



Islamabad POST

Saturday, October 03, 2026

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

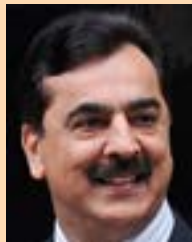
Price Rs. 40

Trump threatens to hit Iran hard if there is no deal

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Chairman Senate for strong Pak-Australia ties

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M Rizwan appears before the NCCIA

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Corps commanders moot

‘May 9-like situation’ to be dealt with decisive force

Corps Commanders’ Conference underscores importance of internal stability, says ISPR

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The army’s top brass has warned that attempts to create a May 9-like situation or cause agitation will be met with “decisive force” and the rule of law, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The warning came during the 277th Corps Commanders’ Conference at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi, chaired by Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on Friday. According to a statement from the ISPR, the forum reviewed the prevailing security environment and resolved that any attempt to create agitation or a “May 9-like” situation on any pretext would be dealt with decisively under the rule of law, without hesitation or discrimination. Turning to the regional security situation, the forum reaffirmed Pakistan’s right to self-defence and targeted action against terrorism emanating from Afghanistan. It stated that the Taliban leadership facilitating terrorism on behalf of India bears responsibility for its consequences. Discussing Kashmir, the forum reiterated Pakistan’s principled position on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), supporting a resolution of the dispute in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the

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Pakistan slams Houthi attack on Madina power station

Sanctity of Two Holy Mosques and safety of pilgrims must be respected under all circumstances, says FO

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned the Houthi militia attack on Taibah power distribution station in Madina, calling it a “grave provocation”. “This reprehensible attack against civilian infrastructure supplying electricity to the Holy Prophet’s (PBUH) Mosque is a grave provocation and a matter of deep concern and anguish for millions of Muslims worldwide,” the Foreign Office said in a statement on Friday. The condemnation came a day after Saudi-led coalition fighting

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ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott in a meeting with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. – DNA

Cricketer Rizwan appears before NCCIA

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan appeared before the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) on Friday for the forensic examination and analysis of his mobile phone, which was taken into the agency’s custody last month. According to the second notice, the NCCIA requested Rizwan’s cooperation to conduct a forensic examination and analysis of the mobile phone it seized from the national cricketer. The wicketkeeper-batter was issued notice under Section 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. According to sources, a four-member NCCIA team will question Rizwan.

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‘Europe has agreed to release diesel oil stocks’

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has announced in a post on Truth Social that Europe has agreed to release a “massive amount” of its diesel oil stocks and that the process “will begin immediately”. US President Donald Trump says a deal with South Korea includes an \$8.4 billion oil recovery programme, amid global shortages caused by the Iran war. “Producing more oil and gas means American energy dominance and energy security in the world for the future!” Trump writes on his Truth Social platform.

Security forces kill seven India-backed terrorists

Forces remain committed to eliminating terrorism, establishing peace under Azme-Istehkam vision, say sources

DNA

QUETTA: Security forces killed seven India-backed terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s North Waziristan district, security sources said on Friday. The sources said the operation was carried out as part of efforts against Fitna al-Khawarij,

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Two Pakistanis martyred in Indian BSF firing

Another Pakistani citizen was injured in the firing incident, say security sources

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Two Pakistani citizens were martyred and another was injured after Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel opened unprovoked fire near the Pakistan-India international border in Kasur, security sources said on Friday. The three Pakistani citizens from Punjab’s Ladhra village were targeted by the BSF without warning after they moved only a few steps ahead of a border pillar, the sources said. “All three citizens were unarmed,” the sources added. According to the sources, the martyred were identified as Azmat Rasool Shah and Mohsin Jutt, both residents of Jattan Wali Haveli in Ladhra. The sources said none of the three individuals had attempted to cross the border fence. They described the firing as unprovoked and said the incident

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Briefs

PM extends condolences to Araghchi

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has spoken with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi over the telephone and expressed condolences for the death of his sister, the Prime Minister’s Office says in a statement. “The prime minister expressed his deepest sympathies to Foreign Minister Araghchi and his family and offered prayers for the departed soul, praying that Allah Almighty may grant her eternal peace and give strength and fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss,” it reads. The PMO adds that Araghchi thanked PM Shehbaz for the call and for sharing in his grief.

US energy department engineer arrested

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: A US energy department electrical engineer has been arrested for allegedly supporting Yemen’s Houthi rebels by purchasing materials for homemade explosives and drones and travelling to Yemen, Anadolu reports citing US local media. “Ashton Hamed Ellaboudy, 51, of Richland, Washington, was arrested [on] Thursday and is due to make his first court appearance Friday,” CBS News reports, citing the US Justice Department. Ellaboudy sought to help the Houthis enhance their communications capabilities and travelled to Yemen last September, CBS News, citing a claim by the FBI. “Ellaboudy used a passport issued to him when he was working at the US Army Corps of Engineers to make his way to Oman, then bordering Yemen,” CBS News quotes the Justice Department as saying.

UK to continue supporting Pakistan, says Jane Marriott

Finance Minister, British High Commissioner Discuss Economic Reforms, Trade and Investment Cooperation; The two sides discussed reform priorities, with particular emphasis on fiscal management, tax administration, digitalisation, expenditure efficiency, trade and investment promotion, public investment and public-private partnerships

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Jane Marriott CMG OBE, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, to discuss Pakistan’s economic reform priorities and opportunities to deepen trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. She was accompanied by Development Director Mr. Sam Waldock and Senior Economist Mr. Louie Dane. The Finance Minister welcomed the British High Commissioner and appreciated the United Kingdom’s continued support for Pakistan’s economic reform efforts through technical assistance, expertise and knowledge sharing. He noted that Pakistan had moved from stabilisation towards

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Pak injured crew members to arrive Pakistan today

“The mortal remains of the three Pakistani crew members (Late Rafi Ullah Khan, Late Syed Kashif Umer and Late Mahmood Ahmed Ansari) who tragically lost their lives are being repatriated to Pakistan”

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Four of the 10 Pakistani crew members caught up in the hijacking of MV Honour 25 off Somalia have been safely retrieved and are scheduled to reach Karachi today (Saturday), Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday. In a post on X, Dar said that the four crew members – Yasir Khan, Aqeel Khan, Amin bin Shams and Usman Ghani – were retrieved following efforts by the foreign ministry and Pakistan’s embassy in Djibouti. “The mortal remains of the three Pakistani crew members (Late Rafi Ullah

Defence Pact committee meets soon: Dar

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday that a meeting of Makkah Defence Alliance’s Strategic Political Defence Committee (SPDC) would take place in Riyadh next week, adding that it would focus on Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia. The deputy premier was addressing a press briefing regarding the Pakistan delegation’s engagements at the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in

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PTI adamant on holding Oct 4 long march

Asad Qaiser says opposition wanted to meet jailed Imran Khan to finalise agenda in consultation with him; For his part, Sanaullah said that no decision could be reached during the first round of talks between the government and the PTI

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The first round of negotiations between the government and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was held on Friday at the National Assembly speaker’s chamber, ahead of the Imran Khan-founded party’s long march towards Islamabad, scheduled for October 4. The six-member opposition delegation includes PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Senate Opposition Leader Allama Raja Nasir Abbas and PTI leaders Asad Qaiser, Salman Akram Raja, Amir Dogar and Haleem Adil Sheikh. The government delegation includes Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, PM’s Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Pakistan Peoples Party’s (PPP) Sherry Rehman and others. During the meeting, the interior minister presented a briefing on the law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The PTI reconstituted its delegation for the meeting after Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Ayim-e-Pakistan (TTAP) chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai refused to attend the meeting at the NA speaker’s chamber, saying he

would attend the talks if they were held at a neutral location. Sources said that PTI leadership rejected TTAF chief’s demand and formed a new delegation for talks. Speaking to journalists following the meeting, the PTI chief said the first round of talks with the government was held in a good atmosphere, adding that the meeting lasted about an hour. Both sides conveyed their respective positions, he said, adding that the opposition had presented its demands in a simple and clear manner. Gohar said that his party attended the talks without any conditions after being invited by the government. He expressed hope that matters would move in a positive direction. The PTI leader said that the second round of talks would be held at 2pm on Saturday. He was of the view that negotiations and the PTI’s long march would continue simultaneously. He said there was no room for imposing governor’s rule or an emergency in KP. For his part, Sanaullah said that no decision could be reached during the first round of talks between the government and the PTI. He said the two sides would resume negotiations tomorrow, adding that he could not say anything about progress at this stage. The PTI had earlier postponed its planned long march to-

wards the federal capital from September 27 to October 4. The former ruling party has said the protest is aimed at seeking the release of its jailed founding chairman Imran Khan and what it describes as the restoration of constitutional supremacy. Speaking to the media earlier today, Sanaullah urged the opposition party to withdraw its long march call amid talks between the PTI and the government. Speaking to the media at Parliament House in Islamabad, Sanaullah said that long marches and disorder were not a solution to any problem. “Matters that are before the courts have to be decided by the courts.” He said issues that could be settled through talks could be discussed at the negotiating table, questioning the opposition’s position on the venue for talks. “You can sit by the roadside under a tree and talk, but you cannot meet at the Prime Minister’s Office,” he said. Sanaullah said that such statements damaged political tolerance and communication between political parties. On matters pending before the courts, the senior PML-N leader said that the courts themselves enforce their orders. Sanaullah said that the PTI founder – incarcerated at Adiala jail – had been shifted to a hospital, where

he was examined by a panel of senior doctors. He said the purpose was to conduct the former prime minister’s medical check-up and that he had been shifted to another hospital, even if it was not a private facility. He added that if the court issued further clear directions, the government would be bound to comply with them. Meanwhile, the PTI chief vowed that the party’s long march towards Islamabad would proceed as planned. “Our long march will definitely take place,” Barrister Gohar told the media, adding that the talks had started at the government’s request. Speaking to Geo News before the talks, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja said the opposition would discuss justice, adding that they wanted a meeting with the jailed PTI founder and consultation with him. According to Raja, progress on the negotiations would depend on whether such a meeting took place. “We want the release of the PTI founder and justice.” Asad Qaiser said that the opposition wanted to meet Khan at Adiala jail to finalise the agenda through consultation with him. Qaiser said that the issue concerning the PTI founder’s sisters would also be discussed. “First of all, we believe we should be allowed to meet our leader.”

Briefs

Safe City 4C centre operations reviewed

ISLAMABAD: Assistant Director IT Safe City Muhammad Abbas Mehdi held a meeting with the 4C Centre Operations Team and reviewed its operational activities and monitoring system for police operations, security and law and order. An official told on Friday that the meeting, reviewed the working of the Command, Control, Communication and Coordination (4C) Centre and discussed ways to improve monitoring and co-ordination through modern technology. The participants discussed police operations monitoring, security and law and order surveillance, and monitoring of field deployments to ensure better coordination and timely response. The meeting also reviewed the Crime Control Tracker, digital surveillance and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other technology to help police prevent and control crime. Muhammad Abbas Mehdi stressed effective coordination and timely response, with greater use of technology to strength.—APP

Accreditation framework for insolvency professionals

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has sought public comments on a proposed accreditation framework for official liquidators, provisional managers and insolvency experts. The framework proposes measures to improve the handling of corporate liquidation and rehabilitation proceedings under the Companies Act, 2017, and the Corporate Rehabilitation Act, 2018. Its objective is to build a pool of qualified professionals to manage the winding up of companies and support the rehabilitation of financially distressed businesses, said a press release issued by the SECP on Friday. The measures are expected to make these proceedings more efficient and transparent, protect creditors' interests and help viable companies recover. Under the proposal, practitioners seeking empanelment as official liquidators and insolvency experts as well as those already empanelled by the Commission would be required to obtain a professional certification in insolvency practice from the Institute of Financial Markets of Pakistan (IFMP). The three-stage programme would include written and oral examinations, along with annual continuing professional development requirements. The proposal also includes a code of conduct for official liquidators and provisional managers, who perform an interim role in proceedings. The proposed measures address capacity gaps identified in the World Bank's 2022 Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes and draw on practices in the United Kingdom, Singapore, Malaysia and India.—APP

IGP orders priority measures for welfare

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry on Friday directed the concerned officers to give priority to the welfare and daily needs of police personnel so they could perform their duties effectively and provide better services to citizens. According to official the IGP Sohail issued the directions during a meeting with the DSP Welfare and his team, where different measures for improving the welfare and facilities of police officers and personnel were discussed. The meeting reviewed existing welfare measures, day-to-day facilities and other needs of police personnel serving the capital. IGP Sohail directed the Welfare Branch to ensure that issues concerning police personnel were addressed on a priority basis and practical steps were taken to improve their facilities. He said looking after the welfare of police personnel would help them perform their duties with greater focus.—APP

Pak, UN Women launch multi-sectoral care working group

“Financing care is not a cost, but an investment in people, economies and gender equality. Transformative care systems can help reduce the unequal burden of unpaid care, create decent employment opportunities and enable more women to participate fully in the economy and public life,” she said

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan, through the Ministry of Human Rights, in partnership with UN Women, inaugurated the Knowledge Exchange and Action-Oriented Forum on Transforming Care Systems and formally launched Pakistan's first Multi-Sectoral Care Working Group (MCWG), creating a national platform to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work, and to unlock women's full economic participation. The two-day forum brought together representatives from federal and provincial governments, development partners, academia, civil society, the private sector and care practitioners to move from dialogue to delivery: strengthening institutional capacity and building consensus around priority actions for transforming care systems in Pakistan. In his keynote address, Abdul Khaliq Shaikh, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights, reaffirmed the Government's commitment for integrating care into national development priorities. He emphasized that care is fundamental by a human rights issue and called for a comprehensive approach that recognizes, protects and supports both care recipients and caregivers, while advancing Pakistan's commitments under SDG Target 5.4 on recognizing and valuing unpaid care, and its international human rights obligations. Opening the forum, Fahmida Iqbal, Country Representative a.i., UN Women Pakistan, underscored the critical link between care and women's economic empowerment. She highlighted that women continue to undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, creating significant barriers to their focused education, employment, entrepreneurship and leadership. “Financing care is not a cost, but



an investment in people, economies and gender equality. Transformative care systems can help reduce the unequal burden of unpaid care, create decent employment opportunities and enable more women to participate fully in the economy and public life,” she said. The forum was organized under UN Women's global initiative to transform care systems, implemented through the TransformCare Investment Initiative Asia-Pacific. It was organized in collaboration with the UN Women Knowledge and Partnerships Centre in the Republic of Korea, with support from the Ministry of

Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea. The forum builds on regional momentum, positioning Pakistan within a growing Asia-Pacific movement to treat care as a public investment priority. The forum also built on Pakistan's first national dialogue on care, held in 2025, and the publication of “Transforming Care Systems in Pakistan: A Roadmap for Economic Growth and Social Equity,” developed with support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy. The policy brief highlighted the need to recognize care as a public good, strengthen care infrastructure and services, improve

data and measurement systems, and establish mechanisms for sustained coordination on care-related reforms. Over the two days, participants examined practical approaches to care financing, social protection, gender-responsive budgeting and care expenditure tagging, while identifying priority actions for the development of a policy and a future National Care Roadmap. The forum also provided an opportunity to exchange good practices, regional experiences and lessons from countries building comprehensive and gender-responsive care systems.

Pharmacy Council launches new digital platform

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal on Friday inaugurated the new website of the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan, aimed at improving digital access, transparency and public services in the pharmacy sector.

The new website provides an online portal for lodging complaints, verification of pharmacy institutions, access to latest information and official announcements, along with guidance on pharmacy education, professional opportunities and career pathways. Speaking at the launch, Syed Mustafa Kamal said effective use of modern technology could help improve transparency, public convenience and the quality of services in the health sector. He said the government was continuing digital initiatives to modernize the health system and bring public services in line with contemporary requirements. The new digital platform is expected to facilitate students, pharmacy professionals, institutions and members of the public by providing centralized access to relevant information and services.—APP

Fraud claim against registered sale deed must be proved by claimant

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has held that a party alleging fraud, forgery or misrepresentation in a registered sale deed is required to establish the allegation through clear and reliable evidence, and that mere general allegations or denial of a registered document does not shift the initial burden of proof to the other party. A two-member bench comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mankhail and Justice Naem Ashkar Alghalib gave the ruling while deciding CPLA No.4211/2023. The court converted the petition into an appeal and allowed it, setting aside the judgments of the Lahore High Court and appellate court and restoring the trial court's decision. The court observed that under Article 117 of the Qanun-e-Shahadat Order, 1984, the burden of proving a fact lies upon the person who asserts its existence for determination of a legal right or liability. It clarified that a party alleging fraud, forgery or misrepresentation must prove the allegation through clear and convincing evidence. General allegations and mere oral assertions could not shift the initial burden of proof to the opposite party.—APP

CDA retrieves over 1,000 kanals in E-12 after four decades

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has retrieved more than 1,000 kanals of land in Sector E-12 after more than four decades, paving the way for accelerated development of the long-delayed residential sector. According to spokesman on Friday, the recovered land is worth billions of rupees and its retrieval has removed a major hurdle to development in the sector. The CDA said development work had been accelerated following the recovery of the land, with infrastructure projects, including roads and civic facilities, being undertaken for future residents. The recovery was achieved through coordinated efforts by various CDA formations and the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad, in collaboration with the Islamabad district administration, Islamabad Police and relevant assistant commissioners. The Authority attributed the achievement to the efforts of Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and the supervision of the CDA chairman and Islamabad chief commissioner Sohail Ashraf. Citizens and stakeholders welcomed the recovery of the land and the commencement of development activities, expressing hope that the sector would be developed into a modern residential area. The CDA said that it would continue efforts to protect public land, resolve longstanding issues and ensure development in accordance with Islamabad's approved master plan.—DNA



research, climate change, disaster management, cybersecurity, maritime security and peacekeeping. During the meeting, he briefed the Australian high commissioner on the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), of which he is the founding chairman. He said the first meeting was held in Pakistan, the second in Cambodia, while the third is scheduled to take place in Indonesia in February 2027. The two sides also exchanged views on the upcoming election for the presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other matters related to inter-parliamentary cooperation. Gilani underscored the importance of diplomatic, economic, security, Commonwealth law and peaceful resolution of disputes. High Commissioner Timothy Kane expressed Australia's desire to further strengthen bilateral and parliamentary cooperation with Pakistan and appreciated Gilani's efforts to promote closer relations between the two countries. Ambassador to the ISC and Adviser to the Chairman Senate Misbah Khar also attended the meeting.—APP

Global mental health summit focuses on accessible care

The summit aims to promote evidence-based policies, strengthen mental health services and advance partnerships for more equitable and resilient mental healthcare systems in Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD, Oct 02 (APP): The second day of Pakistan's Global Mental Health Summit on Friday continued with discussions on strengthening mental health services, prevention and access to improve support for people across the country. Experts from Geneva, Cairo and Pakistan participated in discussions focused on making mental health services more accessible and inclusive, while learning from lived experiences and successful approaches to prevention and care. The two-day summit, being held in Islamabad from October 1-2, has brought together mental health experts, policymakers, academics and representatives of national and international organizations to discuss priorities for strengthening Pakistan's mental health system. The summit follows the launch of Pakistan's National Mental Health Policy 2026-2035, which aims to expand mental health support for an estimated 32.4 million people in need of care.

According to estimates presented at the summit, only around five percent of Pakistan's population currently has access to mental health services, leaving a substantial treatment gap. The country also faces a shortage of trained mental health professionals. Participants emphasized the importance of prevention, early identification and community-based support, particularly through primary healthcare, schools and other community settings. The discussions also highlighted the need for co-ordinated action among government institutions, health professionals, development partners and communities to ensure that people have access to appropriate mental health support regardless of where they live. The summit aims to promote evidence-based policies, strengthen mental health services and advance partnerships for more equitable and resilient mental healthcare systems in Pakistan.—DNA



What the US-GCC summit means for regional security

ZAID M. BELBAGI

LAST week brought an unusually dense stretch of American diplomacy on the Middle East. On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, President Donald Trump met representatives of 12 countries: the six GCC member states, alongside Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Türkiye. The following day, Trump welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping at Joint Base Andrews for a three-day state visit. Both took place with the Strait of Hormuz still closed to normal traffic, after a June memorandum of understanding between Washington and Tehran collapsed in August amid disputes over navigation through the strait. The New York meeting ended without any new joint commitments or a timetable for ending the conflict with Iran. On its own, the meeting appears largely symbolic. But set against the events of the fortnight around it, the picture changes. The security commitments the Gulf has been asking for are being assembled piece by piece, through arms approvals and naval escorts, and the real question is whether Washington's postwar plan will lock them into a form that outlasts the current administration. The substance of the meeting itself was concentrated on shipping lanes and diplomacy. According to Riyadh's readout, the delegates discussed the regional escalation and the security of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab Al-Mandab Strait, as well as efforts to contain the conflict and strengthen diplomatic channels. Trump told the room that his envoys, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, had held productive talks with Iranian intermediaries and that a deal was getting closer. He also said the US had escorted more than a billion barrels of oil out of the Gulf and he endorsed alternative export routes and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor as ways of reducing the region's exposure to vulnerable waterways. The same day, G7 foreign ministers, including the US, condemned Houthi strikes on Saudi Arabia and called on Iran to stop arming the group. Vision 2030 and the wider diversification agenda depend on investors pricing the Gulf as a stable place to commit capital.

On Sept. 17, the state Department announced a potential sale of 48 F-35 fighters to Saudi Arabia, valued at \$24.3 billion. If completed, the Kingdom would become the first country in the region apart from Israel to fly the aircraft. Earlier in the month, Washington had approved a \$5 billion sale

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily
Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza
Member APNS / ABC Certified
Vol: 07 Issue: 32
Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
Phone: 051-8488394
Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



China's Rise and the Balance of Global Power

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Most importantly, China's rise has unsettled nearly all of its neighbors, from Japan to India to Australia. Xi's foreign policy has dramatically increased these countries' fears, prompting many of them to fundamentally reconsider their foreign policies. Ever since the June 2020 border skirmish that left dozens dead, India appears to be pursuing a long-term strategy to balance China. Despite its heavy reliance on Chinese market, Australia now views China as its main adversary, particularly given Beijing's many cyber-attacks on Australian targets, and has called for a global probe into how Beijing mishandled the first Covid-19 outbreak

America's Campuses and the Betrayal of Student Trust

Qamar Bashir



Promises of greater diligence now demand an explanation of why comparable diligence was not exercised earlier. Missing information should provoke further inquiry. It cannot serve as a satisfactory endpoint. The handling of this complaint requires its own reckoning alongside the investigation of the alleged assault. On October 1, Governor Kathy Hochul appointed the New York attorney general's office...

China's rise as a global superpower has been accompanied by a perceived sense of ambiguity and uncertainty surrounding its foreign policy strategy. China has articulated its foreign policy objectives through official channels its actual intentions and methods have been subject to speculation and debate among policymakers and scholars. This has led to concerns about China's long-term goals and the potential implications for global security and stability. The elusive nature of China's strategy can be attributed to several factors, including the country's historical and cultural context, its complex domestic politics, and its rapidly evolving economic and military power. China's emphasis on non-interference and sovereignty combined with its assertive actions in the South China Sea and elsewhere, has created a paradoxical image of a country that is simultaneously defensive and expansionist. Economic development: China has been pursuing a policy of economic growth and modernization for several decades, and this remains a key component of its strategy. The country has become a major player in the global economy, with a focus on exports, foreign investment, and technology development. China is also working to modernize its military, investing heavily in new technologies and capabilities such as cyber warfare, space technology, and artificial intelligence. This is seen as part of China's broader strategy to assert itself as a major global power. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a massive infrastructure development project that aims to connect China with countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa through a network of roads, railways, ports, and other infrastructure. The BRI is seen as a way for China to extend its economic and political influence beyond its borders. China is also engaged in a range of diplomatic efforts, including bilateral and multilateral negotiations with other countries, promoting its own version of international law and order, and using soft power to influence public opinion and perceptions of China. China's strategy is also shaped by its Communist ideology and its view of itself as a major power with a distinct political and cultural identity. This is reflected in China's domestic policies, such as its strict control over the media and the internet, as well as its efforts to promote its own version of international human rights and democracy. China's foreign policy has also become more ambitious under Xi Jinping. The country's growing belligerence marks a break with its earlier passivity, shaped by Deng Xiaoping's proverb "Hide your strength, seize your time". The military buildup in particular, shows that China is pursuing a long-term strategy to assert its global influence. Leaders to wait and see in the 1990s, the country was impoverished with a weak economy. This economy has grown by 800% and now has a large population. China has bided its time and expanded its power, and today it has aspired to a broader regional and global role, as do all great powers with escalation of wealth and power. Since 1945, the great states that have risen to prosperity and

prominence have been Washington's closest allies, if not quasi-protectors: Germany, Japan, and South Korea. A typically disruptive feature of international politics the rise of new powers was therefore unusually benign for the United States. Not only is the People's Republic of China much larger than the rising powers of its predecessors it has always been outside the US alliance structure and sphere of influence. American foreign policy from both parties has become adapted to a world in which America is the undisputed leader. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright has explained: "We are America; we are the indispensable nation." she said. "We stand tall and look further into the future than other countries." In 2019, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed in a statement that would surely infuriate any Chinese citizen that the United States and its allies needed to put China "in its rightful place." China's sin, according to Pompeo, is that it spends more on its military than it needs on its defenses. The same, of course, applies to the United States and France, Russia, Great Britain, and other large countries. In fact, a useful definition of a great power is a country that cares about more than its own immediate security. The political climate in Washington always pushes policymakers to be "hard" rather than "soft." a dangerous way of conducting international affairs. The real question is, can they be smart instead of stupid? America's new hawkish technological advantage is awkward, without any discussion of how its target will respond. Beijing has its own hawks who have warned for years that the US wants to hold China down and even seek regime change in Beijing. More importantly, the Trump administration's stance has validated these voices, giving them the leverage to encourage the very kind of aggressive and destabilizing behavior in China that US policy seeks to prevent. This dynamic, with the US reinforcing the other, increases tension and increases the risk of collision. It's important to note that Trump's tough tactics have achieved none of his goals from closing the US trade deficit to winning Beijing's support in dealing with North Korea and Iran. In the result China is being more aggressive on the outside and more repressive at home. American determination is rooted in the fear that China might one day take over the entire world, and this is a dangerous fear because in the history, when a prominent power perceives that it is losing ground, it often anticipates and exploits the "window of danger" that its rise does not fall. It was this kind of rationality that drove European politicians to war in 1914. During its rise Washington neither succeeded in conquering the world, the Soviet Union or Afghanistan despite all the global terrible events. On the other hand, China with all its successes and strengths is facing of internal challenges from a shrinking population to a mountain of debt. The Communist Party also faces an uncertain political future. Despite a decade of political repression on the mainland, it is true that the rise of the middle class is fueling aspirations. Most importantly, China's rise has unsettled nearly all of

its neighbors, from Japan to India to Australia. Xi's foreign policy has dramatically increased these countries' fears, prompting many of them to fundamentally reconsider their foreign policies. Ever since the June 2020 border skirmish that left dozens dead, India appears to be pursuing a long-term strategy to balance China. Despite its heavy reliance on the Chinese market, Australia now views China as its main adversary, particularly given Beijing's many cyber-attacks on Australian targets, and has called for a global probe into how Beijing mishandled the first Covid-19 outbreak. Japan revived the Trans-Pacific Partnership, bringing other countries on board and ensuring implementation of the agreement. Even Vietnam, wary of its larger neighbor, has embarked on what was once unthinkable: if not an alliance but a military partnership with its old enemy the United States. Taiwan's people have re-elected an anti-China president and are turning more hostile to the mainland, making military options more difficult and expensive for Beijing. China's greatest strategic weakness has always been its relationship with neighboring countries who oppose his rise. Far from addressing this deficiency, Xi's policies have exacerbated it. China is emerging today but embedded in a vast continent with hostile neighbors who are becoming more hostile. China has been pursuing a strategy of economic expansion to become a global economic power. Its emphasis on infrastructure and technological advancement, investment, and industrial upgrading has enabled it to achieve impressive economic growth over the past few decades. The outcome of this strategy is that China has become the world's second-largest economy, and its economic influence is felt globally. China has been actively promoting its cultural and political values through soft power projection. Its focus on cultural diplomacy, education, and influence has enabled it to increase its global reach. The outcome of this strategy is that China is becoming increasingly seen as a global leader in certain areas, such as climate change, technology, and development. China has been increasing its military capabilities in recent years, including the modernization of its armed forces and the expansion of its naval presence. The outcome of this strategy is that China is becoming a more assertive player in global security. China's rise has also raised concerns among its neighbors and other countries. China has been expanding its geopolitical influence by developing close relationships with other countries through its Belt and Road Initiative and other economic and diplomatic initiatives. The outcome of this strategy is that China is becoming an increasingly important player in global politics, challenging the traditional dominance of Western powers. The outcome of China's elusive strategy is complex and multifaceted, and its long-term effects are difficult to predict. While China has achieved significant success in some areas, such as economic expansion and soft power projection, its increasing assertiveness and geopolitical ambitions have also raised concerns among other countries.

against prosecution? A prosecutor's responsibility demands active inquiry, particularly when a complaint leaves consequential questions unanswered. Cornell's assertion that it shared all investigatory information makes the discrepancy more serious. What records existed? Which were transmitted? Who reviewed them? Who decided that further investigation was unnecessary? These questions require documents, testimony and independent scrutiny. Promises of greater diligence now demand an explanation of why comparable diligence was not exercised earlier. Missing information should provoke further inquiry. It cannot serve as a satisfactory endpoint. The handling of this complaint requires its own reckoning alongside the investigation of the alleged assault. On October 1, Governor Kathy Hochul appointed the New York attorney general's office as special prosecutor. This intervention must establish the evidence and examine the decisions surrounding the original investigation. Transferring a case cannot become a substitute for accounting for its history. Every prior instance of obstruction, misconduct or neglect must carry consequences. Cornell reports that its disciplinary proceedings produced expulsions, suspensions and other sanctions. Those actions do not settle whether the university fulfilled every responsibility to the complainant. It must answer the treatment she received, the handling of evidence and the adequacy of its response. Institutional accountability cannot end where an institution's preferred explanation begins. Cornell's own survey makes compensation indefensible. Among undergraduate women responding to its 2025 survey, 35 percent reported sexual harassment or sexual assault during their time at the university. That finding demands sustained action from its leadership. Students' experience of sexual harm cannot be answered indefinitely with expressions of concern, committees and recommendations. Prevention, support and accountability must be measured by what changes in students' lives. University culture must change wherever reputation takes precedence over confronting violence. A student who reports an assault deserves compassion, protection and a determined pursuit of truth. Burying complaints, discouraging disclosure or interfering with an investigation compounds the original harm. Wherever such conduct occurs, it is an institutional betrayal.

International students can face additional obstacles: distance from family, unfamiliar procedures, language barriers and uncertainty about whom to trust. Universities that recruit them must provide accessible, independent assistance. The promise of a world-class education carries a duty of care that cannot disappear when a complaint becomes inconvenient. Reform must examine how campus police, health services, disciplinary offices and prosecutors handle allegations and exchange information. Original accounts and relevant evidence must be preserved. Transfers must be documented. Decisions to discontinue investigations must withstand meaningful review. Where institutional conflicts exist, students need a clear route to independent authorities. Medical care, appropriate forensic services, confidential advocacy and protection against retaliation must be readily available. No fraternity, athletic program, donor relationship or tradition should be insulated from scrutiny. Policies matter only when they are enforced, and leadership means accepting responsibility when enforcement fails. The answer cannot be to withdraw students from education or confine their lives until fear determines their choices. Students deserve freedom without being left alone to manage the risks. The burden belongs on those who commit violence and the institutions responsible for preventing, investigating and addressing it. Cornell must become a turning point. Establish the truth. Prosecute where the evidence warrants. Investigate every credible allegation of obstruction or neglect. Publish institutional findings while protecting the complainant's privacy. A reputation damaged by questions of accountability can be restored only through accountability. Parents send their children to build a future. They do not surrender them to violence, intimidation or bureaucratic abandonment. No university's prestige outweighs a student's dignity. No official's position excuses a failure of duty. Justice must reach anyone proven responsible for the assault, and accountability must reach every institution proven to have failed the student who sought help. Anything less would leave the deepest breach intact.

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

Briefs

'May 9-like situation' to be dealt...

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Kashmiri people. In his concluding remarks, the CDF Muir hailed commanders for their operational preparedness and directed them to further strengthen intelligence-based operations, enhance combat capabilities through modern technology, training and multi-domain integration. He expressed confidence that the armed forces remain fully prepared to safeguard Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national security. The conference also offered Pateha for the martyrs of the Armed Forces, law enforcement agencies and civil society. On regional and international affairs, the forum welcomed the Makkah Defence Alliance signing between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. The army top brass also condemned Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia. It expressed solidarity with the Kingdom and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the security and sanctity of the Haramain Sharifain.

Pakistan slams Houthi...

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Yemen's Houthis said on Thursday that the group attacked a power distribution station in Madina which supplies electricity to the Prophet's (PBUH) Mosque. The coalition said the attack put one transformer out of service but did not affect the power network. The statement today, Islamabad called for an immediate and unconditional end of "such reckless actions that also constitute a grave threat to regional peace and security". Pakistan also reaffirmed its unwavering solidarity with the Saudi Arabia, expressing its full support for the kingdom's sovereignty, territorial integrity and security. "We stand firmly with Saudi Arabia in its efforts to safeguard the Two Holy Mosques, protect its people and ensure the safe return of its citizens," Pakistan has been and will continue to make all efforts for achieving lasting peace and stability in the region," the statement added.

Two Pakistanis martyred...

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constituted an open violation of the border agreement and established standard operating procedures (SOPs). According to the sources, Indian media also described the civilians as infiltrators, which they said reflected a pattern of portraying such incidents as false-flag operations. The Indian forces' action comes just a day after the Pakistani military exposed India's false-flag operation, in which it had claimed to have killed a former Pakistani soldier during a staged encounter in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). To prove that the retired Special Services Group commando was innocent, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director-General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry presented Haveli dar Muhammad Asif before the media, who himself narrated that he was alive and residing in Pakistan.

Cricketer Rizwan...

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The investigation team comprises a deputy director and three inspectors. Speaking to Geo News while appearing before the agency, Rizwan did not respond when asked what he had to say or what the inquiry concerned. Asked about the allegations against him, Rizwan replied: "Ask them [NCCIA]." In an earlier letter, Rizwan had sought written details of the inquiry and the return of his mobile phone. Rizwan had previously said his phone was taken from him in England on August 31 and that he provided its password at the time. He also said the device was examined in his presence. He further stated that officials had access to his unlocked phone when he appeared before NCCIA on September 10, allowing them to review messages and other material.

Rauf fetes new RCCI leadership

Muhammad Rauf Raja welcomed the distinguished guests and congratulated the newly elected leadership of RCCI. He emphasized the importance of stronger collaboration between the business community, government institutions, young entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to promote investment, entrepreneurship, tourism and economic development



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Muhammad Rauf Raja, Focal Person to the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and CEO, Brain Designer, hosted a special dinner in honour of the newly elected office bearers of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) at PC Hotel Rawalpindi. The gathering was graced by Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan, H.E. Syeda Khan Nasar, as the Chief Guest, while prominent business leaders, government and semi-government officials, senior representatives of the business community and other distinguished personalities attended the event. Among

the prominent guests were Sohail Altaf, Group Leader RCCI; Noshervan Khalil Khan, President RCCI; Usman Shaukat, Immediate Past President RCCI; Waseem Aslam, Senior Vice President RCCI; Ikram Abbasi, Vice President RCCI; and Muhammad Badar Haroon, former Senior Vice President RCCI. The event was also attended by Tariq Mehmood, SSP Operations Rawalpindi Police; Raja Mujahid Afsar, Muhammad Bashir Raja, Col. Umer, Director DHA; Raja Waqas Haider, FaizanRaja, Islamabad; Usama Naseer Raja; Muhammad Niaz Jamel, along with other prominent business leaders, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders of public and private-sector organizations and members of the organizing team.

The dinner provided a cordial and meaningful platform for interaction among the newly elected RCCI leadership, senior business community representatives, government officials and other stakeholders. The participants congratulated the newly elected office bearers of RCCI and expressed their best wishes for their successful tenure. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Rauf Raja welcomed the distinguished guests and congratulated the newly elected leadership of RCCI. He emphasized the importance of stronger collaboration between the business community, government institutions, young entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to promote investment, entrepreneurship, tourism and economic development.

He further highlighted the need for continued dialogue and cooperation between the public and private sectors to create new opportunities for businesses, youth and investors and to contribute towards sustainable economic growth. The distinguished guests appreciated the initiative of hosting the gathering and acknowledged the importance of such engagements in strengthening relations between the business community and public representatives. The event concluded in a warm and cordial atmosphere, with participants extending their best wishes to the newly elected office bearers of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry and expressing hope for greater cooperation, business.

Security forces kill seven India-backed...

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with their hideouts destroyed during the action. Security forces remain committed to eliminating terrorism and establishing lasting peace under the Azadi-e-Istehkam vision, the sources said. The latest IBO comes a day after security forces killed six militants during an operation against Fatah al-Hududina in Balochistan's Kachi district, security sources said. The militants were successfully targeted using quadcopters in the Sani area of Kachi district under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3, the sources said. A large quantity of weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the militants, they added. Pakistan has witnessed a sharp rise in cross-border terrorist incidents, particularly in KP and Balochistan, since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021. Pakistan recorded its highest monthly number of militant attacks in 12 years during September 2026.

UK to continue supporting...

FROM PAGE 01
sustainable, inclusive and responsible growth, with increasing emphasis on productivity, investment, exports and jobs. The British High Commissioner highlighted the UK's continued interest in supporting Pakistan's economic transformation through technical assistance aimed at strengthening the institutional and policy framework for investment, focusing on infrastructure development. She also appreciated the successful issuance of Pakistan's US\$3 billion dual-tranche sovereign Eurobond, noting its significance for investor confidence and international market access. The discussion emphasised the importance of aligning UK support with Pakistan's economic focus on practical reforms. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb outlined the Government's six key priorities: bringing permanence to macroeconomic stability; strengthening fiscalisation to sustainable, inclusive and responsible growth; staying the course on structural reforms; moving from aid to trade and investment; expanding access to finance; and positioning Pakistan for the New Economy.

Market capitalisation decreased to Rs18.776 trillion recorded at the previous trading session. The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 493,957 million shares, valued at 548,381 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value increased to Rs17,491 billion from Rs17,054 billion.

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Defence Pact committee meets...

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New York in September, as well as high-level meetings that took place on its sidelines. "We made a plan because all three of us countries were present (in New York)," Dar said, referring to himself, Türkiye's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. He said the SPDC, established under the trilateral "Makkah Accord", comprises three members from each country — the foreign ministers, defence ministers and chiefs of army staff. On Sept 25, a special meeting took place in the three army chiefs in Riyadh, he said, adding that the foreign ministers had met prior to this in New York in the wake of increased Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Pak injured crew members...

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The Palan-fighted tanker had been seized by pirates on April 21, approximately 30 nautical miles off Puntland's coast, with 17 crew members aboard, including 10 Pakistani nationals. Meanwhile, Dar said that all necessary legal and other formalities were being fast-tracked to expedite the repatriation process. He added that three other Pakistani crew members — Imran Ali, Yasin Muhammad and Syed Yousuf Hussain — remain aboard the vessel along with the captain. "We are actively co-ordinating with our friendly countries to facilitate their safe extraction and earliest possible return to Pakistan," the DPM said.

Briefs

SBP injects Rs 3.26t to maintain liquidity

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs 3,258.55 billion on Friday through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operations (OMO) for maintaining liquidity in the market. The central bank conducted the Open Market Operation Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) for 7 and 14-day tenors on October 02, 2026, and injected Rs 2,715.05 billion against 22 quotes while other Rs 543.5 billion were injected through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based OMO. The central bank, for the Reverse Repo Purchase of 14-day tenor, received 17 bids cumulatively offering Rs 2,946.050 billion at the rate of return ranging between 11.51% to 11.56%. The SBP accepted Rs 2,475 billion against all the 17 quotes at 11.51% rate of return. The total amount offered at 11.51% was Rs 2,145 billion, out of which SBP accepted Rs 1,673.95 billion on a pro rata basis.

Moreover, the SBP also received 5 bids for the 7-day tenor, cumulatively offering Rs 240.050 billion at the rate of return ranging between 11.54% to 11.57%. The SBP accepted all the 5 quotes with the entire amount at 11.54% rate of return. Meanwhile, SBP also conducted Shariah Compliant Mudarabah-based Open Market Operation for the 7 and 14-day tenors. The central bank, for the 7-day tenor, received one bid offering Rs 106 billion at 11.58% rate of return, which was accepted at the offered rate. —APP

PSX stays bearish, loses over 481 points

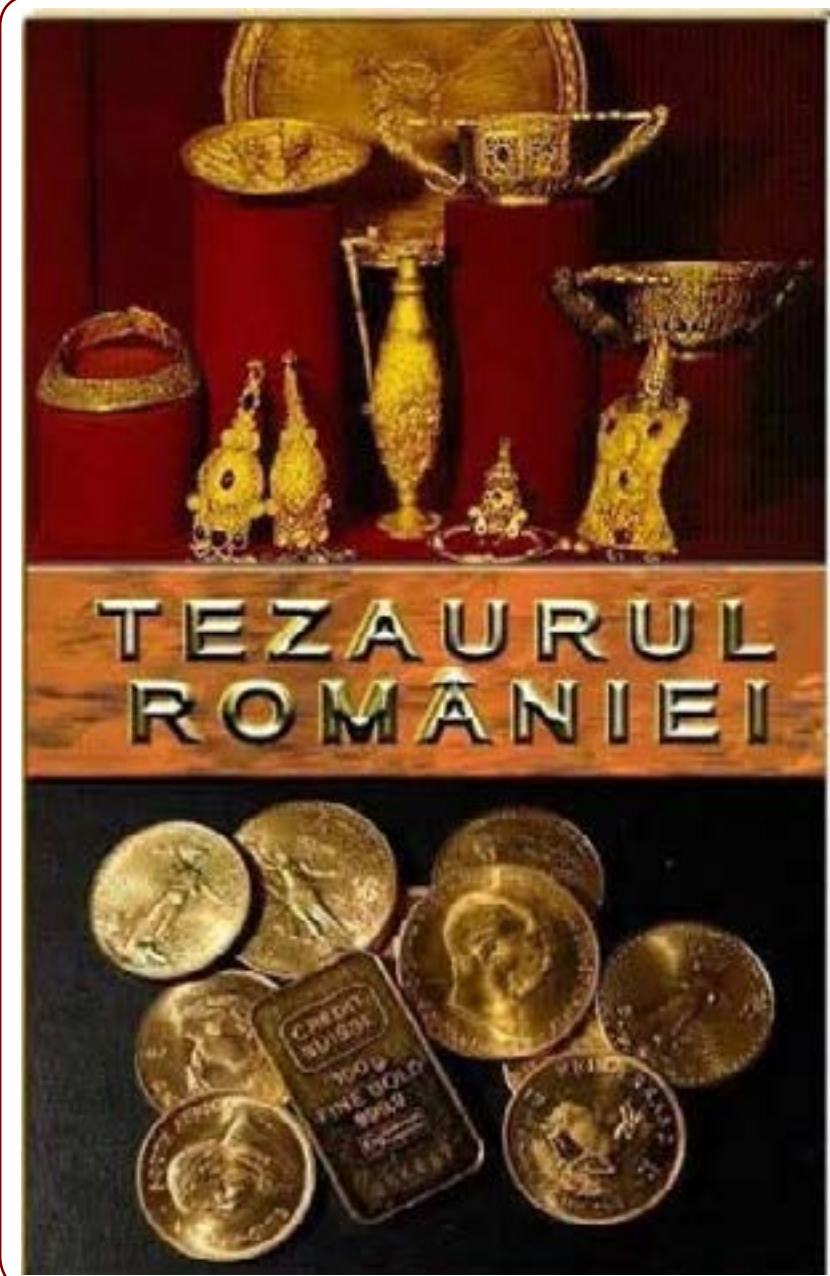
ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) stayed bearish on Friday, losing 481.36 points, a negative change of 0.29 percent, to close at 168,636.85 points against 168,636.85 points recorded in the previous trading session. The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 493,957 million shares, valued at 548,381 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value increased to Rs17,491 billion from Rs17,054 billion.

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Rupee gains 03 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Friday appreciated by 03 paise against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.07 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 277.10. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the dollar's open-market buying and selling rates were Rs 277.90 and Rs 278.10, respectively. The price of the Euro against the rupee decreased by Rs 1.23 and closed at Rs 311.60 against the previous day's closing of Rs 312.83, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.75, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of Rs 0.46 and closed at Rs 365.85 compared to the previous day's Rs 366.31. The exchange rates of the Emirati Dirham and the Saudi Riyal remained unchanged, closing at Rs 75.44 and Rs 73.79, respectively. —APP



Swiss president to quit govt

GENEVA: Swiss President Guy Parmelin announced Friday that he will quit the government at the end of the year, in a sudden move after more than a decade of ministerial service. Switzerland's presidency rotates annually among the seven members of the government, called the Federal Council, of which Parmelin, 66, was the longest-serving minister. Parmelin told a press conference in Bern that he had informed ministerial colleagues of his decision to step down on December 31. "By then, it will have been 11 years since I was elected to this role, and the time has come for me to make way for new energy in these times of great uncertainty," he said, admitting to feeling "a certain weariness", while insisting he was not stepping down for medical reasons. "I will tussle with Trump. A pragmatist, Parmelin seemed to make more headway with US President Donald Trump than his predecessor Karin Keller-Sutter. Trump shocked Switzerland in August 2025 when he announced 38-percent duties on imports of Swiss goods, among the highest in his global tariff blitz. Parmelin, the economy minister, went to Washington three times in a bid to reduce the rate. Eventually, Switzerland and the United States announced a declaration of intent to cut tariffs to 15 percent, with the Swiss vowing to invest \$200 billion in the United States. A winegrower by trade, Parmelin is from the French-speaking western canton of Vaud. He is from the hard-right Swiss People's Party (SVP), which is the biggest in the country. Parmelin was previously president in 2021 and took center-stage as Switzerland hosted a summit in Geneva between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Joe Biden. The president of the Swiss Confederation is first among equals on the Federal Council, chairs its meetings and typically represents the country in major domestic and international matters. The position goes to whoever has had the longest run in the council without being president. Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis will become president in 2027. Parmelin joined the Federal Council in 2016 as defense minister and has held the economy brief since 2019. The Federal Council seven seats are shared 2-2-2-1 among the four main political parties under a decedent system. Parmelin's successor will come from the SVP. Candidates have until October 23 to come forward, and parliament will choose on December 9. Parmelin will visit India for a three-day state visit from Monday. —DNA

World powers gather in Pacific to chart climate battle

WELLINGTON: World powers are flying delegates to the Pacific to haggle over the fight against global warming, and to see the plight of island nations surrounded by a rising ocean. Ministers, climate negotiators and a handful of leaders will meet in the Fijian city of Nadi for the October 5-8 talks. They will be charting the course for a major UN-sponsored global climate summit, known as COP31, to be held in November in Turkey's Antalya province. For Pacific nations, hosting the preliminary talks in their region offers an opportunity to draw the world's attention to life on the frontline of climate change. Pacific leaders are pushing for the world to stick to a target of limiting global warming to 1.5C, enhance access to climate finance, and give more attention to the impact on oceans. The sea level is rising at a record pace, driven by warming oceans and glacier melt, according to a UN report. Up to 1.2 billion people could be displaced by 2050, with Pacific island countries experiencing sea level rise at twice the global average, said the report released in August. It also highlighted a financing gap with developing countries needing US\$310-US\$365 billion to adapt, yet having only US\$26 billion in adaptation finance available in 2023. —APP

Crimean Gold exhibition rekindles debate over Romania's lost treasury

The shipment included 91.5 tonnes of fine gold belonging to the reserves of the National Bank of Romania, along with royal jewelry, rare coins, state archives, manuscripts, paintings, rare books, religious artifacts and other cultural treasures representing centuries of Romanian heritage

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition showcasing the so-called "Crimean gold" in Islamabad has sparked renewed discussion about another historic treasure dispute: Romania's long-unreturned National Treasury, transferred to Russia during the First World War. In 1916 and 1917, as war threatened Romanian territory, the Romanian state entrusted its National Treasury to Imperial Russia, then an ally, for safekeeping. The transfer was officially documented and accompanied by guarantees that the assets would be protected and returned after the conflict. The shipment included 91.5 tonnes of fine gold belonging to the re-

serves of the National Bank of Romania, along with royal jewelry, rare coins, state archives, manuscripts, paintings, rare books, religious artifacts and other cultural treasures representing centuries of Romanian heritage. While some cultural, religious and archival objects were returned in 1955 and 1956, the gold reserves have never been returned to Romania. The issue gained renewed international attention in March 2024 when the European Parliament adopted a resolution describing the case as an "unparalleled international case of illegal appropriation of gold reserves and heritage objects." The resolution affirmed Romania's legal claim to the treasury and called on the Russian

Federation to return the remaining assets. European lawmakers also urged the European Commission and the European External Action Service to keep the matter on the diplomatic agenda in future relations with Russia and to pursue efforts aimed at securing the treasury's return. More than a century after the transfer, Romania continues to seek the recovery of its missing gold reserves. Supporters of Romania's position argue that discussions about cultural heritage and ownership should also address historical disputes that remain unresolved. As debates surrounding the ownership of historical treasures continue, Romania maintains that the wartime treasury entrusted to Russia remains its rightful property and should be returned in full.

Spanish protesters march on Parliament

MADRID: Spain's government looks set to lose two key votes it needs to ratify a package of emergency measures aimed at tackling the nation's housing affordability crisis, as lawmakers convened on Friday, while protesters march on the Parliament demanding help for renters. The Catalan separatist party Junts — essential for the approval of the two government decrees — said in a statement Friday morning that it will vote against them. That appears to have doomed the measures when combined with the "No" from the center-right Popular Party and far-right Vox. The likely defeat sparked speculation in Spanish media that Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez could consider bringing forward elections for next year's general election when he arrived at the chamber in downtown Madrid. His office did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press regarding a possible snap election. The government decrees were intended to quell a public uproar following the televised eviction of an 87-year-old woman last week in Madrid that sparked protests and a campaign that has occupied Madrid's most important square ever since. Barring a surprise, the progressive coalition of Sánchez will suffer a costly legislative defeat that will likely fan the flames of the protests. Outside the parliament, protesters held up homemade signs with images of cultures on them, denouncing the real estate speculators they blame for driving up prices. Protester Carla Cremona, a 34-year-old office worker, lamented that the rightwing parties had united to "vote against the interests of the majority of people who are here, of the workers of Spain." "I don't know what might happen, whether elections will be called, but in the streets we will continue fighting and the atmosphere is one of a general strike," she said. The average rent in Spain has almost doubled in the past 10 years. The average price per square meter has risen from 8.20 euros in 2016 to 15.1 euros (\$17.15) this year, according to the real estate website Idealista. The elderly woman whose eviction sparked the protests, Mariamoun Abascal, has become a symbol for the fight for lower housing costs in the southern European country, where many people are priced out of buying a home and are being squeezed by a small rental market. The company that evicted her finally caved under immense public and political pressure this week and said that she can return to the apartment. Abascal is currently in a hospital since being removed from her home on a stretcher, but her lawyer said she is happy to know she will be going home. The decrees were designed to give more protection to renters Spain's 350-seat Parliament started its session at 11 a.m. The first decree is meant to stop evictions of vulnerable people like Abascal, make real estate speculation harder, impose tighter restrictions on short-term leases and provide tax incentives to encourage renting and the construction of housing. The second decree is more controversial. It proposes to make leases automatically renew when they are set to expire, essentially making them indefinite. A property owner would have to pay a tenant 12 months of rent to break the contract. Catalan separatists scuttle housing decrees Junts is one of a group of small parties that Sánchez needed to win when he formed a new government in 2023 and has proven to be a prickly political partner ever since. Its leader, the separatist Carles Puigdemont, has resided in Belgium since fleeing Spain after leading a failed bid to make northeastern Catalonia an independent nation in 2017. Spain's Housing Minister, Isabel Rodríguez, made a last-gasp appeal to Junts from the lectern, saying that her ministry had "incorporated 90 percent of your proposals. Vote for the decrees or at least abstain." But Miriam Nogueras of Junts said that while she would only lead to owners removing their properties from the rental market, and thus driving up prices even further. "These decrees still allow speculators to buy property and to evict people," Nogueras said. Junts urged the government to negotiate amendments. The government refused. —DNA

Philippines eyes preferential trade pact with Oman

MANILA: The Philippines and Oman are on track to sign an investment deal before the end of the year, as officials completed negotiations on Friday for the agreement expected to boost the Gulf nation's investment in renewable energy and infrastructure projects across the Southeast Asian country. The Philippines-Oman Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement is designed to provide greater certainty and transparency in doing business, while ensuring that investors are treated fairly and protected from discriminatory measures, according to the Philippine Department of Investment and Trade Negotiations. "These elements foster a stable, transparent, and predictable investment environment, thereby enhancing investor confidence and greater investment flow between the two countries," the BOI said. Negotiations were finalized during a meeting in Muscat. The Philippine delegation was led by BOI Governor Atty. Marjorie O. Ramos-Samaniego and the Omani side by advisor for foreign trade and international cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Pan-kaj Khimji. —APP

UK nursing union cuts ties with Israeli drugs firm

LONDON: The UK's nursing union has axed ties with an Israeli pharmaceuticals firm over its links to the Israel Defense Forces and the occupation of Palestinian territories. The Royal College of Nursing and its rights groups had pushed for the union to end its ties with Teva UK. In a statement, they described the decision as a "major breakthrough" for grassroots healthcare organising and the international boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, which aims to isolate Israel internationally. More than 500,000 nurses in the UK are represented by the RCN. Teva Pharmaceuticals, through its British arm, is one of the biggest suppliers of medicines to the UK's National Health Service. The RCN, in cutting ties to Teva UK, acted on pressure from campaign groups Nurses for Palestine and UK Healthcare Petitions to Royal Colleges. The chair of the union's ruling council, Carmel O'Boyle, confirmed the decision in a letter to Nurses for Palestine. —APP

Aayan, Ibraheem win Ravi Cup ATF U-12 boys' doubles title

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Aayan and M Ibraheem Hussain Iqbal captured the boys' U-12 doubles title at the Ravi Cup ATF Asian Junior Tour U-12 2026, defeating Mustafa Uzair Rana and Danialy Abdullah Iqbal in the final at the Sports Board Punjab Tennis Academy, Nishtar Park Sports Complex. The tournament, organised by the Punjab Lawn Tennis Association (PLTA), continued with a competitive schedule of singles and doubles matches as the young players battled for honours in the prestigious junior event. Aayan of Fatima Group and Ibrahim produced a composed performance in the doubles final, controlling the match from the outset to secure a straight-sets victory over Rana and Abdullah. In the boys' U-12 singles semifinals, Aayan also advanced to the final with an emphatic 6-1, 6-1 victory over Muhammad Faizan. He will face his doubles partner Ibrahim, who booked his place in the title clash after overcoming Muhammad Danialy 6-1, 6-3.

Ghulam Mustafa Bashir of Pakistan Navy wins Bronze

Ghulam Mustafa Bashir is an accomplished shooter who has qualified for and represented Pakistan at three Olympic Games. He also won a Bronze Medal at the 2022 ISSF World Championships in Cairo, Egypt, one of the world's premier shooting competitions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Representing Pakistan at the ongoing Asian Games in Japan, Ghulam Mustafa Bashir, MCPO/PTI of Pakistan Navy, delivered a commendable performance in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol event, securing an Individual Bronze Medal among 27 participants.

His achievement has brought pride to both Pakistan and Pakistan Navy on the international sporting stage. Ghulam Mustafa Bashir is an accomplished shooter who has qualified for and represented Pakistan at three Olympic Games. He also won a Bronze Medal at the 2022 ISSF World Championships in Cairo, Egypt, one of the world's premier shooting competitions.

World powers gather in Pacific to chart climate battle

WELLINGTON: World powers are flying delegates to the Pacific to haggle over the fight against global warming, amid the plight of island nations surrounded by a rising ocean. Ministers, climate negotiators and a handful of leaders will meet in the Fijian city of Nadi for the October 5-8 talks. They will be charting the course for a major UN-sponsored global climate summit, known as COP31, to be held in November in Turkey's Antalya province. For Pacific nations, hosting the preliminary talks in their region offers an opportunity to draw the world's attention to life on the frontline of climate change. Pacific leaders are pushing for the world to stick to a target of limiting global warming to 1.5C, enhance access to climate finance, and give more attention to the impact on oceans. The sea level is rising at a record pace, driven by warming oceans and glacier melt, according to a UN report. Up to 1.2 billion people could be displaced by 2050, with Pacific island countries experiencing sea level rise at twice the global average, said the report released in August.



Briefs

New islands appear after Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano erupts

DNA

JAKARTA: Two new islands have emerged in waters surrounding Mount Anak Krakatau following a major eruption last month that grounded flights for days, the head of Indonesia's volcano monitoring agency said Friday. The islands were spotted in satellite images of the water-filled caldera in which Anak Krakatau stands, Rita Susilawati of the PVMBG Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation told. "Based on an evaluation of Sentinel satellite imagery, two formations resembling small islands can be seen around Mount Anak Krakatau" in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra islands, she added. Sentinel is a fleet of Earth observation spacecraft developed by the European Space Agency. One of the islands was located about 760 metres northwest of Mount Anak Krakatau, the other about 495 metres southwest. Rita said it was too early to refer to the islands as "children" of Mount Anak Krakatau – which itself was formed by an underwater eruption in the caldera or depression left behind after the massive 1883 blowout of the original Krakatau volcano. "Anak" means child in Bahasa Indonesia. Rita said further research was needed to determine if the new islands were emerging from the base of the caldera in a similar way than Anak Krakatau did, or whether they were formed by deposits of volcanic material.

Two major Kyiv bridges shut after Russian drone strikes

DNA

KYIV: Traffic was halted across one of Kyiv's main bridges and restricted at a second one on Friday after Russian drone strikes on the Ukrainian capital, the authorities said. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said the Southern Bridge, which connects the east and west of Kyiv over the Dnipro river, was "completely closed" to traffic in both directions. The Paton Bridge, further north, was only open one way, he added, but there were no reports that it had been hit. Russian drones struck the support structures of the Southern Bridge on Thursday night. Klitschko said it had been hit again. Ukraine has feared an attack on its major transportation bridges since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

French ambassador Poirier, PIA management discuss cooperation

The event reflected the growing educational partnership between the two countries and encouraged students to act as ambassadors of friendship and mutual understanding

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines and France continue to

strengthen their longstanding cooperation across various sectors. French Ambassador Jean-Noël Poirier re-



cently met with Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Amir Hayat, Chief Executive Officer of PIA, to discuss areas of mutual collaboration. During the meeting, Ambassador Poirier reaffirmed France's commitment to supporting PIA in the long term and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation between the national carrier and French stakeholders. It may be mentioned here that the French Embassy in Pakistan, in collaboration with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), had organized a special event to honor Pakistani students who have secured admissions to universities in France. Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Amir Hayat was the chief guest on that occasion. On the occasion, PIA had extended support to the departing students by offering complimentary travel benefits, including free air tickets, highlighting its commitment to promoting educational and cultural exchanges between Pakistan and France. The event reflected the growing educational partnership between the two countries and encouraged students to act as ambassadors of friendship and mutual understanding.

US signs \$24.4 billion contract to ramp up missile production

The missiles are "critical anti-air and anti-surface warfare munition. This five-year agreement, with two additional option years, will drive faster production," the Pentagon said in a statement

DNA

WASHINGTON: The US Defense Department on Thursday announced the award of a \$24.4 billion contract for Raytheon, an RTX unit, to accelerate production of SM-6 missiles as Washington works to replace the large amount of munitions expended during the Iran war. The missiles are "critical anti-air and anti-surface warfare munition. This five-year agreement, with two additional option years, will drive faster production," the Pentagon said in a statement. The Navy said the multiyear contract is meant to provide a steady and reliable supply of the Standard Missile-6 interceptors, which can carry out both offensive strikes and missile defense missions.

The deal "provides the defense industry with the long-term predictability needed to expand workforce capacity and secure critical supply chains," the statement added. The SM-6 award is the latest in a series of large munitions contracts the Pentagon has pursued this year to pressure contractors into ramping up output faster. It follows a \$20.7 billion provisional multiyear deal for Raytheon's AMRAAM air-to-air missiles in late September and a \$58.6 billion Patriot interceptor deal awarded to Lockheed Martin in July. The agreements are part of a broader push by the Trump administration to prioritize weapons production over shareholder returns. However, industry executives have warned that Congress has not yet appropriated funding for the deals, meaning contractors

may be unable to invest at scale in components and facilities until lawmakers act. RTX has said it has invested heavily to keep up with rising demand, expanding its skilled workforce, strengthening partnerships across the defense industrial base and automating production. Raytheon says the SM-6 is the only combat-proven weapon that can perform anti-air warfare, anti-surface warfare and ballistic missile defense, and it has been fired from a range of Navy ships as well as from land-based launchers. President Donald Trump has so far brushed aside questions about the major toll taken on US munition supplies by the war against Iran, which the United States and Israel launched on February 28. But the Defense Department's inspector general said last month that "the munitions expenditure on Operation

Epic Fury has resulted in strategic inventory shortfalls and revealed industrial base bottlenecks for munitions resupply," using the official name for the operation against Iran. And a September 15 report by the Congressional Budget Office cited the hit to missile defense supplies that "will leave the United States with a reduced inventory of interceptors for several years." Tehran continues to exert control over the strategic Strait of Hormuz more than seven months after the initial US and Israeli attacks on the Islamic Republic, while Washington is blockading Iran's ports. Trump has told aides he expects to resume bombing Iran by late November, the Wall Street Journal reported, which would set the stage for further Iranian strikes and more expenditures of American munitions.

Lahore ranked as the most polluted city

In the past few years, air pollution has become one of the most pressing public health and environmental crises facing Pakistan. Various cities of the country, most notably Lahore, deal with smog, especially in the winter months

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: Lahore has once again emerged as the most polluted city in the world, with its air quality classified as "unhealthy", according to air quality monitoring platform IQAir, as Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said the government was making efforts to address environmental issues. In the past few years, air pollution has become one of the most pressing public health and environmental crises facing Pakistan. Various cities of the country, most notably Lahore, deal with smog, especially in the winter months. The phenomenon is attributed mainly to industrial emissions, vehicular pollution, stubble burning and air movement. Lahore topped the list of the most polluted cities on Friday morning, with an air quality index (AQI) of 167, according to the IQAir live tracker, falling under the 'unhealthy' category, closely followed by Bangladesh's Dhaka at 164 and Egypt's Cairo at 158. Figure shows the top ranked polluted cities according to IQAir. – Screenshot via IQAir. The provincial capital was the only Pakistani city ranking in the top 30 most polluted cities on Friday. The only other Pakistani city in the 125-city list was Karachi at 34th place with an AQI of 69. According to

IQAir, in Lahore, "PM2.5 concentration is currently 15.2 times the World Health Organisation annual PM2.5 guideline value". PM2.5 refers to fine inhalable particles, with diameters generally 2.5 micrometres and smaller. Of all air pollution measures, PM2.5 pollution poses the greatest health threat, according to IQAir. According to the website, PM2.5 can enter the circulatory system and even the brain, causing serious health complications if long-term exposure occurs. For those in Lahore, IQAir recommended avoiding outdoor exercise, closing windows to avoid outdoor air, wearing a mask outdoors and installing an air purifier indoors. Meanwhile, in a televised address to senior officers in Lahore on Friday, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said the provincial government was making efforts to address environmental issues. For the past eight years, she said, Lahore as well as some parts of Punjab would undergo a "smog shutdown" in September and October "For three years now – I won't say there is zero smog, but – there is less smog," she said. In January this year, Lahore was ranked as the most polluted city globally by IQAir with an AQI of 452. Earlier this week, a new analysis released by the European Union's Copernicus Climate Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) ranked Lahore among cities whose ozone levels were "extremely poor".

India's Cockroach Janata Party, student groups to protest

Congress-led opposition parties to begin separate protests on October 6

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will face renewed pressure on Friday as the Gen Z-led Cockroach Janata Party and a separate coalition of student and activist groups stage fresh protests, demanding the resignation of the elections commission chief over a controversial voter roll revision. The BJP will rally in Mumbai and plans to expand demonstrations nationwide in the coming days, while student and civil society groups will gather at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar. The protests mark the latest escalation in a dispute that has put unprecedented scrutiny on India's Election Commission, long regarded as one of the country's most trusted institutions. The protesters' main allegation is that the commission manipulated voter rolls in ways that favour Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The commission and the

government have denied the allegations. Pressure on Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar intensified last month after the Indian Express newspaper reported the election chief's two deputies had formally raised concerns at least 14 times over the past 10 months over voter-list revisions, registration procedures and the commission's digital systems. The Election Commission has said differing views are a normal part of internal deliberations and that all its actions were lawful. "We have been asking and demanding for a change but nothing of that is going to happen if our only tool that is left to change anything in our society, the right to vote is taken away from us," Saurav Das, BJP's convenor, told Indian news agency ANI on Thursday. "We will only end the protest after Gyanesh Kumar resigns." The controversy centres on a nationwide voter-verification exercise launched last year that critics say has led to millions of eligible voters being removed from electoral rolls. – APP

Saudi Arabian denies suicide attack at mosque

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: Saudi authorities on Friday denied reports of a suicide bomber at the Grand Mosque in Makkah, saying a man was arrested for harassing passersby and causing panic. "Security authorities in the holy capital arrested a person for harassing passersby and spreading fear and panic among them, and he was dealt with immediately," authorities said in a statement on X. "The security authorities confirm that there is no truth to the claims being circulated regarding the incident," the statement said. The statement provided no further details about the suspect. Earlier claims circulating on social media alleged that a suspected suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest had approached the Holy Kaaba, before being apprehended by security personnel. The Holy Kaaba is the most sacred place for Muslims where Hajj, Umrah and other religious duties are performed. The Kaaba was built by Prophet Ibrahim and his son Prophet Ismail. A decade ago, a deadly suicide bombing near Islam's second-holiest site in the Saudi city of Medina sparked condemnation across the Muslim world. Four people were killed in the bombing near Masjid-i-Nabawi – or the mosque of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) – that came as Muslims prepared for the festival of Eidul Fitr.

Five dead as mine collapses in Türkiye

ISTANBUL: Turkish rescuers on Friday recovered the bodies of three miners trapped in a mine collapse in western Türkiye, raising the death toll to five, local authorities said. "The search and rescue operations carried out after the mine collapse in Soma district have ended and the bodies of the three mine workers who were trapped have been recovered," the local governor's office said on X. The collapse occurred on Thursday at a mine in Manisa province, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) northeast of the resort city of Izmir. Authorities said seven workers were caught in the accident.

Trump vows to hit Iran 'very hard' if linked to flydubai attack

UAE opens investigation into whether incident on Dubai-Tel Aviv flight linked to terrorism

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Thursday warned that Iran will be "hit very hard" if it is found to be linked to a pilot's attack on a flydubai flight to Israel. The dramatic events saw passengers help stop the plane from crashing, making an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia before the flight's mostly Israeli passengers were flown home to a hero's welcome. Trump's warning came as the United Arab Emirates opened an investigation into whether the incident was linked to terrorism and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed the suspect had undergone radical indoctrination. "I would say the answer, based on what I'm hearing, is yes but we're working on it right now," Trump told reporters Thursday when asked at the White House whether Iran was involved in what happened on the flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv. On whether the United States would retaliate against Iran if it was found responsible, Trump replied: "Oh, they'll be hit very hard, don't worry." Trump's threat coincided with a wider US military buildup in the region. Axios reported that Washington had recently deployed additional Patriot missile batteries to Saudi Arabia and Qatar to help protect key energy facilities from possible Iranian retaliation. The US news outlet also reported that the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier and its strike group were heading to the Middle East, where they could join two other US carrier strike groups already in the region. As speculation swirled about a possible motive, the UAE and Saudi Arabia began to piece together the events in the cabin. Saudi Arabia said the co-pilot was transferred to the UAE on Thursday accompanied by an "Emirati security team", adding that its initial investigation showed he had attacked the aircraft's captain. The alleged assault triggered a struggle for control of the aircraft before an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia. – DNA

Tanker attacked in Hormuz

DUBAI: A tanker was attacked Thursday while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, a British maritime agency said. The vessel was hit by an "unknown projectile" in the strategic waterway, "resulting in a fire," the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center (UKMTO) said. The crew were reported safe, but the damage was as yet unknown, UKMTO added. The agency did not specify which flag the tanker was flying, nor did it offer its planned route. It also did not say if it was carrying crude or liquefied natural gas (LNG). The Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and LNG passed before the US and Israel launched strikes against Iran in late February, is still at the heart of the conflict. Tehran has been blocking the passage of commercial ships, firing on vessels it accuses of unauthorized crossings. Washington responded with a counterblockade of Iranian ports in an effort to prevent Tehran from exporting its oil. The United States has not launched strikes on Iranian targets since September 1, even if ships are still regularly targeted in the strait. – APP





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