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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Brazilian leftist President Luiz Lula da Silva wins

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Makkah pact meeting

Iranian President for unity among regional states

Saudi defense minister meets with Iranian president at Makkah pact talks in Tehran; CDF Munir had visited Iran last week. During the visit, Iranian leaders had conveyed that the US must take the first steps to rebuild trust, and that the acceptance of Tehran's seven-point proposal could provide a starting point for renewed negotiations

DNA

TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday called for "regional unity" at a meeting in Tehran with representatives of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, which recently signed the Makkah defence pact. "I hope that the presence of representatives of important and influential Islamic countries at this meeting will help further consolidate regional unity and cohesion," Pezeshkian said, according to a statement shared on the presidential website, urging Islamic countries to "stand together and adopt a coordinated position.. At the start of the meeting, Iran's state broadcaster reported the meeting was bringing together Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye to discuss "regional cooperation, the US-Israeli aggression against Iran and its consequences", among other topics. Iran's IRIB state broadcaster earlier shared a video of the meeting, saying the quadrilateral meeting on "regional security and stability" had begun. The video showed Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi sitting with Iran's president, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and security chief Mohsen Rezaei. The talks also included Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman and Turkiye's intelligence chief, Ibrahim Kalin. Earlier in the day, Inter-Services Public Relations had confirmed that CDF Munir was visiting Tehran, but did not share any further details. State-run PressTV also shared pictures of the meeting.

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Egypt approves military support for Saudi Arabia

NEWS DESK

CAIRO: Parliament authorised Egypt's military on Monday to provide support to help defend Saudi Arabia, parliamentarians said, and local media reported, a move that could push Cairo directly into the regional conflict that has expanded with intensified attacks by Yemen's Houthis on the Gulf kingdom. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi had asked parliament last week to approve defending its Gulf Arab ally and the world's biggest oil exporter if Riyadh requests help against the Houthis, whose advances also threaten the strategic Bab al-Mandeb strait, a gateway to Egypt's Suez Canal. The House of Representatives "approved authorising President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to take the necessary measures to support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia", state newspaper Al-Ahram reported. Egypt has frequently condemned Iranian attacks on Gulf countries

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ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir taking part in talks with the Iranian leadership. The talks were held under the banner of Makkah Pact signatories. – DNA

Political parties warned against AI use to deceive voters

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has proposed stringent restrictions on political parties and candidates using artificial intelligence to deceive voters, warning against deepfakes, manipulated content and AI-generated fake trends during elections. The proposed amendments to the "Code of Conduct for Political Parties" bar parties, candidates, election agents and their supporters from creating or disseminating AI-generated or manipulated material likely to deceive voters about its authenticity or misrepresent a person's words, actions or likeness. Under the proposed rules,

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6 citizens sue Trump

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: In the increasingly bitter legal stand-off between President Donald Trump and media outlets whose reporting he dislikes, a new and crucial third party has emerged: citizens who watch and read the news and need it to do their jobs. A lawsuit filed Monday on behalf of six such citizens – effectively representing the audiences for the news media – argues that it's not only the rights of news organizations that are violated when Trump bans them from White House premises. Even more fundamentally, the lawsuit argues, such bans violate the public's right to independent reporting about its president and government.

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Taliban allegations baseless

Pakistan reaffirms right to self-defence against terrorism

The statement stressed that thousands of Pakistani civilians have lost their lives in terrorist attacks that were allegedly planned, funded, supported, and executed from Afghan soil

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly rejected what it described as "baseless and unsubstantiated allegations" by the Afghan Taliban regime regarding civilian casualties linked to its counter-terrorism operations, reaffirming its commitment to defending its citizens against terrorist threats emanating from across the border.

In a strongly worded statement, Pakistan said that disinformation and misleading narratives cannot conceal the threat posed by terrorist networks operating from Afghan territory. The statement emphasized that such allegations do not absolve the Afghan Taliban authorities of their responsibility to prevent Afghan soil from being used for planning, financing, and launching attacks against Pakistan. Islamabad highlighted the growing security challenges posed by militant groups based in Afghanistan, stating that terrorist attacks originating from across the border have resulted in more than 3,500 casualties in Pakistan during 2026 alone. The government reiterated that protecting the lives and security of its citizens remains its foremost priority. Pakistan further pointed to repeated reports by United Nations monitoring mechanisms, which have expressed concern over the presence of numerous terrorist organizations in Afghanistan. According to the statement, groups including Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), also known as Fitna al Khawarij, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA),

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Pakistan strongly condemns Houthi missile attacks on Saudi Arabia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the Houthi ballistic missile attacks of 24 October 2026 targeting the Makkah and Madinah regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including areas in the vicinity of the Holy Sites. These reprehensible attacks constitute a grave violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and demonstrate a blatant disregard for the sanctity of Islam's holiest sites and the safety of civilians. Pakistan reiterates its unwavering solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its firm commitment to the Makkah Alliance. Pakistan reaffirms its steadfast support for the security, stability and defence of the Kingdom, including the protection of the Two Holy Mosques, against any external aggression or threat. Pakistan also commends the vigilance and efficiency of Saudi air defense forces in countering the attacks.

Briefs

Central bank raises policy rate by 50 pc

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday raised the key policy rate by 50 basis points to 12 per cent, its first increase since April as inflation, fuelled by high energy costs due to the Gulf conflict, remained above target. In a statement, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) said it had decided to increase the policy rate, with a majority decision of nine out of ten members. It noted that the "intensification in the Middle East conflict and low prospects of its near-term resolution" were keeping global energy prices at persistently elevated levels. "While the impact of this global shock on the domestic economy has remained contained so far amidst proactive monetary policy adjustment.

Russia says open to mini ceasefires

DNA

MOSCOW: Russia said Monday that it would not slow down its offensive on Ukraine despite upcoming US-brokered talks on ending the conflict but that it could agree local "humanitarian" ceasefires. The Kremlin said that it was open to short-term "humanitarian" ceasefires along the front line, ahead of a truce in the ravaged Russian-occupied city of Olesky. A ceasefire is to start in the southern Ukrainian city early Tuesday, brokered by US First Lady Melania Trump after months of reports that residents faced dire food, water and medicine shortages. Asked whether Russia would consider more local truces, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters: "For humanitarian purposes, absolutely."

China's Communist Party elite gather for governance talks

The fifth plenum comes ahead of a major party congress next year, where 73-year-old Xi is almost certain to secure a historic fourth term and oversee a leadership reshuffle

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping and other top leaders meet in Beijing on Monday at a key gathering watched closely for clues as to the country's direction and future leadership. Roughly 300 members of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee in attendance at the meeting, called the fifth plenum, will be looking to tighten discipline within their ranks, according to state media. That includes measures to reduce corruption and make cadres more effective and loyal. Little of the closed-door gathering, held under tight security, will be made known until it concludes on Thursday, but the timing of the meeting is crucial. The fifth plenum comes ahead of a major party congress next year, where 73-year-old Xi is almost certain to secure a historic fourth term and oversee a leadership

reshuffle. Previous plenums have represented key moments for Xi to cement his authority. The Chinese leader has waged a 14-year campaign against corruption that has purged thousands of officials, including dozens of the Central Committee. Yet he remains frustrated with cadres he deems are not implementing his orders. State media published an article ahead of the plenum, based on a speech Xi gave in January in which he railed against "two-faced" officials who appear to comply with central directives but "inwardly resist," pursue "individualism" and are "politically opportunistic." Analysts told AFP that Xi is trying to maximize efficiency and loyalty among cadres by imposing more supervision and rules. But as a result of his expansive purges, this year's plenum is expected to have the lowest turnout since former leader Mao Zedong's death in 1976.

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Romanian Ambassador meets Punjab Governor to boost ties

Ambassador Stoenescu expressed appreciation for the meeting and thanked the Punjab Governor for his kind invitation to visit the province again

DNA



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, Dr Dan Stoenescu, met with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan to discuss ways to further strengthen relations between Romania and Pakistan, with a particular focus on cooperation at the local level. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on expanding trade opportunities, strengthening economic ties and promoting cultural exchanges between the two countries. The discussions also explored prospects for closer engagement between local institutions and business communities, with an emphasis on encouraging greater

interaction, friendship and mutual understanding between the people of Romania and Pakistan. Ambassador Stoenescu expressed appreciation for the meeting and thanked the Punjab Governor for his kind invitation to visit the province again. He also expressed his desire for further opportunities to advance cooperation and deepen ties between Romania and Pakistan. The governor said he was pleased to receive the Romanian ambassador adding both countries enjoyed excellent relations. He hoped, bilateral relations will further be strengthened even in the days to come. Both Pakistan and Romania maintain cordial relations. Both countries cooperate with each other on various regional and world forums.



Kohistani lauds govt's efforts to promote peace

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Kheal Das Kohistani, on Monday, lauded Pakistan's efforts for mediating role between two international powers at a time when the region was facing the threat of war. Talking to the media outside Parliament House, he credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of the Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF) Field Marshal Asim Munir efforts for Pakistan's role in promoting global peace, which he said was being appreciated worldwide. Kohistani expressed confidence that Pakistan's efforts would help prevent conflict in the region. Responding to a question, he expressed optimism that administrative affairs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) were better than those in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led provincial government, which, he said, had damaged the province and failed to focus on public welfare.—APP

Award, certificate distribution ceremony held

SUKKUR: In connection with World Polio Day, an award and certificate distribution ceremony was held at the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office here on Monday. The ceremony was chaired by Sukkur Commissioner Abid Saleem Qureshi. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Commissioner Sukkur Nadir Shehzad Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioners Tanveer Ahmed and Majid Ali Mako, Director Health Services Sukkur Dr. Farrukh Bhunbhro, District Health Officer (DHO) Sukkur Dr. Ali Gul Shah, World Health Organization (WHO) representative Dr. Jameel Ahmed, Assistant Commissioners Bushra Mansoor and Sara Faraz, Deputy District Health Officer (DDHO) Sukkur, taluka focal persons, District Task Force (DTF) and District Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC) teams, Union Council Medical Officers (UCMOs), Area In-Charges (AICs), and frontline workers. During the ceremony, shields and certificates were presented to the best-performing assistant commissioners, UCMOs, AICs, and frontline workers in recognition of their valuable contributions to polio eradication. Cash prizes were also awarded by Deputy Commissioner Nadir Shehzad Khan to outstanding polio workers in recognition of their dedication, hard work, and commitment.—APP

Public Notice

The public is informed that the Serial / Certificate Number **901187** Roll Number **189233** DAE Mechanical Technology Second Annual 2018 issued in my name by Punjab Board of Technical Education Lahore has been lost somewhere. If anyone finds it, please send it to the following address. **Name:** Umar Waheed Parentage Waheed Gul **Address:** House No. 230/10, Street No. 08, Bakra Mandi, Allama Iqbal Road, District Rawalpindi.

Japan envoy opens improved Link Road in Murree village

Ambassador Akamatsu congratulated Al Mezan Islamic Model School on the successful completion of the project despite challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions. He emphasized that access to safe and reliable basic infrastructure is essential to improving people's lives and supporting sustainable development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, attended the Inauguration Ceremony held for "the Project for the Improvement of the Link Road in Village Numbal, Tehsil Murree, Punjab". The project was implemented by Al Mezan Islamic Model School, an organization dedicated to supporting vulnerable communities in Pakistan through education, capacity building, and inclusive social development. The Government of Japan, through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Program, provided financial assistance of USD 64,528 for this project. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Ms. Sidra Batool, District Education Officer of Murree, along with officials of the Embassy of Japan, representatives of Al Mezan Islamic Model School, teachers, students, parents, and community members. Al Mezan Islamic Model School has successfully completed the construction of the road, which consists of a durable concrete link road and protective culverts over local water channels, replacing vulnerable dirt paths and improving resilience against flooding. Demonstrating strong local ownership, Al Mezan Islamic Model School and local residents contributed additional resources, including land valued at PKR 4.5 million, technical supervision and local stone materials. This project responds to the urgent need for safe and reliable road access in Village Numbal, where inadequate infrastructure had long made daily travel difficult and posed serious risks, particularly during emergencies. The newly improved road enables more than 500 students to travel safely to school without having to cross flood-prone stream beds. It also directly benefit 2,540 local residents by improving access to healthcare facilities and markets, making daily life safer and more convenient.

In his address at the ceremony, Ambassador Akamatsu congratulated Al Mezan Islamic Model School on the successful completion of the project despite challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions. He emphasized that access to safe and reliable basic infrastructure is essential to improving people's lives and supporting sustainable development. In particular, he highlighted the importance of safe roads to schools in ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn and build a better future. Ambassador



Akamatsu reaffirmed Japan's commitment to supporting the sustainable development of Pakistan and expressed his hope that this

road would serve as a lasting symbol of the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Japan and Pakistan.

CDWP recommends Rs 69.9b KP irrigation project to ECNEC

ISLAMABAD: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP), chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, on Monday approved 10 development projects worth Rs40.915 billion and recommended three projects worth Rs172.25 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for consideration. The projects cover key sectors, including education, higher education, power, transport and communications, water resources and mass media, supporting the government's URAAN Pakistan development agenda, a news release said. In the water resources sector, the CDWP recom-

mended the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Resilient Irrigated Agriculture Livelihoods Development Project, worth Rs69.893 billion, to ECNEC. The project aims to rehabilitate the Pehur Main Canal, construct the Mulkhov Irrigation Distribution System and extend the Pehur High Level Canal to improve irrigation facilities and support agricultural livelihoods in the province. The forum also recommended the Integrated Hill Torrent Management (Chachar-Mithawan) project, worth Rs85.342 billion, for Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajapur districts of Punjab. The project envisages modern irrigation systems, flood protection channels and improved water monitoring infrastructure. In the trans-

port sector, the CDWP recommended the improvement and widening of the 39-kilometre Chakdara-Timergara section of National Highway N-45, costing Rs17.012 billion, to ECNEC. The project aims to improve connectivity with Dir and Chitral and facilitate trade and tourism.

Among the approved initiatives, the forum considered education projects, including the establishment of Daanish Schools in various regions and the federal capital, as well as youth development, sports and innovation programmes. The CDWP also approved initiatives for the revamping of Pakistan Television Corporation, installation of a pilot Battery Energy Storage System at the 220 kV Jhimpir Grid Station and construction of an eight-lane overhead bridge at Imamia Colony Railway Crossing in Shahdara, Lahore. The Prime Minister's Solar Scheme for Newly Merged Districts, worth Rs13.323 billion, was also approved in principle and referred to ECNEC for consideration.—DNA

Over 16,000 women, girls go missing in IIOJK since 2019

ISLAMABAD: At least 16,397 women and girls, including minors, have gone missing in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) since 2019, with 4,271 still untraced, raising serious concerns about their safety under Indian occupation.

The data was accessed through an RTI application filed with the IIOJK Home Department. The figures show that 14,593 adult women went missing in IIOJK between 2019 and June 2026. Of them, 11,338 were traced, while 3,255 remain missing. Similarly, 1,804 minor girls went missing between 2019 and August 2026. While 788 were traced, 1,016 remain missing.

2025 worst year for women safety Overall, 12,126 of the 16,397 missing women and girls were traced, leaving more than 26 per cent of cases unresolved. The number of missing adult women stood at 1,388 in 2019 and 1,398 in 2020 before rising to 1,854 in 2021. The figure dipped slightly to 1,766 in 2022, but witnessed sharp increase in subsequent year, when 2,242 women were reported missing.

Official records show that 2025 recorded highest number of missing adult women at 2,595 cases. Of these, 2102 were traced, while 493 remain untraced.

A similar trend was observed among minor girls. While 150 girls were reported missing in 2019, the number dropped to 122 in 2020 before increasing to 221 in 2021 and 249 in 2022. The cases further rose to 261 in 2023, before dropping to 226 in 2024 and reaching 289 in 2025. Among girls below 18 years of age, 2025 recorded 289 missing cases, with 166 still untraced. This year, up to August, 286 girls were reported missing, of whom 158 remain untraced. The figures are particularly worrying because more than half of all missing minor girl cases reported since 2019 remain unresolved.

As per Crime Records Bureau data for 2024, IIOJK recorded 1,202 cases pertaining to kidnapping, abducting or inducing women to compel them for marriage.

Observers and rights activists say Indian army and its backed NGOs are exploiting conflict-hit psychological mentality of womenfolk, luring women and girls in name of jobs and other incentives, taking them to New Delhi and other Indian cities, where they are forced into labour jobs, forced marriages, and other immoral activities. Hurriyat leadership and religious scholars have sought intervention of international community for settlement of Kashmir dispute to put an end to such exploitation in the conflict-hit territory, warning that continued occupation and unresolved political uncertainty is pushing vulnerable sections.—APP

Fair, just resolution of Kashmir dispute indispensable: Gilani

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that a just and fair resolution of the Kashmir dispute is indispensable for establishing lasting peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia. In his message on Kashmir Black Day, he urged the international community to play an effective role in fulfilling the promises made to the Kashmiri people and ensuring the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

The Chairman Senate said that October 27, 1947, remains a dark and tragic day in the history of the Kashmiri people, when Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir, disregarding the aspirations and wishes of the people.

He said that the day serves as a solemn reminder of the Kashmiri people's

prolonged struggle, unparalleled sacrifices and unwavering commitment to achieving their inalienable right to self-determination. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani stated that the Kashmir dispute remains a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy and is fundamentally linked to the establishment of peace in the region.

He emphasized that the Kashmiri people must be allowed to determine their own future freely. Despite the use of force, restrictions and persistent concerns over human rights, he said, the Kashmiri people continue their struggle, demonstrating remarkable courage, resilience and steadfastness.

The Chairman Senate observed that India's actions of August 5, 2019, raised serious questions regarding the constitutional status of

Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the fundamental rights of its people.

He reiterated Pakistan's rejection of these actions and reaffirmed its principled position that a sustainable resolution of the Kashmir dispute must be based on the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Paying tribute to the martyrs of the Kashmir freedom movement, the Chairman Senate said that their sacrifices constitute an unforgettable chapter in the history of the Kashmiri people.

He affirmed that Pakistan's Parliament, political leadership and people would continue to support the right to self-determination of their Kashmiri brothers and sisters.—APP

Air quality monitoring stations planned in 23 Sindh districts

ISLAMABAD: The Sindh government has proposed a \$7 million project to establish air quality monitoring stations across 23 districts under the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Pakistan.

According to documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the proposed initiative, titled "Air Quality Monitoring Network for Air Quality Management Improvement in Sindh – 23 Districts," aims to strengthen the province's capacity to monitor air pollution, generate reliable real-time environmental data and support evidence-based measures to address deteriorating air quality. According to the documents, the project envisages the installation and operation of 23 continuous air quality monitoring stations, along with the development of a real-time monitoring network and associated technical support systems. The estimated project cost stands at \$7 million, while the Environment, Climate Change and Coastal Development Department (ECC&CDD), Sindh, would be the lead implementing agency, with the district administrations being partners in

the proposed initiative. Under the project, the monitoring stations would be equipped to measure major air pollutants, including carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO and NO2), sulphur dioxide (SO2), particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), suspended particulate matter (SPM) and ground-level ozone (O3). In addition to measuring pollutants, the proposed network would record meteorological parameters to facilitate a more comprehensive assessment of air quality conditions across Sindh. The project also includes provisions for equipment calibration, data quality control, networking infrastructure and technical support systems to ensure the reliability and continuity of air quality monitoring. According to the documents, an existing Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) scheme has already been initiated in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur. However, the remaining districts require the installation of monitoring infrastructure.—APP

Call for joint global research on glaciers' risks

Highlighting the risks posed by melting glaciers and glacial lake outburst floods, the minister recounted the destruction caused by the Shishper glacier-related disaster in Hasanabad, Hunza, where a long-established community suffered extensive losses.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik on Monday called for international cooperation in glacier and mountain research, warning that the impacts of climate change on mountain regions could provide critical insights into risks facing other parts of the world in the coming years. Addressing a pre-COP31 dialogue, Dr Musadik Malik said that the world needed joint scientific research and coordinated efforts to understand changes in glaciers, mountain ecosystems and the global ice system. "The first hit is taken by the mountains," the minister said, inviting the international community to col-

laborate with Pakistan on mountain research to better understand the consequences of climate change. He said that studying changes in mountain regions could help scientists anticipate potential impacts on plains and polar regions, including the Arctic, and prepare communities before they were exposed to similar risks. Musadik Malik proposed the establishment of a virtual Green University to facilitate international collaboration and research. He said Pakistan had already reached agreements with two countries and was seeking to expand the initiative through further international partnerships. The proposed research, he said, should extend beyond the physical and scientific aspects of climate change to examine its social, economic and human consequences, including displacement, infant and child mortality, and maternal mortality. Highlighting the risks posed by melting glaciers and glacial lake outburst floods, the minister recounted the destruction caused by the Shishper glacier-related disaster in Hasanabad, Hunza, where a long-established community suffered extensive losses. He cited the experience of a resident, Zahra, whose family escaped the disaster, but lost livestock and essential community infrastructure. Recalling the account of a child whose childhood, she said, lay buried beneath the rubble of her home, Malik said glacier-related disasters could destroy livelihoods and disrupt entire communities.—DNA

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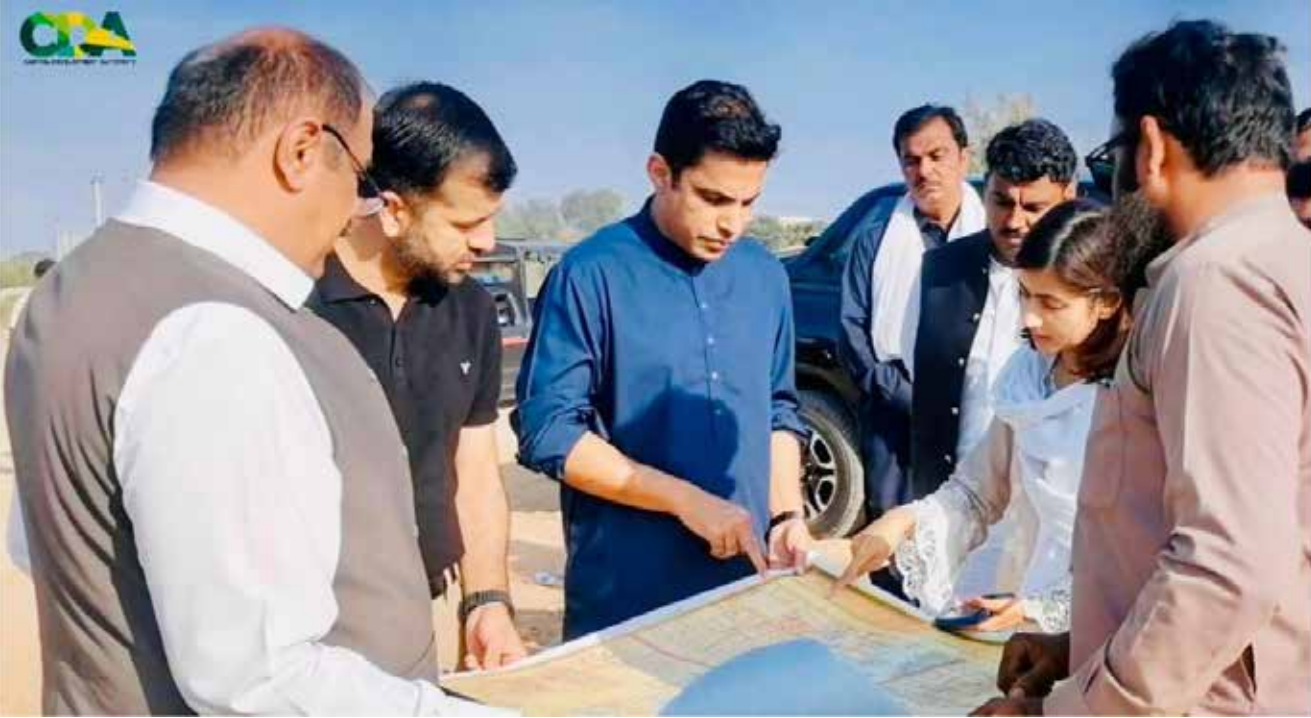
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CDA chief directs E-12 uplift work acceleration

Citizens have widely appreciated the CDA's efforts to retrieve valuable state land and accelerate development activities in Sector E-12. Members of the public have acknowledged these initiatives as important steps towards safeguarding public property, promoting planned urban development and improving residential facilities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Sohail Ashraf, visited Sector E-12 following the historic retrieval of 1,135 kanals of valuable state land worth billions of rupees after 40 years through action against illegal encroachments and unauthorised occupation. The Member Planning, Director General (Works), CDA, Chief Executive Officer, MCI, Deputy Director General (Enforcement), CDA, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Project Director and the concerned Assistant Commissioner also accompanied the Chairman during the visit. During the visit, the Chairman CDA reviewed the latest progress of ongoing development work and directed the concerned officers to accelerate work and ensure the timely completion of sector development work in accordance with the prescribed timelines and approved development plans. He emphasised that the development of sectors across Islamabad remains one of the topmost priorities of the CDA, in line with the directions of Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi. The historic retrieval of 1,135 kanals of valuable state land marks a significant achievement in protecting public assets and countering illegal encroachments and unauthorised occupation. The recovery of this land has paved the way



for planned development and the provision of essential infrastructure and civic amenities for residents. Citizens have widely appreciated the CDA's efforts to retrieve valuable state land and accelerate development activities in Sector E-12. Members of the public have acknowledged these initiatives as important steps towards safeguarding

public property, promoting planned urban development and improving residential facilities. Citizens have also appreciated the Authority's continued focus on infrastructure development, improvement of road networks, rehabilitation of public spaces, parks, landscaping and other civic amenities across Islamabad. The Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf reit-

ated that sector development is among the Authority's highest priorities and that all available resources are being utilised to expedite ongoing projects. He directed the concerned officers to maintain close coordination, address any impediments to development and ensure that work proceeds at the required pace without compromising quality and approved standards.

HEC offers PhD scholarships in US Top 100 varsities

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has announced fully funded PhD scholarships in the United States under the US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor Project, offering Pakistani scholars the opportunity to pursue doctoral studies in the Top 100 QS World-Ranked Universities. According to the announcement shared by HEC, the

deadlines for applications. For Spring/Summer 2027 intake, the last date to apply is October 30, 2026, while for Fall 2027 intake, applications will be accepted till March 30, 2027. Interested candidates have been advised to apply online through HEC's scholarship portal at <http://scholarship.hec.gov.pk>. Further details regarding eligibility criteria, fields of study, and application procedure are available at <http://www.hec.gov.pk/site/USPAK-KC>. The US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor Project was launched as a flagship initiative to strengthen academic linkages between the two countries.—APP

Pharmacists to undergo strict licence checks

ISLAMABAD: The Pharmacy Services and Drug Control (PS&DC) department of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) has directed pharmacists and other qualified persons applying for drug sale licences to disclose their existing and previous professional engagements across Pakistan. The body warned that strict legal action will be taken on submitting false declarations or concealment of information, official sources said. According to an advisory issued by PS&DC, applicants seeking drug sale licences in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) must truthfully disclose any existing or previous professional engagements linked to drug sale licences issued anywhere in the country. The department said it would verify the information provided by applicants through cross-checking records with relevant drug regulatory authorities and Pharmacy Councils. It warned that concealment of information, misrepresentation, false declarations or unlawful multiple professional engagements could lead to legal and regulatory action under applicable laws.—APP

Amir calls for UN action on IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Amir Muqam on Monday called on the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and ensure the right to self-determination for the Kashmiri people. Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad alongside Hurriyat leader Ghulam Safi and Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Shabbir Usmani, the minister said October 27 would continue to be observed as a Black Day in protest against what he described as Indian oppression and human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Amir Muqam said Indian forces entered Srinagar on October 27, 1947, marking the beginning of a long period of suffering for the Kashmiri people. He said the people of Kashmir continued to struggle for their basic rights and the right to decide their future. He said India claimed to be a champion of democracy but denied the people of Kashmir their fundamental rights and freedoms. Despite the hardships, he added, Kashmiris remained determined to achieve their right to self-determination. The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the Kashmiri people and urged the United Nations to implement its resolutions and ensure an end to human rights violations in the region. He said a major rally would be held in Islamabad on October 27, with people from different walks of life expected to participate. He also urged the public to join rallies across the country to express solidarity with Kashmiris. Amir Muqam said the government was working to pass resolutions in the National Assembly and Senate condemning alleged atrocities in occupied Kashmir. He added that lasting peace in the region could not be achieved without resolving the Kashmir issue. Hurriyat leader Ghulam Safi thanked the government and people of Pakistan for supporting the Kashmiri cause. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had the right to decide their future through a plebiscite and rejected India's claim that Kashmir was an integral part of the country. Safi said rallies and demonstrations on October 27 would highlight the Kashmir issue before the international community.—DNA

Smooth traffic flow ordered during rush hours

ISLAMABAD: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad, Kainat Azhar Khan visited major roads and busy intersections across the federal capital on Monday and directed traffic police officials to ensure smooth traffic flow, particularly during rush hours. An Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) official told that the CTO Kianat inspected traffic arrangements on various roads and received a detailed briefing from officers on the overall traffic situation and measures taken to manage traffic congestion. During the visit, she directed the officers to adopt an effective strategy to maintain uninterrupted traffic movement during peak hours. The CTO Kianat ordered the deployment of traffic personnel at major roads, intersections and diversion points to ensure proper traffic management and facilitate motorists. She also directed officers to closely monitor areas facing heavy traffic pressure and take timely measures to prevent congestion. Kainat said all available resources should be utilised to protect citizens from traffic jams and minimise travel difficulties. She warned that unnecessary obstructions to traffic movement would not be tolerated and directed traffic personnel to remain alert and perform their duties efficiently, especially during rush hours.—APP

NPC special discount at Excel Labs

ISLAMABAD: The National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad has announced that Excel Labs will offer an exclusive discount package to its members, employees and their families on diagnostic services. According to NPC, Excel Labs will provide up to 35 percent discount on Pathology services and up to 25 percent discount on Radiology services under the special arrangement. The initiative is aimed at facilitating journalists and press club staff with affordable and quality healthcare. Excel Labs, known for its slogan "Accurate Results make all the difference," is extending the offer under its commitment to trusted diagnostics, accurate results and better healthcare. The discount covers a wide range of laboratory tests and advanced imaging facilities, ensuring that the press club community can access reliable medical testing at reduced rates. Office-bearers of NPC Islamabad welcomed the collaboration, terming it a welfare-oriented step for the journalist community that often works under demanding field conditions. Excel Labs said the partnership reflects its mission of "Your Health, Our Priority" and its continued efforts to expand accessible healthcare services to professional communities across the country.—APP

Pak, explore publishing, literary coop

ISLAMABAD: National Book Foundation (NBF), Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Government of Pakistan, held a meeting with Jamila, a representative of Azerbaijan's Gadim Gala Publishing House, on the sidelines of the Baku International Book Fair 2026. The meeting focused on exploring opportunities for literary cooperation, book publishing, and introducing Azerbaijani literature to Pakistani readers. During the meeting, Jamila shared details of five psychological novels published by her publishing house and expressed her interest in introducing these works to the Pakistani market, said a message received here on Monday. As an initial step towards collaboration, she presented the novel 'This City Is Empty' by Azerbaijani novelist Rovshan Abdullaoglu to the National Book Foundation for consideration as a potential publication in Pakistan. The NBF representative welcomed the proposal and informed her that the submitted novel would be placed before the Foundation's competent board for review and consideration.—APP

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Briefs

Traffic diversions at Khanna Pul, Lehrtr Road

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has announced traffic diversions at Khanna Pul and Lehrtr Road from Monday until further orders due to ongoing construction work, advising motorists to use alternative routes to avoid inconvenience. An ITP official told that traffic heading towards Tramri Chowk, Lehrtr Road and Ali Pur should use Faizabad, Rawal Dam Chowk and Park Road as alternative routes. Similarly, motorists travelling from Khanna Pul towards the Islamabad Expressway have been advised to use Ghauri Town Link Road. The official said the diversions would remain in place until further orders to facilitate construction work and manage traffic movement in the affected areas. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad advised citizens to allow an additional 20 to 25 minutes for their journeys and plan their travel accordingly.—APP

IGP orders improved monitoring, field operations

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry visited the modern Command, Control, Communication and Coordination (4C) Centre and directed officers to further improve monitoring systems and field operations to strengthen policing in the federal capital. An official told on Monday that the IGP Sohail was briefed on the centre's advanced monitoring system, supervision of field police personnel, emergency response arrangements and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology. During the visit, the IGP Sohail reviewed the centre's working and the use of modern technology in monitoring police activities and coordinating field operations. He directed the concerned officers to further improve the monitoring system and strengthen coordination with field police teams to ensure an effective response to emergencies.—APP

IRSA releases 76,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 76,700 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 57,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1514.78 feet, which was 112.78 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 29,800 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1196.90 feet, which was 146.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 7,000 cusecs and 16,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu, and Sukkur was recorded as 52,400, 46,300, 37,100, and 17,400 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 3,400 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

IGP orders early completion of pending tasks

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry chaired a meeting with branch in-charges of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police to review progress on assigned tasks and directed them to improve performance and ensure early completion of pending work. An ICT Police official told on Monday that the IGP reviewed the progress made by different branches on tasks assigned to them and issued instructions for further improvement in their working.—APP

Al-Shifa Trust to revive Gulf chapter with Qatar Charity partnership

The proposed collaboration could widen access to specialist eye care for Somali patients who might otherwise struggle to afford treatment. It could also help Pakistani medical professionals develop specialised skills through international training and exchange opportunities

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital is stepping up its international outreach, seeking a partnership with Qatar Charity to provide free eye treatment to Somali patients, support a planned eye care and research centre in Lahore and expand medical training opportunities. The initiative emerged during a four-day networking visit to Doha by Al-Shifa Trust President Maj. Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan and his delegation, which also discussed reviving the Trust's Gulf Chapter in Qatar to strengthen fundraising and engagement with overseas Pakistanis. During a meeting with Mr. Jassim Mohammed Al-Sumaiti, Qatar Charity's general supervisor for Pakistan, the two sides explored potential cooperation in healthcare, human resource development and professional training. Al-Sumaiti appreciated the Trust's humanitarian mission to prevent blindness and expressed interest in supporting its work across multiple areas. Under the proposed arrangement for Somali patients, Qatar Charity would finance the entire cost of their treatment. President Al-Shifa Trust also proposed an arrangement to facilitate patients from Qatar on a 50-50 cost-sharing model. The talks also covered support for the Trust's planned eye care and research centre in Lahore, training for doctors and a possible nurse exchange programme. Qatar Charity representatives indicated that they might visit Pakistan in November, ahead of Ramadan, while the Trust prioritised follow-up discussions with the charity's Islamabad office. The proposed collaboration could widen



access to specialist eye care for Somali patients who might otherwise struggle to afford treatment. It could also help Pakistani medical professionals develop specialised skills through international training and exchange opportunities. During the visit, the delegation met representatives of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, Pakistan's ambassador to Qatar, Pakistan Welfare Forum Qatar and the

Pakistan Business Forum Qatar to explore opportunities for institutional cooperation and fundraising. Members of the Pakistan Welfare Forum highlighted limited awareness of Al-Shifa Trust among Pakistanis, underscoring the need for stronger outreach to the diaspora. The attendees appreciated the noble humanitarian work of Al-Shifa Trust and explored ideas to advance its mission on

multilateral fronts and through networking with like-minded individuals. The community also expressed their keen support to collaborate in order to propagate Al-Shifa Trust's message in Qatar and beyond. The proposed international support could help ease financial pressures on the Trust as inflation and rupee depreciation have raised the cost of imported medical equipment and hospital operations.

National Savings mobilises Rs 600b, targets Rs1.53t

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has mobilised Rs600 billion between July 1 and October 15, meeting its target for the period and setting the stage for an ambitious Rs1.53 trillion resource mobilisation goal for the current fiscal year. The strong start to fiscal year 2026-27 reflects sustained demand for government-backed savings instruments, as the institution seeks to expand its investor base and strengthen domestic savings, according to official sources. The annual target is part of the government's broader efforts to channel household savings into formal investment avenues while providing citizens with accessible options for financial planning. CDNS is also pursuing measures to improve operational efficiency and broaden the reach of its savings products. Expanding Shariah-compliant investment opportunities remains another key priority. The institution has been increasing its focus on Islamic financial products to attract investors seeking savings instruments that conform to Islamic principles. For fiscal year 2025-26, CDNS had set a target of Rs60 billion for Islamic savings instruments, reflecting its efforts to strengthen its presence in the growing Islamic finance segment. In fiscal year 2024-25, the institution had fixed an overall mobilisation target of Rs1.65 trillion, including Rs170 billion for Islamic finance investments, as part of its strategy to diversify investment options and encourage participation in formal savings schemes. CDNS has maintained a strong mobilisation record in recent years. It exceeded its Rs1.7 trillion target in fiscal year 2023-24 by mobilising Rs1.742 trillion, while achieving its Rs1.6 trillion target in fiscal year 2022-23. In fiscal year 2021-22, the institution initially set a mobilisation target of Rs1.3 trillion, which was subsequently revised upward to Rs1.4 trillion amid favourable market conditions and improved resource mobilisation. Officials attributed the institution's performance to institutional reforms, improved service delivery and measures aimed at making National Savings products more accessible to investors. As CDNS moves towards its Rs1.53 trillion target for fiscal year 2026-27, expanding its investor base, diversifying savings instruments and improving digital services are expected to remain central to its strategy. The latest capital figures highlight the institution's role in promoting domestic savings and directing financial resources towards government-backed investment instruments.—APP

Naqvi pays tribute to Nishan-e-Haider recipient Naik Saif Ali

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday paid tribute to Naik Saif Ali Janjua Shaheed, recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, on his 78th martyrdom anniversary, recalling his role in stopping the enemy's advance on the Pir Kalewa front in 1948. The minister said Naik Saif Ali Janjua had written an unforgettable chapter in history by resisting the enemy's attack and setting an example of courage and bravery. Naqvi said the sacrifices of martyrs were an important part of the country's national history. He added that those who laid down their lives in defence of the homeland were the nation's true heroes. The interior minister said the sacrifice made by Naik Saif Ali Janjua would continue to serve as an example for generations

to come. He said the soldier's firm commitment to sacrificing his life for the country remained alive and continued to inspire the nation. Naqvi said Naik Saif Ali Janjua's sacrifice continued to give determination and strength to the spirit of every soldier. He said servicemen such as Naik Saif Ali Janjua were a source of pride for Pakistan's armed forces. The minister said the name of Naik Saif Ali Janjua would always remain alive in the country's history. On the occasion of his 78th martyrdom anniversary, the interior minister reiterated that the sacrifices of those who gave their lives for the country would continue to inspire future generations and strengthen the resolve of the armed forces to defend the homeland.—APP

US, China, UK, top 3 destinations of exports

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$168.188 million during the current year, compared to US \$160.304 million last year, whereas exports to Turkiye stood at US \$57.712 million against US \$47.582 million

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the quarter of the current fiscal year 2026-27, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK). The US remained the largest market for Pakistani products, with exports totalling US\$1.716 billion, compared with US\$1.643 billion in the corresponding quarter of last year, showing a growth of 4.44 per cent, according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, where-in Pakistan exported goods worth US \$663.567 million against the exports of US \$562.560 million last year, showing an increase of 17.95 per cent. UK was the third-largest export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$612.305 million during the period under review, against exports of US \$574.171 million, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood at US \$572.624 million against US \$492.167 million last year, while exports to Germany were recorded at US \$389.116 million

against US \$446.100 million last year, data said. During July-September 2026-27, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$370.005 million against \$381.752 million, whereas exports to Italy stood at \$298.731 million against \$326.460 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$154.244 million against US \$383.122 million last year, while exports to Sweden were recorded at \$72.189 million against \$ 46.259 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$174.776 million against US \$180.114 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the period under review were recorded at US \$136.030 million against US \$136.686 million, while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$127.431 million against US \$137.871 million. Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$168.188 million during the current year, compared to US \$160.304 million last year, whereas exports to Turkiye stood at US \$57.712 million against US \$47.582 million.—DNA

FCCP seeks replies over 21 delay plot allotment

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan (FCCP) has sought replies from the Establishment Division and the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) over the non-allotment of a government plot to a former employee, Madh Hussain, despite the passage of 21 years.

A two-member bench, headed by Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi and comprising Justice Rozi Khan Barrech, heard the case on Monday. During the hearing, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi questioned why the FGEHA was not recognizing Madh Hussain as a government employee when, according to a letter from the Establishment Secretary, he was a civil servant. He also asked how the housing authority could disregard a letter from the Cabinet Secretary. The authority's counsel contended that Madh Hussain was not a government employee but had worked for the board of Heavy Industries Taxila. The court issued notices to the Establishment Division, FGEHA and the Attorney General's Office, seeking their responses over the failure to allot the plot. Madh Hussain served from 1977 to 2005, but the matter of allotment of his government plot remains unresolved.—APP

POL import bill up by 6.50 % to \$4.02 b

ISLAMABAD: The imports of the overall petroleum group decreased by 6.50 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The total imports of the petroleum group during July-September (2026-27) were recorded at \$4,020.371 million against imports of \$3,775.034 million during last year. Among the petroleum group, the imports of petroleum products increased by 11.58 percent, from \$1,395.647 million last July to \$ 1,557.223 during the period under review. The imports of petroleum crude also increase by 23.10 percent, from \$1,428.318 million to \$1,758.192 million and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), imports of which grew by 21.83 percent from \$235.218 million to \$286.559 million. However, the imports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) declined by 41.56 percent, from \$715.793 last year to \$418.337 this year.—APP

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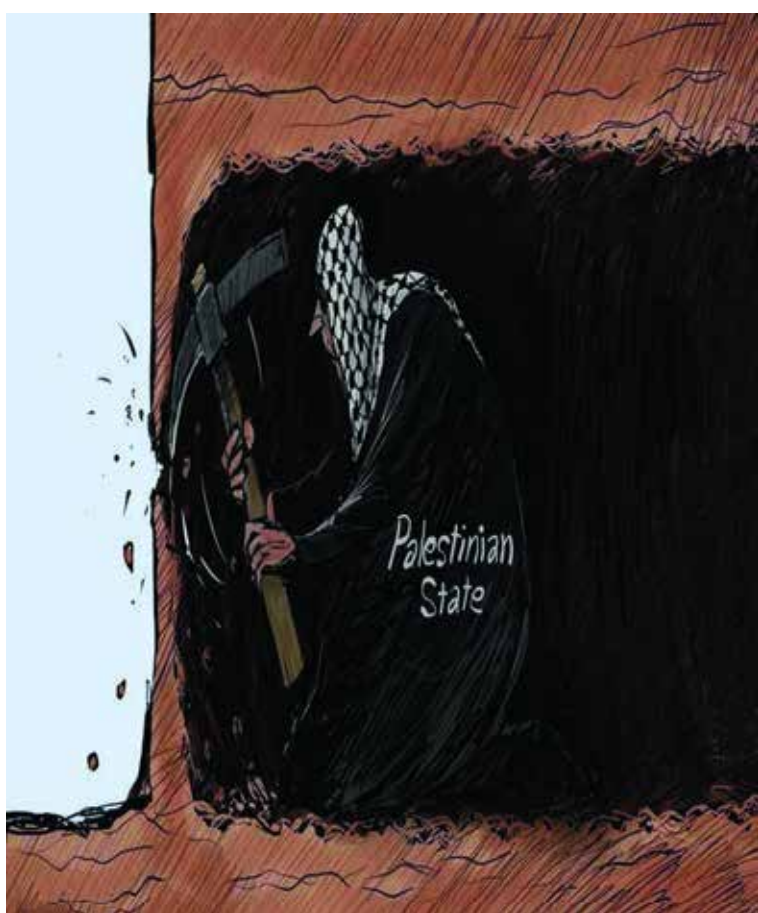
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America's Midterms: Every Candidate "Dangerous"

QAMAR BASHIR

WATCHING television in Michigan, I hear one election advertisement after another describe an opposing candidate as dangerous. The names change, the parties change, but the warning remains. Across the advertisements I encounter, nobody seems to be spared. If these campaigns are to be believed, Americans are preparing to send dangerous people into the House and Senate. What, then, will become of the country and the families whose future these representatives will decide? Before coming to the United States, I associated such relentless mudslinging largely with developing countries. In Pakistan, I had watched political differences descend into insults, allegations of betrayal and character assassination. I expected greater restraint from an established democracy. Instead, I have encountered a familiar practice supported by an exceptionally powerful advertising industry. One candidate appears as a threat to public safety, another as a servant of wealthy interests, another as fundamentally dishonest. Then the next commercial reverses the accusation. The person presented as the country's protector becomes its supposed danger when the opponent's advertisement begins. The audience faces an unsettling dilemma. Accept these portrayals and distrust the people seeking office; reject them and question the honesty of those financing the messages. Either response can weaken confidence in politics. A candidate may win an election while helping destroy the credibility needed to govern afterwards. The attacks extend into debates, rallies and social media. The Hill's October 25 account of seven particularly bitter campaign moments documents exchanges across states and parties. In Ohio, Vivek Ramaswamy's campaign featured Amy Acton's estranged mother calling her daughter a liar. In Texas, attacks on James Talarico targeted his masculinity, former veganism and supposed sexuality. Such personal ridicule tells voters little about governing ability. In Georgia, Jon Ossoff called Mike Collins a bigot and invoked Nazi imagery over his office's staffing, amid controversy about antisemitic posts by people connected to Collins. Collins condemned racism and antisemitism. In Maine, Troy Jackson told Susan Collins to "shut up" after she attributed a debate interruption to one of his supporters; Jackson denied knowing the protester. Michigan provided examples within and between parties. Mike Rogers sought to associate Abdul El-Sayed with the Muslim Brotherhood, which El-Sayed disavowed. During the Democratic primary, Haley Stevens faced online mockery of her appearance and voice. El-Sayed himself disparaged her speaking ability



before later urging supporters to stop personal mockery and focus on issues. In Ohio's Senate contest, Sherrod Brown and Jon Husted each invoked the other's donations from people linked, closely or loosely, to Jeffrey Epstein. Fact-Check.org identified omissions in both presentations. Financial relationships merit scrutiny, but an insinuation of shared guilt can travel much further than the evidence supporting it. These incidents are not interchangeable. Criticism of documented misconduct differs from religious insinuation; an insult differs from a criminal accusation. Nevertheless, responsibility for truthful, proportionate campaigning belongs to every party. The standard must follow the conduct, whoever engages in it. Nor should genuine misconduct disappear behind complaints about mudslinging. The House Ethics Committee found inappropriate conduct by Republican Chuck Edwards towards female staff members and announced a review of allegations involving Republican Max Miller, who denies abuse accusations. Democratic politician Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick has faced charges over the alleged diversion of \$5 million in disaster funds, including money allegedly used for campaigning. She has denied wrongdoing. An ethics finding, an investigation and a criminal charge represent different stages of accountability. None should be misrepresented. Parties must resist both manufactured disgrace and the protection of misconduct. Faster, fairer investigations, safeguards against retaliation and clear public findings would help voters distinguish substantiated concerns from electoral insinuation. Criticism cannot reasonably wait for a criminal conviction. Journalism and public scrutiny often uncover wrongdoing before courts act. The necessary discipline is accuracy: distinguish association from complicity, allegations from findings, and policy disagreement from hostility towards the nation. Congress should strengthen disclosure and enforcement within constitutional protections for political speech. A vibrant democracy should continually refine its practices. Elections should test whether candidates understand the problems confronting their communities, states and country. Integrity is indispensable, but voters must also assess competence, judgement and the ability to turn promises into results. A clean reputation alone does not establish the capacity to govern. Candidates should explain what they intend to accomplish, what it will cost, which powers their office actually provides and when citizens can expect progress. Plans for affordable healthcare, reliable infrastructure, safer neighbourhoods and stronger public services should include measurable goals and realistic deadlines. Legislators should specify the laws, funding and oversight they will pursue rather than promise outcomes they cannot deliver alone. That is the standard a mature democracy should set for itself and offer to the world. Families deserve representatives who make their country stronger, safer and more prosperous, and who can be judged against commitments made before election day. Calling every opponent dangerous cannot answer those needs. America's candidates should tell voters how they will solve the country's problems and accept responsibility for the results. The lasting measure of an election is not how thoroughly its contestants destroy one another, but how well its winners serve the people.

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

Pakistan's Syrian Opening

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Turkey has long sought influence over Syria's post-war security arrangements, particularly along its border. Saudi Arabia has an interest in preventing further Iranian entrenchment and in shaping a stable Arab order. Pakistan brings military experience, defence production and a relationship with China that gives it an additional strategic weight. If Riyadh, Ankara and Islamabad coordinate their approach to Damascus, Syria could gain access to a wider set of partners than it has had in years

SYRIA'S search for a new military patron has unexpectedly turned towards Islamabad. According to a report published by the Lebanese news portal Al-Modon on October 10, Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa asked Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to encourage Pakistan to speed up weapons deliveries and to allow Damascus to procure arms directly from Pakistan. The claim has not been independently confirmed by Islamabad or Damascus, but it fits a wider pattern: Syria's transitional government is looking beyond its old dependencies, and Pakistan is being courted as a possible partner in that effort. For Damascus, the appeal is not difficult to understand. Syria's armed forces were built for decades around Russian equipment and, more recently, relied heavily on Iranian-linked militias. Both sources of support are now politically and practically uncertain. A government seeking to rebuild a national army after years of war wants hardware that is affordable, adaptable and free of the end-use restrictions that often accompany Western arms sales. Pakistani systems, produced domestically and marketed as cost-effective and modular, offer one such option. Syrian analysts quoted in regional reporting describe Pakistan as a potential "sovereign buffer" for Damascus: a Muslim-majority nuclear state with an established defence industry, experience in counter-insurgency and a long record of dealing with sanctions and strategic isolation. Whether Pakistan wishes to accept that role is another matter. But the very fact that Damascus sees Islamabad in these terms marks a significant shift in the region's diplomatic geography. The reported Saudi mediation follows a series of high-level contacts. Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani visited Islamabad on August 19 and 20, the first visit by a Syrian foreign minister in 19 years and the first since the formation of Syria's new government. Pakistan's Foreign Office said the two sides reaffirmed their "longstanding brotherly ties", agreed to revive institutional mechanisms and discussed cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The symbolism was considerable. Mr al-Shaibani met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the commerce and interior ministers, and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir. That range of meetings sug-

gests that Syria was not in Islamabad merely to discuss trade delegations or cultural exchanges. Defence cooperation, regional security and the future political order in the Levant were inevitably part of the conversation. Pakistan, for its part, reaffirmed support for Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity and reiterated its position on the Golan Heights. Damascus publicly welcomed the visit, with Syrian state media presenting it as the beginning of a deeper strategic relationship. Islamabad's language was more measured, but the direction was clear: Pakistan is willing to re-engage with Syria at a moment when the country's political future remains unsettled. These contacts did not occur in isolation. On August 7, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement, a trilateral framework under which an armed attack on one party would be treated as an attack on all. The agreement established political and military mechanisms for coordination among three states that share concerns about regional instability, Iranian missile threats and the erosion of traditional security guarantees. Syria sits close to the centre of that equation. Turkey has long sought influence over Syria's post-war security arrangements, particularly along its border. Saudi Arabia has an interest in preventing further Iranian entrenchment and in shaping a stable Arab order. Pakistan brings military experience, defence production and a relationship with China that gives it an additional strategic weight. If Riyadh, Ankara and Islamabad coordinate their approach to Damascus, Syria could gain access to a wider set of partners than it has had in years. That does not necessarily mean a formal military alliance. It may begin with training, technical assistance, border security, counter-drone systems and limited equipment sales. But even modest cooperation can alter perceptions of power in a region where symbolism often carries strategic consequences. Pakistan's interest is also commercial and strategic. Its defence industry has long sought markets beyond the traditional reliance on a narrow group of buyers. The JF-17 Thunder, developed with China, and Pakistan's growing electronics and unmanned-systems sectors are being presented as alternatives for states that want capability without excessive dependence on Western or Russian suppliers. Syria, however,

is not an easy market. Its economy is damaged, its institutions are fragile and its security environment remains volatile. Any arms transfer would carry reputational, financial and diplomatic risks. Pakistan would need to consider the reaction of the United States, Israel, Gulf partners and its own domestic public opinion. It would also need to avoid becoming entangled in Syria's internal rivalries or in a broader confrontation with Israel. There is a further complication. Pakistan's closeness to China means that any expansion of its defence footprint in Syria could be read in Washington and Tel Aviv as an extension of Chinese influence. Islamabad may see itself as an independent actor pursuing commercial opportunities and Muslim-world solidarity; others may see a new node in a wider strategic network. At home, the debate is likely to be sharper. Pakistan faces inflation, fiscal pressure, political uncertainty and serious security challenges along its western border. Committing scarce diplomatic and military resources to Syria may appear, to many citizens, like an unnecessary adventure. The Mecca agreement was justified as collective deterrence; involvement in Syria's reconstruction would require a far more detailed national rationale. Yet disengagement has its own costs. If Pakistan remains absent, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt or other regional actors will shape Syria's future without it. Islamabad's traditional strength has been to maintain relationships across rival camps without becoming captive to any one of them. A careful, conditional opening to Damascus could preserve that flexibility. The central question, therefore, is not whether Syria wants Pakistani weapons. It almost certainly does. The question is whether Pakistan can engage without overcommitting: whether it can sell capability, offer training and support sovereignty without inheriting Syria's conflicts. If handled with restraint, Pakistan's engagement could give it influence in a region where it has long been under-represented. If handled carelessly, it could turn a promising diplomatic opening into another burdensome foreign commitment. For Islamabad, the Syrian door is opening. The task now is to walk through it without losing sight of Pakistan's own limits.

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Will Trump and Netanyahu Be Able to Overcome Their Political Challenges?

Muhammad Rafi



Trump's recent statements suggest that Washington wants to keep both military pressure and negotiations on the table in dealing with Iran. Responding to a question about Iran, Trump referred to both the continuation of the war and the possibility of reaching an agreement with Tehran, describing either outcome as a success for the United States

THE ongoing war in the Middle East is no longer merely a military confrontation between Iran, the United States, and Israel. Its effects have spread to global politics, energy markets, diplomacy, and electoral politics. The US midterm elections, the prospects for a new government in Israel, Pakistan's diplomatic efforts, Russia's ties with Iran, and US cooperation with India are all important aspects of the changing global landscape. The key question is whether military gains can be translated into political stability and lasting peace, or whether the costs of war will create even greater challenges for the leaders involved. The Israeli general elections scheduled for October 27 are crucial to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political future. However, as the war continues, important questions remain about the protection of civilians, the economic consequences, and the prospects for lasting peace and security in the region. Various opposition parties, including those associated with opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot, take a firm position on Iran. However, differences remain over how the war should be handled, the government's performance, and the strategy Israel should adopt in the future. According to election surveys, Netanyahu's governing coalition may struggle to secure a parliamentary majority. At the same time, the opposition also faces difficulties in forming a government. Netanyahu's political future will therefore depend on the election results, the role of coalition partners, and the prospects for forming a new government. The US midterm elections, scheduled for November 3, are equally important for President Donald Trump's domestic political position. Although Trump himself is not seeking election in these polls, the Republican Party's strength in Congress will influence his ability to pursue his policies and maintain his political influence. The war with Iran, fuel prices, inflation, and the economic costs of the conflict are among the key issues likely to shape the election debate.

Trump's recent statements suggest that Washington wants to keep both military pressure and negotiations on the table in dealing with Iran. Responding to a question about Iran, Trump referred to both the continuation of the war and the possibility of reaching an agreement with Tehran, describing either outcome as a success for the United States. His position reflects the continuing uncertainty surrounding the future of the war, the prospects for a settlement, and the possibility of achieving lasting peace in the region. If the war drags on and energy prices remain high, Republican candidates could face additional pressure during their election campaigns. However, the election results will not depend on the Iran war alone. Economic conditions, domestic policies, and voters' priorities will also play an important role. In this context, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's visit to Iran on October 20 is significant. During the visit, he met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and other senior officials. Pakistan has continued its diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions between the United States and Iran and revive negotiations. During these meetings, the Iranian leadership made clear that restoring trust with Washington would require concrete US steps and progress on Tehran's concerns. The visit therefore represents a continuation of diplomatic engagement, but it cannot be regarded as a guarantee that the war will end. For Pakistan, the issue extends beyond bilateral relations. It is also closely linked to regional security, maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, and the global supply of energy. Given its shared border with Iran, its relations with the United States, and its defence cooperation with Saudi Arabia, Islamabad will need to maintain a careful diplomatic balance. If Pakistan once again plays an effective role in building trust between the parties and reviving negotiations, its diplomatic importance could increase. However, this will depend on the willingness of the parties involved and the progress achieved on the ground. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's visit to Iran

is another part of the wider diplomatic picture. Russia is seeking to maintain its ties with Iran while consulting on the regional crisis and exploring opportunities to strengthen its diplomatic influence. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited India on October 20 and 21, where discussions covered trade, energy, defence cooperation, regional security, and other issues. India seeks to strengthen its relationship with the United States while also protecting its economic, defence, and political interests through ties with Russia and other countries. This reflects a broader trend: during the war, many countries are avoiding exclusive alignment with one side and instead seeking to balance their diplomatic relationships according to their national interests. Their aim is to preserve room for manoeuvre and secure the greatest possible political and economic advantages. The situation in Gaza remains one of the most important humanitarian dimensions of the crisis. The protection of civilians, displacement, access to humanitarian assistance, and a ceasefire continue to demand international attention. The intensity of the war with Iran and its global repercussions must not push the tragedy in Gaza into the background. The world's focus on one crisis should never diminish the importance of human life in another. The international community must continue its diplomatic efforts to ensure the immediate and uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza, protect Palestinian civilians, and secure a lasting ceasefire. Overall, Trump faces challenges related to the elections, the economy, and the cost of war, while Netanyahu faces uncertainty over the election results, government formation, and security. For Pakistan, the evolving situation presents an opportunity to maintain a careful diplomatic balance and contribute to regional peace. Ultimately, whether these leaders can overcome their political difficulties will depend not only on military developments but also on their ability to manage the economic and political consequences of the conflict and help create conditions for a lasting settlement.

Briefs

Iranian President for unity among regional states

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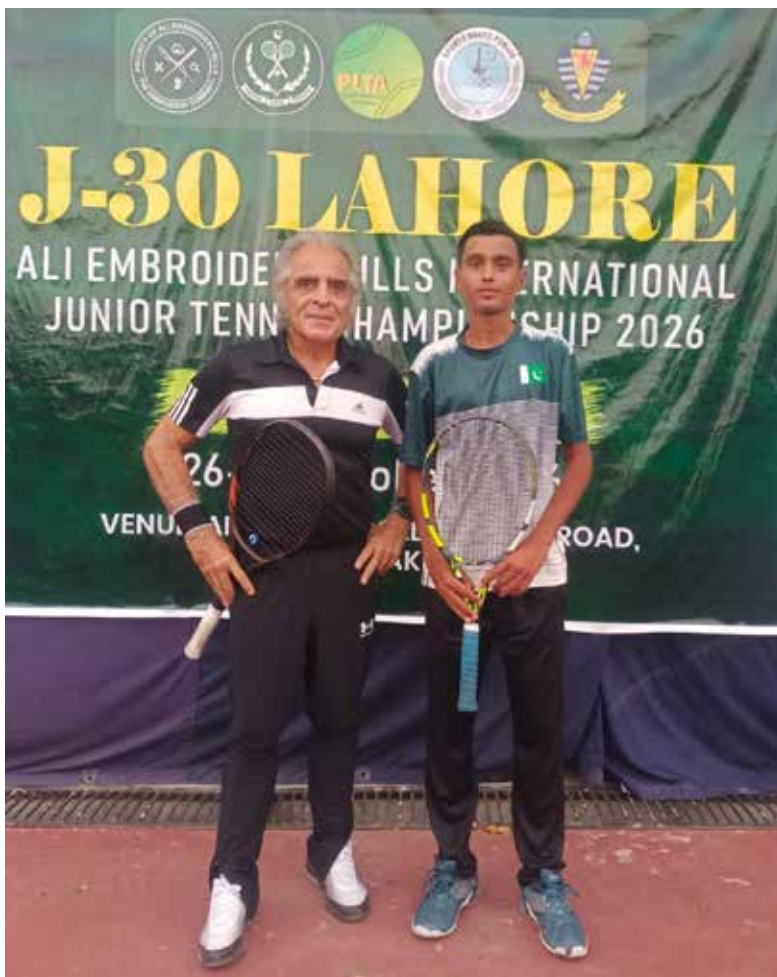
Earlier, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted the deputy secretary of Iran's top security body, Ali Bagheri Kani, as saying that the visit was part of efforts to implement the idea of endogenous security in West Asia. Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baqaei, said during a media briefing that the meeting with officials from the three countries would cover "most pressing issues threatening our region", which included Israel's expansionist policies, developments in Palestine and Lebanon. He added that the topic of "top priority on the agenda would be consequences of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran and its ramifications for the entire region". IRNA further quoted him as saying that this meeting could be a prelude to further steps towards shaping "endogenous security — an issue that we have been insisting on for decades". "We emphasise that regional security will not be ensured except by relying on the ... security considerations of the countries of the region," he said, adding that events of the last two years, especially the past eight months, had shown that sustainable and reliable security would only be made possible by "building trust and cooperation among the countries in the region". Saudi Deputy Minister for Public Diplomacy Rayed Krimly also confirmed the visit in a post on X. Krimly described the visit as "part of the continued efforts by the Makkah Defence Alliance members for de-escalation between parties involved in the ongoing crisis, and promoting dialogue and diplomatic solutions, in support of the mediation efforts carried out by Qatar and Pakistan". "The visit underscores the pivotal role of Makkah Defence Alliance members in reinforcing regional security and stability, and working with all countries in the region to achieve that goal," he added. The visit comes as attacks by Houthis have spiralled over recent weeks and rhetoric between Washington and Tehran has grown more heated. Monday's planned talks would be the first high-level contact between Iran and all members of the Makkah Defence Alliance since Saudi Arabia was drawn deeper into the conflict. Under the Makkah pact, signed in August, an armed attack on one member is considered an attack on all.

Political parties warned against AI...

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campaign material generated or substantially altered through AI — including deepfake images, videos, audio clips and synthetic voices — would have to carry "clear and conspicuous disclosure" identifying it as AI-generated or AI-assisted. Such material would also have to comply with election laws and the relevant code of conduct. The ECP has proposed a strict prohibition on using AI-powered deepfake technology to create false, derogatory or defamatory synthetic likenesses, voices or statements of candidates, party leaders, their supporters, election officials, members of the judiciary, the armed forces or other state functionaries. Political parties, candidates and election agents would also be barred from using AI-based bots, automated accounts or similar tools to create fake trends and engagement — including likes, comments, shares and followers — aimed at giving a false impression of public support. The proposed code would also require parties and candidates using AI for voter outreach through robocalls or voice-cloned messages to disclose at the beginning of the call or message that the content was AI-generated. Political parties and candidates would be required to retain records of all AI-generated or AI-assisted campaign content used during the election period and provide complete details to the ECP whenever required.

Pakistan's Muaz Stuns Bo Han Yang at ITF J-30



Muaz, a student of coach Rashid Malik and sponsored by Fatima Group, overcame his Chinese opponent 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 at Aitchison College, where the Punjab Lawn Tennis Association (PLTA) inaugurated the International Tennis Federation (ITF) event on Monday

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Muhammad Muaz made an impressive start to the J-30 Lahore Ali Embroidery Mills International Junior Tennis Championship 2026, upsetting China's Bo Han Yang in the boys' U-18 singles first round as international junior tennis returned to Lahore after more than 25 years. Muaz, a student of coach Rashid Malik and sponsored by Fatima Group, overcame his Chinese opponent 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 at Aitchison College, where the Punjab Lawn Tennis Association (PLTA) inaugurated the International Tennis Federation (ITF) event on Monday. The championship brings together promising junior players for international competition, offering Pakistani youngsters an opportunity to test their skills against foreign opponents on home soil. The return of an ITF junior tournament to Lahore marks an important development for the city's tennis community and the promotion of the sport among young players.

The opening ceremony was attended by Fazal-ur-Rehman, Member of the Punjab Planning and Development Board, and PLTA President Capt (R) Fazeel Asghar, who were the chief guests. Rashid Malik, Sitara-e-Imtiaz and Tamgha-e-Imtiaz recipient and PLTA senior executive vice-president, also attended alongside Waqar Nisar, Abid Malik, Sohail Malik, Musa Niaz, Ms Aneesa Agha, Brig (R) Manzoor, tournament referee Arif Qureshi, assistance referee Asim Raza, tournament coordinator Faheem Siddiqui, players and members of the tennis community. In other boys' U-18 singles matches, Hassan Usmani defeated M Haziq Asim 6-0, 6-3, Abdul Basit beat Hamza Ali Rizwan 6-3, 6-4, and Rayyan Khan overcame Abdaar Ali 6-1, 6-0. Arham Tariq defeated Abdur Rehman Sohail 6-3, 6-0, while Omer Jawad beat Muhammad Yahya 6-3, 6-3. Muhammad Shayan also advanced with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Adnan Afzal, and Nabeel Qayum overcame Rashid Ali 6-0, 7-6 (4). In the girls' U-18 singles, Stefaniila Vasilevskaia defeated Bismel Zia 6-0, 6-0, while Dailies Hu beat Khadija Khalil 6-0, 6-2.

Kimi Antonelli wins US Grand Prix and tightens his grip on historic F1 title chase

DNA

AUSTIN: In the first moments after Kimi Antonelli's latest victory, Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff called it "another small step" toward the Formula 1 season championship. It's much bigger than that as Antonelli marches toward F1 history. Antonelli's dominant win Sunday at the United States Grand Prix put the 20-year-old Italian on the brink of becoming the youngest champion in series history at the next race in Mexico City. Antonelli's ninth victory of the season was a pole-to-flag drive that came within a razor-thin margin of closing out the championship. Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton

finished fourth and Antonelli's Mercedes teammate, George Russell, finished eighth to extend the championship at least one more week. Anything lower by them Sunday and Antonelli would already be champion. "The car felt perfect today," Antonelli said. "Trying to have fun, hopefully fight for another win (in Mexico City). It would be best to finish well." He made quick work of the Sunday with a blistering start that blew Red Bull's Verstappen off the line as he eased into the first corner. The uphill left-turn switchback is one of the most notorious collision spots of the season and it was no trouble on this day. Verstappen has struggled with his starts several times this season, and Antonelli's

blast into the first corner from pole position never gave him a chance to win the inside line into the corner. Instead, the four-time champion quickly found himself in a fight with the two Ferrari cars while Antonelli drove off into the distance and seized control of the race. Antonelli kept extending his lead while Mercedes watched to see where Russell and Hamilton would finish. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished second. Verstappen was third after winning the previous two races. "Not a good race for us," Verstappen said. "My start was normal, it's consistently (bad)." After Antonelli took the checkered flag, team principal Toto Wolff spoke to him over the radio during his victory lap. "An-

other small step," Wolff told him. "Another small step." The biggest one could come next week in front of one of the biggest, most boisterous crowds of the season in the high elevation of the Mexico City Grand Prix at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez. Close it out and Antonelli will be the first Italian to win the drivers championship since Alberto Ascari in 1953. "It was a result we needed, the whole team deserve it so much," Antonelli said. Looking forward to the celebration Under Texas law, where the legal drinking age is 21, Antonelli is too young to quaff the victory champagne on the podium. In the cool down room after the race, Leclerc and Verstappen hinted at what could come next week south of the US border.

Inter rally late to down Fiorentina and regain Serie A lead

DNA

ROME: Inter Milan struck twice in stoppage time to complete a remarkable 2-1 comeback win over Fiorentina on Sunday and return to the summit of Serie A, while Juventus returned to form with a routine victory at Lecce. Alex Jimenez's rocket strike had struggling Fiorentina heading for a shock win at San Siro, but Marcus Thuram levelled in the 91st minute before winning a penalty that Piotr Zielinski converted in the 98th minute. The result meant the Nerazzurri returned to first place, level with surprise fellow pace-setters Lazio on 22 points, while the Florence club's winless run stretched to four games to keep them in 18th spot. In Lecce, goals from Weston McKennie and Douglas Luiz earned Juventus a 2-0 win that lifted them into seventh on 14 points after a poor recent run of form. Inter's fifth comeback win of the season came after they conceded for the 10th time, but head coach Cristian Chivu was unconcerned by his side's defensive issues. "That's football: sometimes you concede," Chivu told DAZN. "The important thing is not to let your heads drop and to maintain the same mentality. Ever since I arrived here, I've always said that games last 90 minutes."

Saim Ayub released from Pakistan tri-series ODI squad

DNA

THE Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has released young batter Saim Ayub from the national squad for the remainder of the ongoing ODI tri-series matches, allowing him to return to domestic cricket to work on his batting form and regain confidence. In a statement issued on Monday, the PCB said Saim had expressed his desire to return to domestic cricket following a conversation with the head coach Mike Heson. The team management and national selection committee agreed to accept his request, respecting his decision and appreciating his honest assessment of his current form, the board said. The selection committee has named Sahibzada Farhan as Saim's replacement for the remainder of the tournament. However, Farhan is currently in Kathmandu for the Nepal Premier League and will return to Pakistan on the first available flight to join the national side, sources said. Pakistan have already qualified for the tri-series final after securing three consecutive victories. They will face Sri Lanka in the fifth match of the tournament at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on Tuesday, October 27. Pakistan secured the spot in the series finale in a thrilling one-wicket victory over England in the ODI clash at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on Sunday.

Real Madrid beat Barcelona in La Liga Clasico

DNA

BARCELONA: Kylian Mbappe struck twice to earn Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid a 2-1 Clasico victory over La Liga leaders Barcelona on Sunday at Camp Nou, cutting the gap to three points. French superstar Mbappe opened the scoring before the interval and then slotted home late on to inflict Barca's first domestic defeat of the campaign after Raphinha had equalized for the champions. Real Madrid remain third, behind Atletico Madrid and Hansi Flick's Barca, who had won their first nine games before a chastening week.

9th National Mas-Wrestling Championship kicks off Today

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The 9th National Mas-Wrestling Championship, organized by the Pakistan Mas-Wrestling Federation (PMWF), will commence from Today (Tuesday) at Hamidi Hall, Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad. Sixteen teams from across the country will participate in the national event. Chairman of the Pakistan Mas-Wrestling Federation, Nawab Furqan Khan, stated that the championship aims to promote traditional sports, identify emerging talent, and create greater opportunities for Pakistani athletes at national and international levels. The championship will feature 16 teams representing various provinces, regions, and departments, including Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy, WAPDA, Pakistan Railways, Police, Pakistan Rangers, Airports Security Force

(ASF), and the Higher Education Commission (HEC), among others. Nawab Furqan Khan informed that competitions will be held in eight men's and seven women's weight categories. He welcomed the participation of both male and female athletes, emphasizing that increased female participation would help expand the sport, encourage inclusivity, and strengthen the popularity of Mas-Wrestling across Pakistan. He further stated that national-level competitions play a vital role in identifying talented athletes, enhancing their competitive abilities, and preparing a strong national contingent for future international championships. The championship is expected to serve as an important milestone in promoting traditional sports in Pakistan, encouraging young people to participate in healthy sporting activities, and strengthening the country's presence in the international Mas-Wrestling community.

Egypt approves military support...

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but has not publicly engaged in direct combat or joined the Makkah mutual defence pact between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye that was signed in August. Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said this month that Egyptian membership in the pact remains "under serious consideration." Egypt, the Arab world's most populous state with one of the region's largest militaries, joined the Saudi-led coalition in an earlier phase of Yemen's war in March 2015 mainly as a naval partner, sending warships to secure Red Sea shipping lanes while pledging air support. It also deployed around 800 ground troops but played only a limited combat role.

China's Communist Party elite gather for...

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Eight of the Central Committee's seats lie vacant, with another 15 members under investigation and at risk of being replaced. Xi's anti-corruption drive has also targeted the military, toppling five of the seven members of the Central Military Commission (CMC), the party's top armed forces body. Of 44 military members appointed to the Central Committee in 2022, only two have not been purged or disappeared, according to the Asia Society Policy Institute. The plenum could see new members appointed to the CMC; the party could wait until next year's congress to replenish it; or Xi might even restructure party control over its vast military. The talks also come at an unsteady time for the world's second-largest economy, which has struggled to address persistently sluggish domestic spending and a protracted crisis in the crucial property sector. Turbulent political and economic ties with the United States are also weighing on China's leaders. Authorities are expected to release a summary of the outcomes after the meeting concludes on Thursday.

Pakistan reaffirms right to...

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referred to as Fitna al Hindustan, and their affiliated networks continue to operate from Afghan territory, posing a serious threat to regional and international peace and stability. The statement stressed that thousands of Pakistani civilians have lost their lives in terrorist attacks that were allegedly planned, funded, supported, and executed from Afghan soil. Islamabad accused the Afghan Taliban regime of failing to take effective action against these groups and allowing them to operate with impunity. Pakistan underscored that no responsible state can remain passive while its civilians and security personnel are repeatedly targeted by terrorists. The government maintained that it reserves the right to take all necessary measures, consistent with international law and the principles of self-defence, to eliminate threats to its national security.

6 citizens sue Trump

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"The ultimate injury here ... is to the democratic public," says the suit, filed in federal district court in New York against Trump and three key aides, including the White House chief of staff, Susie Wiles. "The First Amendment protects the public's right to know what its government is doing," said Katie Fallow, deputy litigation director at the Knight First Amendment Institute, which filed the lawsuit on behalf of the six plaintiffs, along with the Media Freedom & Information Access Clinic at Yale Law School. "The White House cannot decide what information Americans receive by punishing critical reporting," Fallow said in a statement.

Pakistani participants examine practical agricultural technologies at CAF 2026

"AI-based systems that bring together information on agricultural conditions could be one area for China-Pakistan cooperation, particularly in helping farmers make use of data in day-to-day farm management," Khan said

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An artificial intelligence-based farmer-support system and robotic machinery drew interest from overseas participants at the 33rd China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair (CAF) and the 2026 Shanghai Cooperation Organization Agricultural Expo on Oct. 25, as they explored agricultural technologies and their potential applications in their home countries. Among them were 23 agricultural officials and experts from seven countries attending the Seminar on Capacity Building and Management of Agrotechnology Extension for Developing Countries. The participants came from Pakistan, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Jordan, Namibia, The Gambia and Uganda, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Khan, director of agriculture extension at the Punjab Agriculture Department in Lahore, Pakistan, said he was impressed by an AI-based farmer-support system showcased at the fair. He said integrated information systems could help organise data on natural factors affecting agriculture and support farm man-

agement. For countries such as Pakistan, where many farmers operate smallholdings, modernising agriculture also requires ways to deliver new technologies and information to farmers who may have limited access to them, Khan said. He saw potential for China-Pakistan cooperation in applying digital tools to agricultural extension and farm management.



"AI-based systems that bring together information on agricultural conditions could be one area for China-Pakistan cooperation, particularly in helping farmers make use of data in day-to-day farm management," Khan said. Two Jordanian agricultural engineers attending the seminar were also interested in the technologies on display, particularly machinery, robotics and plant-related

equipment. Dona Alsoub, who specialises in agricultural engineering, said she wanted to learn more about the equipment and technologies showcased at the fair. She also noted that language could be a barrier for international visitors and said English-language explanations would help them better understand the exhibits. Alaa Jamal Airout, an agricultural engineer specialising in animal production, said she was impressed by the range of exhibits and hoped to discuss what she had seen with people back home. Her interests extended from crop production and machinery to livestock farming. or Mohsen El Shishtawy, public relations consultant and executive director of the Egyptian-Chinese Entrepreneurs Association (ECEA), the fair was also an opportunity to explore institutional cooperation. El Shishtawy said he was looking into cooperation between Chinese and Egyptian agricultural universities and discussing potential collaboration with institutions in Egypt. Running from Oct. 25 to 29 in Yangling Demonstration Zone, Shaanxi province, the fair and the concurrent SCO Agricultural Expo have brought together more than 2,000 enterprises from over 50 countries and regions.



Asif Ali Zardari

The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On Jammu and Kashmir Black Day, we solemnly remember 27 October 1947, when Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and tragic chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. This day reaffirms our recognition of the longstanding aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the continued pursuit of the fundamental and inalienable right to self-determination.

For the past eight decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have endured profound sufferings, marked by violence, repression and serious violations of fundamental rights. Generations of Kashmiris have made immense sacrifices in their pursuit of justice, dignity and freedom. Their resilience and determination in the face of adversity remain a testament to the enduring strength of their cause.

Since 27 October 1947, the people of IIOJK have endured decades of conflict, restrictions and denial of their fundamental rights. The continuing restrictions on fundamental freedoms, heightened militarisation, arrests and reports of human rights violations remain a matter of serious concern and underscore the need for sustained international attention. The situation has further deteriorated since August 5, 2019, when India unilaterally attempted to alter the constitutional and legal status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir Black Day is, therefore, not merely a day of remembrance. It is also an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to a peaceful and just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Lasting peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia remain closely linked to the resolution of this longstanding dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

On this solemn occasion, I call upon the international community, particularly the United Nations and international human rights organisations, to take due cognisance of the human rights situation in IIOJK, support efforts for the protection of the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people and contribute meaningfully towards a just, peaceful and lasting resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of IIOJK. We will continue to raise their voice at every appropriate international forum and to advocate the realisation of their legitimate aspirations.

Today, we pay tribute to the countless sacrifices of the Kashmiri people and reaffirm our solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. Pakistan stands with them in the pursuit of justice, peace, dignity and the realisation of the legitimate right to self-determination.

The day is not far off when the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be able to determine their own future in accordance with their aspirations and the Jammu and Kashmir dispute will move towards a just and peaceful resolution.



M. Shehbaz Sharif

The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Seventy-nine years ago, Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a tragic chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, one that continues to cast its long shadow over the region to this day. Since then, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been denied the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, as affirmed in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have endured immense hardship, suffering and repression. Yet their courage, resilience and unwavering resolve to secure their fundamental rights remain undiminished. The sacrifices of successive generations stand as a powerful testament to their enduring commitment to freedom, dignity and justice.

India has continued its efforts to suppress legitimate political expression and silence the voices that represent the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The prolonged incarceration of Kashmiri political leaders, activists and human rights defenders remains deeply concerning. It underscores the need for due process, respect for basic liberties, and greater international attention to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Since 5 August 2019, India has taken a series of unilateral measures in IIOJK, accompanied by sweeping restrictions on fundamental freedoms. These measures, affecting the political, legal and demographic character of the territory, have drawn serious international attention. Pakistan has consistently called for these developments to be addressed in accordance with international law and the applicable United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir remains clear, consistent and principled. Lasting peace and stability in South Asia cannot be achieved without a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

On this solemn occasion, I pay tribute to the countless Kashmiri men, women and children who have offered immense sacrifices in pursuit of their rights. Their memory will always be honoured. The aspirations of the Kashmiri people cannot be extinguished through coercion or repression.

On this Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, the Government and people of Pakistan reaffirm their unwavering solidarity with the people of IIOJK. Pakistan will continue to extend its moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people, and to advocate for their legitimate rights at every national and international forum.

May the people of Jammu and Kashmir realize a future of lasting peace, dignity and security, and the fulfilment of their aspirations, including the right to self-determination.



Mohammad Ishaq Dar

Deputy Prime Minister: Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On this solemn occasion of Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, we recall with deep sorrow the events of 27 October 1947, when Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and tragic chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. Nearly eight decades later, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) continue to bear the consequences of an unresolved dispute and continue to be denied their inalienable right to self-determination, as affirmed in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

For decades, the people of IIOJK have endured immense hardships, including restrictions on fundamental freedoms, human rights challenges and profound suffering. Despite these difficulties, they have remained steadfast in their determination, courage and resilience. The sacrifices of generations of Kashmiris reflect their continued aspiration for justice, peace, and the right to determine their own future.

The United Nations Security Council has adopted a number of resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, envisaging a peaceful settlement in accordance with the will of the people. Pakistan has consistently maintained that these resolutions remain central to the resolution of the dispute and has emphasized the important role of the international community in facilitating a just, peaceful, and lasting settlement of this long-standing dispute.

The human rights situation in IIOJK has drawn greater international attention following India's unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. The subsequent legislative and administrative measures, restrictions on fundamental freedoms, demographic and political changes, and the continued detention of Kashmiri political leaders and activists have further deepened the sense of insecurity and alienation among the people of the occupied territory. These developments have also raised serious questions under international law and relevant international humanitarian and human rights standards.

The international community, including relevant United Nations bodies and human rights organizations, has documented concerns regarding the treatment of civilians and the broader human rights environment in IIOJK. These concerns underscore the need for continued international attention and engagement.

Yet, the people of IIOJK remain undeterred by such adversity. Their continued struggle for their fundamental rights serves as a reminder that the aspirations of a people cannot be suppressed through force or repression. Their sacrifices and quest for dignity and self-determination deserve the serious attention of the international community.

On this solemn day, Pakistan calls upon the international community to play its due role in addressing the sufferings of the people of IIOJK and promoting respect for their fundamental rights. Meaningful and sustained international engagement remains essential for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering political, moral, and diplomatic support for the people of IIOJK. We will continue to raise their voice at every appropriate international forum and to advocate for a peaceful and just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.



Engr Amir Muqam

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan & Salfon

Jammu & Kashmir Black Day is a solemn reminder of the events of 27 October 1947, when Indian forces entered Srinagar, setting in motion a conflict that has remained unresolved for seventy-nine years. It is a day to remember the sufferings and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people and to reaffirm the international commitments made to them regarding the Right to Self-determination.

For nearly eight decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have faced prolonged political uncertainty, restrictions on fundamental freedoms and serious human rights concerns. Yet through successive generations, the people of IIOJK have demonstrated remarkable resilience and an enduring determination to preserve their identity, dignity, and political aspirations. Their sacrifices deserve to be remembered with respect and their voices deserve to be heard.

The developments since 5 August 2019 have added a new and deeply concerning dimension to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Unilateral changes to the constitutional and administrative framework, restrictions on political activity and fundamental freedoms, prolonged detentions, and measures affecting the demographic and political character of the territory have intensified concerns about the future of its people.

These developments cannot be divorced from the broader question of the status of Jammu and Kashmir and its unresolved international dimension. Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir dispute has remained principled and consistent. We believe that no unilateral action can alter the fundamental nature of an internationally recognized dispute.

A durable settlement must be peaceful, just, and consistent with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The continuing tensions between Pakistan and India also underscore the importance of resolving the issues that lie at the heart of instability in South Asia. Peace in the region requires sustained diplomacy, respect for international obligations, and meaningful efforts to address the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The international community, particularly the United Nations, must continue to play its role in promoting peace and protecting the rights of the people affected by this longstanding conflict.

On this Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, I pay tribute to the generations of Kashmiris who have endured immense hardships and made profound sacrifices. I also express my solidarity with the families who continue to bear the consequences of this unresolved conflict.

As Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and Salfon, I reaffirm the Government of Pakistan's continued political, moral, and diplomatic support for the people of IIOJK. We will continue to advocate for their legitimate rights and to highlight their concerns before the international community.

Jammu & Kashmir Black Day is not only an occasion to remember the past; it is also a reminder of our collective responsibility to work for a future, in which the people of IIOJK can live in peace, security, dignity, and with the opportunity to determine their own future.



Attaullah Tarar

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting

October 27, observed as Kashmir Black Day, reminds us of the historic day in 1947 when Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir, marking the beginning of a prolonged campaign to deny the Kashmiri people their fundamental right to self-determination.

The sacrifices, resilience and unwavering commitment of the Kashmiri people to their right to self-determination stand as a proud chapter in history. Despite facing relentless oppression and immense hardships, the resolve of the Kashmiri people has remained unshaken.

Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to extending political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people. We urge the international community and the United Nations to play an effective role in securing the Kashmiri people's recognised right to self-determination and safeguarding human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

A just and lasting resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute can only be achieved in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

We pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people in their struggle for freedom and reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering resolve to stand by our Kashmiri brothers and sisters and continue to extend our full support to their just cause.



OCTOBER 27: KASHMIR'S DARKEST DAY

Honouring the Struggle for Freedom and Self-Determination

M Zahid Riffat

KASHMIRIS in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and around the world are observing October 27, 2026, yet again as the first darkest day in their history, continuing their protest against the occupation of their territory, which India forcibly took over on this day in 1947. The long-unresolved Kashmir dispute remains a source of lingering tension and conflict between the neighbouring nuclear powers, India and Pakistan. The dispute originated when the people of Jammu and Kashmir were denied their fundamental right of self-determination following the partition of the Indian subcontinent and the emergence of two separate independent states, Pakistan and India, on August 14, 1947.

At that time, it was generally presumed that Kashmir, as a contiguous state with a predominantly Muslim population, would accede to Pakistan. However, its Hindu ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, fled to New Delhi in the face of protests by local residents and, through an improper and illegal Instrument of Accession, acceded the territory to India on October 27, 1947. On the same day, India airlifted its forces to Srinagar and forcibly occupied the valley against the aspirations of the Kashmiris. This, in brief, is the background to why Kashmiris everywhere, along with freedom- and human-rights-loving people around the world, including in Pakistan, observe October 27 every year as a protest day to mark the first darkest day in their history.

The Kashmiris continue observing the darkest day on October 27, most unfortunately in the changed circumstances following the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019, through illegal amendments to the Indian Constitution by the fascist regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, thereby merging the territory into the Indian Union as an integral part of India. For more than 79 years, India has illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the wishes of the Kashmiri people, in blatant violation of UN Security Council resolutions and, indeed, its own commitments to the people of Kashmir. Through the determined efforts of Pakistan's civil and military leadership, the Kashmir issue has now been somewhat revived at the UN Security Council.

As such, the Kashmir issue is now occasionally discussed at international forums, where the brutalities and atrocities committed by Indian security forces in the occupied territory are condemned. The Indian government is being asked to take measures to restore normalcy there, implement UN Security Council resolutions and, accordingly, hold a free and fair plebiscite to let the Kashmiris exercise their birthright of self-determination and decide their future themselves in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. However, it is deplorable as well as condemnable that the international community, led by the world body, continues to refrain from putting pressure on India beyond issuing condemnations, as countries have their own vested financial and economic interests in a big country like India.

Furthermore, besides the brutalities and atrocities committed by Indian security forces, the fascist Indian regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also persistently taking deliberate measures to

change the demographic structure of the occupied territory in a brutal attempt to obliterate the distinct Kashmiri identity and affect the outcome of a plebiscite envisaged in UN Security Council resolutions. This action by the Indian government violates the UN Charter, Security Council resolutions and international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, as changing the demographic structure of a territory is a war crime. The Indian government is settling Indian Hindus in the territory under the guise of immi-grant Kashmiri Pandits. Changing the Muslim-majority status of Indian-Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) into a minority has long been part of the Hindutva agenda of the RSS and BJP and they are persistently implementing it in practice. The Modi government has been constructing transit accommodation camps to settle Hindus in IIOJK. Construction of transit camps for Hindus is under way in all districts of the Kashmir Valley. As the Indian occupation of Kashmir continues without the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, the indigenous, unarmed struggle for freedom by the Kashmiris also continues until they achieve their cherished objective of freedom from Indian shackles.

Through its civil and military leadership, Pakistan has all along extended full political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri people and will continue to support their indigenous, just and legitimate struggle to secure their right of self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions. A peaceful, negotiated settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions has been and remains a top priority of Pakistan's foreign policy. Without resolving the Kashmir issue, the agenda of the partition of the Indian subcontinent remains incomplete, as Kashmir is regarded as the lifeline of Pakistan. It is an internationally accepted and acknowledged fact that Kashmir itself entails a global danger of escalating nuclear and missile proliferation in both India and Pakistan, coupled with their respective domestic instabilities and historical animosities.

India can kill the Kashmiris but not their aspirations for freedom, which they will never surrender. India should honour its promises to grant the people of Jammu and Kashmir the right of self-determination. They have already rendered endless sacrifices for freedom from illegal Indian occupation. The international community must take concrete steps to end the Indian occupation of the held territory and intervene to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute peacefully to ensure durable peace, progress and prosperity for the people of the region. India is bound under international law not to change the demography of IIOJK and the international community must forestall this move and exert all possible pressure on India's fascist regime to honour its decades-old commitment, implement UN Security Council resolutions and let the Kashmiris exercise their birthright of self-determination. The UN and the international community should also exert greater pressure and influence on India to implement UN Security Council resolutions and let the Kashmiris exercise their birthright of self-determination.



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Briefs

Imaan, Hadi move Supreme Court

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Lawyer and human rights activist Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, on Monday moved the Supreme Court against an order by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) concerning their trial court proceedings in the security breach case. The couple filed the appeal in the Supreme Court through Advocate Faisal Siddiqui, seeking to set aside the IHC's October 19 order, in which the high court turned down their plea for interim relief. The case, registered at Aabpara Police Station, stems from allegations that the lawyer couple posed a security risk by interfering in state affairs during the visit of an international cricket team in October 2024. An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad indicted Mazari and Chattha in the case earlier this month despite the accused objecting that they had not yet received copies of the case documents.

UK sanctions 15 commanders from rival Sudan factions

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Britain on Monday sanctioned 15 military commanders, militia leaders and security officials from both sides of Sudan's conflict, accusing them of waging sexual violence, torture and attacks on civilians linked to the fall of Al-Fashir. Those targeted include commanders from the Rapid Support Forces and Sudanese Armed Forces, as well as leaders of armed groups allied to the army, in what London said was its latest effort to hold perpetrators of abuses accountable. The measures come a year after the fall of Al-Fashir, the North Darfur capital that became a focal point of Sudan's war, where civilians were subjected to a prolonged siege, reported mass killings and widespread sexual violence. Britain said the action followed the publication of UK-funded research by the Center for Information Resilience, which documented what it described as systematic starvation and conflict-related sexual violence against civilians by both sides in the war.

Imran sisters' detention extended by another 30 days, LHC told

Lawyer says Punjab govt approved further detention on deputy commissioner's recommendation

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government has extended the detention of jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's sisters, Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi, by another 30 days, the Lahore High Court (LHC) was told on Monday. A government lawyer submitted a report prepared by the Punjab home secretary to the court in connection with a petition seeking the release of the former premier's sisters. Aleema was detained under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order, 1960 (MPO) on September 20 in Lahore and shifted to Kot Lakhpat jail. A day later, her sisters, Noreen and Uzma, were detained under 3-MPO, following a recommendation from the police. The detentions came ahead of PTI's nationwide protest, including a planned long march on Islamabad on September 27 to demand the release of Imran and supremacy of the Constitution. Aleema's son, Shahrez Khan, filed a petition in the LHC on October 20, challenging the detention of the former premier's sisters. During the previous hearing on the petition, the LHC had summoned the Punjab home secretary and the superintendent of Kot Lakhpat jail in person on October 28. During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel had told the court that the detention orders for all three detained sisters had expired on October 19 and 20. Meanwhile, the government lawyer told the LHC that the deputy commissioner had sent a proposal to the Punjab government recommending a further extension of their detention. The government lawyer told the court that the government approved the proposal and extended the detention of all three sisters by another 30 days. Punjab home secretary and the superintendent of Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail appeared before the Lahore High Court in line with the court's order.

Ms. Mao Ning meets Dar

Pakistan-China Spokespersons' dialogue to boost media ties

The discussions focused on further strengthening cooperation between the two foreign ministries, particularly in media engagement, strategic communication, and public diplomacy



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China convened the Third Round of the Pakistan-China Spokespersons' Dialogue in Islamabad on Monday, with both sides pledging to deepen cooperation in media

engagement, strategic communication, and public diplomacy. The dialogue was held between Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan, Spokesperson of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ms. Mao Ning, Spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The second round of the dialogue was held virtually in October 2022.

The discussions focused on further strengthening cooperation between the two foreign ministries, particularly in media engagement, strategic communication, and public diplomacy. Both sides underscored the importance of closer coordination, regular consultations, and enhanced exchanges to promote mutual

understanding and further deepen the longstanding Pakistan-China friendship. During her visit, Ms. Mao Ning also called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan also attended the meeting. The DPM/FM reaffirmed Pakistan's firm commitment to further strengthening the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, rooted in mutual trust, respect, and unwavering support for each other. He emphasized the importance of enhanced media cooperation, strategic communication, and public diplomacy in advancing bilateral relations and fostering closer people-to-people ties. Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Ms. Mao Ning called on Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. Ms. Mao Ning conveyed greetings from Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The DPM/FM reciprocated with warm regards and best wishes to FM Wang Yi. Welcoming Ms. Mao Ning to Pakistan for the Pakistan-China Spokespersons' Dialogue, he reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China.

JI march against fuel prices in Nov

NEWS DESK

KARACHI: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Monday warned that the party would march to Islamabad in mid-November if Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif did not abolish the petroleum levy. The JI has been demanding for over two months that the Centre abolish levies, including Rs114 per litre on petrol and Rs100 per litre on diesel, as the total prices have skyrocketed due to conflicts in the Middle East since March. A day earlier, the party said Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Special Assistant to PM Rana Sanaullah contacted JI Vice Emir Liaquat Baloch and it was decided that a meeting between the JI chief and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will be held within the "next two days". Addressing a press conference on Monday, Rehman said that JI had been patient and acted responsibly, considering the state of international affairs. He added, "Now, the responsible thing to do is for us to be aggressive." "If the prime minister does not provide relief or abolish the petroleum levy, if he doesn't take any steps, then in mid-November we will, with full force, march to Islamabad." He suggested that the government accept the issues and "handle" them beforehand by providing relief to the people of Pakistan. Rehman said his party remained prepared to march towards Islamabad and recalled that federal ministers had contacted the party repeatedly. "Liaquat Baloch Sahib has told them that nothing will come out of talks until something tangible is given," he said. However, Rehman acknowledged that the government had assured JI of "doing working" on the issue and "decide what can be achieved in the meeting with the prime minister". The JI chief reiterated that his party will continue to stand by the demand.

Netanyahu, Israeli army chief 'clash'

Israeli PM rejects report as "nonsense", saying there is no confrontation

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the country's army chief Eyal Zamir clashed over a proposed military operation that could cause confrontation with Tehran ahead of elections in Israel, Anadolu reported, citing Israeli media. The report said Zamir sought a detailed

discussion of the proposed operation and signed legal authorisation from political leaders before proceeding. However, the Israeli broadcaster did not disclose the nature of the operation. The report cited concerns from Israel's military leadership that escalating tensions with Iran could be exploited for electoral gain ahead of the October 27 parliamentary vote. A security official warned that the proposed operation could quickly escalate into a confrontation with Iran, raising the risk of miscalculation at a particularly sensitive political and security juncture, Israeli media reported.

Brazil's leftist President Luiz Lula da Silva wins

DNA

BRAZILIA: Brazil's leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pulled off a dramatic comeback on Sunday as he clinched a re-election victory, but his rival Flavio Bolsonaro refused to accept the loss and said he would seek to annul the vote. With Lula's victory, Brazil staved off a conservative wave that has seen numerous countries — such as Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Peru — all shift right, backed by US President Donald Trump. The leftist icon, who turns 81 on Tuesday, defied projections to win an unprec-



edented fourth term. According to official results, he won 51.8 per cent of the votes to 48.2pc for Flavio Bolsonaro, with Lula pulling around 4.4 million more votes. The senator is the son of former far-right president Jair Bolsonaro, who is serving a 27-year jail term for attempting a coup after his loss to Lula in the country's last election in 2022. Sunday's vote was marked by confusion after a Supreme Court ruling extended voting by two hours as some polling stations had already closed. The move came at the request of Lula who complained that buses had been pulled from circulation in various cities, barring citizens from voting.

ایوم 27 اکتوبر
اسیاء
کشمیر

فقید المثال جدوجہد
حق خود ارادیت کے 79 سال

#KashmirBlackDay

”کشمیر
ہماری
شہرگ ہے“
(قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح)

ایک قوم
ایک ایمان
کشمیر بنے گا
پاکستان

کشمیر ہماری شہرگ ہے اور رہے گی۔
آزادی کے اس جدوجہد میں ہم اپنے کشمیری
بھائیوں کو تیار نہیں چھوڑیں گے۔
فیصلہ مارشل سید عاصم منیر
نشان امتیاز (املائی) بلال دیات
چیف آف ٹرینس فورسز، چیف آف آرمی سٹاف

میں اپنے کشمیری بھائیوں کو مکمل
ذمہ داری کے ساتھ یقین دلاتا ہوں کہ ہم ان کا
حق خود ارادیت ملنے تک اپنی مکمل سفارتی،
سیاسی اور لٹلری حمایت فراہم کرتے رہیں گے۔
محمد شہباز شریف
وزیر اعظم اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان
انعام محمدی کی جنرل اسمبلی کے 81 ویں سیشن سے خطاب

میں اپنے کشمیری بھائیوں سے کہتا
ہوں کہ حق خود ارادیت کیلئے آپ کی جدوجہد
میں آپ تیار رہیں یہیں پاکستان مضبوطی سے
آپ کے ساتھ کھڑی ہے۔
آصف علی زرداری
صدر اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان

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