta Award 2026 at the 41st edition of Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI) in BSD City, Jakarta, Indonesia. The award recognizes the company's contribution to strengthening economic and trade relations with Indonesia and its commitment to sourcing and promoting Indonesian products in international markets. The award was received by the Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Chandra Warse-nanto Sukotjo on behalf of the Pakistani businesses, marking a proud moment for Pakistan's entrepreneurs and bilateral economic cooperation. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, along with the Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi, in a group photo at the successful conclusion of the 8th Session of the Pakistan-Oman JMC at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pak offers vast investment opportunities to Chinese investors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Wednesday invited Chinese investors to explore Pakistan's vast investment potential in manufacturing, technology, agriculture, minerals and infrastructure to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation. The minister said during a meeting with Dr. Li Kouqing, Deputy Director of the CAREC Institute, and Dr. Ghulam Samad, Chief of its Research Division, which focused on enhancing institutional cooperation, promoting investment and expanding economic collaboration between Pakistan and China, said a news release. Senior officials of the BoI, including Additional Secretary Zulfikar Ali and Director General Mehmood Tufail, also attended the meeting.

Welcoming the delegation, the minister appreciated Dr. Li Kouqing's efforts to strengthen institutional engagement and promote economic cooperation. Recalling his participation in a CAREC event in Urumqi, China, last year, he acknowledged the CAREC leadership's role in facilitating his meeting with the Chinese finance minister on the sidelines of the event. He underscored the importance of sustaining such engagements and expressed his desire to

further strengthen interaction with Chinese leadership and institutions to advance mutually beneficial economic ties.

Dr. Li Kouqing expressed interest in exploring further cooperation between the CAREC Institute, BOI and relevant government institutions. He also proposed organising investment focused events in different Pakistani cities to bring together policymakers, researchers, investors and business communities and showcase the country's economic potential. Welcoming the proposal, Qaiser Sheikh assured full government support and facilitation for such initiatives, noting that direct engagement among institutions and investors could help identify promising sectors and encourage greater investment flows. The minister said that Pakistan is an attractive destination for investment, offering a large consumer market, a substantial workforce and significant opportunities across multiple sectors. He highlighted that Pakistan has the world's fifth-largest population, providing considerable potential for investment in manufacturing, technology, agriculture, minerals, infrastructure and other growth-oriented industries.

Sharing his recent experience of international investor engagement, the minister informed the delegation that he had visited the United States approximately three

weeks earlier, where he interacted with a number of investors. He noted that international investors are increasingly interested in exploring opportunities in the Pakistani market. While Pakistan's market remains less developed in several areas than those of neighbouring countries, he emphasised that this presents substantial room for growth, expansion and new investment. With the right partnerships, an enabling business environment and effective government facilitation, Pakistan can attract investment while creating employment opportunities and strengthening its productive capacity.

The minister also highlighted the importance of upcoming international and regional engagements in promoting Pakistan as an investment destination. He informed the delegation that Pakistan is scheduled to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit next year, with Chinese President Xi Jinping expected to attend. A business forum is also planned alongside the SCO-related engagements, providing an important platform for business leaders, investors and policymakers to explore partnerships and investment opportunities. Meanwhile, Qaiser Sheikh shared that a Pakistan Tech Forum is planned for next month, reflecting the government's focus on promoting technology-driven in-

vestment, innovation and business collaboration. He noted that these initiatives, alongside ongoing investment facilitation and regulatory reforms, offer opportunities to strengthen Pakistan's economic partnerships and attract international investors. Qaiser Ahmed reiterated that the government remains committed to supporting domestic and foreign investors through improved coordination, streamlined processes and assistance in identifying viable investment opportunities.

He emphasised that the government welcomes constructive engagement with international institutions, research organisations and business communities to promote investment, strengthen economic cooperation and support sustainable economic growth. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to explore avenues for continued engagement between the CAREC Institute, the Board of Investment and relevant government institutions, including potential collaborative events and initiatives aimed at highlighting Pakistan's investment potential and strengthening economic cooperation between Pakistan and China. The Board of Investment remains committed to facilitating investors, strengthening international partnerships and positioning Pakistan as a competitive and attractive destination for investment.

Nepal flood triggered by rock and ice avalanche

KATMANDU: Nepal's disaster authority said Wednesday that an avalanche of rock and ice triggered a recent flash flood, echoing the mountain collapse that unleashed a tsunami-like wall of water in August. The flood on Sunday came less than two months after an ice and rock collapse on August 26 sparked a catastrophic flood in Rasuwa district, killing more than 1,400 people and leaving over 5,000 missing, raising fresh concerns about the risks posed by Nepal's unstable mountain terrain. The latest flood left five people missing and swept away 200 houses and five bridges in central Gorkha district.

It was initially blamed on a landslide, but the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority said its analysis showed the torrent was triggered by an avalanche in an area with weak rock and at an altitude of about 6,000 meters (19,685 feet). The findings underscore the need for better monitoring and early-warning systems in Nepal's mountainous regions, where sudden collapses can unleash devastating torrents as mountain permafrost thaws. "The nature of this disaster is similar to what we saw in Rasuwa," disaster authority head Dharam Raj Uprety told AFP. "The frequency shows that it has become critical that we monitor our mountains and make our early warning systems more effective." Uprety said authorities had received some warning of the flood, allowing them to alert communities and help minimize casualties. The report said several smaller landslides also occurred, blocking the river before the debris gave way and the Budhi Gandaki surged downstream.—APP

Call for global coop to develop climate solutions

ICELAND: Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik has called for global cooperation to develop practical climate solutions, proposing a virtual green university, a dedicated fund for green start-ups and shared access to publicly funded information technology to strengthen climate resilience.

Addressing the Arctic Circle Assembly 2026 in Iceland, the minister highlighted the devastating impact of glacial melting and climate-related disasters on vulnerable communities, particularly in Pakistan's northern mountain regions, and urged the international community to move beyond commemorating environmental losses towards developing practical solutions. Recalling the death of a glacier in Iceland in 2019, which was commemorated with a plaque, he said the final line of the inscription — "Only you know if we did it" — raised questions about collective responsibility for environmental destruction. "In my mountains, glaciers don't die quietly," he said, describing how falling boulders and torrents of water could devastate valleys and leave communities facing loss and destruction. The minister recounted the experience of Zara, a resident of Hassanabad in Hunza, whose community had lived in the area for around 400 years or more. He said the Shisper Glacier, which supported local livelihoods, farming, water supplies and food security, broke after temperatures rose and a lake formed behind it in May 2022. Zara's husband was working in the fields when the glacier broke. As the ground trembled and boulders came down, he rushed home and helped his wife and children escape, saving their lives, the minister said. However, their house, livestock and essential community facilities, including schools and clinics, were lost, leaving the family and other residents facing renewed poverty. Dr. Musadik Malik said it had taken generations for such families to emerge from poverty, while a single glacial disaster could reverse that progress. He said around 1,000 households in the affected areas of Nagar and Hunza's Hassanabad valley were wiped away within a month. Recalling his visit to the affected area, he said a young girl had taken him to the rubble of her house and told him that her child was buried somewhere beneath it. Quoting Zara's account of the psychological impact on children, he said: "My children used to look at these mountains with wonder. Now they look at this mountain with fear." Drawing a comparison with Nepal, the minister referred to a glacial disaster there in August, saying the water level rose by nine metres, or 27 feet, within half an hour, sweeping away bridges, roads, hospitals and other infrastructure. He cited 600 deaths and said that, according to some estimates, the toll had exceeded 1,000 since the disaster. The minister said the experiences of communities in Hunza and Nepal reflected a shared climate challenge, expressing solidarity with affected populations across the region and elsewhere in the world.—DNA

Fiscal deficit falls to 22-year low: Aurangzeb

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday said Pakistan's fiscal deficit had declined to 2.6 percent of GDP from a peak of 12.5 percent, while tax revenues increased by 40 percent over the past two years. The minister was talking at a penal discussion on "Mitigating Sovereign Risks in Market-Access Countries" at the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings 2026, Bangkok. He attributed the economic turnaround to fiscal discipline, revenue mobilisation, debt management and structural reforms.

The minister said the country had recorded three consecutive years of primary surpluses, with the fiscal deficit reaching a 22-year low in the last fiscal year. Inflation, which had peaked at 38 percent, had fallen to single digits before recently moving into the 10 percent range amid the ongoing conflict, he added. Aurangzeb said foreign exchange reserves had improved from a level covering just two weeks of imports to approximately three months of import cover, strengthening the country's capacity to manage domestic and external economic shocks. He identified domestic revenue mobilisation as the starting point of the recovery, noting that Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio had increased from around 8.5 percent to 10.3 per-

cent. He stressed the need to broaden the tax base, improve tax administration and leverage technology and process reforms to enhance revenue collection. The minister acknowledged that securing tax compliance remained a major challenge, observing that persuading people to pay taxes was among the most difficult aspects of economic reform. He also highlighted expenditure reduction and privatisation as important components of the government's fiscal consolidation efforts. Discussing public debt, Aurangzeb said Pakistan's overall debt-to-GDP ratio had declined from around 75 percent to 68 percent. Given that debt servicing remained the largest item in the federal budget, the government had undertaken domestic debt liability-management operations, including buy-backs and extending maturities, to reduce borrowing costs and create fiscal space for other priorities.

On external debt, he said Pakistan had regained access to international capital markets after a gap of four years. Under its medium-term debt strategy, the government aimed to avoid increasing the overall stock of external debt while extending maturities, reducing rollover risks and moving towards a more sustainable debt profile. Aurangzeb noted that Pakistan's issuance of a \$3 billion international bond in the first week of September had benefited from favourable market conditions, but stressed that such opportunities required systematic planning and preparedness.

Regarding engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the minister said the government had sought to use the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to make macroeconomic stability more durable and advance long-delayed structural reforms in taxation, energy, tariffs, state-owned enterprises and pensions. He said the key difference from previous IMF programmes was the ownership of reforms at the political leadership level, particularly by the prime minister. The government viewed the reform agenda as Pakistan's own programme, with the IMF providing support and financing, rather than reforms being pursued merely to meet external conditions. Acknowledging resistance to changes in the status quo, Aurangzeb said structural reforms required political commitment and sustained discipline. He added that the IMF mission's departure on October 7 following a staff-level agreement, covering quantitative and structural benchmarks, demonstrated that the country remained on course. The minister said rating upgrades and the restoration of market access had provided external validation of Pakistan's economic direction, adding that the government was committed to maintaining the reform momentum. He emphasised that macroeconomic stability, although essential, was only the foundation for recovery, and that Pakistan now needed to transition towards sustainable economic growth to ensure that the benefits of reforms reached the wider population.

Container ship sinks near Hormuz after being hit by projectile

LONDON: A container ship has sunk near the Strait of Hormuz after being hit by a projectile, while a separate dry bulk carrier damaged in an earlier attack is also reported to be sinking, maritime security sources said on Wednesday. "Commercial vessel 'GFS PRIDE' reported sunk with floating containers ... mariners cautioned," the Hydrographer of Pakistan said in a navigational warning to ships dated Oct. 14.

The Singapore-flagged vessel's UAE-based manager GFS Ship Management FZE could not be immediately reached for comment.

The loss of the GFS Pride marks the second vessel to sink since the US-Iran war began on Feb. 28, according to data from UN shipping agency, the International Maritime Organization.

In a separate incident, the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged Cape Dao was reported to be sinking close to the strait after being struck by a projectile on September 23, the sources added. The vessel's UAE-based manager Peonies Shipmanagement FZE could not be immediately reached for comment.

"The Antigua & Barbuda flagged bulk carrier CAPE DAO, originally hit on the 23 September, is reported to be sinking after an unsuccessful rescue attempt," British maritime risk management group Vanguard said in a note on Wednesday. Iran is deploying new tactics to target ships sailing through the Strait of Hormuz as it seeks to keep oil prices high and influence the US midterm elections, two senior Iranian officials told Reuters.

Israeli settlers set fire to mosque in occupied West Bank

MIKHMAS, Palestinian Territories: Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque and graffitied its outside walls on Wednesday in the occupied West Bank village of Mikhmās, Palestinian sources and the Israeli military said. Atta Kanaan, a Palestinian resident of Mikhmās who lives 50 meters from the mosque, told AFP that he heard the sound of breaking glass shortly after midnight on Wednesday and immediately went to the building. "A fire was burning fiercely, and we called the fire brigade. Young men rushed to help us with fire extinguishers, and we managed to contain part of the fire before the flames engulfed the entire mosque," he said. Israel's military told AFP that soldiers were dispatched to Mikhmās following a report of graffiti and arson at the mosque, as well as damage to a vehicle. "No suspects were identified," it said, adding an investigation had been opened. AFP video footage showed that the fire had burned down the mosque's interior carpeting and blackened the walls. An AFP journalist reported that slogans were spraypainted in Hebrew on the exterior walls, including "just because we are quiet doesn't mean we are asleep." Settlers also set fire to a car, Kanaan said, adding that in recent weeks villagers had formed night-watch patrols out of fear that settlers might torch homes, particularly those on the outskirts of the village.—APP

Briefs

Car sales
jump 43% in
first quarter
of FY27

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Passenger car sales in Pakistan rose 43% year-on-year in the first quarter of FY2026-27, but uncertainty over the auto policy and sales tax continues to weigh on investment decisions by manufacturers and buyers, according to data released by the Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA). PAMA Director General Razur Rahman stated that July-September figures point to a resurgence of customer interest in member companies' products. Barring light commercial vehicles (LCVs), jeeps and pickups, all categories rebounded, helped by easing inflation and an improving macroeconomic environment. Passenger car production rose 32% YoY in the quarter. LCVs, jeeps and pickups posted a nominal 1\$ rise in production, but sales fell a sharp 34%. Trucks and buses grew 54% in production and 46% in sales on strong domestic demand. Farm tractor sales surged 38%, even as production contracted 15%, while two- and three-wheelers grew 28% in both production and sales. PAMA said the recovery is tempered by "perceptible hesitation" among market players, with the lack of policy clarity dominating sentiment. The industry has drawn confidence from an October 7 Senate committee meeting, where Haroon Akhtar Khan, adviser to the prime minister on industries and production, assured members that the policy will be approved within two weeks. PAMA said it now expects a fair taxation regime in that time frame, warning that a tariff structure unattractive to long-term investors will signal preparation for 'Nationalisation 2.0'.

Security forces
neutralise
five terrorists

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed five terrorists while four others were injured during an operation in the Palantak area of Washuk district in Balochistan, security sources said on Wednesday. According to the sources, security forces targeted militant hideouts with modern weapons during the operation. The killed militants were involved in looting the public and spreading fear and panic in the area, security sources said, adding that modern weapons and ammunition were recovered from those killed. The operation comes amid intensified counter-terrorism operations by security forces and law enforcement agencies across Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Makkah Alliance sec-gen briefs
premier on defence cooperation

PM Shehbaz also reaffirmed Pakistan's "unwavering commitment" to the protection of Saudi Arabia's "sovereignty, territorial integrity and security" during the meeting as the Gulf state, which is a signatory to the pact, has faced escalating tensions with Yemen's Houthi rebels in recent days



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met the newly appointed secretary-general of the Makkah Defence Alliance, Lieutenant General (ret'd) Nauman Mahmood, and was briefed on the strategy to promote "defence and strategic cooperation" under the pact, state-run Radio Pakistan reported. Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahmood was appointed as the first secretary general of the defence alliance between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye last month. The agreement — signed on August 7 — empowers member states to treat an attack against one of them as an attack against all. During the meeting, the premier reiterated that the

pact was a "historic milestone for peace, unity, and stability in the region" and wished Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahmood well for his new role.

PM Shehbaz also reaffirmed Pakistan's "unwavering commitment" to the protection of Saudi Arabia's "sovereignty, territorial integrity and security" during the meeting as the Gulf state, which is a signatory to the pact, has faced escalating tensions with Yemen's Houthi rebels in recent days. The premier said Pakistan "stands shoulder to shoulder" with Saudi Arabia, according to Radio Pakistan. The meeting comes amid heightened tensions in the Middle East. On Tuesday, Saudi Arabia launched strikes on Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, targeting fuel and energy facilities it said were being used to support missile and drone attacks, as the Yemeni group threatened

a "harsh and painful" response against Saudi airports, refineries and oil installations.

Hours later, Saudi authorities issued warnings of potential hostile aerial threats in the kingdom's eastern province and Riyadh. Loud explosions were heard near Saudi Aramco's headquarters in Dhahran, according to witnesses. Later, a Saudi energy ministry official confirmed the attack. Saudi Arabia's civil defence agency said that four people — two women, a man and a child — were wounded by debris from two intercepted Houthi cruise missiles in the capital and that 15 homes were damaged.

The Houthis have repeatedly attacked Saudi airports, oil facilities and tankers after a truce in their long-running war with Yemen's coalition government unravelled in July. Against this backdrop, Pakistan has repeatedly expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia. On October 5, in an emergency meeting of the Makkah pact in Riyadh, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye agreed to the rapid deployment of military forces and capabilities.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, who was part of Pakistan's delegation in the meeting, maintained that Pakistan and Türkiye had "presence in theatre" and only Saudi troops were involved in combat operations. On September 18, Inter-Services Public Relations Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said Pakistan would go to "any extent" to defend the Gulf state, adding that Islamabad's commitment to the kingdom's security is "unconditional".

Asif has also reaffirmed that Pakistan will "practically and diplomatically" stand by Saudi Arabia against Yemen's Houthi rebels if the situation escalates. The defence minister said that Pakistan would fulfil all its obligations under the Makkah Defence Alliance in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the three countries. At the same time, Pakistan has also asserted that the alliance is intended for collective deterrence and is defensive in nature.

PTI carried out 'political
suicide attack', says Bilawal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday blamed the PTI's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for the circumstances that led to the imposition of emergency in the province, terming it a "political suicide attack". He made the remarks while addressing the National Assembly, which was discussing the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in KP, for which the Centre had cited the provincial government's "deliberate disengagement" from the fight against terrorism. The NA question hour session was suspended due to discussions on the emergency. During the session, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry tabled a motion regarding the proclamation of emergency, while Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar opened the discussion. At the outset of the proceedings, opposition members were sitting calmly and did not stage any loud protest. Bilawal began his speech by highlight-

ing that emergency and governor's rule in KP were measures taken under the Constitution. Reading the relevant provisions, Bilawal asserted that the Centre tried its best to "engage the opposition so this step did not have to be taken". "They will have to accept, even if not publicly, but the responsible leadership of the opposition knows that the PTI itself carried out a political suicide attack on its KP government," he remarked. The PPP chief maintained that



the PTI could not deny that its "leadership, particularly in the province had a key role in the political, constitutional and legal circumstances" at present. Bilawal emphasised that the PPP's stance was that "before employing this constitutional atomic bomb, we must engage with PTI and the opposition and try to address the federal government's reservations that they were not supporting them in the war against terrorism". He observed: "If political space is restricted for one political party, it is impossible that it remains restricted for that particular party; it is limited for every political party, political worker and Pakistani citizen."

Pakistan gets first LNG
shipment of October
amid gas supply concerns

Authorities scramble to arrange additional shipments amid disruptions to LNG supplies, Hormuz uncertainty

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's gas supply system received a boost with the arrival of an LNG cargo from Qatar on Tuesday, as the vessel Al-Areesh berthed at Engro's LNG terminal and regasification began at a rate of 150 million cubic feet per day (mmcf/d). The arrival marks the first LNG cargo received in October, as authorities scramble to arrange additional shipments from Qatar amid disruptions to LNG supplies and continued uncertainty surrounding maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Officials are making efforts to secure three LNG cargoes from Qatar with the assistance of Iranian and US officials. However, under the latest supply scenario, Pakistan is expected to arrange only two cargoes during October, similar to the two vessels received in September. Engro's LNG terminal had remained non-operational since September 26 because of the unavailability of an LNG vessel. With the arrival of Al-Areesh, regasification has resumed, allowing 150 of regasified LNG (RLNG) to be injected into the national gas network. The situation at the country's second LNG terminal, operated by Pakistan GasPort Limited (PGPL), remains challenging. — APP

Section 144 imposed in DI Khan

NEWS DESK

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The district administration imposed Section 144 across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan district, banning pillion riding and public gatherings, rallies and processions until Nov 11, citing law and order concerns. The restrictions were imposed through an order issued by Deputy Commissioner Hikmatullah on Oct 13 and took immediate effect. Under the order, public gatherings, meetings, processions and rallies that could potentially disturb public order, disrupt traffic or obstruct the movement of citizens have been prohibited. The administration has also imposed re-

strictions on the display of weapons and the installation of tents and temporary structures on public roads, according to the notification. The order said the measures had been taken in view of the prevailing law and order situation in the district.

Those found violating the restrictions would face legal action under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code, the administration warned. The restrictions will remain in force across the district until Nov 11, unless withdrawn or modified by the competent authority before that date.

Section 144 is a provision in the Code of Criminal Procedure which empowers local authorities to ban public gatherings such as rallies, processions and sit-ins, as well as the open display of weapons.

Pope Leo has cancerous
tumour removed

Juanita Mora, medical spokesperson for the American Lung Association, told AFP that when this type of cancer is "caught in early stages, then it has a very, very good prognosis"



NEWS DESK

VATICAN CITY: Pope Leo XIV had a cancerous tumour removed from his right lung in a 90-minute operation on

Tuesday and "woke up normally" after the procedure, the Vatican said. A Vatican source said further tests were being carried out to determine if the cancer had spread.

"To ensure the procedure was radical, the lower lobe of the right lung was removed," the Vatican said in a statement. The operation "confirmed the diagnosis of a pulmonary adenocarcinoma, as suspected from the pre-operative tests", it said. The 71-year-old pope was in the operating room at Rome's Gemelli hospital for a total of three hours and the operation lasted half that time.

"The surgery was successful and there were no complications," the Vatican said, with a source adding that he had requested dinner after the procedure.

Lamps and flowers outside Gemelli Hospital, where Pope Leo is hospitalised to undergo surgery to remove a lung nodule, in Rome, Italy on October 13, 2026. —Reuters

Juanita Mora, medical spokesperson for the American Lung Association, told AFP that when this type of cancer is "caught in early stages, then it has a very, very good prognosis".

She said much would depend on the stage of the cancer found and whether it had spread.

In cases of surgical removal and when the cancer is caught early and localised, five-year survival rates from lung adenocarcinoma were "80 to 98 percent", she said.

"They'll determine if he needs chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy for the adenocarcinoma," she said.

Iraqi army
brigadier
killed in
bomb blast

BAGHDAD: A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army vehicle killed an Iraqi army brigadier and a soldier near the northern city of Kirkuk on Wednesday, the military said, in the second attack on Iraqi security forces in the area this month.

The bomb struck an army patrol conducting a search operation at an Islamic State hideout that Iraqi warplanes had targeted a day earlier, about 80 km (50 miles) south of Kirkuk, according to a military statement. The attack, which wounded two other soldiers, follows an October 5 assault claimed by Daesh militants southwest of Kirkuk, in which one federal policeman was killed and four others wounded when gunmen armed with machine guns and sniper rifles attacked a federal police position.

The latest incident occurred just weeks after US forces completed their withdrawal from Iraq on September 30, ending their military mission in the country. Iraqi officials have said Islamic State retains sleeper cells capable of carrying out hit-and-run attacks, raising concerns that the militants could seek to exploit security gaps despite continued Iraqi counter-insurgency operations. — APP

FCC rejects
Bushra
BB plea

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) on Wednesday rejected a plea moved by the spouse of incarcerated former premier Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi, seeking suspension of her seven-year sentence in the £190 Al-Qadir Trust case.

Earlier in the day, a two-judge FCC bench consisting of Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi reserved its ruling and directed senior counsel Salman Safdar, who is representing the appellant, to submit written arguments before the court.

The detailed order for dismissal will be issued by the FCC later. Bushra had moved the FCC in July seeking the suspension of her sentence, with her criminal appeal contending that the appellant, being a woman with a serious medical condition, was entitled to the suspension of her sentence. On Sept 17, Safdar moved an application before the FCC, seeking early hearing of the appeal, citing a rapidly deteriorating ocular condition. — APP