



Islamabad POST

Saturday, October 17, 2026

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US administration to scrutinize papers of Ilham Omar

Detailed News On Page-08

Head of a party wanted KP governorship

Detailed News On Page-01



Relief items distributed among needy

Detailed News On Page-08



PM's aide links lifting of emergency to PTI's posture

CM Maryam says Punjab is entering age of AI while KP remains in Stone Age

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah has said that the possibility of lifting emergency measures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa could be considered if the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) fulfils its constitutional and legal responsibilities. "Even now, if the PTI fulfils its constitutional and legal role, the matter can be considered," Sanaullah said on Friday while speaking to the Geo News programme "Geo Pakistan". The federal government imposed emergency in KP on October 11 after President Asif Ali Zardari approved the move on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution. The government cited the province's deteriorating security situation and concerns over counterterrorism efforts. The Imran Khan-founded PTI, which leads the provincial government, has opposed the imposition of emergency and governor's rule. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has taken charge of running the province on behalf of the federal government, assisted by an 11-member technocratic KP Advisory Council. He said an interim system would not have been necessary had the PTI been willing to fulfil its constitutional and legal responsibilities. Sanaullah said the government regretted having to

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PHC to hear PTI's plea on Oct 20

Petitioners name president, prime minister, KP governor and other relevant authorities as respondents

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has fixed October 20 for hearing petitions challenging the imposition of governor's rule and emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and Advocate Salman Khan have filed separate petitions against the measures. The petitions name the Federation of Pakistan, the president, the prime minister, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor and other relevant authorities as respondents. The emergency was imposed on October 11 after President Asif Ali Zardari approved the move on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution. The federal government cited the province's deteriorating security situation and concerns over counterterrorism efforts. The Imran

Khan-founded PTI, which leads the provincial government, has opposed the imposition of emergency and governor's rule. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has taken charge of running the province on behalf of the federal government, assisted by an 11-member technocratic KP Advisory Council. A day ago, Parliament approved the imposition of an emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during a joint sitting as the opposition alliance Tehreek Tahaffuz Aiyee-e-Pakistan (TTAP) announced ending negotiations with the Centre over "unconstitutional measures". The resolutions, moved by Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhary to seek approval of the presidential proclamations issued on October 11 under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution, were adopted during a joint sitting of parliament after a heated debate between treasury

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US may need to strike Iran's Pickaxe Mountain

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump says the US may have to target Pickaxe Mountain, a site linked to Iran's nuclear program, as he aims to ensure Tehran does not get a nuclear weapon, Reuters reports. In an interview with Newsmax, Trump says the US wanted to make sure Iran would never have a nuclear weapon "because if they had it, they would use it". "Their nuclear is buried under millions of tons of mountain. Now we're looking at Pickaxe Mountain. We may have to go there. We'll take a shot at that one. We'll knock it out fast," Trump tells the news outlet. Pickaxe Mountain is a fortified facility buried deep underground near one of Tehran's main nuclear sites. Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says he has been assured that "Armenia will not take any action against the security of Iran", though Tehran is concerned about US influence in the region, referring to the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP), a US-backed transport and trade corridor through southern Armenia, Al Jazeera reports.

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New White House Press Secy faces scrutiny

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: New White House Press Secretary Katie Zacharia acknowledged on Thursday that she had failed the bar exam, a prerequisite for practising law in the United States, as her credentials face scrutiny. Zacharia has described herself as a lawyer during television appearances and on social media, and listed herself as general counsel of a California-based conservative nonprofit. But the legal credentials of the press secretary, who President Donald Trump appointed last week, were called into question after she gave an inconclusive answer about where she had passed the bar exam. The 41-year-old graduated from Pepperdine University's law school in 2011, but obtaining a law degree does not automatically qualify someone to practice law. In a Fox News interview on Thursday, host Sean Hannity asked Zacharia: "You took the bar exam, but you didn't pass the bar exam, correct?"

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ISLAMABAD: The newly arrived Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. – DNA

Meets new Saudi envoy

Pakistan values relations with Saudi Arabia: PM Shehbaz

The Prime Minister strongly condemned the recent escalation in Houthi attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which had resulted in the loss of precious lives and injuries to scores of innocent people, including Pakistani nationals

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The newly arrived Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Welcoming the Ambassador to Pakistan, the Prime Minister congratulated him on assuming his new responsibilities and wished him success in his diplomatic assignment. The Prime Minister noted that Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations had witnessed remarkable progress in recent years and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening existing institutional mechanisms to deepen and broaden

Continued on Page 06

Saudi Arabia intercepts salvo of missiles and drones

DNA

RIYADH: The Saudi-led coalition says in separate statements that it has intercepted a salvo of missiles and drones fired at Saudi Arabia. According to coalition spokesperson Major General Turki Al-Maliki, a ballistic missile bound for the Red Sea city of Yanbu was intercepted.

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APNS slams sealing of Akhbar market

The Akhbar Farosh Market has been functioning for decades as the central hub for distribution of newspapers in the federal capital. The office bearers noted that this uncalled-for and high-handed action

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) has strongly condemned the Capital Development Authority (CDA) for arbitrarily sealing the Akhbar Farosh Market in Islamabad. In a joint statement, Senator Sarmad Ali, President, and Mr. Mohammad Athar Kazi, Secretary General, APNS, stated that on October 16, CDA authorities sealed

the market without assigning any reason or serving prior notice. The Akhbar Farosh Market has been functioning for decades as the central hub for distribution of newspapers in the federal capital. The office bearers noted that this uncalled-for and high-handed action amounts to an attack on freedom of the press, as it will deprive newspaper readers of the timely delivery of their newspapers.

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Briefs

Pope pushes Putin for ceasefire

NEWS DESK

VATICAN CITY: Pope Leo XIV spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone on Friday, calling for a ceasefire in a Russian-occupied city in southern Ukraine, as he recovers in hospital from a lung cancer operation. The Vatican said that Pope Leo "expressed his deep concern about the grave humanitarian situation in the city of Olesky, in the Kherson region, and called for a ceasefire to allow the delivery of food and medical assistance, and the voluntary and safe evacuation of the civilian population." The surprise notice from the Vatican Friday evening suggested that the recovering pope is still hard at work, despite Tuesday's operation to remove a cancerous tumor from his right lung.

New Tigray govt announced

NEWS DESK

NAIROBI: Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has named a caretaker government to stabilize the northern Tigray region and prepare for an election within six months, after fighting erupted between a rebel alliance and federal troops. The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) led an offensive last month against Abiy's government, reigniting a war that killed hundreds of thousands between 2020-22. Renewed conflict has led to the severing of ties between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Addis Ababa accuses Asmara of backing the rebels, which Eritrea denies. The TPLF, Tigray's ruling party, dominated Ethiopian politics for decades until Abiy took office in 2018. Since fighting erupted, Ethiopia's military and a pro-government militia have made significant advances.

Mohsin Naqvi says Head of political party wanted KP governor slot

Speaking informally to journalists in Lahore, Naqvi did not name the politician but claimed that the leader had relied on the establishment's support for decades to remain in politics

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday claimed that the head of a political party was "deeply upset" over not getting the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governorship or a role in the governor's rule setup. Speaking informally to journalists in Lahore, Naqvi did not name the politician but claimed that the leader had relied on the establishment's support for decades to remain in politics. "Such was his situation that even the air tickets for his political party were arranged by the establishment," the interior minister claimed. Naqvi said it did not behave such politicians to point fingers at others today, adding that political differences should be expressed through arguments and facts

rather than "indecent language and accusations". Khyber Pakhtunkhwa entered a new administrative setup last Sunday after President Asif Ali Zardari imposed emergency and governor's rule, effectively sidelining the PTI-led provincial government. The president approved and signed the summary on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution following recommendations by the federal cabinet and reports on the province's law-and-order situation. The move has fundamentally changed how KP will be governed for the duration of the emergency: Governor Faisal Karim Kundi will exercise the provincial government's functions on behalf of the federation, assisted by an 11-member advisory council,

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FO slams Indian minister's 'provocative' statements

The FO spokesperson's remarks came after Rajnath Singh said any "future terrorist attack originating from Pakistan" would draw a stronger response from India

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday strongly rejected Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's provocative remarks, describing them as a reflection of New Delhi's "hegemonic mindset" that posed risks to regional peace and stability. Addressing a weekly press briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty, warning that any aggression would be met with a forceful response. He said that the Indian defence minister's remarks entailed a threat of Indian aggression against Pakistan and urged New Delhi to abandon dangerous rhetoric. "Such reckless statements reflect India's hegemonic mindset and the risk it poses to regional peace and stability in South Asia," the spokesperson said. The FO spokesperson's remarks came after Rajnath Singh said any "future terrorist attack originating from Pakistan" would draw a stronger response from India. Pakistan and India went to war in May last year after India launched an unprovoked attack on Pakistan following the attack on tourists in Indian

Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). New Delhi claimed that the terrorists who killed 26 tourists in IIOJK's Pahalgam were Pakistanis – a charge that Islamabad has denied and has also asked India to partake in a neutral investigation. India followed the baseless accusations with unlawful missile strikes inside Pakistan, which resulted in the martyrdom of several civilians and security personnel. Pakistan responded by downing eight Indian fighter jets, including three Rafales. The war between the two nuclear-armed nations ended on May 10 with a ceasefire agreement brokered by the United States. Briefing the media today, the FO spokesperson reminded India of the consequences of its military aggression in May last year, saying Pakistan had demonstrated its capability and resolve to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty. "Let there be no ambiguity, Pakistan remains fully prepared to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity against any ill-advised aggression," he said. The FO spokesperson said Pakistan's restraint and commitment to peace should not be mistaken for weakness, warning that any aggression would

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JazzFi reaches 11 m users

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading connectivity provider from JazzWorld, has reached 11 million users of JazzFi, its Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi) service, reflecting growing customer adoption of a technology that enables improved voice connectivity and a more reliable calling experience through Wi-Fi networks. Introduced in July 2023, JazzFi made Jazz the first mobile operator in Pakistan to offer direct Wi-Fi-enabled calling to mobile and land-line numbers. The service allows customers to make and receive calls using their existing mobile numbers over Wi-Fi, without requiring a separate application. Particularly useful in locations with weak or inconsistent cellular signals, JazzFi helps maintain call quality and connectivity while supporting simultaneous voice and data usage. Khalid Shehzad, Chief Technology Officer, JazzWorld, said, "VoWiFi complements traditional mobile networks by enabling reliable voice connectivity through Wi-Fi. Its integration with our network gives customers an additional way to stay connected while optimizing the use of available network resources. The growing adoption of JazzFi demonstrates how complementary technologies are helping us deliver a more consistent and seamless connectivity experience."

The service is available nationwide on compatible smartphones, with customers able to activate Wi-Fi calling through their device settings. Once enabled, JazzFi works through the phone's native calling functionality, allowing customers to use the service without changing their mobile numbers or how they normally make calls. **APP**

Campaign to improve telecom services in full swing

ISLAMABAD : The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) continues its nationwide monitoring and oversight efforts to improve the quality of telecom services, enhance network performance, and address consumer concerns. In this regard, various monitoring activities and service improvement measures were undertaken through PTA's 10 Zonal Offices from 8th to 14th October, 2026. During this period, PTA's Zonal Offices, in close coordination with relevant stakeholders, visited various areas in Thatta, Dera Ghazi Khan, Mandi Bahauddin, Quetta, Faisalabad, and Gilgit-Baltistan to assess telecom services and address issues faced by the consumers. **APP**



ISLAMABAD: A view of News Papers' Market which sealed by Capital Development Authority caused the hawkers unable to distribute newspapers in the Federal Capital

Govt committed to achieving \$100b export target: Ihsaan

Referring to trade promotion, he said the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) was strengthening international business linkages through trade exhibitions and business-to-business engagements

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industries Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan has reaffirmed the government's commitment to achieving \$100 billion in annual exports by 2035 through comprehensive trade reforms, improved market access, industrial competitiveness and sustained policy implementation. Addressing the closing ceremony of the 39th Annual General Meeting and International Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), organised at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) here, he said Pakistan was moving towards an export-oriented economy to overcome recurring economic challenges and ensure sustainable growth, said a news release. The two-day conference, themed "Mission \$100 Billion: The National Race for Sustainable Export-led Prosperity," brought together policymakers, economists, researchers and business representatives to discuss strategies for enhancing Pakistan's exports. Rana Ihsaan

said the government's export targets of \$60 billion in the medium term and \$100 billion by 2035 required structural reforms, export diversification and stronger industrial productivity. Highlighting key initiatives, he said the National Tariff Policy 2025-30 aimed to rationalise duties across approximately 7,500 tariff lines, gradually eliminate regulatory and additional customs duties, and reduce the maximum customs duty to 15 percent to improve industrial competitiveness. He said the government was reviewing approximately 500 regulatory requirements and removing unnecessary certification and inspection procedures under the Export Policy Order to facilitate businesses. Rana Ihsaan said the Prime Minister had approved a Trade Facilitation Board to improve coordination among government agencies, streamline export logistics and reduce port-related costs. On financing, he said efforts were underway to increase SME financing from Rs1 trillion to Rs2 trillion, while exporters were being supported through concessional financing arrangements involving EXIM Bank and commercial banks. The He said that tax collection on export proceeds had been reduced from 2 per-

cent to 1.25 percent in the 2026-27 federal budget to ease financial pressure on exporters. Discussing international trade, the coordinator highlighted Pakistan's progress under the European Union's GSP Plus arrangement, the Pakistan-UK Trade Dialogue and existing trade agreements with several partner countries. He said trade negotiations and engagements with Vietnam, South Korea, Cambodia, Bangladesh and African countries were aimed at expanding market access. He also highlighted 16 sanitary and phytosanitary protocols with China that had opened additional opportunities for Pakistani agricultural exports. Referring to trade promotion, he said the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) was strengthening international business linkages through trade exhibitions and business-to-business engagements. He particularly highlighted the upcoming FoodAg 2026 exhibition in Karachi as an important platform for promoting agricultural and value-added exports. He further said Pakistan Single Window was connecting more than 108,000 traders with 32 government agencies, while 19 sectoral councils were ensuring private-sector participation in trade policymaking.

Muqam announces relief for school victims

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam on Friday announced doubling the compensation for victims of the private school collapse in Dir Colony and pledged to establish a government school in the area. During his visit to the site, Muqam who is also President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, expressed grief over the loss of precious lives and offered Fateha for the departed souls. He conveyed condolences to the bereaved families on his own behalf and on behalf of PML-N leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He termed the incident tragic and regretted that such a large building had been constructed on girders without proper oversight, said a press release issued here. He said the prime minister had ordered an inquiry into the incident, adding that the investigation should be completed at the earliest to identify those responsible for approving the construction and bring them to justice. **APP**

DGSE marks white cane safety day

ISLAMABAD: Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE), celebrated White Cane Safety Day at National Special Education Centre for Visually Handicapped Children, Islamabad, reaffirming its commitment to empowering visually impaired children through inclusive education and equal opportunities. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Hassan Saqlain, said visual impairment is no barrier to excellence. He noted that visually impaired children possess immense talent and potential to achieve remarkable success in all fields of life. He stressed that with appropriate opportunities, encouragement, inclusive environment and continued support, these children can excel academically and socially, becoming productive and confident members of society and contributing positively to national development. Director General, DGSE Syed Tauqeer Husain Shah, acknowledged the invaluable contributions of parents, educators and stakeholders in nurturing the abilities and aspirations of visually impaired children. He

reaffirmed the Directorate's commitment to fostering an enabling educational environment where every child can thrive with dignity and confidence. The Chairman of the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council also addressed the gathering, highlighting the remarkable capabilities and achievements of persons with visual impairments. The celebration brought together representatives of Sightsavers, the Health Services Academy, leading public and private universities, including Allama Iqbal Open University, SZABIST, International Islamic University and Isra University, alongside representatives of PID, APP and other media organizations. The highlight of the celebration was the inspiring performances by visually impaired students, whose confidence, creativity and exceptional talents captivated the audience, demonstrating that ability knows no barriers. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to advancing accessibility, inclusive education and meaningful opportunities, ensuring that visually impaired children are recognized not for their limitations, but for their limitless potential. **DNA**

Jhelum chamber backs UBG Nominee S.M Tanveer for FPCCI Presidency

Zafar Bakhtawari said that cooperation among chambers was essential to strengthen unity within the business community and protect its collective interests



JHELUM: United Business Group (UBG) Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, UBG Central Core Committee Member Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, and Group Leader of Vehari Chamber of Commerce Chaudhry Zahid Iqbal visited the Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and congratulated its newly elected President Azhar Iqbal Dar, Senior Vice President Abdul Ghafoor Butt, Vice President Muhammad Nadeem Kiyani, Executive Committee and General Body members Dr. Fazal-ul-Haq Fazli and Kausar Ali Shah, Secretary General Hamza Khalil, Group Chairman Raja Sajjad Akhtar, Group Secretary Ishaq Dar, Deputy Secretary Waqar Ahmed Sheikh, senior members Nadeem Khan, Sheikh Shehzad, Mazhar Ikram and Zarar Intinan, and Executive Members Muhammad Ilyas Dar, Muhammad Hamza Ahmed and Bilal Kausar Bhatta, along with other newly elected office-bearers. During the visit, the delegation informed the Jhelum Chamber leadership that UBG had nominated its Patron-in-Chief, S.M. Tanveer, for the presidency of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). The delegation urged the cham-

ber's office-bearers to support his candidature in the larger interest of the business community. The Jhelum Chamber's office-bearers announced their support for UBG and S.M. Tanveer, reaffirming that they would continue to stand with the group as they had in the past. Zafar Bakhtawari said that cooperation among chambers was essential to strengthen unity within the business community and protect its collective interests. He said S.M. Tanveer's nomination aimed to ensure effective representation of the business sector and highlight the issues faced by traders and industrialists at relevant forums. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that chambers of commerce played a vital role in promoting the national economy, trade and industry. He emphasized that stronger coordination and a joint strategy among business organisations could help address the challenges facing the economy. Dr. Fazal-ul-Haq Fazli said that cooperation with UBG aimed to highlight the problems of traders and industrialists effectively. Kausar Ali Shah said that his engagement and cooperation with UBG had continued in the past and would remain intact in the future. **DNA**

DRAP strengthens surveillance of medical products

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), in collaboration with provincial and state drug control administrations, has concluded a three-day workshop to strengthen market surveillance, regulatory coordination and quality assurance of medical products across the country. The workshop focused on risk-based sampling, market surveillance, the Market Control Dashboard and Electronic Quality Management Systems (eQMS), bringing together regulatory officials from across Pakistan to share experiences and enhance their technical capacity. With technical support from the World Health Organization (WHO), the initiative aims to strengthen coordination among federal, provincial and state regulatory authorities and promote a unified approach to regulating medical products. Participants discussed strategies to improve risk-based sampling, enhance market monitoring and strengthen the use of digital systems to support regulatory decisions and ensure more effective oversight of medical products. The workshop also highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts to identify and prevent the circulation of substandard and falsified medical products, which pose significant risks to patient safety and public health. **APP**

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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

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Youth must be familiarized with national heroes’ sacrifices: Khichi

Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said that exhibitions of this nature reminded the nation of the sacrifices made by its forefathers and provided an opportunity to renew its commitment to follow in their footsteps for Pakistan’s progress and prosperity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Friday stressed the need to familiarize younger generations with Pakistan’s history and the sacrifices and services of its national heroes, saying that it was among the key priorities of the National Heritage and Culture Division. He expressed these views while inaugurating a photographic exhibition at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), marking the 75th death anniversary of Shaheed-e-Millat Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan’s first Prime Minister and one of the country’s prominent founding leaders. Ms. Samia Liaquat Ali Khan, great-granddaughter of Shaheed-e-Millat, attended the event as guest of honour. The federal minister appreciated the initiative, saying such exhibitions helped preserve the memory of national leaders and highlight their contributions to Pakistan’s history. He said that institutions working under the National Heritage and Culture Division were organizing activities to promote awareness of the lives, services and sacrifices of prominent national personalities. He also appreciated Secretary National Heritage and Culture Division Asad Rehman Gilani for promoting such initiatives. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said that exhibitions of this nature reminded the nation of the sacrifices made by its forefathers and provided an opportunity to renew its commitment to follow in their footsteps for Pakistan’s progress and prosperity. He said efforts would be made to invite students and young people from Islamabad and Rawalpindi to visit the exhibition, enabling them to learn more about the country’s history, national leaders and the struggle for Pakistan. Reaffirming the division’s commitment to preserving the legacy of national heroes, the minister said their contributions must be passed on to future generations to encourage young people to play their role in national devel-



o p - Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Friday stressed the need to familiarize younger generations with Pakistan’s history and the sacrifices and services of its national heroes, saying that it was among the key priorities of the National Heritage and Culture Division.

ment. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Samia Liaquat Ali Khan appreciated the organization of the photographic exhibition in memory of Shaheed-e-Millat and thanked the federal minister and the secretary for their efforts. Sharing her

family’s memories, she said the assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan was the greatest tragedy of her life. She noted that the incident brought a sudden and decisive change to her family’s life, adding that events and exhibitions held in his memory played an important role in keeping his legacy, services

and contributions to Pakistan’s history alive. Organized by PNCA, the exhibition highlights the life, national services and historical contributions of Shaheed-e-Millat Liaquat Ali Khan and aims to familiarize younger generations with the struggle and sacrifices of Pakistan’s founding leaders.

Russian envoy opens door to academic alliance with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Russian Education Attaché Gleb Shubin highlighted vast scope for Pak-Russia academic and cultural cooperation, saying partnerships will boost mutual understanding and friendly ties. Speaking at a certificate distribution ceremony at Alama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Russian Cultural and Education Attaché Gleb Shubin said educational cooperation offers people of both countries valuable opportunities to learn each other’s languages, cultures, academic traditions and social values. He noted that such exchanges not only enhance academic learning but also promote cultural harmony and people-to-people contacts. Congratulating the successful participants of the Russian language course, Shubin expressed hope that these language initiatives would continue to play a vital role in strengthening mutual understanding, academic linkages and long-standing friendly relations between Pakistan and Russia.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Zahid Majeed, Director of International Collaboration and Exchange at AIU said the university was providing Pakistani students with opportunities to learn foreign languages and gain a deeper understanding of the cultures, educational traditions and social values of different countries. Dr. Zahid Majeed said that this was the eleventh batch of the Russian language course, adding that training for the next batch would begin in November and that the programme would continue in the future. He said the university hosted Türkiye’s Yunus Emre Institute and the Japan-Pakistan Advancement Centre, providing students with opportunities to learn Turkish and Japanese and explore the respective countries’ cultures. Dr. Zahid Majeed further revealed that the university planned to establish centres for Chinese and German languages to broaden the scope of language education and

strengthen its international academic links. Professor Dr. Anton Dolgov and Dr. Roman Pozov of Russia’s Ural State Pedagogical University also shared their experiences of teaching Russian in Pakistan. They said learning foreign languages promoted direct communication, cultural awareness and mutual trust among people from different countries. Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood Allama Iqbal Open University has been undertaking various initiatives to promote international academic collaboration, expand foreign language education and enable students to benefit from educational opportunities at the global level. The university aims to provide quality education while familiarizing students with different languages and cultures and opening new avenues for international cooperation.—DNA

Monitoring of essential commodities prices ordered

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee, which reviewed the stock position, supply arrangements and prices of essential commodities. The deputy prime minister was apprised that adequate stocks were available to meet domestic demand, with no shortages anticipated and prices stabilising. He directed all concerned to monitor supply chains and commodity prices to facilitate domestic consumers, in line with the prime minister’s directives. He stressed that strict action would be taken against hoarding, artificial shortages and overpricing of essential commodities. Ministers for national food security and research and climate change, Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Bajwa, the Secretary, Commerce, and senior representatives from relevant federal and provincial ministries and departments attended the meeting.—APP

Gilani calls for stronger Pakistan-Germany ties

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, has called for stronger Pakistan-Germany relations through increased economic cooperation, investment, education and parliamentary exchanges, saying 75 years of diplomatic ties provide a strong foundation for a mutually beneficial partnership. Addressing a gathering to mark German Unity Day, attended by German Ambassador Ina Lepel, diplomats and other dignitaries, Gilani congratulated the German leadership and people on behalf of Pakistan’s Parliament, government and people. He described the occasion as a symbol of unity, resilience and shared prosperity. He also highlighted the longstanding friendship between the two countries, strengthened by the contributions of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Dr Ruth Pfau. The Senate chairman appreciated Germany’s continued support for Pakistan in development cooperation, climate action, women’s empowerment and human development. He stressed the need for continued German support for Pakistan’s participation in the GSP Plus arrangement. He also identified Special Economic Zones, renewable energy, information technology, industrial development and value-added manufacturing as key areas for greater German investment and business cooperation. Highlighting people-to-people ties, Gilani appreciated the contributions of Pakistani students studying at German universities. He expressed hope that delays in student and family-reunion visas would receive due attention. He also welcomed cooperation in skilled labour mobility and called for greater collaboration in technology, research and industrial development, including defence-related ventures in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Emphasising parliamentary diplomacy, Gilani called for regular exchanges between the parliaments of Pakistan and Germany and closer consultations on regional and international issues to promote peace, stability and prosperity. He invited the German leadership to visit Pakistan and expressed confidence that continued engagement would further strengthen the longstanding partnership between the two countries.—APP

Envoy urges stronger Pak-US ties in IT, innovation

SAN FRANCISCO: Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh has appreciated the growing capabilities of Pakistan’s technology industry and underscored the importance of strengthening Pakistan-US cooperation in information technology, innovation, and digital entrepreneurship. The ambassador said this during his visit to the Pakistan Pavilion at TechCrunch Disrupt 2026 – one of the world’s leading technology and startup conferences held from October 13–15 at Moscone West in San Francisco, California. This year, the Pakistan Pavilion featured around 20 Pakistani technology companies showcasing their capabilities across a variety of Tech sectors. The ambassador interacted with representatives of participating companies and was briefed on their innovative products, technological solutions, and efforts to expand their presence in the United States market. He encouraged participating companies to leverage their presence in Silicon Valley to establish enduring commercial relationships and explore investment opportunities, with a view to positioning Pakistan as a competitive.—APP

IHC fines lawyer Rs200,000 for filing frivolous petition

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has imposed a fine of Rs200,000 on Islamabad-based lawyer Siraj Ahmed for filing a frivolous petition and wasting the court’s time. In an order issued by Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro, the court directed the lawyer to deposit the amount into the national exchequer. The court further ordered that no application filed by Siraj Ahmed be processed on either the administrative or judicial side until he pays the fine. The order stated that the lawyer’s conduct was inappropriate both in drafting the petition and during his appearance before the court. The court observed that it had previously shown restraint over similar conduct by the lawyer in another case. It also directed that Siraj Ahmed would be allowed to enter the court premises only for the purpose of pursuing a case. Justice Soomro declared the petition filed by the lawyer in his capacity as a petitioner frivolous and upheld the objections raised by the registrar’s office.—APP

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Briefs

Asifa for
community
engagement

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Asifa Bhutto Zardari has emphasised that community engagement, public trust and inclusive leadership are essential for sustainable development, stressing that lasting solutions must be shaped by the needs and experiences of local communities. In an article published on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan website, she highlighted the growing challenges posed by climate change, conflicts, economic pressures, inequality and displacement, calling for collective action and stronger partnerships to address them. Reflecting on the legacy of her mother, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Asifa Bhutto Zardari said public service was a responsibility rooted in listening to people, understanding their concerns and standing with those whose voices often go unheard. Drawing on her experiences across Pakistan, she said development should be measured not merely through policies and programmes but by improvements in people's lives, including greater security for families, better opportunities for children and stronger communities.

She underscored the role of frontline health workers in Pakistan's polio eradication efforts, noting that their engagement with families and continued efforts to build trust are as important as vaccine delivery. The first lady also highlighted the contribution of the Benazir Income Support Programme in providing social protection and helping vulnerable families cope with economic hardship.

Addressing climate-related challenges, she said Pakistan's recurring floods and heatwaves had demonstrated the importance of community resilience. She cited the devastating floods of 2022 as a reminder that recovery requires listening to affected populations and addressing their long-term needs.

Asifa Bibi acknowledged Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's efforts to engage with affected families and raise Pakistan's case at the international level, highlighting the need for long-term recovery beyond emergency relief.

She praised the Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affecteds (SPHF) initiative as an example of climate-resilient reconstruction, helping flood-affected families rebuild safer homes and livelihoods. —APP

PM's vision
transforming
agriculture:
Wajiha

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajiha Qamar, on Friday said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan is making significant progress towards agricultural modernization through advanced training and technological innovation. Addressing the departure ceremony of the final cohort under the Prime Minister's Initiative for Short-Term Training of 1,000 Pakistani Agricultural Professionals in China, the Minister said the flagship programme reflects the Prime Minister's commitment to strengthening human capital, enhancing agricultural productivity and ensuring sustainable food security. She highlighted that 885 Pakistani agricultural professionals have already successfully completed their training at five Chinese institutions, describing it as a significant milestone in the implementation of the Prime Minister's initiative. She emphasized that Pakistan's agricultural sector faces challenges including climate change, water scarcity, low productivity and limited access to modern technologies. She said the initiative would help equip professionals with advanced knowledge and practical expertise to address these challenges effectively. The Minister noted that Pakistan-China cooperation in agricultural education, scientific research, innovation and technology transfer would further strengthen the longstanding strategic partnership between the two countries. Appreciating the efforts of HEC, particularly its Executive Director, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. —APP

Silence musn't stand in way
of breast cancer awareness

"An Evening in Pink" provided a platform for participants from different walks of life to unite around the cause and reinforce the message that breast cancer awareness is a shared responsibility. The gathering underscored the importance of collective efforts to promote awareness, remove hesitation around discussing the disease and encourage a more informed and compassionate society

DNA

ISLAMABAD: ALMAYMAAR Group of Companies hosted "An Evening in Pink" at Islamabad Club bringing together prominent personalities, celebrities and dignitaries to promote breast cancer awareness and encourage open conversations about the disease. The event aimed to highlight the importance of raising public awareness about breast cancer, encouraging people to discuss the disease without hesitation and fostering a culture of openness, understanding and support for those affected by it. Speaking on the occasion, Shehzad Mughal, Co-founder and Director Sales & Marketing of ALMAYMAAR Group of Companies, emphasized that breast cancer must be discussed openly and that silence should never become a barrier to awareness. He stressed the importance of breaking social stigmas surrounding the disease and encouraging meaningful conversations that can help people become more aware and informed. He noted that awareness initiatives play an important role in bringing breast cancer into the wider public conversation, helping communities better understand the issue and encouraging a more supportive environment for individuals and families affected by the disease. "An Evening in Pink" provided a platform for participants from different walks of life to unite around the cause and reinforce the message that breast cancer awareness is a shared responsibility. The gathering underscored the importance of collective efforts to promote awareness, remove hesitation around discussing the dis-



ease and encourage a more informed and compassionate society. Through this initiative, ALMAYMAAR Group of Companies

reaffirmed the importance of using community engagement and public platforms to highlight significant social and health-re-

lated issues, with the aim of making breast cancer awareness a more visible and widely discussed public concern. —DNA

Ahsan for
restoring
moral values
for national
uplift

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday stressed the need to restore moral values, strengthen ethical foundations and promote collective responsibility, saying sustainable national development requires integrity and mutual trust alongside economic growth and infrastructure. Addressing a roundtable meeting on building a value-based society, character development and shared responsibility, the minister said integrity, ethics and equality must serve as fundamental pillars of Pakistan's development agenda under URAAN Pakistan.

"Infrastructure is the hardware of development, while ethical values are its software. Without a strong moral foundation, sustainable and meaningful progress is not possible," he said, underscoring the importance of honesty, professional ethics and responsibility in strengthening public institutions and improving service delivery. Ahsan Iqbal observed that Pakistan's challenge was not merely a lack of education but also the weakening of character-building and moral upbringing. He said the qual-

ity of healthcare depend d not only on hospital buildings and modern equipment but also on the conduct of doctors and nurses, while responsible teachers were essential to the success of educational institutions. He called for promoting unity, character-building and practical moral guidance through religious and educational institutions, stressing that the honest and efficient use of national resources could significantly improve development outcomes. "If every individual protects public resources as carefully as their own money, Pakistan can achieve far better results from its development expenditure," he said, calling for renewed efforts to promote integrity, discourage corruption and eliminate practices such as bribery and adulteration. The meeting participants were briefed on a proposed framework titled "Prosperous Pakistan" for building a value-based society, with civic responsibility and professional ethics as its two central pillars. The presentation highlighted the need to translate values into everyday conduct through families, educational institutions, workplaces and the media, rather than restricting efforts to awareness campaigns. The proposed initiative draws on the principles of the Constitution of Pakistan and existing national frameworks, including the National Curriculum of Pakistan and Paigham-e-Pakistan. It envisages phased implementation, beginning with pilot initiatives in Islamabad Capital Territory or selected districts across the provinces, followed by broader integration into educational institutions and professional settings. The minister called for sustained collaboration among federal and provincial governments, educational institutions, families and religious centres to restore ethical values and strengthen social cohesion. —APP

Pakistan: the
next critical
minerals
destination

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is entering a new phase in the development of its mineral economy as rising global demand for copper, gold, chromite, lithium, rare earth elements and other critical minerals creates a strategic opportunity for the South Asian country to attract investment, develop new supply chains and diversify its sources of foreign exchange. The opportunity is significant. Pakistan has extensive mineral-bearing areas and a geological position within the broader Tethyan Metallogenic Belt, one of the world's important copper and gold regions. The country has 92 known minerals, of which 52 are commercially exploited. According to the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMA), the country's mineral reserves are estimated to be worth around \$8 trillion and are spread across approximately 600,000 square kilometres. These resources highlight the considerable economic potential of Pakistan's mining sector. —APP

NUST, TIKa to
advance sustainable
waste management

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) have signed an agreement on Friday to establish the Green Cycle NUST Pilot Composting Unit, marking a significant step towards sustainable campus operations, responsible resource use and circular economy practices. The agreement was signed by Muhammad Ali Khan, Pro-Rector Planning and Resources, NUST and Ms. Saliha Tuna, Country Head TIKa Islamabad, at a ceremony attended by H.E. Dr. Irfan Neziroglu, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, Rector NUST Dr. Muhammad Zahid Latif and senior representatives from both institutions. The initiative will provide a practical mechanism for converting organic waste generated on campus into useful compost, while promoting resource recovery and sustainable waste management. It will support organic waste segregation and collection from cafeterias, hostels, landscaping activities and other appropriate campus facilities, with the resulting compost available for campus landscaping, agricultural research and educational purposes. Beyond its operational value, the Green Cycle initiative will also support academic research, student projects and practical training, providing opportunities for hands-on learning and environmental awareness. Following the signing ceremony, the guests visited the composting plant and were briefed on the facility and the Green Cycle initiative. Speaking during the visit, Rector NUST Dr. Muhammad Zahid Latif said that the facility would serve as a "living lab" for the students, providing them with practical exposure to sustainable waste management. He further added that the initiative also reflected how two brotherly countries can work together to translate a shared commitment into practical solutions for a sustainable future. Led by the NUST Office of Sustainability, the Green Cycle initiative reflects NUST's commitment to advancing sustainable campus practices and responsible resource use, while transforming organic waste into a valuable resource. —DNA

Bangladesh
for reviving
cultural ties
with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A 15-member cultural delegation from Bangladesh arrived in Islamabad on Friday for a four-day visit aimed at strengthening cultural ties and promoting artistic co-operation between Pakistan and Bangladesh after a gap of 30 years.

The delegation is headed by Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, and was warmly received upon arrival at Islamabad International Airport. The visit has been arranged at the invitation of the National Heritage & Culture Division, Government of Pakistan, as part of efforts to promote cultural diplomacy, foster mutual understanding and strengthen people-to-people connections between the two countries. During its four-day stay, the delegation will participate in cultural performances and related activities scheduled for October 17 and 18 at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) and Lok Virsa. The programme will provide a platform for Pakistani and Bangladeshi artists and performers to showcase their cultural traditions, exchange artistic experiences and celebrate their shared cultural affinities. The visit is expected to open new avenues for cultural exchanges, artistic collaboration and institutional cooperation, while providing opportunities for greater interaction between the cultural communities of the two countries. The exchange underscores the importance of culture as a bridge between nations and reflects Pakistan's commitment to strengthening friendly relations with Bangladesh through the promotion of arts, music and performing traditions. —APP

IGP reviews
progress on
tasks

ISLAMABAD, Oct 16 (AP-P): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry on Friday chaired a meeting with senior officers of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police to review progress on tasks assigned to them. An ICT Police official told APP that the IGP reviewed implementation reports submitted by senior officers regarding their assigned responsibilities. During the meeting, IGP Sohail directed officers to give top priority to public facilitation and police welfare measures. He also issued instructions for further improvements in services provided to citizens and welfare facilities for police personnel. —APP

CDA steps up uplift work
in residential sectors

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has stepped up development work in residential sectors E-12, I-12 and C-14, with a focus on infrastructure, road networks and civic facilities, as part of efforts to improve planned urban development in the federal capital. During a visit to Sector E-12 on Friday, CDA Chairman Sohail Ashraf reviewed the progress of ongoing development work and directed the relevant officers to expedite the projects. The authority said more than 1,000 kanals of state land, valued at billions of rupees, had been retrieved in E-12, describing

the recovery as an important step towards protecting public property and facilitating the sector's planned development. The recovered land is expected to support future development projects and the provision of infrastructure and civic amenities. However, the authority did not provide a timeline for the completion of the ongoing development work or details of the facilities to be made available to residents. Development activities are also continuing in I-12 and C-14, where the CDA says it is focusing on infrastructure and residential facilities. The authority is undertaking road

construction and rehabilitation, improvements to major road networks, and the construction and improvement of underpasses and pedestrian bridges to facilitate commuters and improve connectivity. The initiatives are being pursued under the directions of Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and the supervision of the CDA chairman. The chairman was accompanied by the director general (Works), chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad, additional deputy commissioner (General), project director and the relevant assistant commissioner

during the visit. The authority also highlighted initiatives involving Park Enclave, parks, lakes, landscaping and horticulture, saying these were intended to improve public spaces and the urban environment. The pace of development in the residential sectors will ultimately be measured by the timely provision of essential infrastructure and civic facilities, including usable roads and services required by residents. The CDA said it would continue development work across Islamabad to improve infrastructure and civic amenities. —DNA

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Elections in Palestine

DAOUD KUTTAB

THE Palestinian leadership found itself between a rock and a hard place over its plan to hold legislative elections next month. The international community was divided. The EU supported the holding of elections, while the Americans and Israel opposed it. Internally, the public favored it, with 85 percent of Palestinians registered to vote. But the Palestinian factions, hoping a more united environment could emerge within a year, supported the delay that was announced on Saturday. Furthermore, the Central Elections Commission does not control Gaza or East Jerusalem. Israel refused to allow the ballot papers, ballot boxes and ink to enter Gaza. Israel also rejected its own pledge, made in the Oslo Accords, to allow East Jerusalemites to cast absentee votes at six post office boxes. In the West Bank, 1,300 checkpoints and gates make the possibility of holding elections difficult and there was always the danger of Israel arresting candidates on the eve of the vote. The American position, which might have put pressure on the Israeli government, was one of ambivalence. When an enterprising Palestinian journalist last month asked a US State Department spokesperson whether America supports Palestinian elections, the response avoided the question altogether. Washington has made no statement or even hinted at where it stands on the issue. The American position, which might have put pressure on the Israeli government, was one of ambivalence. One area in which the US was clearly not willing to allow elections to take place was Gaza, where Washington has its own weird plans supposedly directed by the Board of Peace. But in reality, any action in Gaza requires Israeli approval. Elections taking place simultaneously in Gaza and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) would have sent a strong signal of the unity of Palestine, a country recognized by more than 160 UN member states but strongly opposed by the US and Israel. Elections were part of a reform package demanded by the international community, including the US and France, yet the two appear to be on opposite sides. The Palestinian leadership in Ramallah was promised that the US would normalize relations with them if they carried out democratic reforms and held elections that would give Palestinians a voice in their own leadership; this was one of those reforms. It is not clear if the Americans who imposed these conditions, with

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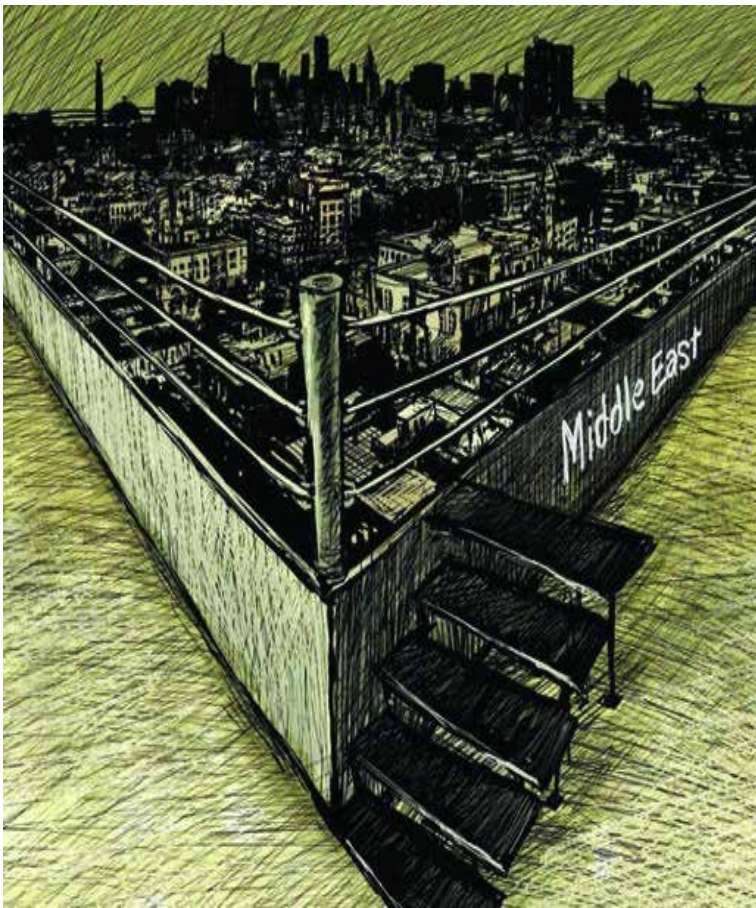
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strong help from Israel, actually expected the Palestinians to meticulously carry them out. When they did, America and Israel balked. For President Mahmoud Abbas, the problem of legislative elections was closer to home. His own Fatah movement was splintered. A plea from leading Palestinian prisoner Marwan Barghouti, smuggled out via his lawyer, for all Fatah factions to unite failed to have the desired effect. Abbas appeared adamantly opposed to bringing back the Mohammed Dahlan wing, which calls itself the Democratic Reform Bloc. That wing agreed to form a coalition with Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad ahead of the elections. Even though the Fatah reformists seemed willing to leave the coalition with Hamas, Abbas and his deputy, Hussein Al-Sheikh, did not trust that it would be a serious break from their arch-enemies. If the major movements of the Palestinian factions do not participate, the elections will become a sham. Furthermore, Abbas tried to stop a more intimate opposition from Jibril Rajoub, the secretary of Fatah's Central Committee, who said that since Palestine runs on a presidential political system, the elections should start with, or be held in parallel with, a presidential vote. The left-wing Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's call, supported by most other factions, for a one-year postponement so the factions could work out their problems seemed the most obvious way out. If the major movements of the Palestinian factions do not participate, the elections will become a sham. So, the decision was taken to hold presidential and legislative elections on a single day in September 2027. While this seemed the most logical outcome, many Palestinians and France rejected it. Many Palestinians, who have not been able to elect their leaders for more than two decades, felt that this third postponement dealt a big blow to an already unpopular presidency. France was also unhappy with the decision. Both France and Saudi Arabia moved many countries to recognize Palestine based on a commitment to reform by the Palestinian leadership in Ramallah. Al-Sheikh, the deputy president and secretary of the Palestine Liberation Organization's executive committee, suggested on social media that elections could be held sooner if the conditions allowed it. He posted on X: "We reaffirm our commitment to a comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue ... and to reach consensus on preparing the necessary conditions for holding general elections in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." In the end, the presidential decree issued by Abbas stated that Saturday, Sept. 11, 2027, is the date presidential and legislative elections will be held throughout the Occupied Territories. No one is holding their breath about whether this will indeed happen after the latest disappointment.

Light of Islam Is Warming the American Souls

Qamar Bashir



The Oklahoma controversy makes the point concrete. An amendment approved in 2010 singled out Sharia for exclusion from state courts. The campaign has expanded well beyond the old Oklahoma controversy. By June 2026, Representatives Keith Self and Chip Roy's Sharia-Free America Caucus claimed 68 members from 25 states, while Senator Tommy Tuberville participated in its February press conference.

An October 8 analysis counted 39 anti-Sharia proposals during 2025–2026, with six measures passing in six states. On October 2, Representative Mike Simpson announced support for legislation targeting foreign nationals who observe Sharia

THE war on Islam is a war on you," declares Mathew Cooke, an American Film Maker, writer and author of many books. In his podcast watched by millions of his devoted followers and subscribers, he describes an "industrial-scale, billionaire-funded campaign" operating through advocacy, media, and political influence. His argument is that hostility toward Muslims has been cultivated and amplified until suspicion of a faith becomes an accepted starting point for public policy. In his account, these efforts serve a wider political purpose: to normalize hostility toward Palestinians and provide ideological cover for what he describes as Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza and the displacement of Palestinians from their homeland. Their role can be scrutinized through their funding, public statements, campaigns, and legislative proposals targeting Islam and Muslim Americans. There is a documented foundation for examining this organized advocacy. The Center for American Progress's report Fear, Inc. traced \$42.6 million from seven foundations to organizations it identified as promoting Islamophobia between 2001 and 2009. It described relationships through which donors, advocacy groups, media figures, and political actors helped circulate anti-Muslim messages. The commentator's broader warning is that money and institutional access can give prejudice a reach far beyond that of an isolated opinion. The Oklahoma controversy makes the point concrete. An amendment approved in 2010 singled out Sharia for exclusion from state courts. The campaign has expanded well beyond the old Oklahoma controversy. By June 2026, Representatives Keith Self and Chip Roy's Sharia-Free America Caucus claimed 68 members from 25 states, while Senator Tommy Tuberville participated in its February press conference. An October 8 analysis counted 39 anti-Sharia proposals during 2025–2026, with six measures passing in six states. On October 2, Representative Mike Simpson announced support for legislation targeting foreign nationals who observe Sharia. This political mobilization portrays a small religious minority as a looming threat to constitutional government. Pew's latest research estimates approximately 5.5 million Muslim Americans; its 2023–2024 survey found Muslims constituted 1.2% of American adults. The scale of the alarm demands evidence of a corresponding threat. Meanwhile, the community being portrayed as threatening faces substantial hostility itself: 59% of Muslims surveyed in 2026 said there was "a lot" of discrimination against Muslims. These findings direct attention toward their security and equal citizenship—the everyday concerns obscured by political warnings of a Sharia takeover. This is why the opening declaration addresses every American.

When fear of one community becomes a political instrument, shared citizenship suffers. Attention that should be directed toward public welfare, the cost of war, and the conduct of government is redirected toward suspicion of neighbors. His second argument concerns religious coexistence. He names "Umar's Jerusalem," "Saladin," and "the Ottoman community system," describing them as "administrations that were guaranteeing freedom of worship, freedom of the path." The historical lesson he draws is that Muslim rule included traditions of protecting Christian and Jewish religious life. His description of Christianity is equally direct: "The Christian message is love and unity and peace between people." He interprets Christian devotion through these obligations and challenges the treatment of support for a government as a test of faith. He states the moral principle directly. Christians can honor Jewish religious freedom and care about Jewish lives while questioning military aid, territorial policies, civilian suffering, or the actions of an Israeli government. Such scrutiny is part of moral responsibility. The distinction between Judaism and Israel is therefore essential. Judaism is a religion with an ancient place in the Abrahamic tradition. Israel is a modern nation-state with a government, political parties, armed forces, and foreign policies. Respect for Judaism concerns the dignity, beliefs, and freedom of Jewish people. Support for an Israeli government concerns political decisions that citizens are entitled to assess, endorse, oppose, or seek to change. The same standard applies to foreign influence in American affairs. Lobbying, campaign financing, financial relationships, and defense commitments require public scrutiny according to evidence and American law. Americans can question an Israeli government's influence over United States policy just as they can question the influence of any foreign government. The subject is the conduct of identifiable states and institutions. Maintaining that distinction makes the discussion clearer and protects religious freedom. Another American speaker makes his reconsideration explicit: "I don't see Islam as a threat to the United States, and that's what I was seeing it as." His words describe a personal movement away from suspicion. He redirects attention toward political relationships that affect American decisions and resources. The change begins when a familiar public voice is willing to distinguish an inherited fear from a judgment he can now defend. Tucker Carlson's own admission gives this reconsideration a personal dimension. Tucker Carlson is the top most podcaster having millions and millions of followers in the United States and rest of the world while recalling his former suspicions of Muslims,

said, "I was hysterical about Islam and Muslim and had a profound view that all Muslims are terrorists and they hate us." He then rejects the sweeping beliefs he once accepted: "Now, that's not true. Nothing about this is true. But I believed it." He supplies the principle by which the old prejudice should be judged: "There are universal standards that apply to everybody." This is the moral change at the center of his testimony. People must be judged by their conduct under standards that apply across religious and national boundaries. His admission invites others to examine what they, too, may have absorbed without sufficient understanding. According other podcasters including Tucker Carlson, the prominent American political commentator and broadcaster, Sarafino Fazio, a digital content creator and podcast host widely known online as SonnyFaz and Bek Lover, a media personality, podcaster, and host of The Bek Lover Podcast Muslims revere Jesus as the Messiah and a messenger of God, believe in his miraculous birth, and honor Mary. The Quran recognizes the Torah and the Gospel as divine revelations and describes the Gospel given to Jesus as containing guidance and light. These teachings give Christian audiences substantial reasons to approach Islam with interest and respect. The podcasters made another connection vividly: "Muslims believe Jesus is coming again?" The answer is immediate: "They do." Mainstream Islamic teaching anticipates Jesus's return, explicitly described in hadith. For a Christian audience unfamiliar with Islam, this discovery can change the starting point of the conversation. Jesus and Mary already occupy places of profound reverence within the faith they are being invited to understand. For years, I have believed that familiar and influential Western voices could help communicate these connections to audiences otherwise reluctant to listen. The testimonies before us give that hope a human form. Americans are challenging hostility toward Islam, defending freedom of worship, and questioning the conversion of religious devotion into political obedience. The traders remembered in Malaysia and Indonesia made their faith intelligible through their conduct. These American speakers are helping make it intelligible through explanation and public self-examination. I see the light of Islam warming American souls wherever such encounters replace inherited suspicion with knowledge, awaken respect for a neighbor's faith, and bring the shared demands of mercy, justice, and peace into clearer view.

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

US cannot afford to be left out of Central Asia

Luke Coffey

China has already gone further in institutionalizing its own diplomatic format with Central Asia, establishing a permanent secretariat based in Xi'an — a city that historically marked the eastern end of the Silk Road. However, for reasons that have not been publicly explained, Washington is reluctant to support a similar arrangement. Looking ahead, there are several ways Washington can advance its interests and deepen its relationships with the countries of Central Asia. First, the US must maintain the momentum of its current high-level engagement...

A HIGH-LEVEL meeting will take place this weekend between the US and the five Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — under the C5+1 format. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will lead the US delegation to Samarkand, Uzbekistan, for the C5+1 ministerial meeting. This diplomatic format was established in 2015 and has served as America's main diplomatic platform for engagement in the region. This gathering, however, will place an unprecedented emphasis on business and investment. About 200 American business representatives will accompany Rubio to build on the economic and investment agreements reached at last year's 10th anniversary summit, which was held at the White House. The decision to hold the meeting in Samarkand is filled with symbolism. As one of the most important cities along the historic Silk Road, Samarkand is an appropriate setting for a gathering focused on strengthening America's economic relationships with the countries of Central Asia. The timing of the meeting is also important. It follows a recent gathering in Avaza, Turkmenistan, of the C6, a new format bringing together the five Central Asian states and Azerbaijan. It also comes ahead of the next summit of the Organization of Turkic States, scheduled to take place in Ankara, Turkey, at the end of the month. The Trump administration has perhaps done more than any previous administration to boost America's presence in the region. Although these three diplomatic formats do not include identical memberships, there is enough overlap to allow for meaningful coordination between the gatherings. Taken together, they reflect the growing diplomatic and economic importance of Central Asia. In this era of great power competition, Central Asia is becoming increasingly important to the US. The Trump administration has perhaps done more than any previous administration to boost America's presence in the region. Central Asia is rich in oil and natural gas and has become an increasingly important location in the global competi-

tion to secure access to critical minerals. These resources have elevated the region's importance at a time when countries are looking to diversify their energy supplies and secure reliable access to raw materials. Unsurprisingly, the agenda for the upcoming C5+1 meeting will be dominated by global energy markets and the desire on both sides to expand economic engagement. Expect major trade and investment deals to be announced. However, behind the scenes, the ongoing war with Iran and Russia's invasion of Ukraine will loom large. Both geopolitical shocks have implications for the stability and economic prosperity of Central Asia. Even if these issues do not dominate the public agenda, they will undoubtedly shape the broader discussions between American and Central Asian officials. The agenda will be dominated by global energy markets and the desire on both sides to expand economic engagement. Another issue likely to be discussed behind the scenes, but which may not feature prominently in public statements, is the future of the C5+1 secretariat. Although a secretariat was established in 2022 to coordinate meetings and other diplomatic activities, countries in the region have been pushing for a more permanent institutional structure. There is a good argument for a more permanent secretariat. This would allow greater continuity and coordination between summits and help ensure that agreements reached at the highest levels are implemented. China has already gone further in institutionalizing its own diplomatic format with Central Asia, establishing a permanent secretariat based in Xi'an — a city that historically marked the eastern end of the Silk Road. However, for reasons that have not been publicly explained, Washington is reluctant to support a similar arrangement. Looking ahead, there are several ways Washington can advance its interests and deepen its relationships with the countries of Central Asia. First, the US must maintain the momentum of its current high-level engagement with the region. Rubio's visit should be followed by a steady drumbeat of Cabinet-level visits and, ultimately, a visit by President Donald Trump himself.

No sitting American president has ever visited Central Asia. It would be fitting for Trump, whose administration has placed such an emphasis on expanding America's engagement with the region, to become the first. Second, Washington should keep an open mind about transforming the existing C5+1 secretariat into a more permanent institution to manage cooperation between summits. If such an arrangement works for Central Asia's engagement with China, there is no obvious reason the US should rule out a similar approach. Washington should not allow its engagement with the region to fall behind simply because it is reluctant to establish a more permanent institutional framework. Third, the Trump administration should redouble its efforts to normalize relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. After the historic August 2025 meeting between the two countries at the White House, progress toward inking a peace deal has been slow. Although neither country is part of the C5+1 format, peace and normalization between them could open additional transit routes connecting the US and its partners with Central Asia. This would benefit not only American economic interests but also the broader region. Finally, Washington should consider following the newly established C6 format by including Azerbaijan in the C5+1 platform. Geography dictates that Azerbaijan is one of the main gateways into Central Asia for the US and its Western partners. Considering the close economic, cultural and linguistic ties Azerbaijan shares with much of Central Asia, its continued exclusion from the format makes little sense. The gathering in Samarkand offers an important opportunity to build on the progress already made and lay the groundwork for even closer relations in the years ahead. With Central Asia's importance growing in an era of great power competition, the US cannot afford to be left out of the region. Equally, the countries of Central Asia cannot afford to miss the opportunities that closer engagement with the US would bring.

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Briefs

PM's aide links lifting of emergency to PTI's...

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place the sisters of PTI founder Imran Khan under house arrest, but added that the measure had become necessary to control the situation. "Everyone knows what they used to say about the long march," he said, adding that Khan's sisters had made statements calling for an attack on the Governor's House. He said everyone was also aware of the kind of statements made by what he described as the PTI's social media "mafia". Sanaullah said the opposition was suffering because of its own conduct. He contrasted the conduct of the current prime minister with that of Khan when he was in office. "When the PTI founder was prime minister, he did not even telephone the opposition leader," Sanaullah said. "Whenever the current prime minister comes to the House, he shakes hands with the opposition leader." The PM's adviser warned that terrorism could become a threat to Pakistan's existence if it was not eliminated immediately. He said India could no longer fight Pakistan in a conventional war and added that the entire region viewed Pakistan as a security provider. He further stated that India had established its bases in Afghanistan and was financing terrorism. Sanaullah said Pakistan's existence would be threatened if the nation failed to unite against terrorism and the federal and provincial governments did not adopt a common policy. Separately, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz criticised the PTI, saying those who claimed to have raised public awareness had destroyed people's lives instead. She said no one had brought down the PTI government; the party had brought down its own government.

PHC to hear PTI's plea on Oct 20

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and opposition members. In the plea filed before the PHC, the petitioner asked the court to declare the imposition of the emergency and governor's rule unconstitutional and set them aside. In its petition, filed through lawyer Ali Zaman, the PTI argued that using terrorism as grounds to curtail the powers of an elected provincial government amounted to discriminatory treatment. It maintained that the federal government could not strip the provincial administration of its powers on the basis of political differences. The petition cited the absence of governor's rule in Balochistan despite terrorism and loss of life there, as well as in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between 2007 and 2015, arguing that the measures against the current provincial government were discriminatory.

Head of political party...

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while Parliament will exercise the provincial assembly's legislative powers. The interior minister also took aim at some political leaders for raising concerns over resources for the former FATA districts. "Some political leaders are very concerned today about the resources of the former FATA districts. When these districts were not receiving their due share for several years, why were these people silent?" he questioned. Naqvi further asked why they had not spoken up for the rights of the people of former FATA at the time. He stressed that the issue of rights and resources of the people of former FATA should remain above political interests. Turning to the security situation, Naqvi said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was currently facing serious security challenges. He urged political leaders to contribute towards restoring peace and eliminating terrorism instead of "fueling the fire and spreading unrest".

Pakistan plans further Panda bond sales under RMB 7.2 billion program

Aurangzeb pointed to progress towards macroeconomic stability, while Lan welcomed Pakistan's renewed access to international capital markets



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan plans further Panda bond issuances under an approved RMB 7.2 billion programme as it seeks to become a repeat sovereign issuer in China's capital market, according to an official statement.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb discussed the plans with Chinese Finance Minister Lan Fong'an in Bangkok on Oct 15, on the sidelines of the World Bank Group-IMF Annual Meetings, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. Aurangzeb pointed to progress towards macroeconomic stability, while Lan welcomed Pakistan's renewed access to international capital markets.

The ministers reviewed Pakistan's inaugural Panda bond issuance and plans for further fundraising in China. The bond carried a 2.5 per cent coupon and received credit enhancement from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The Pakistani government said the offering attracted strong investor

demand. Aurangzeb said Pakistan wanted its first issue to lead to regular sales, with continued AIIB support for future offerings. Panda bonds allow foreign issuers to raise funds in China's domestic bond market. Further Pakistani issuances would depend on market conditions, borrowing costs and debt sustainability. The ministers also discussed Pakistan's return to the Eurobond market after a four-year gap. They discussed Pakistan's chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and preparations for a summit and preceding SCO finance ministers' meeting in Islamabad. Lan said he intended to attend the latter. The two ministers also discussed a proposed SCO Development Bank. China encouraged Pakistan to take part in consultations and help build consensus on the proposal. Aurangzeb reaffirmed Pakistan's support for establishing the bank. Lan also cited progress towards consensus on proposed route changes for a China-Pakistan highway project. Aurangzeb briefed Lan on Pakistan's engagement with Alibaba on digital transformation and artificial intelligence skills training. He said Pakistan remained committed to implementing the cooperation framework.

Nadal's Shirt, Pakistan Cricket Bat Up for Charity Auction

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: A shirt belonging to tennis legend Rafael Nadal and a bat from the Pakistan national cricket team will be auctioned to raise funds for charitable causes as part of a cancer awareness campaign being organised alongside the Billie Jean King Cup in Pakistan by the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF). The fundraising initiative will also feature memorabilia associated with sporting legends, including shirts and rackets linked to squash great Jahangir Khan and hockey legend Shahbaz Senior. The initiative aims to harness the power of sports to support charitable causes and raise awareness about cancer. The announcement was made during a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between PTF President Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Nicolas Verdun, General Manager of Mövenpick Hotel Centaurus Islamabad. The agreement aims to strengthen co-operation in connection with the Billie Jean King Cup, scheduled to take place in Pakistan this month. Speaking to the media, Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi said the federation was committed to providing all possible support for the promotion and development of tennis in the country. He added that Pakistan was an excellent destination for hosting international sporting events. Aisam said the PTF was organising several international tennis tournaments to provide local players with greater exposure and strengthen Pakistan's position on the international tennis calendar. He added that

the international tennis community had expressed strong confidence in Pakistan. According to Aisam, eight teams will participate in the Billie Jean King Cup competition in Pakistan, with the tournament draws scheduled for October 20. Teams from the Maldives and Nepal have already arrived in the country. He said the competition would provide valuable international exposure to participating players, with teams competing for qualification to Group II. Aisam further said Pakistani players would participate in several international events ahead of the South Asian Games to enhance their preparations and competitiveness. Expressing optimism about the country's sporting future, he voiced hope for better results at the Games and expressed confidence that the event would be organised successfully in Pakistan.

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FIFA to amend Article 27 of disciplinary code after Balogun case

DNA

THE decision follows criticism of FIFA's move to suspend Balogun's automatic one-match ban for a red card, allowing the striker to play against Belgium in their last-16 clash. US President Donald Trump said he had personally asked FIFA president Gianni Infantino to review the sanction, prompting questions about the independence of the disciplinary process. Following Thursday's FIFA Council meeting in Zurich, RBFA president and FIFA Council member Pascale Van Damme said the governing body would revise Article 27 of its Disciplinary Code, which allows the implementation of a disciplinary sanction to be suspended in exceptional circumstances. The proposed amendment will be submitted for approval at the next FIFA Council meeting in Doha on December 16, the Belgian federation said. "FIFA's confirmation that Article 27 will be amended, following the request we had already submitted in July, is an important step. The proposed amendment, together with an explanation of the specific circumstances of the Balogun case, will be submitted in Doha," said Van Damme.

Saudi organisers say Asian Cup preparations remain on track for early 2027

DNA

PREPARATIONS for the Asian Cup remain on track for the tournament to take place in Saudi Arabia early next year, local organisers said on Friday, despite uncertainty over sporting events in the kingdom following recent attacks. A strike on Riyadh's international airport on Saturday killed at least 12 people and wounded more than 300, with Yemen's Houthi movement claiming responsibility for the deadliest attack in Saudi Arabia in more than a decade. Asian soccer chief Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa said earlier this week that a postponement until 2028 was possible if necessary, but the local organising committee (LOC) said they were still set on the original January 7 to February 5 schedule. "Preparations across all organisational and operational areas are progressing according to the approved schedule, including work on venues, facilities and supporting services," it said in a statement. "The LOC will continue to monitor developments relevant to the tournament and ensure the appropriate conditions are in place for its successful delivery." The attacks on Riyadh have already had an impact on the Saudi sporting calendar. The Six Kings Slam exhibition tennis tournament has been moved from October to December, while Fifa and the Saudi Esports Federation on Thursday postponed the FIFAe Finals 2026 until an unspecified future date.

Lyon down Palace in Europa League, Sunderland leave it late

BAYER Leverkusen, Juventus, Benfica and Bournemouth all also won to maintain their perfect starts to the league phase. It was a painful return to his old home for Crystal Palace boss Pierre Sage as the UEFA Conference League champions fell to their fourth defeat of the season in all competitions. "It's a very disappointing return because we lost. I can't take satisfaction from coming back home or seeing familiar faces when the result isn't there," Sage told UEFA.com. "The scoreline may have been close, but there was a big difference in the way the two teams played. We were nowhere near our usual standards in the first half." Lyon took the lead inside the opening 10 minutes through Corentin Tolisso and Ernest Nuamah then doubled Lyon's advantage two minutes into first-half injury time. Yeremy Pino halved the deficit for Palace early in the second period, but a close-range flick by Pavel Sulc restored Lyon's two-goal buffer. Daichi Kamada smashed home a second for Palace with nine minutes remaining, but the hosts held out to make it two wins from two to start the league phase. Elsewhere on Thursday, Bayer Leverkusen followed up their opening 2-0 win with a 4-0 success at Polish side Lech Poznan. AC Milan cruised to a 4-0 victory at Red Bull Salzburg, courtesy of a hat-trick scored by Italian teenager Alphaadjio Cisse. Club-record signing Goncalo

Ramos made it four on 72 minutes before a red card for Filippo Terracciano took some of the sheen off the win for Ruben Amorim's men. In the Estadio Municipal de Leiria, Portuguese Cup winners Torrensense looked set to hold their Premier League opponents to a draw until Noah Sadiki's 93rd-minute strike made it 2-1 for the visitors. The 15th-placed side in Portugal's second tier stunned Sunderland in the 37th minute as centre-half Volnei Feltes cut past a flimsy challenge and unleashed a piledriver 30 yards from goal, which left Robin Roefs rooted to the spot. Black Cats boss Regis Le Bris sent on first-team regulars Granit Xhaka and Enzo Le Fee just shy of the hour, and the move paid dividends as Jules Ahluka struck shortly afterwards to level the scores. After a lengthy VAR check decided against awarding Sunderland a late penalty, Torrensense must have thought they had done enough to earn a famous point until Sadiki popped up at the death to thrash in the winner. "Conceding a goal in the last minute is a blow to the chest," Torrensense coach Carlos Simoes said. "The players are in the dressing room, devastated." Fellow Premier League outfit Bournemouth enjoyed a fine home debut in Europe as they eased to a 3-0 win over Sturm Graz, courtesy of goals by Evanilson, Rayan and Alvaro Rodriguez. - DNA

Naseem Shah's long road to fulfilling his promise as Pakistan's pace spearhead

DNA

IN the soft autumn light of Rawalpindi, where the stands once erupted for a boy barely old enough to drive, Naseem Shah returned to the ground that first announced him to the world. Seven months had passed since injury forced him off the field. When he returned in the opening Twenty20 International against Sri Lanka last week, the ball still left his hand with its familiar menace. Three wickets for 36 runs in four overs. A first-ball breakthrough. Pace touching the mid-140s. The crowd remembered. So did Pakistan. Now three months short of his 24th birthday, Naseem has taken 155 wickets in 93 international matches. His tally includes 60 in Tests at an average of 35.13 and 60 in ODIs at 25.91, with a strike rate of 28.3. The figures speak of promise fulfilled in flashes, and of potential still waiting to fully blossom. "I feel I'm yet to play my peak cricket," he told PCB Digital this week. "Whatever cricket I've played so far, especially Test cricket, I think I lacked a few things." The admission carries the weight of a career lived at high velocity. Born in Mayar, Lower Dir, in February 2003, Naseem was thrust into international cricket at 16. His Test debut against Australia in Brisbane in November 2019 came before many of his peers had finished school. Three months

later, on the Rawalpindi pitch that would become part of his legend, he claimed a hat-trick against Bangladesh. At 16 years and 359 days, he became the youngest bowler to achieve the feat in Test cricket. The country took to the slight teenager who charged in with raw aggression and an action that drew comparisons with the great fast bowlers of the past. His early years were a whirlwind. He claimed a five-wicket haul against Sri Lanka at 16, followed by consecutive five-fors in ODIs - 5-33 against the Netherlands in August 2022 and 5-57 against New Zealand the following January. He became only the sixth Pakistan bowler to achieve the feat of taking five wickets in consecutive ODI innings. In white-ball cricket, Naseem appeared a natural - sharp with the new ball, capable of making the old one reverse and increasingly adept at reading a batter's intentions. Fast bowling, he now reflects, is "all about aggression and smartness". The two, he believes, must go hand in hand. Yet the body that produced such pace has repeatedly let him down. A back injury early in his career cost him more than a year, and shoulder problems followed. The most painful setback came during the 2023 Asia Cup match against India, when he suffered a tendon injury that required surgery. He watched the World Cup from the sidelines as Pakistan's campaign unfolded without one of its most threatening bowlers. "You go back to zero whenever you

are injured," he said. "Sometimes it doesn't even allow you to go for a run, let alone going through the motions of the game. The rehabilitation programme then becomes important. It is also critical how well you understand your body during those times." The latest setback came during the Pakistan Super League earlier this year. A back injury, suffered just as he was rediscovering his rhythm, ruled him out of the tournament and kept him away from the national side for seven months. During that period of rehabilitation, involving early mornings, carefully planned strengthening exercises and mental adjustment, his understanding of fast bowling began to evolve. The teenage firebrand has become a young man who speaks of awareness, match situations and variations beyond raw speed. When you are young you know how to bowl fast," he explained. "But the important thing is to have sense of what you are trying to do. There are many fast bowlers in the world who bowl 140-plus, but they are not consistent. One or two matches and injuries come." He has learnt that bowling at 150 kilometres per hour counts for little if runs flow freely and the body breaks down after a handful of matches. Consistency, execution at 70 or 80 per cent of maximum effort and the ability to surprise a batter with a slower ball after a verbal exchange are among the lessons injury has taught him. In modern white-ball cricket, where pitches often favour batters and the demands of

the game require constant innovation, he believes bowlers must continue to evolve. His return against Sri Lanka offered an encouraging indication of what lies ahead. In the first T20I, he unsettled the top order before finishing the innings with precision. In the second, although he went wicketless, he conceded only nine runs in his powerplay overs. It was the kind of disciplined spell that can make a difference in a series. Pakistan won the T20I series 2-1, with Naseem playing his part. His attention is now turning towards the 2027 World Cup in South Africa, where Pakistan are scheduled to begin their campaign against Afghanistan on Oct 8. It would be his first senior World Cup appearance, following the disappointment of missing the 2023 tournament. He is also part of the squad for the forthcoming ODI tri-series against England and Sri Lanka, another step in his preparations. In 34 ODIs, he has demonstrated his ability to compete at the highest level. The challenge now is to sustain that performance over time. "You make a goal," he said, "and those goals keep changing with injuries and the ups and downs of a career. But I had set a goal that I want to play cricket up to a certain level. I feel my peak cricket is still ahead of me." Looking back, he wonders what more he might have achieved with a better understanding of pitches, his own body and the demands of the game. Looking ahead, he sees only the work that remains.

Saudi Arabia intercepts salvo of missiles...

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Similarly, two cruise missiles were intercepted over the Red Sea, he adds. Separately, Al-Maliki says three drones have been intercepted in the kingdom's southern and Riyadh regions.

APNS slams sealing of Akhbar...

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It will also hamper the circulation of newspapers, thereby causing severe financial losses to media houses and newspaper hawkers. The APNS office bearers have urged the Interior Minister to personally intervene in the matter and direct the concerned to immediately to de-seal the market and allow its normal functioning.

US may need to strike...

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"We are in direct contact with our Armenian friends and we know that they will not take any action against the security of Iran," he is quoted as saying by Iran's semi-official Tasnim News Agency. "We will continue our consultations with Armenian officials."

Pakistan values relations...

FROM PAGE 01

bilateral cooperation across various sectors. The Prime Minister strongly condemned the recent escalation in Houthi attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which had resulted in the loss of precious lives and injuries to scores of innocent people, including Pakistani nationals. He underlined that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had always stood by each other and that the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement and the Makkah Joint Defence Alliance marked historic milestones in their longstanding fraternal relations and reflected their shared commitment to regional peace and security. The Prime Minister reaffirmed that Pakistan stood shoulder to shoulder with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

New White House Press Secy faces...

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"Yes," she responded. In a separate interview with conservative media outlet Real America's Voice on Thursday, Zacharia said she had registered to take the bar exam but was "distracted and overwhelmed" by plans to move to China with her husband. "The results are somewhat inconsequential because I knew I wouldn't need the bar in China," she said. Foreign nationals cannot sit China's bar exam, although they can undertake certain legal work at Chinese law firms. Hannity later asked Zacharia if she had ever taken the bar exam a second time, to which she said: "I did not. 'I had four kids in six years,' she said. "It was never my intent to go into the practice of law."

FO slams Indian...

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be met with a forceful response. He urged India to draw appropriate lessons from last year's experience and act responsibly to ensure lasting peace in the region. He further said that the Foreign Office is digitising and automating its apostille services to improve efficiency, transparency and accessibility. He said e-attestation had been launched through the ministry's portal, while the transition to e-apostille services was underway. Eligible applicants could also be exempted from physical appearances, subject to prescribed safeguards, particularly facilitating overseas Pakistanis. Khan described the initiative as a "massive leap forward", adding that Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar had personally steered the process.

Briefs

Pakistan, Netherlands discuss investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD: A Dutch business delegation from Founders Carbon Network (FCN), led by Ambassador of the Netherlands to Pakistan Robert-Jan Siegert, visited the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to explore investment opportunities and strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

SIFC Apex Committee Secretary Dr Jehanzeb briefed the delegation on the council's role as a one-window facilitation platform, highlighting its coordinated approach to connecting investors with relevant government stakeholders and facilitating investment across key sectors of Pakistan's economy, a news release said on Friday. The delegation was briefed on bankable investment projects and opportunities in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), particularly Karachi Industrial Park (KIP) and Bin Qasim Industrial Park (BQIP).

The briefing highlighted the potential of these industrial zones to attract foreign investment, promote industrial development and create opportunities for business partnerships.

The discussions also covered potential avenues for Dutch investment, strengthening bilateral trade ties under the European Union's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) framework, and ongoing regulatory reforms to improve the ease of doing business in Pakistan.

SIFC continues to facilitate engagement with international investors by showcasing commercially viable projects, coordinating with relevant government institutions and promoting an investor-friendly business environment. The visit reflects ongoing efforts to expand Pakistan-Netherlands economic cooperation, encourage foreign investment and strengthen mutually beneficial trade and commercial ties. **_APP**

UN says Gaza malnutrition gains fragile

GENEVA: Gains in tackling malnutrition in Gaza remain fragile and could be undermined by disruptions to supplies entering the Palestinian enclave, the UN children's agency UNICEF said on Friday, urging that all crossings remain open.

Israel said on Wednesday commercial goods were no longer entering Gaza because of what it described as a dispute over taxes between local merchants and militant group Hamas. That has cut off a vital source of food and other goods in a territory where most depend on humanitarian assistance after three years of war, repeated displacement and stringent Israeli restrictions on aid deliveries.

Although the ceasefire has improved aid access and reduced large-scale fighting, humanitarian agencies say ongoing strikes, continued displacement and widespread destruction have left civilians highly vulnerable.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, UNICEF spokesperson Ricardo Pires said the flow of both commercial and humanitarian supplies must remain predictable and continuous. "The impact on children obviously will be felt if this situation is not resolved," he said. "We can't go back to a situation where children and families are not getting all the supplies, goods, and services that they require."

A new UNICEF report published on Friday found that while the ceasefire since October has allowed more humanitarian aid and commercial supplies to enter, acute malnutrition remains a risk. The report said progress in pushing back the threat of famine, confirmed by a global food security monitor in August last year, had been achieved through a scaled-up food and nutrition response, the easing of restrictions on the entry of food and nutrition supplies, and the ceasefire. However, those gains remain fragile, it said. "Acute malnutrition rates have fallen, but only one in three children under the age of two is currently achieving minimum dietary diversity," the report stated. A survey conducted by UNICEF in June also found a significant prevalence of chronic malnutrition, affecting one in eight children under five. **_APP**



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh attended the Malaysia-Pakistan business engagement 2026.

Pak, Canada vow to deepen economic partnership

During a meeting with Lazard, discussions focused on mining investment, financing diversification and sovereign credit outlook. The Finance Minister welcomed proposals for blended finance, sustainability-linked loans, guaranteed Sukuk and debt swaps to broaden financing options and improve borrowing terms

BANGKOK: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a series of high-level meetings with international financial institutions, global investors, credit rating agencies and development partners on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings, focusing on Pakistan's economic progress, financing diversification, investment opportunities and structural reforms. In a meeting with Canada's Secretary of State for International Development, Randeep Sarai, the Finance Minister discussed strengthening bilateral economic cooperation and advancing the investment protection agreement to encourage Canadian investment in Pakistan. Opportunities in agriculture, agrotechnology, livestock, food security, IT services, artificial intelligence and virtual assets were explored, alongside the Barrick mining project and its potential contribution to exports and employment. The two sides also exchanged views on regional developments and their implications for energy, fertilizer supplies and global food security. The Minister thanked Canada for its flood assistance and invited Mr. Sarai to visit Pakistan.

In discussions with Fitch Ratings, the Finance Minister, accompanied by the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), highlighted Pakistan's progress in macroeconomic stabilization, fiscal consolidation and sustained primary surpluses, alongside

restored access to international capital markets. The delegation outlined improvements in foreign exchange reserves, exchange-rate stability, inflation management and debt sustainability, reaffirming its commitment to the IMF programme, structural reforms and export-led growth. The Minister also sought Fitch's assessment of the requirements for Pakistan to progress towards the BB sovereign rating category.

During a meeting with Lazard, discussions focused on mining investment, financing diversification and sovereign credit outlook. The Finance Minister welcomed proposals for blended finance, sustainability-linked loans, guaranteed Sukuk and debt swaps to broaden financing options and improve borrowing terms. The meeting also covered future international issuances, including Panda bonds, and the importance of cost discipline, policy predictability and alignment with Pakistan's medium-term financing strategy. Follow-up engagement will be coordinated through the Debt Management Office and SBP. The Finance Minister also met Alvarez & Marsal to explore long-term financing through World Bank Group guarantees. Discussions examined a potential structure combining a World Bank policy-based guarantee with MIGA coverage to mobilize approximately US\$1.5 billion in financing at competitive rates, subject to the available guarantee envelope and transaction structure. The Minister empha-

sized leveraging existing World Bank resources and a Development Policy Operation to avoid delays, with further technical work to be undertaken by the relevant Pakistani authorities and the World Bank Group. Ongoing advisory work on the privatization of power distribution companies was also discussed. In a meeting with Ms. Erin Browne, Under Secretary for International Affairs at the US Department of the Treasury, the Finance Minister and SBP Governor discussed Pakistan's economic outlook, reforms and external financing. The Minister highlighted the successful US\$3 billion Eurobond issuance in September, foreign exchange reserves of approximately US\$21.6 billion, fiscal consolidation and progress under the IMF programme. Discussions covered financing diversification through Sukuk and Panda bonds, export-led growth, IT exports, privatization and airport outsourcing, as well as potential aviation co-operation and US EXIM financing. Both sides also exchanged views on the implications of regional conflict for energy prices, inflation and food security. The Minister expressed appreciation for continued US support. In engagement with Deutsche Bank, the Finance Minister highlighted improved macroeconomic stability, stronger foreign exchange reserves, sovereign rating upgrades and renewed access to international capital markets. Discussions covered diversification through Sukuk, Panda bonds, rupee-denominated

dollar-settled bonds and potential Eurobond tokenization, as well as debt management, currency diversification and international investor outreach. The Minister encouraged greater corporate engagement and foreign portfolio investment and welcomed the bank's interest in strategic advisory support for privatization, including power distribution companies and major airports. The Finance Minister, accompanied by the SBP Governor, also met MSCI to discuss capital market reforms and Pakistan's prospects for emerging market classification. The delegation highlighted improving economic indicators and stock market participation and discussed classification criteria and investor concerns relating to foreign exchange arrangements, prefunding, hedging and pooled investments. The Minister clarified repatriation arrangements under the Special Convertible Rupee Account and expanded access to Roshan Digital Accounts. Both sides supported technical follow-up to address operational concerns and improve market accessibility. In a meeting with Ms. Sara Jane Ahmed, the Finance Minister discussed climate finance and Pakistan's Climate Prosperity Plan. He welcomed efforts to expand concessional financing and attract sovereign investment into water, health and education projects. Discussions covered the proposed Lifeline Fund, which aims to be ready by April 2027, initially mobilize US\$500 million. **_DNA**

Romania resumes search for seven missing sailors

BUCHAREST: Romania resumed a search on Friday for seven sailors missing from a chemical tanker hit by a drone near its Black Sea coast, the latest in a series of attacks highlighting risks to commercial shipping near NATO's eastern flank. The missing crew were among 12 sailors aboard the San Marino-flagged tanker Wine Trader, which was struck early on Thursday about a mile outside Romanian territorial waters. Five crew members were rescued, but efforts to find the others have been hampered by strong winds and rough seas. "Our colleagues returned today to search the ship and continue the mission to identify the rest of the crew," an interior ministry spokesperson told Reuters Officials said a Black Hawk helicopter would place four rescuers aboard the vessel while a ship continued searching nearby waters. The Wine Trader was one of two tankers hit by drones within about 12 hours near Romania's Black Sea coast. The second vessel, the Comoro-flagged tanker oil tanker Yara J, was struck inside Romanian waters late on Wednesday. Its crew were unharmed and the ship was towed to the port of Constanta. Romanian President Nicusor Dan said the two ships had been struck by drones, while a NATO military source said the drones came from Russia. The attacks have intensified concerns about the spillover of the Russia-Ukraine war into Black Sea shipping lanes. Both vessels were anchored near the Sulina canal. **_APP**

Pakistan, Indonesia explore FTA, direct flights

ISLAMABAD: Indonesia's Deputy Minister of Trade, Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri, has welcomed a visiting Pakistani business delegation at "Trade Expo Indonesia 2026, the 41st Edition" of the country's flagship trade exhibition, expressing optimism about advancing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), establishing direct air connectivity and expanding bilateral trade and investment between the two brotherly countries. The meeting took place during the five-day trade exhibition in BSD: The meeting took place during the five-day trade exhibition in BSD City, Jakarta, where the two sides discussed trade liberalisation, business-to-business (B2B) collaboration, investment opportunities and the diversification of bilateral commerce beyond traditional commodities. The Pakistani business delegation was led by Indonesia's Ambassador to Pakistan, Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo, and included Haseeb Khan, nominee for Honorary Consul of Indonesia in Punjab (Lahore), senior business representatives Sajjad Wali, Ansar Hayat, Ibrahim Tawab, Ibrar Kathote and Humair, among other participants. Addressing the delegation, Deputy Minister Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri described Pakistan as a reliable trading partner of Indonesia and welcomed Pakistani businesses seeking new commercial opportunities in the Indonesian market. The minister said both countries were working towards strengthening economic integration, with an FTA and improved air connectivity among the key priorities for facilitating trade, investment and people-to-people exchanges. "We are negotiating on the FTA, and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto is also on board in this regard. We hope to begin technical negotiations soon," she said, referring to efforts to advance the proposed trade agreement. The Deputy Minister highlighted the Joint Trade Committee (JTC) framework between the two countries, saying the focus should be on translating existing agreements and plans of action into concrete outcomes. She emphasised that closer engagement between the business communities of both countries would be essential to achieving meaningful progress. Widya Putri also encouraged Pakistani companies to use Trade Expo Indonesia as a platform to connect with international buyers, establish commercial partnerships and explore opportunities across a broader range of industries. While palm oil remains an important component of bilateral trade, she urged businesses to diversify into new sectors and identify additional products and investment opportunities. She also highlighted Indonesia's interest in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), promoting business linkages and encouraging cooperation in areas including energy and tourism. The Minister welcomed the nomination of an Honorary Consul for Indonesia in Lahore, Haseeb Khan and stressing the importance of Punjab's provincial capital as a major economic and commercial centre of Pakistan. **_DNA**

The 7th CICA Summit in Azerbaijan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

The 7th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), held in Baku, Azerbaijan, marked a significant milestone in Asia's journey toward greater cooperation, peace, and sustainable development. Bringing together heads of state, government representatives, foreign ministers, and senior officials from across the continent, the summit reaffirmed the importance of multilateral dialogue in addressing common regional and global challenges. The event was hosted by Azerbaijan on 15 October 2026 and highlighted the country's growing diplomatic role in fostering regional connectivity and cooperation. CICA, established in 1992 on the initiative of Kazakhstan, serves as a unique platform dedicated to strengthening trust and collaboration among Asian nations. Today, the organization represents a vast majority of Asia's population and territory, making it one of the continent's most influential multilateral forums. Its mission is to promote peace, security, stability, and economic prosperity through confidence-building measures and constructive engagement among member states. The theme of the summit focused on enhancing connectivity, digitalization, and sustainable growth, reflecting the evolving priorities of Asian countries in an increasingly interconnected world. Discussions centered on regional

security, economic cooperation, technological innovation, climate challenges, transport corridors, and digital transformation. Leaders emphasized that economic progress and regional stability are closely linked and require collective action.

A major outcome of the summit was the adoption of the Baku Declaration, a comprehensive document outlining the commitment of member states to international law, multilateral cooperation, and confidence-building measures. The declaration addressed key security concerns, economic development, environmental sustainability, and emerging challenges associated with technological advancement, including artificial intelligence. It also emphasized the importance of fostering intercultural dialogue and promoting tolerance among diverse societies across Asia. Azerbaijan's leadership during its chairmanship received widespread recognition. President Ilham Aliyev highlighted the achievements made under Azerbaijan's stewardship, particularly in advancing cooperation in transportation, connectivity, digitalization, tourism, education, science, and environmental initiatives. These efforts have contributed to strengthening CICA's institutional capacity and its effectiveness as a platform for dialogue and practical cooperation.

The summit also produced several important institutional decisions. Member states agreed to extend Azerbaijan's chairmanship for the 2026-2028 period, reflecting confidence in the country's leadership and vision for

the organization. In addition, Azerbaijani diplomat Sultan Hajiyevev was appointed as Secretary General for the 2026-2030 term. Another notable development was the admission of Laos as a new member, expanding CICA's reach and reinforcing its role as a truly pan-Asian forum. Representatives from major Asian powers stressed the importance of maintaining peace, rejecting bloc confrontation, and strengthening regional cooperation. Participants called for enhanced trade and investment, secure supply chains, infrastructure development, and greater collaboration in addressing environmental and public health challenges. The summit demonstrated a shared understanding that Asia's future prosperity depends on unity, mutual respect, and collective problem-solving. The 7th CICA Summit in Baku stands as a testament to the growing importance of dialogue-based diplomacy in Asia. At a time when the international landscape faces uncertainty and complex challenges, the summit offered a platform for building trust and pursuing common goals. Through the adoption of the Baku Declaration and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, CICA has taken another significant step toward creating a more secure, connected, and prosperous Asia. Azerbaijan's successful hosting of the summit will be remembered as an important contribution to regional cooperation and the advancement of peace throughout the continent.

Lebanon urged not to return confiscated explosives to Hezbollah

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun about the confiscation of hundreds of kilograms of explosives from Hezbollah, a US State Department official said on Thursday. Rubio urged Aoun to hold accountable those who ordered, financed and directed the shipment, and "underscored that returning explosives to (Hezbollah) should be out of the question," the US official said. Rubio urged direct military-to-military communication between Lebanese and Israeli forces "for deconfliction," the official added. A Hezbollah lawmaker said earlier the explosives seized last week by Lebanese security forces belonged to his group. The lawmaker, Hassan Fadlallah, said Hezbollah had intended to use the explosives against Israel, whose troops are occupying swathes of Lebanese territory seized in this year's war. A Hezbollah official and a Lebanese security source told Reuters the explosives seized in a car last week were intended to be used in explosive drones targeting Israeli troops.

Aoun told Rubio the Lebanese army and security forces were fully carrying out decisions to prevent armed displays, confiscate weapons and combat smuggling, the presidency said, adding Aoun asked Rubio to pressure Israel to halt attacks on southern Lebanese towns and villages. On March 2, the Lebanese government specifically banned Hezbollah's military activities after the movement launched rockets at Israel to back up Tehran, pulling Lebanon into the broader US-Israeli war on Iran that began on February 28. Tehran subsequently launched its own strikes on Israel and Gulf states that host US bases. US-Israeli strikes on Iran and Israeli attacks on Lebanon during the war have killed thousands and displaced millions. Under a deal reached through US-brokered Israel-Lebanon talks, Beirut vowed to disarm Hezbollah, which would in turn lead to Israeli troops gradually withdrawing from Lebanon. But Hezbollah has refused to disarm as long as Israeli forces remain on Lebanese land and Israel has continued striking southern Lebanon. **_APP**

UK strengthens HRs related sanctions

LONDON: An expanded regime of human rights-related sanctions came into force in the UK on Thursday, which grants the government wider powers to take action in response to the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory.

When the foreign secretary, Ed Miliband, announced the changes last month, he said they would allow for "swifter action to deter settlement expansion."

The introduction of the new powers was timed so that they would take effect ahead of an Oct. 19 deadline for bids on construction of an Israeli settlement planned for the E1 area of the occupied West Bank, northeast of East Jerusalem, The Guardian newspaper reported.

The new settlement threatens the prospects for a two-state solution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine because it would separate key areas of Palestinian territory envisioned as forming part of a future state. The expanded sanctions regime was announced alongside a raft of new powers and provisions related to settler violence and illegal settlement activity. They include a ban on imports to the UK of goods produced in settlements, and newly designated powers to sanction individuals and businesses that "support, facilitate or profit from illegal settlement activity." The strengthened global human rights sanctions regime was designed to target "those who commit serious violations of international humanitarian law, in Palestine and around the world," the Foreign Office said last month. The tougher stance on settlements adopted by the government of the new prime minister, Andy Burnham, sparked a furious reaction from Israeli authorities. They threatened to close the historic British consulate in Jerusalem last week before downgrading it to the status of "UK Mission. **_APP**

Briefs

India closes
down New
Delhi park

NEW DELHI: Authorities closed a central New Delhi park on Friday before a fresh protest seeking the removal of India's election chief over a voter-roll revision that critics say has disenfranchised millions. Organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), the campaign has become the focal point of opposition anger over allegations that the revised rolls favour Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party. The Election Commission of India, which oversees voting in the world's most populous nation, has denied any wrongdoing.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke urged supporters to rally at the capital's Central Park after two of his colleagues were detained for breaching security barricades at Jantar Mantar, where they had gone to wave the national flag. Earlier this week, police removed authorisation for Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site.

On Friday, thousands of security personnel were deployed in parts of the city, with yellow-coloured metal barricades put up at key intersections. Dipke said he was undeterred despite the possibility of being arrested ahead of Friday's protest.

"Why are you so afraid of cockroaches?" Dipke said. "I want to tell Narendra Modi that we are not afraid... if waving the Indian national flag lands you in jail, we are ready," he said Thursday. Delhi's municipal authorities said they were closing the Central Park for two days for "administrative" reasons. Delhi Police have barred public gatherings around Connaught Place citing concerns about public order and safety. - APP

Pak slams
opening of
Colombia
embassy in
Jerusalem

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Eighteen countries, including Pakistan, on Friday strongly condemned the opening of the Colombian embassy in Jerusalem, stating that any move to recognise the city as Israel's capital had no legal effect. Colombia on Wednesday officially opened its embassy in Jerusalem, joining a small group of countries including the United States in taking the symbolic step of backing Israeli sovereignty in the contested city. The vast majority of countries keep their embassies to Israel in Tel Aviv on the grounds that the status of Jerusalem will be settled in a final resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In a joint statement shared by FO, the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, Sudan and Turkiye said they "strongly condemn.

School building collapse

Romanian consulate provides
relief to affected families

Dr Dan Stoenescu, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, expressed his deep sorrow: "On behalf of the Embassy of Romania, I extend our deepest condolences to the parents, families and loved ones of all those who have died. Our thoughts are also with the injured, and we wish them a full recovery. No words can ease the pain of losing a child, but we hope that the families will find strength in the care and solidarity of those around them. Romania stands with the people of Peshawar in mourning this devastating loss"

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Honorary Consulate of Romania in Peshawar has provided financial assistance to support families who lost loved ones in the tragic collapse at the Al-Khair Education Center in Peshawar on Thursday, 15 October 2026. At least 34 schoolchildren and a female teacher lost their lives when the school's roof collapsed during morning classes.

Mr Abbas Pervaiz, General Manager, presented the assistance to the Administrator of Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar, on behalf of the Honorary Consulate of Romania and Honorary Consul Massood Ahmad Qazi. The contribution was entrusted to the hospital administration to support the bereaved families at this time of profound grief. Dr Dan Stoenescu, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, expressed his deep sorrow: "On behalf of the Embassy of Romania, I extend our deepest condolences to the parents, families and loved ones of all those who have died. Our thoughts are also with the injured, and



we wish them a full recovery. No words can ease the pain of losing a child, but we hope that the families will find strength in the care and solidarity of those around them. Romania stands with the people of Peshawar in mourning this devastating loss." Honorary Consul of Romania in Peshawar, Mr Massood Ahmad Qazi, said: "This tragedy has brought immense sorrow to our community. No financial contribution can compensate for the loss of a loved one. This assistance is a modest expression of our compassion and our wish to help families facing an unimaginable ordeal. We pray for those who have lost their lives, for the recovery of the injured, and for strength and comfort for every bereaved family." The Embassy of Romania and the Honorary Consulate in Peshawar also expressed their appreciation to the rescue workers, doctors, nurses and hospital staff who responded to the tragedy and cared for the injured. At this painful time, they reaffirm their solidarity with the affected families and the people of Peshawar, with the heartfelt hope that no community will have to endure such suffering again.

Three children, teacher
killed in United States

Police say a bystander killed the 16-year-old suspect after pursuing him inside the school building

LOS ANGELES: Three children and one teacher were shot dead at an elementary school on Thursday in the north-western US state of Oregon, police said, adding that the assailant was a 16-year-old who was killed by an armed bystander. Another child and a teacher were being treated for critical injuries after the shooting at Silver Rail Elementary School in Bend, a city of about 100,000 people.

Mike Krantz, Bend's police chief, told journalists that the department first learnt of an active shooter after receiving a call from a person who reported being shot at multiple times by someone carrying a long gun. Dozens of emergency calls then reported that a shooter had entered the school, and all law enforcement officers in the area were called to the scene, Krantz said. Officers arrived at 1:02 pm local time (2002 GMT), within minutes of the calls, the po-

lice chief said. "Moments later, an officer reported that the suspect had been shot by a community member who had seen the suspect enter the school, pursued him inside and engaged him," Krantz continued. "Our officers entered the building and confirmed the suspect was dead." Officers provided emergency aid to the victims. The three children who died at the scene were aged five, eight and 11, the police chief said. One teacher was also pronounced dead. Krantz said a seven-year-old child and a 54-year-old teacher, both critically injured, were transported by medics to a local hospital. He added that the shooter was a resident of Bend. Krantz stressed that the investigation was in its early stages, but told the press conference that it appeared "the shooter had forced their way into the school by shooting at locked doors".



ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Irfan Shakiyrovlu Davudov, held a meeting with the Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, Dr. Maen Khreasat, on Friday. During the meeting, the two dignitaries discussed matters of common interest, the brotherly bilateral relations between their respective countries, and avenues for cooperation between the two embassies. - DNA

US probes Ilhan Omar's decades-
old immigration paperwork

Democratic representative denies wrongdoing and calls raid an act of "political intimidation"

DNA

WASHINGTON: A predawn raid on Democratic Representative Ilhan Omar's home by federal agents stemmed from an expanding investigation into her US immigration paperwork, three people familiar with the case said this week. The investigation appears to centre on whether the Somali-born Omar, who has represented a Minnesota district since 2019, or her relatives gave false information upon entering the US as refugees in the mid-1990s or during the process of becoming American citizens.



The sealed warrant for Monday's search listed conspiracy, false statements on immigration paperwork and immigration fraud as potential crimes being investigated, one of the people familiar with the matter said. Like the other people, they spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation. One of the people familiar with the probe told Reuters that one potential aim could be to strip Omar of her US citizenship and deport her, ideas that both President Donald Trump and his Homeland Security chief have floated. The targeting of a left-wing member of Congress whom Trump has long attacked in personal and bigoted terms has renewed concerns that his administration is using federal law enforcement to punish his political opponents, especially three weeks before an election when Omar is running to retain her seat. Omar has denied wrongdoing, characterising the raid as an act of "political intimidation."

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the immigration enforcement agency, referred questions to the Justice Department. A DOJ spokesperson declined to comment on the Omar investigation.

But in a statement, the spokesperson said that US citizenship "must be obtained lawfully and honestly" and the Trump administration would investigate any case where the facts support denaturalisation, the legal process of revoking citizenship that was acquired after birth.

A spokesperson for Omar had no immediate comment.

Pakistan to chair World
Bank, IMF boards

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema has been formally announced as the incoming Chair of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for 2027, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs on Friday. The announcement was made during the plenary session of the 2026 WBG-IMF Annual Meetings in Bangkok, marking Pakistan's return to the chairmanship for the first time since 1953. According to the statement, the forthcoming chairmanship will provide Pakistan an opportunity to contribute to global economic and development deliberations and facilitate constructive dialogue among member countries. Following the plenary session, Cheema, who is also Pakistan's governor to the WBG, received a briefing from the WBG Corporate Secretariat on the responsibilities of the chairmanship. He also met Aradhana Kumar-Capoor, vice president and corporate secretary of the WBG, to discuss institutional support and coordination during Pakistan's term. Cheema subsequently met Carlos Carvallo Spalding, governor of the Central Bank of Paraguay and outgoing chair of the Boards of Governors. He congratulated Spalding on the successful completion of his tenure and commended his stewardship of the chairmanship. The two exchanged views on the responsibilities of the office and priorities for the year ahead, providing an opportunity to benefit from the outgoing chair's experience and insights, the statement said. - DNA

Zelensky
meets with
Hungarian PM

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday hailed his first meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar as "very good," as Kyiv and Budapest sought a thaw in relations after years of friction. Since Hungary's pro-EU conservative leader took office in May, both countries have tried to mend ties that

were tense under Magyar's Kremlin-friendly predecessor Viktor Orban.

"We've had a very good meeting," Zelensky told reporters in Brussels, where he had spoken with Magyar on the sidelines of an EU summit. He said that they had discussed "a lot of things, including relations, the economy and logistics - all of which are important between our two countries." Their meeting comes days after Kyiv passed legislation addressing Budapest's longstanding concerns over the rights of the ethnic Hungarian minority in western Ukraine. Hungary saw the move as "a first step toward restoring mutual trust," Magyar said on Friday in a statement. Following the vote, Hungary agreed to allow the European Union to open up new areas in accession negotiations with Ukraine.

Elon Musk
unveils
Tesla's
'flying' car

DNA

NEW YORK: Tesla CEO Elon Musk unveiled what he described as a "flying" car, equipped with thrusters, during a livestreamed event at his SpaceX rocket company's facility on Thursday. Technical and regulatory challenges have so far prevented the much-hyped flying car sector from getting off the ground.

Musk revealed his new Roadster sports car during a launch event at a SpaceX test facility in Texas.

During the demo, which was livestreamed on Tesla's X account, the car launched from a steep ramp and landed on its wheels.

"Flying cars are real," Musk said during the event. He added that the vehicle's "success is not guaranteed" but that "it will probably work". Musk said the car was equipped with "ultra high-pressure air tanks" to propel itself into the air.

Robbers
point pistol at
child, snatch
valuables

Mother was taking
daughter to school
in port city's
Gulberg 15 area

DNA

KARACHI: Armed robbers pointed a pistol at a child before snatching a mobile phone and ring from her mother in Karachi's Gulberg 15 area, with CCTV footage capturing the harrowing street crime incident. CCTV footage showed two men on a motorcycle first overtaking the family before stopping them. The robbers then pointed a pistol at the child and snatched a mobile phone and a ring from the woman. The microphone attached to the CCTV camera also captured the child crying during the ordeal.

The incident took place within the jurisdiction of the Joharabad police station. Locals said numerous crimes occurred in the area during morning hours, while police had yet to identify or arrest those involved. The incident comes as Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) data showed 4,388 crime incidents across nine categories in Karachi during September.



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