LAHORE - KARACHI - ISLAMABAD

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Daily Islamabad POST

Wednesday, November 04, 2026

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 40

Pakistani youth very talented, says UK HC Jane Marriott

Detailed News On Page-08

Ethiopian envoy interacts with businessmen



Detailed News On Page-02

Regional hands must shape regional future



Detailed News On Page-04

Soldier martyred

17 terrorists killed in two Balochistan IBOs

Operations conducted in Kachhi, Kharan on reported presence of terrorists

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 17 terrorists in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted in Balochistan's Kachhi and Kharan districts, while one soldier embraced martyrdom during an exchange of fire, the military's media wing said on Tuesday. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the operations were launched on November 1 following credible intelligence reports regarding the presence of terrorists affiliated with what the military described as Indian-backed proxies, including "Fitna Al Hindustan" and "Fitna Al Khawarij."

The successful operations reflect Pakistan's continued efforts to eliminate terrorism and maintain peace and stability across the country. Security forces acted swiftly on intelligence inputs and carried out targeted actions against terrorist elements attempting to disrupt law and order in the region.

In Kachhi district, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the Sanni area, where terrorists were reportedly planning to establish a roadblock and create unrest. Acting proactively, troops engaged the militants before they could execute their plans.

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Pakistan successfully tests first air-to -air missile

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has successfully conducted the flight test of its first indigenously developed Fa'az air-to-air missile, marking a significant advancement in the country's aerospace and defence capabilities, the military's media wing said on Tuesday. According to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the missile is equipped with a state-of-the-art terminal guidance system and is capable of engaging enemy aerial targets at longer ranges.

The Fa'az missile is expected to enhance the operational flexibility of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and further strengthen the country's overall defence posture, the statement said.

It added that the successful flight test demonstrated the technical maturity, innovation and self-reliance achieved by Pakistan's defence industry. Senior officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces witnessed the launch alongside scientists and engineers involved in the development of the advanced weapon system.

President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, as well as the services chiefs, congratulated the scientists and engineers on the successful test.

The development follows the Pakistan Army's successful test launch of the extended-range version of the Fatah-2 hypersonic ballistic missile on October 13, 2026. According to the military's media wing, the Fatah-2 Extended Range (ER) weapon system is equipped with advanced navigation and state-of-the-art avionics. – DNA

Victor Day of Azerbaijan



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Shaza Fatima Khawaja Minister for Information Technology, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Irfan Davudov and Defence Attache, Colonel Elnur Mousumov and others posing for a group photo on the occasion of the 6th Anniverrsary of the Victory Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan. – DNA

Iran-US deal still out of reach

News Desk

TEHRAN: Iran and the United States remain far from a deal to end the war, a senior Iranian official told Reuters on Tuesday, despite intensified diplomatic efforts to avert a return to major conflict after the US midterm elections. "Mediators are working hard to narrow gaps between Tehran and Washington," the senior Iranian official said, after Qatari mediators travelled to Tehran on Monday night for talks on a version of a draft US-Iran deal that has been under negotiation for the past eight days. "Tehran's conditions must be met if the US wants Hormuz reopened," the Iranian official cautioned, referring to the waterway critical for global energy supplies.

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Meeting with Khan

PTI rejects reports Imran Khan 'welcomed' suspension of KP govt

Gohar said Safdar had informed him that Imran was aware of the emergency and governor's rule imposed in KP, but maintained that little political discussion took place during the meeting. He said Safdar had not returned from the meeting with any major political message from the PTI founder

Faisal Sheikh

RAWALPINDI: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Tuesday strongly rejected reports that Imran Khan had expressed satisfaction over the end of his party's government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, terming the assertion "completely false". Speaking to the media in Rawalpindi, Gohar said questions had emerged about Imran's views on the party, its movement and the situation in KP following Barrister Salman

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Petitions against detention of Afridi, others referred to CJ

Staff Report

PESHAWAR: A Peshawar High Court (PHC) bench on Tuesday referred multiple petitions challenging the detention of PTI leaders, including Sohail Afridi –

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Bilawal pays tribute to forces

Mehtab Pirzada

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid tribute to the security forces for their successful operations against Indian proxy terrorists in Balochistan, stating that the elimination of 17 Indian-sponsored terrorists in the districts of Kachhi and Kharan reflects the professionalism, bravery, and unwavering commitment of the security forces. He also expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of a soldier during the operations, paid homage to martyred soldier Hikmatullah, and extended heartfelt condolences and solidarity to his bereaved family. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the sacrifices of brave personnel who lay down their lives for the defense of the homeland and for peace and stability in the fight against terrorism will never be forgotten.

US to stop mily aid to Israel

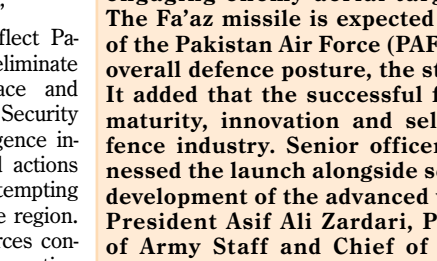
News Desk

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he made a deal with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Washington would stop $4 billion in funding to Israel after the end of this year. It was not immediately clear which funding Trump meant or how exactly the funding would be stopped at the end of the year, given that the memorandum of understanding that provides $3.8 billion in US military aid to Israel each year does not expire until 2028. Conversations have been under way on how Washington's assistance to Israel would evolve beyond that date. Speaking to Fox News' "Fox & Friends" program, Trump said Israel no longer needed the funding and that some Democrats.

Allies at the loggerheads

Maryam seeks Rs5bn in damages from ally over corruption claims

Legal notice seeks retraction sent to federal minister Salik Hussain, apology over federal minister's remarks within seven days



News Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has sought Rs5 billion in damages from federal minister and political ally Chaudhry Salik Hussain over his allegations of corruption in Punjab, according to a legal notice served on the minister.

The six-page notice, issued on Maryam's behalf by Additional Advocate General Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Nawaz, relates to remarks made by Salik during an interview with a private television channel on November 2. Salik had said he did not possess evidence but heard stories about corruption in Punjab every day, as per the notice. He further remarked that corruption-related files had filled "entire cupboards" in the province, the notice mentioned.

The notice disputes the assertions, maintaining that Salik had failed to identify any document, official inquiry, audit observation, investigation, complaint or other verifiable source to substantiate his remarks.

It calls upon the recipients to withdraw the disputed allegations and publish an "unconditional and unequivocal apology and clarification" with prominence equivalent to that given to the original remarks. The notice also seeks removal or correction of the disputed portions of the interview and related material, besides demanding Rs5 billion in damages over what it describes as

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Govt to meet gas demands in winter

Saifullah Ansar

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik on Tuesday assured the public that the government will make utmost efforts to meet the demand for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) during the winter months.

His remarks come as LPG supply has been disrupted due to the closure of Iranian border crossings, resulting in gas cylinders being sold at twice the official rate in the open market. LPG is widely used for rickshaws, but also for cooking and other purposes by those not on the piped gas network.

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Trump faces tough time as voters flock to polling stations

History is against Trump's Republicans: the sitting president's party has lost ground in Congress in all but two midterm elections since World War Two

DNA

WASHINGTON: Voters struggling with high prices and angry over an unpopular war with Iran will decide whether to drastically shift power in Washington in midterm elections Tuesday that will serve as a referendum on President Donald Trump's second term. Democrats were cautiously optimistic about their prospects as they watched Republicans spend the campaign's final stretch pumping tens of millions of dollars into states and districts that Trump won handily just two years ago. They are betting that discontent over Trump's failure to deliver on his promise to tackle rising costs and perceptions that he has been more focused on gilding the nation's capital than their pain at the pump will depress Republican turnout and drive their own voters to the polls. Republicans held out hope that their overwhelming money advantage would help stem the tide, but they were bracing to lose control of the US House and fighting to hang onto the US Senate – an outcome that seemed

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia vow to deepen media cooperation



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Rajeh Tami Albugamy on Tuesday agreed to further strengthen cooperation between the two brotherly countries in the fields of information, broadcasting, media, culture and public relations. During a meeting with the Saudi ambassador, the minister welcomed him to Pakistan and congratulated him on his diplomatic assignment, expressing confidence that his tenure would further strengthen the longstanding ties between the two countries. Pakistan travel guide

The minister said Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations were reaching new heights, with vast opportunities for expanding cooperation in media, culture, drama, music, tourism and people-to-people contacts. He said the relationship between the two countries spanned generations and was rooted not merely in diplomatic and political engagement but also in shared history, religious bonds and strong public connections.

Referring to the strategic partnership between the two countries, the minister said the defence agreement reflected the strength of their cooperation in the defence sector. He observed that under the dynamic leadership of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia had undergone remarkable transformation in economic and cultural spheres.

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Ethiopian envoy visits Sundar Industrial Estate to explore bilateral coop

He also highlighted the incentives available to foreign investors and the ease of doing business, including one-window operations, investment guarantees, profit repatriation and zero-rated taxes for specific sectors.



DNA

LAHORE: Dr. Oumer H. Oba, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, visited the Sundar Industrial Estate to explore bilateral cooperation with traders, entrepreneurs and industrialists from Punjab province of Pakistan. The main discussions took place at a business forum with members of the Sundar Trade and Industry Association (STIA), as well as an interactive session with a delegation of the executives of the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical sectors led by Ghullam Bassi, CEO G.T Pharma. At the business forum, Ambassador Dr. Oumer held detailed discussions with STIA members from diverse sectors, including agriculture, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, surgical goods, nutraceuticals and fertilizers. He briefed them on Ethiopia's economic transformation and the competitive advantages of doing business there, from affordable, sustainable and uninterrupted energy supply to a skilled labour force and access to wider African markets. He also highlighted the incentives available to foreign investors and the ease of doing business, including one-window operations, investment guarantees, profit repatriation and zero-rated taxes for specific sectors. He invited the STIA members to join an exploratory visit to Ethiopia, which would give them first-hand experience of the country's facilities for foreign investors, its economic development and its prosperity. President STIA Muhammad Irfan Qadri underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation between the two nations, assuring the Ambassador of his full support for mobilizing a delegation of STIA to Ethiopia. He appreciated the Ethiopian economic development, highlighting business and investment opportunities for STIA members in Ethiopia. Chairman PIEDMC, Shahzad Ahmed Khan, and Senior Vice President STIA also spoke on the occasion. During the interactive session with the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical sectors, the Ambassador addressed their queries and assured them of the initiatives being taken to strengthen the bilateral trade and investment partnership between the two countries. The visit to the Industrial Estate also included tours of two major industrial units, in agricultural mechanization and textile spinning. The delegation also paid a visit to the industrial unit Ferozsons and BF Bio Sciences and explored the avenues of bilateral cooperation with its top management. The Ambassador also planted saplings at the premises of the industrial units to highlight Ethiopia-Pakistan shared commitment to climate resilience.

Sindh's herd transformation to revolutionize livestock genetics

KARACHI: In a landmark move to bolster the province's dairy and meat production, the Sindh Livestock and Fisheries Department, in collaboration with FonGrow (an organisation of Fauji Fertilisers), has successfully launched the 'Herd Transformation Initiative.'

The initiative reached a critical milestone on November 2, 2026, with the first successful batch of embryo transfers carried out at the Sindh Institute of Animal Science in Karachi. The project represents a paradigm shift in livestock management, utilising advanced genetic technology to rapidly improve local breeds.

Rapid genetic improvement Briefing Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Mohammad Ali Malkani highlighted that the initiative will drastically accelerate the genetic improvement of local cattle. Traditionally, herd transformation takes approximately 30 years; however, this new technology is expected to achieve the same results in just five years.

The strong demand for the programme was evident, with the Livestock Department ordering 132 embryos of Red Sindhi and Guzerata breeds, while private farmers have already placed orders for an additional 90 embryos.

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah congratulated the Livestock Department, its secretary Kazim Jatoi, Sindh Institute of Animal Science team, FonGrow team and the entire project team on this achievement. He emphasised that the success of the embryo transfer process is a significant step toward meeting the growing milk and meat demands of Pakistan's population and will provide a substantial boost to the livelihoods of local farmers.—**APP**

New desert lizard emerges from Chagai sands

PESHAWAR: On low sand dunes in western Pakistan, near the borders with Afghanistan and Iran, researchers have identified a desert lizard previously unknown to science.

The species, named Eremias chagaiensis after Chagai District in Balochistan, has a distinctive network of winding brown markings across its back.

An international study reveals a maze-patterned racerunner and resolves a century-old question about another lizard in Balochistan.

The study also provides the first modern specimen- and DNA-based confirmation of Eremias fasciata in Pakistan, more than a century after its first alleged historical report.

The new lizard was documented at four localities during field surveys between 2022 and 2025. Its body reaches 5.7 cm in length, excluding a tail that can be more than twice as long. Unlike the longitudinal stripes typical of many related racerunners, its intricate, maze-like pattern is present in both juveniles and adults.—**APP**

Farmers lauded for achieving 70-maund wheat yield per acre

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, has commended Pakistani farmers for achieving an impressive wheat yield of 70 maunds per acre, describing it as a remarkable achievement for the country's agricultural sector. He said that improved crop yields reflected the positive impact of quality seeds, balanced fertilizer application and the adoption of modern agricultural practices. Increased per-acre productivity would not only strengthen national food security but also create opportunities for wheat exports and valuable foreign exchange earnings, said a press release.

The Federal Minister was addressing the "Sarsabz Ki Jeet" event, organized by Fatima Fertilizer to recognize and celebrate the achievements of high-performing wheat farmers. He congratulated the successful farmers and appreciated their commitment, hard work and adoption of modern agricultural practices. He also acknowledged the efforts of Punjab Chief Minister, Provincial Minister for Agriculture and the Punjab Agriculture Department in promoting agricultural development and supporting the farming community. Hussain appreciated Fatima Fertilizer's contribution towards farmer training, dissemination of modern agricultural knowledge and promotion of balanced fertilizer use. He emphasized that the true success of private-sector investment in agriculture should be reflected in improved farm productivity and higher farmer incomes.

He noted that almost all the winning farmers recognized through the initiative had secured provincial and district-level positions through the use of Sarsabz Nitrophos and CAN fertilizers. Sharing his positive personal experience with Sarsabz fertilizers, he highlighted the importance of quality agricultural inputs and effective technical guidance in improving crop yields. The Federal Minister said that the government's agricultural priorities include increasing per-acre productivity, reducing production costs, improving farmers' incomes and strengthening national food security. In this regard, the government has introduced a comprehensive National Wheat Policy, which includes a proposed wheat support price of Rs. 4,500 per maund.—**APP**

France-Punjab partnership expansion discussed

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France to Pakistan Jean-Noël Poirier made a courtesy call on with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Monday. During the meeting, they discussed expanding partnerships between France and Punjab in diverse fields. Both sides exchanged views on enhancing cooperation through economic opportunities, heritage preservation and joint efforts in the fight against climate change. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif welcomed the French Ambassador and said that Punjab values its long-standing relations with France. She said the Punjab government is keen to explore new avenues of collaboration, particularly in trade, investment, culture, education and environmental sustainability. Ambassador Jean-Noël Poirier appreciated the development initiatives of the Punjab government and expressed France's desire to further deepen cooperation with Punjab in areas of mutual interest. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to strengthening people-to-people contacts and institutional partnerships. Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the Green Bus service in Attock on Tuesday, with a fleet of 15 buses set to operate on three routes to provide modern public transport facilities to residents. The CM inspected an electric bus after formally inaugurating the project. At her invitation, students performed the inauguration ceremony, said a handout issued here. Earlier, CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif visited Peer Lane, the main bazaar of Attock, where thousands of people accorded her a warm welcome. Shopkeepers and young people showered flower petals on her vehicle, while a traditional Dhachi dance was performed to welcome her. Women and children also walked alongside her vehicle as the streets were decorated with rose petals. The CM also visited the upgraded bazaar, where facilities including tuff tiles, streetlights and library booths have been installed to improve the area.—**DNA**

Kundi reviews Edwardes College's performance

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has directed the authorities concerned to implement fast-track administrative and academic reforms at Edwardes College Peshawar, emphasizing that restoring the institution's academic excellence was among the provincial government's top priorities.

Chairing a meeting on the college's administrative and academic affairs, the Governor reviewed matters relating to governance, infrastructure, digital systems, e-learning, academic performance and students' achievements. Adviser to the Governor on Education Dr. Syed Amir Abdullah, the Secretary Higher Education Abidullah Kakakhel, members of the Board of Governors, the college principal and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

The meeting was also briefed on the college's financial management, administrative reforms, accountability measures, extracurricular activities and tax-related issues. Expressing dissatisfaction over the institution's current performance and administrative affairs, Governor Kundi directed the authorities to resolve all outstanding issues on a priority basis and undertake administrative and academic improvements on a war footing.

He tasked Adviser Education Dr. Syed Amir Abdullah with overseeing comprehensive reforms at Edwardes College and directed that the process for appointing a permanent principal be completed at the earliest. He also ordered the immediate completion of vacant positions in the college's pending committees.—**APP**

Canadian, German envoys join polio campaign

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan Tarik Ali Khan and German Ambassador Ina Lepel on Monday joined senior government and international health officials on a field visit to Rawal Town, Islamabad, during the November Sub-National Polio Vaccination Campaign to review vaccination activities and support efforts to eradicate the disease.

The delegation also included Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan Pernille Ironside and WHO Deputy Representative in Pakistan Ellen Thom. During the visit, the delegation reviewed campaign preparations at Rawal Town Dispensary, observed the morning assembly of frontline polio workers and received briefings on Pakistan's polio situation, operational challenges and ongoing vaccination efforts.—**APP**

Civil servant's off-duty violence against wife constitutes misconduct

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has ruled that serious misconduct by a civil servant in his private life, including violence against his wife, can constitute service misconduct even if the act is committed outside office hours and has no direct connection with official duties.

Dismissing a petition filed by an Intelligence Bureau (IB) employee, the apex court held that acquittal in a criminal case does not automatically invalidate departmental proceedings if misconduct has been independently established through evidence.

The court upheld the compulsory retirement of Jawad Abbasi, who was serving as a cook in the IB and was accused of setting his wife on fire. He had challenged the Federal Service Tribunal's decision maintaining the departmental penalty imposed on him.

In a judgment authored by Justice Shahid Waheed, with Justice Ayesha A. Malik as a member of the bench, the court observed that the dignity of women was a fundamental constitutional value and that a civil servant's conduct at home could also reflect upon his suitability for public office and the reputation of the institution.

The court observed that violence did not become a private matter merely because it occurred within the home. Under the Civil Servants (Efficiency and Discipline) Rules, 2020, conduct unbecoming of an officer and prejudicial to service discipline could constitute misconduct even outside the workplace.

It clarified that an FIR alone could not justify departmental punishment. However, in this case, the inquiry officer had examined 13 witnesses in the employee's presence and provided him an opportunity to cross-examine them. The departmental inquiry independently established the charges, including the allegation of violence against his wife and his attempt to portray the incident as her suicide.

The court explained that criminal and departmental proceedings served different purposes and applied different standards of proof.

An acquittal meant that criminal guilt had not been established beyond reasonable doubt; it did not necessarily establish the accused's innocence for departmental purposes or certify his fitness for government service.

It further observed that the employee had been given an opportunity to defend himself and that the compulsory retirement penalty was proportionate to the gravity of the misconduct.

Finding no legal error, violation of due process or substantial question of law of public importance, the Supreme Court refused leave to appeal and dismissed the petition.—**DNA**



Solano targets India victory, sets sights on SAFF semis

"We go step by step. We have a big game against India on Thursday, followed by Maldives. Our focus is on these two matches and qualifying for the semi-finals. We have to treat every game as a final," Solano said

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan national football team head coach Nolberto Solano has expressed confidence in his squad ahead of the SAFF Championship 2026, setting semi-final qualification as the immediate target while declaring that the Green Shirts are determined to defeat arch-rivals India and make the nation proud. Talking to media in Islamabad, Solano said encouraging progress was being made in improving players' fitness, technical skills and overall performance, adding that Pakistan were gradually building a stronger and more competitive side. The head coach acknowledged the tough challenges of the regional competition but stressed that Pakistan would approach every match with belief, discipline and determination. "We go step by step. We have a big game against India on Thursday, followed by Maldives. Our focus is on these two matches and qualifying for the semi-finals. We have to treat every game as a final," Solano said. Highlighting the importance of the Pakistan-India encounter, he said he fully understood the passion and emotions attached to the rivalry, comparing its intensity with the famous football rivalry between Peru and Chile. "These games are special. We want to please our people because we know what this match means to Pakistani football fans. That itself is a great motivation for us," he added. Solano acknowledged India's progress in professional football over the past two decades but said Pakistan were focused on their own development and delivering a positive result against their traditional rivals. He also expressed strong confidence in local players, making it clear that the absence of diaspora-based footballers during the opening phase of the competition, which falls outside the FIFA international window, would not serve as an excuse. Reflecting on Pakistan's recent international experience, including the FIFA ASEAN Cup in Indonesia, he said the team had learned valuable lessons from difficult matches and was determined to turn those experiences into improved performances. The coach also underlined the need for stronger domestic football structures, professional clubs and sustained development opportunities for young players. Welcoming plans for a professional football league in Pakistan next year, he described it as a major step towards improving players' fitness, physical conditioning and competitive standards.

"Pakistan has talent. These young players need proper structure, clubs and opportunities. A professional league and pre-season preparation will make a significant difference to their development," Solano said.

Islamabad POST
METROLITE
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Traders' livelihoods can't be compromised: Ashfaq

ICCI VP Seeks removal of encroachments, up gradation of market on urgent basis

DNA



ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia, has assured the leadership and business community of Islamabad Fruit & Vegetable Market of the Chamber's full support in resolving their longstanding issues, emphasizing that the protection of traders' businesses and livelihoods remains a top priority. Addressing a joint delegation of the Fruit & Vegetable Market I-11/1 he appreciated the unity, commitment and hard work of market representatives and acknowledged their vital role in ensuring an uninterrupted supply of fresh fruits and vegetables to Islamabad and adjoining areas.

The ICCI President expressed concern over the difficulties faced by traders due to inadequate attention from the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) and other relevant authorities. He particularly highlighted concerns regarding basic facilities, including sanitation, streetlights, footpaths, market infrastructure and especially the encroachments, as well as apprehensions about any proposed relocation of the market. He stressed that the livelihoods of hundreds of businesses and thousands of people associated with the market must be protected, adding that the Chamber would actively take up these matters with the concerned authorities and pursue their early resolution. Highlighting the export potential of Pakistan's agricultural sector, Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia said that fruits and vegetables, particularly Pakistani Kinnow, have considerable demand in international markets, including Russia. He proposed capacity-building programmes for market traders, greater participation of their representatives in international trade delegations, improved packaging and supply-chain standards, and exploration of new export destinations to enable a wider segment of the business community to benefit from international trade opportunities. Speaking on the occasion, President of the Fruit and Vegetable Association Babu Aleem thanked the ICCI President for his timely intervention and support in taking up the market's concerns with the relevant authorities. He said that the market was one of the largest wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in Pakistan, comprising over 600 business establishments and serving Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He added that millions of livelihoods were directly or indirectly linked to its commercial activities.

Former Senior Vice President ICCI and Secretary General of the Association Tahir Ayub expressed serious concern over the neglect of the market by CDA despite the traders regularly paying substantial property taxes and water conservation charges. He particularly questioned the utilization of Rs530 million allocated under the PSDP 2025-26 for the market's rehabilitation and development, stating that despite reports of approximately Rs300 million released, visible development work remained inadequate. He urged the authorities to clarify the utilization of funds, resolve administrative jurisdictional issues between CDA and the Market Committee, restore encroached or diverted market land, and ensure that the market's wholesale status and legitimate commercial interests were protected.

He called for a comprehensive development plan covering improved roads, drainage, sanitation, water supply, parking facilities, modern auction grounds and cold-storage infrastructure, in line with international standards. He also sought the ICCI leadership's intervention regarding land being used by unrelated entities, including Northern Areas Transport Company (NATCO).

ICCI Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chtha emphahised the need for unity among the ranks of the community for the resolution of the problems and chalking out a consensus course of action for the needful by assuring that the Chamber's leadership was determined for the availability f the ease of doing business atmosphere.

Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan Swati in his welcome address said that the Chamber's leadership has not wasted a single day after assuming the charge and that was actively engaged with the relevant departments and authorities for the purpose. ICCI Executive member Mohammad Sohail Chaudhry moderated the event.The business leaders who also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the problems included Chaudhry Waseem, Chaudhry Arshad, Aamir Rafique, Rizwan Farooq, Arslan Javaid and Haji Shabbir. Those present also included Iftikhar Anwar Sethi, Israr Mishwani, Syed Imran Bukhari Malik Rashid Tufail, Rana Istikhar, Abrar ul Haq, Mazher Hussain and other.

More sheesha cafes sealed, equipment seized

ISLAMABAD: The district administration has continued its daily action against illegal sheesha cafes across Islamabad, sealing more establishments, confiscating sheesha equipment and arresting those found involved in operating the cafes.

According to the district administration, enforcement teams are conducting operations in different areas of the city without discrimination. During the latest operations, several sheesha cafes were sealed, equipment was seized and arrests were also made.

The administration said the operations were being carried out in accordance with court orders and would continue on a daily basis.

It further stated that action would not be stopped until the last sheesha cafe in the city was closed.

The district administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring compliance with court directions and maintaining the ongoing enforcement campaign across Islamabad. Officials said the crackdown would continue against all establishments found operating in violation of the court orders.–**APP**

Girl Guides visit Yadgar-e-Fatah to pay tribute to martyrs

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary and MNA Farah Naz Akbar, President of the ICT Chapter of the Pakistan Girl Guides Association (PGGA), led 500 Girl Guides on a visit to the newly inaugurated Yadgar-e-Fatah in Islamabad to pay tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the defence of the motherland.

Organised by the PGGA's ICT Chapter, the visit was aimed at honouring the sacrifices of the nation's martyrs and commemorating the victory of Marka-e-Haq.

The participation of a large number of young Girl Guides reflected their spirit of patriotism, national unity and solidarity, while providing them an opportunity to learn about the country's history and the sacrifices made for its defence. Addressing the participants, Farah Naz Akbar highlighted the importance of instilling patriotic values, national pride and a sense of responsibility among young girls. She said the sacrifices of the martyrs would continue to inspire generations to serve the country with dedication, courage and commitment. She said such initiatives were important for promoting the empowerment of young girls, developing their leadership potential and encouraging their active participation in national and community activities. Under her leadership, the PGGA ICT Chapter continues to provide platforms for girls to build confidence, strengthen leadership skills and play a positive role in society.–**APP**

National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria National Day

Nov 04/Italy Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia National Day

Nov 11/Poland Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus National Day

Nov 18/Oman National Day

Nov 18/Morocco Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh Armed Forces Day

Nov 22/Lebanon Independence Day

Nov 25/Suriname National Day

Nov 28/Mauritania National Day

Nov 28/Albania Flags Day



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Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Dr Ishtiaq Ahmed assumes charge as Executive Director of COMSATS



ISLAMABAD: Renowned Pakistani academic and educationist Dr Ishtiaq Ahmed has assumed office as the Executive Director of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Islamabad. Sharing the news, Dr Ahmed said he looked forward to promoting science diplomacy and strengthening international cooperation for sustainable development across the Global South through his new role at the organization.

Dr Ahmed is widely recognized for his contributions to higher education and academic leadership in Pakistan and abroad. He previously served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Sargodha, where he played a key role in academic and institutional development. Throughout his distinguished career, he has remained closely associated with teaching, research, and university administration.

An accomplished scholar, Dr Ahmed has taught at several prestigious universities overseas, contributing to international academic collaboration and research. He has also served as a faculty member at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, one of Pakistan's leading institutions of higher learning, where he earned respect as a teacher and mentor to generations of students.

A journalist-turned academicism, Dr. Ishtiaq's appointment to COMSATS is being viewed as a significant development for the organization, given his extensive experience in higher education, international academia, and policy-oriented research. Observers believe his leadership can further strengthen COMSATS' mission of fostering scientific cooperation, innovation, and capacity building among developing countries. In his message, Dr Ahmed expressed optimism about advancing science diplomacy and promoting partnerships among member states to address shared challenges through science, technology, and innovation. He emphasized the importance of collective efforts in achieving sustainable development goals and enhancing knowledge exchange across the Global South. – **DNA**

SMEs urged to fully leverage export facilitation scheme

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani here on Tuesday affirmed the government's commitment to boosting the export sector and improving the ease of doing business, urging Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to take full advantage of the Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS).

He made these remarks while chairing a consultative meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee to Review the Export Facilitation Scheme at the Finance Division.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Commerce, Special Secretaries from Finance and Commerce, senior officials from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), alongside representatives of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA), and the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry and prominant exporters via video link.–**APP**

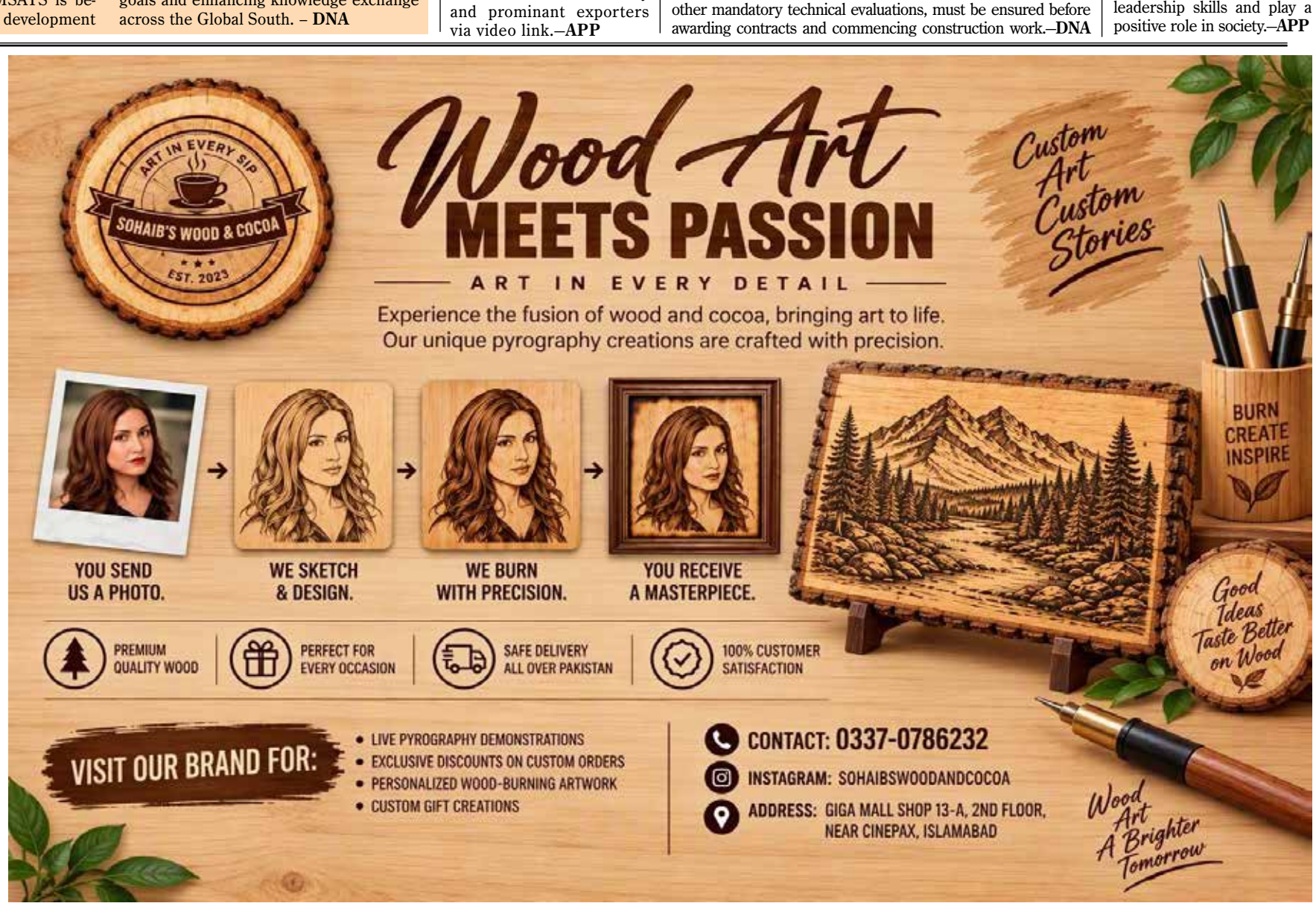
NA body directs NHA to prioritise ongoing projects in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Communications on Tuesday directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to prioritise ongoing development schemes, ensure timely completion of delayed projects and take measures to strengthen its workforce in Balochistan. NA body directs NHA to prioritise ongoing projects, strengthen workforce in Balochistan

The committee, which met under the chairmanship of MNA Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani at the NHA Headquarters, reviewed matters relating to road infrastructure, implementation of previous recommendations, progress on major motorway projects, road safety and the performance of the Motorway Police. The meeting commenced with the confirmation of the minutes of the Committee's 19th meeting, held on September 2, 2026. The Committee reviewed the implementation status of its previous recommendations. The NA panel also considered Starred Question No. 55, moved by Syed Rafiullah, MNA, regarding the deterioration of roads shortly after their completion due to substandard construction and inadequate planning. The Mover expressed dissatisfaction with the response furnished by the NHA and observed that the absence of proper surveys, load evaluations, soil investigations and other essential technical tests before the commencement of road construction projects was contributing to the premature deterioration of roads. He further pointed out that contracts were being awarded without adequate planning and proper technical assessments, resulting in substandard construction and wastage of public funds. The Mover emphasized that proper pre-construction planning, including soil testing, load assessment and other mandatory technical evaluations, must be ensured before awarding contracts and commencing construction work.–**DNA**

10 more BHUs to offer specialist consultations

ISLAMABAD: The District Health Office (DHO) Islamabad has said that in collaboration with Sehat Kahani, 10 additional Basic Health Units (BHUs) would provide specialist healthcare consultations to improve access to quality medical services at the primary healthcare level in the federal capital. The initiative aims to facilitate patients by providing timely medical advice and specialist consultations closer to their communities. The expansion is expected to reduce travel difficulties for patients, particularly those requiring specialist medical advice, while helping ease the burden on major hospitals. The project will strengthen primary healthcare services through technology-based solutions and improve access to medical consultations for residents of Islamabad. The initiative also supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).–**APP**



Briefs

PIMS pharmacy qualifies GSDP certification

ISLAMABAD: The Pharmacy Department of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has qualified for Good Storage and Distribution Practices (GSDP) Certification following an audit conducted by the Pharmacy Services and Drug Control (PS&DC), Health Department, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).
The audit was conducted as part of Pakistan's preparedness for Level-III assessment under the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT). The PS&DC team carried out a comprehensive assessment of the pharmacy's Quality Management System, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and relevant records.
The evaluation covered key operational areas, including procurement, receipt, inventory management, distribution, product recall, adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting and other related activities.
Based on the assessment and scores achieved, the PIMS Pharmacy Department successfully qualified for the certification. PS&DC officials said that the achievement marks an important step towards strengthening quality assurance, ensuring integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain and improving patient safety in public-sector healthcare institutions.–**APP**

Polio vaccination drive continues

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's week-long anti-polio vaccination campaign is continuing across 97 districts, targeting more than 24 million children under five years of age to protect them against the crippling disease.
Launched on November 2, the campaign will continue until November 8, with more than 200,000 frontline workers participating in door-to-door vaccination activities.
According to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), the campaign aims to ensure that every eligible child receives polio drops, particularly in areas where the virus continues to circulate.
The drive comes amid renewed concerns following the detection of a fresh polio case in Khyber district, highlighting the need for sustained vaccination efforts to interrupt poliovirus transmission.
Health authorities have urged parents to welcome vaccination teams and ensure that all children under five receive two drops during the ongoing campaign, regardless of their previous vaccination history.
They emphasized that polio has no cure but can be prevented through repeated vaccination, which strengthens children's immunity and protects them against the virus.–**APP**

DHO boosts monitoring of ongoing polio campaign

ISLAMABAD: The District Health Office (DHO) Islamabad has deployed district monitors and field teams to ensure effective supervision and successful completion of the ongoing three-day polio vaccination campaign in the federal capital.
According to the DHO, monitoring teams are actively visiting the field to oversee vaccination activities and ensure that the campaign reaches all eligible children.
The office has urged parents to ensure that their children under five years of age receive polio drops during the campaign to protect them against the crippling disease.
It emphasized that public cooperation and effective field monitoring were essential to achieving the campaign's objectives and making Pakistan polio-free.
The Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative has urged parents to ensure that all children under five years of age receive two drops of polio vaccine during every round of the ongoing Sub-National Immunisation Days (SNID) campaign, being conducted from November 2 to 8.–**APP**

Seminar on Tehran Muslim Unity Conference

Regional hands must shape region's future: Mushahid

The Ambassador of Iran also welcomed Makkah Defence Alliance as a positive step and he praised Field Marshal Asim Minir for his good initiative to bring Islamic countries together in Tehran on 26 October and he said that all our leadership welcomes it because if we four countries (Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia) have unity and we come together, nobody can harm us

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a seminar on "impact and significance of Tehran Muslim Unity Conference" agreed that Iran War has provided an opportunity for regional countries to reshape the region, without foreign interference. The International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) had organized a seminar on the landmark Tehran Muslim Unity Conference in which there was a lively and candid discussion on the impact and consequences of the October 21 meeting in Tehran with the Makkah Defence Alliance on the initiative of Pakistan. In his opening remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that "we are living in an era of transformation, turbulence and transition" and he said that the "division and decline of the West together with the rise of China and the emergence of Muslim Middle Powers were new global realities". Among Muslim Middle Powers, he listed Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia and said these countries had a broad consensus that the main threat to the Muslim world came from Israel and hence there was a need for strong Muslim unity.
Referring to Pakistan's pivotal role and the recent developments, Senator Mushahid Hussain quoted the Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who in his press conference in Cairo on 19 December, 1946, had said that the "creation of Pakistan would be a source of strength for the Muslims of the Middle East", in other words, the Founder of Pakistan had linked Pakistan's role and destiny even before the creation of Pakistan with the Muslim World, which had now turned into a reality. He said that Pakistan had done three major achievements in the last few months starting with the April 7 ceasefire between Iran and the United States, the 17 June Islamabad MOU and the 21 October historic meeting in Tehran between the four Muslim countries. He said that Pakistan played such an important role which should actually have been played by the international organizations like the United Nations, the OIC, the Arab League or the EU but these organizations failed to deliver.
The Ambassador of Iran, Dr. Raza Amiri Mughaddam, in his speech talked about the historic development of the Iranian Revolution under the Imam Khomenie which transformed Iran from what it was once called 'second Israel' under the the Shah to a bastion of resistance against Zionism. He referred to the leadership and contributions of Imam Khomeni of Iran in mobilizing millions of Iranians in support of the Islamic Revolution. Ambassador Masud Khan, former President, Azad Kashmir and former Ambassador to the United States and China recounted the recent developments in the region and said that the situation was disastrous and explosive. Other speakers at the seminar included Ms. Nasim Zahra, prominent journalist and Anchor, Admiral (R) Hasham Siddiqui, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and Maj. Gen. (R) Zahid Mahmood, Dean of NUST, who spoke on different dimensions of the conflict and its consequences. They also hailed Pakistan's initiative to bring the delegation of Makkah Defence Alliance to Tehran saying that Muslim Unity was the need of the hour and this was the best way to thwart Natanyahu's plan of 'greater Israel'.

Significant growth in global ranking of Pakistani varsities

ISLAMABAD : The higher education sector of Pakistan is witnessing gradual strengthening and growing global visibility, as Pakistani universities have made significant and sustained progress in securing representation in leading international university rankings, including Times Higher Education (THE) and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). This was highlighted by Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar while briefing the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training during its 27th meeting, held at the HEC Secretariat on Tuesday. Sharing a comparative overview, he said that the number of Pakistani universities featured in the QS Asia University Rankings increased from 29 in 2020 to 83 in 2026. Similarly, Pakistan's representation in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Rankings has grown from 14 universities in 2020 to 48 in 2026. He added that the number of Pakistani universities featured in the THE World University Rankings has increased from 14 in 2020 to 56 in 2027, while representation in the QS World University Rankings has risen from seven universities in 2020 to 18 in 2027. He informed the committee that two Pakistani universities have secured places among the world's top 500 institutions in the QS World University Rankings 2027, while 12 have entered the top 1,000. In the THE World University Rankings 2026, 22 Pakistani universities were placed among the top 1,000 institutions globally, he added. He emphasised that HEC viewed international rankings as an important indicator of global visibility, academic reputation, research performance, graduate employability and international engagement. However, he stressed that the ultimate objective was not merely to improve ranking positions but to achieve sustainable improvements in academic quality, institutional performance and international competitiveness. He observed that Pakistan's higher education sector possesses considerable human resource potential, however financial constraints remain a major challenge. He also informed the committee about the HEC committee on international university rankings constituted to develop a coordinated national approach, familiarise institutions with ranking methodologies and guide them in identifying performance gaps and improvement priorities. The Chairman also briefed the committee on HEC's broader initiatives for the uplift of the higher education sector. He said around 20 task forces had been constituted to examine priority areas and submit their recommendations for improvement. He also underlined HEC policy formation and review initiatives relating to undergraduate education, transnational education.–**DNA**

Buddhist Heritage familiarization tour to advance coop

ISLAMABAD: A 16-member Sri Lankan delegation comprising senior government officials, Buddhist community leaders, archaeologists, academics, business representatives, legal professionals, and media personalities has arrived in Pakistan for an eight-day Pakistan Buddhist Heritage Familiarization Tour, aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and advancing cooperation in Gandhara heritage, archaeology, education, cultural preservation, and people-to-people connections. The delegation included Dr. E. A. Senarath Dissanayake, Director General, Department of Archaeology, Sri Lanka; Professor P. D. Mandawala, former Director General of the Department of Archaeology; Mrs. Dilrukshi Dias Wickramasinghe, 46th Solicitor General of Sri Lanka; and prominent Buddhist community and business leaders, including Mr. Jagath Sumathipala. The delegation is led by Mr. Deeptha Wickramaratna, President of the Bodhi Dhamma Buddhist Association, Australia, serving as its Principal Coordinator. The initiative is being organized and coordinated by Mr. Imran Shauket, Coordinator of the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Gandhara, under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi.= It reflects Pakistan's commitment to strengthening international engagement around the Gandhara civilization through cultural diplomacy, academic exchange, institutional partnerships, and heritage preservation. The delegation was formally welcomed at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) by Federal Minister Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division, Mr. Asad Rehman Gilani, Rear Admiral Fred Senevirathne (Retd.), High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, and Mr. Christy Ruban, Deputy Hight Commissioner, Sri Lankan High Commission. A key highlight of the opening day was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Hazara University, Mansehra, Pakistan, and Nagananda International Buddhist University (NIIBS), Sri Lanka. The agreement provides a framework for student and faculty exchanges, archaeology, Buddhist studies, joint research, academic programmes, and heritage preservation. The MoU was signed by Dr. Shakir Ullah, Professor and Chairman, Department of Archaeology, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Hazara University, and Professor P. D. Mandawala, Founder of Nagananda International Buddhist University (NIIBS), Sri Lanka, in the presence of the Federal Minister, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Ikram Ullah Khan, Hazara University, and other distinguished dignitaries. Following the ceremony, the delegation visited the Islamabad Museum, exploring its archaeological collections and gaining further insight into Pakistan's Gandhara civilization and Buddhist heritage. The visit also features a significant international media component, with renowned Sri Lankan television presenter and media personality Mr. Chathura Alwis, accompanied by a professional production team, documenting the journey for an eight-episode television series to be broadcast in Sri Lanka, showcasing Pakistan's Gandhara civilization, Buddhist heritage, archaeological treasures.–**APP**



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meeting with JI delegation led by Acting JI Emir Liaquat Baloch on Tuesday.

Health minister reviews progress of JMC projects

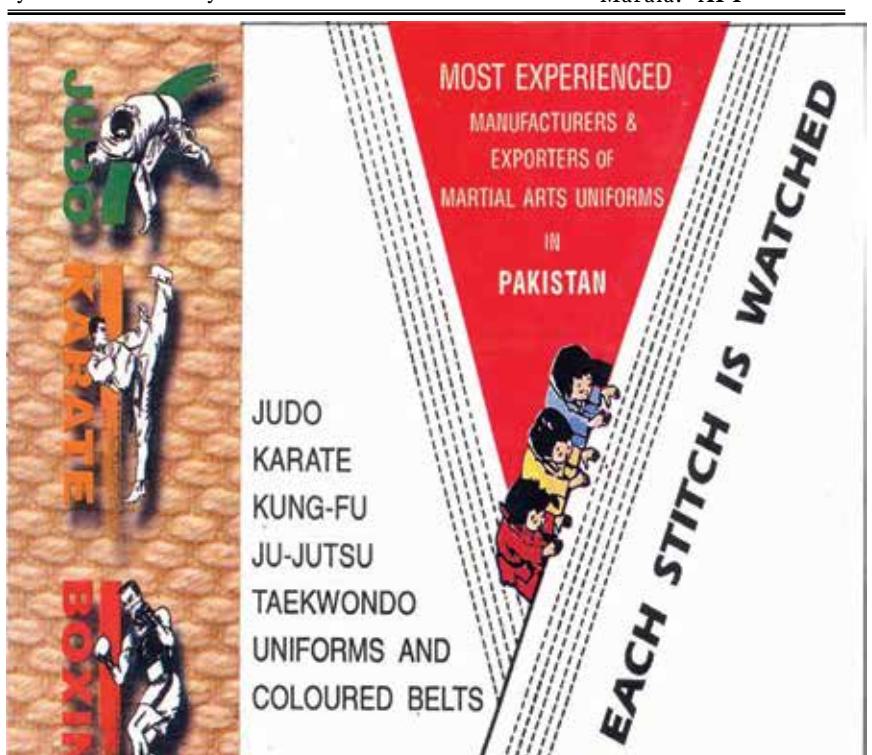
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday reviewed the progress of ongoing projects being undertaken by Jinnah Medical Construction Company (JMC), emphasizing timely completion and transparency. The minister was given a detailed briefing by the relevant authorities on the Company's ongoing projects, construction progress, administrative matters and the current status of various development schemes. During the briefing, he sought updates on the progress of different projects and reviewed matters related to their implementation. Mustafa Kamal issued necessary directions to the concerned officials to ensure timely completion of projects and maintain transparency throughout the execution process. He stressed the importance of effective oversight and coordination to ensure that development initiatives in the health sector were completed efficiently. Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday reviewed the progress of the Health Complaint Management System, emphasizing the need for timely resolution of public grievances and improved service delivery. The minister was given a detailed briefing on the system's latest developments, current status, operational challenges and future course of action. The meeting discussed measures to ensure effective registration of public complaints, their timely redressal and improved monitoring mechanisms to make the system more efficient and responsive. Various aspects of strengthening the system's operational capacity and ensuring better follow-up of complaints were also discussed. Mustafa Kamal stressed the importance of addressing public complaints promptly, improving the system's overall performance and ensuring transparency and accountability in the healthcare sector.–**DNA**

FIA nabs 2 suspects in visa fraud

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Islamabad Zone has nabbed two suspects for allegedly defrauding a citizen of Rs 1.05 million on the pretext of arranging a work visa for Türkiye and recovered the entire amount, which was returned to the complainant.
According to an FIA official, the operation was carried out by the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Rawalpindi, which took two suspects, identified as Liaqat Ali and Katib Younis, into custody in connection with FIR No. 729/2026.
He said the suspects allegedly received Rs 1.05 million from the complainant after promising to arrange a work visa for Türkiye but failed to fulfil their commitment.
The official said the entire amount of Rs 1.05 million was recovered from the suspects during the investigation and handed over to the complainant.
He said the role of other individuals allegedly involved in the case would also be examined during the investigation. Inspector Fahad Iqbal is investigating the case.–**APP**

IRSA releases 101,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD, Nov 3 (APP):Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 101,400 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 51,800 cusecs.
According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1504.56 feet, which was 102.56 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 26,000 cusecs and 65,000 cusecs, respectively.
The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1194.35 feet, which was 144.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 8,500 cusecs and 19,100 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu, and Sukkur was recorded as 77,600, 46,300, 32,200, and 11,100 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 2,700 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.–**APP**



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Israelis have voted for aggression over rapprochement

MUCH of the Israeli and international media hailed last week's Israeli election in historic terms, as the most significant in the country's history. The hyperbole was barely justified. It was like a dull score draw in front of a full stadium, with unwarranted high expectations leading to a tepid impasse. But what happens next in the region and how this Israeli election might affect the dynamics of the next few weeks could justify the overblown descriptions.

The Israeli electoral draw leaves Netanyahu in office and in pole position. He will block any obvious pathway for a government that excludes him personally, including by challenging the legitimacy of the election, with unevidenced accusations of foreign interference already being rolled out. Time will tell whether his opponents have the courage to set aside their overt anti-Arab racism and work with the Palestinian parties, which secured a record 19 seats.

But how will Netanyahu behave as caretaker prime minister? He will not shift out of election mode. The best prospect for him to stay in office might be to hold out for a second election in early 2027. He will push his rivals into the most awkward corners possible. Netanyahu will be hankering after resuming the war on Iran. His rivals will have to back him or risk a public backlash

The Netanyahu of the last three years has been a full-throttle hypernationalist aggressor. He will be hankering after resuming the US-Israeli war on Iran. His rivals will have to back him or risk a public backlash. The first Netanyahu offensive will be packed full of charm and directed toward 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. He may ask President Donald Trump to press harder for a Netanyahu-led national unity government. How such a charm offensive will be met might well depend on how this week's midterms go for Trump. Be assured that Trump will not consider himself constrained, whatever the outcome. That he takes the US back to war is not inevitable but the gathering of US military assets in the Middle East theater will ensure his threats pack more punch. The Israeli prime minister has other options. The other front to escalate will be the Palestinian one. Yet again, this will be designed to pressure his opponents to back him. He has threatened a clearout of areas in Hebron, much as Israeli forces did in the northern West Bank at Jenin and Tulkarem. Also on the menu is the approval of tenders for the E1 doomsday settlement. The first batch of tenders are scheduled to be approved from Nov. 19.



If this seems insufficiently expansive, what is left of Gaza awaits. On this front, he can claim that Hamas has had its chance to disarm and that Israel will have to "finish the job," as his Defense Minister Israel Katz claimed in September. Israeli forces can retake the remaining 30 percent of the Strip. The most extreme move would be to try to force out large numbers of Palestinians.

The election has sharpened the focus on two features of Israeli politics that damage its reputation Itamar Ben-Gvir will not be inactive, as he will be determined not to be ignored or bypassed. He has executions of Palestinian prisoners that he cannot wait to carry out. Stirring things up in Jerusalem is a further option.

As for the Iran front, Netanyahu will want war. A state of emergency inside Israel would suit his purposes. But war would be fraught with risks to Israeli security and its economy. A hit on Ben Gurion Airport would shut down the tourism industry. Israel's desalination plants could also be targeted, as could the Dimona nuclear reactor. The Iran front could also become a multifront war. Would the Houthis and Hezbollah lay off? The Israeli capacity to take out missiles and drones would be tested to the utmost, along with the extent of its munition stocks. If Gadi Eisenkot were to shape a new coalition with the support of the Palestinian parties, the more aggressive options may get taken off the table. Pushing forward with E1 and a full-scale onslaught on Gaza could crash the coalition before it got into first gear. The two Palestinian parties would have significant influence for as long as the coalition needs them to jettison Netanyahu from the Israeli political scene. This includes setting up an Oct. 7 commission and reversing Netanyahu's efforts to restrict the independence of the judiciary. The election has sharpened the focus on two features of Israeli politics that damage its reputation. The first is the anti-Arab racism that is so widespread it is electorally beneficial to try to ban Palestinian parties and block their candidates. Even though most would love to see the back of Netanyahu, they do not want to do this with Palestinian backing. Secondly, Israeli politics has shown itself to be more extreme and aggressive than ever. Bombing Iran again achieved near-consensus. Where was the debate about the wisdom of such an option? Likewise, Israeli actions in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen barely registered. The ethnic cleansing of Palestinians was given an electoral mandate. For Israelis who crave normalization with neighbors such as Saudi Arabia, these two trends are hardly endearing. The bottom line is that Israeli voters have overwhelmingly voted to reject any rapprochement with the peoples of the region in favor of full-throttle aggression.

Trump, Not Immigrants, Is Responsible for Protests Across Europe

Qamar Bashir



The Ukraine war introduced additional financial pressures. European governments committed substantial resources to military assistance, humanitarian support and the defence of their eastern neighbourhood. As Washington's approach to Ukraine became less predictable, European leaders faced growing pressure to assume greater responsibility for their own security and for supporting Kyiv. Trump's insistence upon increased European defence expenditure added another dimension to these fiscal challenges

EUROPE'S streets are erupting in anger. From Paris to Berlin, Rome to Lisbon, young people, workers and ordinary citizens are protesting against unaffordable housing, deteriorating public services, declining purchasing power and an increasingly uncertain future. Some demonstrations have descended into clashes, arson and looting. President Donald Trump has attributed the disturbances to immigrants and weak border controls. Yet an examination of his administration's economic, military and geopolitical decisions raises an uncomfortable question: how much of Europe's present financial distress has been intensified by the policies of the very president now blaming immigrants? Europe's younger generation is protesting against circumstances it can no longer comfortably endure. Students demand functioning schools and qualified teachers. Workers seek wages capable of meeting essential expenses. Families struggle with rent, electricity, transportation and groceries. These grievances cut across religious, ethnic and national backgrounds. They reflect a widening crisis of affordability and confidence in Europe's political and economic institutions.

Trump has nevertheless portrayed European unrest as evidence that immigration has undermined Western societies. His interpretation places cultural identity and border enforcement at the centre of the crisis. But the available evidence does not establish that immigrants, Muslims or descendants of immigrant families organised the demonstrations or were collectively responsible for the violence. The demands articulated by protesters point overwhelmingly towards economic hardship and domestic governance.

The first major geopolitical pressure concerns Russian energy. Before the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Europe relied extensively upon Russian pipeline gas and other energy supplies. These arrangements supported industries, heating systems and household consumption. Russia's invasion, subsequent supply disruptions, European sanctions and the decision to reduce dependence upon Moscow transformed that energy relationship.

Trump subsequently intensified pressure on European governments to terminate their remaining Russian energy purchases. He publicly accused them of hypocrisy, arguing that they were financing Russia while demanding stronger Western action against Moscow. His criticism added American political pressure to a transition already underway, reinforcing the expectation that Europe should abandon Russian supplies even as alternative energy arrangements remained costly. The economic consequences were substantial. Europe increasingly relied upon liquefied natural gas and other supplies from the United States, the Middle East and international markets. Replacing established pipeline arrangements required expensive infrastructure, new contracts and greater exposure to volatile shipping and commodity prices. European manufacturers and households consequently became more vulnerable to international energy shocks.

Then came the Trump administration's military confrontation with Iran, undertaken alongside Israel. Disruptions affecting the Strait of Hormuz and Persian Gulf energy shipments threatened another major source of global oil, gas and refined petroleum products. For Europe, the timing was particularly damaging. Having reduced its reliance on Russian energy, the continent faced renewed uncertainty in markets upon which its diversification strategy increasingly depended. This created a striking geopolitical contradiction. Washington was pressing European governments to end purchases from Russia while its confrontation with Iran disrupted the wider energy markets to which Europe had turned. The two developments were not identical in origin, but their combined economic consequences intensified Europe's vulnerability.

Higher energy prices travelled rapidly into everyday life. Expensive diesel increased transportation and agricultural costs. Rising gas prices affected electricity generation, manufacturing and heating. More expensive fuel and freight contributed to higher prices for food and consumer goods. Households already struggling with inflation faced another reduction in purchasing power, while businesses confronted mounting operating expenses.

The Ukraine war introduced additional financial pressures. European governments committed substantial resources to military assistance, humanitarian support and the defence of their eastern neighbourhood. As Washington's approach to Ukraine became less predictable, European leaders faced growing pressure to assume greater responsibility for their own security and for supporting Kyiv.

Trump's insistence upon increased European defence expenditure added another dimension to these fiscal challenges. NATO members agreed to work towards defence and security-related spending equivalent to 5% of GDP by 2035, comprising 3.5% for core defence and up to 1.5% for broader security and resilience. Although this is a gradual target rather than an immediate transfer of funds, its implications for future national budgets are considerable.

For students confronting overcrowded classrooms and families waiting for affordable housing, the resulting debate is unavoidable. How can governments expand military expenditure while struggling to maintain hospitals, schools, universities, transport systems and social protections? Defence spending may be necessary for national security, but it also competes with other priorities for limited fiscal resources.

American tariffs have compounded these difficulties. Under the negotiated transatlantic trade framework, most European exports became subject to a 15% American tariff ceiling, with exceptions. Export-dependent industries must accommodate these additional costs through prices, margins, supply-chain adjustments or investment decisions. For Germany's industrial manufacturers, Italy's exporters and other European businesses, trade uncertainty can discourage expansion and threaten employment prospects.

These economic pressures reinforce one another. Expensive energy raises production costs; tariffs complicate access to export markets; weaker growth constrains tax revenues; and increasing security commitments intensify budgetary competition. Governments consequently face greater difficulty responding to public demands for better services and economic relief.

Trump's statements concerning Greenland have further unsettled European security calculations. His interest in acquiring territory belonging to the Kingdom of Denmark raised questions about sovereignty and the reliability of longstanding American alliances. European governments must now consider not only external threats but also uncertainty within the transatlantic relationship itself.

Pakistan's experience offers a historical parallel. During the anti-Soviet campaign in Afghanistan and the subsequent war on terrorism, Islamabad became an important American strategic partner. Yet changing priorities in Washington repeatedly altered the relationship, leaving Pakistan to manage difficult regional consequences. Europe's current predicament similarly demonstrates the risks of depending excessively upon another country's strategic decisions.

Europe's governments nevertheless remain responsible for their own domestic policies. Housing shortages, ageing infrastructure, public debt and inadequate services did not originate with Trump. Nor can every demonstration, riot or criminal incident be traced directly to American decisions. But the cumulative impact of Washington's energy pressure, military confrontation, tariff policies and demands for greater allied defence expenditure deserves serious scrutiny. That is the contradiction at the heart of Trump's immigration narrative. While he presents immigrants as the principal explanation for Europe's unrest, his administration's policies have contributed to the economic and strategic pressures confronting European governments and households. Blaming demographic communities without evidence risks diverting attention from the material grievances expressed by protesters. Europe's young people are not merely demanding order in the streets. They are demanding affordable homes, functioning schools, dignified employment and a credible future. Their protests reveal a society struggling to reconcile international commitments with domestic expectations.

The central lesson is that national security cannot be sustained indefinitely without economic and social security. Trump's immigration explanation does not adequately account for Europe's unrest; understanding it requires examining the consequences of American policies alongside the domestic failures of European governments.

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

Political Islam and the Western Leftist

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The Red-Green alliance is unlikely to remain stable indefinitely. Islamist movements may seek a religious order, while the secular left generally supports a different social and political arrangement. Their disagreements over gender equality, freedom of expression and the role of religion cannot be permanently concealed by a shared opposition to Israel

THE Hamas attack of October 7, 2023, did not create the convergence between sections of the Western left and Islamist movements. It exposed a political relationship that had been developing for decades. The killing of Israeli civilians raised an uncomfortable question: how could movements that claim to defend human rights, democracy and freedom find common ground with organisations whose political objectives often conflict with these principles? The answer lies partly in their shared opposition to the United States and Israel. Often described as the Red-Green alliance, this convergence brings together elements of the radical left and political Islam. It is neither a formal alliance nor a unified movement. Rather, it is a meeting of interests in which otherwise incompatible groups find common ground against a perceived common enemy.

After October 7, sections of the international left interpreted the attack primarily through the history of Palestinian dispossession and Israeli occupation. These issues deserve serious attention, but they cannot justify the deliberate killing of civilians or the taking of hostages. Explaining the conditions that produce violence is not the same as excusing it. Equally, condemning Hamas does not absolve Israel of responsibility for its military actions or the suffering of Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

The distinction matters because political solidarity loses its credibility when it becomes selective about human suffering. The origins of this relationship extend beyond the present conflict. Marxist movements divided society into opposing classes, while the Muslim Brotherhood, established in Egypt in 1928 by Hassan al-Banna, developed a transnational political movement based on an Islamic vision of society. Their ideologies differed fundamentally, but opposition to Western influence eventually provided opportunities for cooperation.

During the Cold War, Arab nationalism, anti-colonial movements and revolutionary ideologies frequently identified the United States as the principal defender of an unequal international order. Israel, closely aligned with Washington, became part of this political opposition. The Palestinian struggle consequently acquired significance beyond its immediate territorial dimensions. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 provided another example. Some Western left-wing intellectuals welcomed the overthrow of the Shah as a defeat for American influence. Yet the Islamic Republic that emerged under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini pursued a religious political order fundamentally different from the secular and individual freedoms defended by much of the Western left. This contradiction remains central to the Red-Green alliance. The secular left and Islamist movements do not share a common vision of democracy, religion or personal freedom. Their cooperation rests largely on opposition to Israel and Western power.

Universities, political organisations and social media have become important arenas for this convergence. The language of colonialism, racial inequality and oppression increasingly shapes debates about Israel. Some criticism addresses genuine concerns, including occupation, settlements and Palestinian political rights. The difficulty arises when a complicated conflict is reduced to a simple division between oppressor and oppressed. The writings of Antonio Gramsci, Frantz Fanon and Edward Said have influenced debates about cultural power, colonialism and political resistance. Their ideas, however, should not be blamed for every position later advanced in their name. The problem emerges when theoretical arguments replace the examination of evidence and the conduct of political actors. Under such an approach, violence by a movement considered oppressed may receive less scrutiny than violence committed by its opponent. Hamas's killing of civilians can then become secondary to its claimed role in Palestinian resistance.

The same selectivity appears in debates about antisemitism and Islamophobia. Anti-Muslim prejudice must be challenged, but accusations of Islamophobia should not prevent legitimate criticism of Islamist organisations. Similarly, criticism of the Israeli government is not inherently antisemitic, yet hostility towards Jews or the denial of their equal rights cannot be excused as political activism. Slogans such as "from the river to the sea" demonstrate the problem. Those who use the phrase interpret it in different ways, but many Israelis and Jewish communities understand it as a call for the elimination of Israel. Advocates of Palestinian freedom must recognise that self-determination cannot be secured by denying another people its rights and security.

The convergence has also entered electoral politics in Western democracies. Candidates seeking support among progressive voters have addressed concerns about discrimination, immigration, foreign intervention and the war in Gaza. These are legitimate political issues. However, solidarity with Palestinians becomes problematic when it requires uncritical acceptance of Hamas or rejection of Israel's right to exist. Zohran Mamdani's positions on Israel and his support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement have fuelled this debate in New York. His supporters frame his approach as opposition to Israeli policies and advocacy for Palestinian rights, while critics question its implications for Jewish security and recognition of Israel as a Jewish state. Such disagreements should be examined on their merits. Support for Palestinian rights does not automatically make someone an ally of Islamism, just as criticism of Zionism does not by itself establish antisemitic intent. The essential test is whether a political position recognises equal rights and rejects violence against civilians.

The Red-Green alliance is unlikely to remain stable indefinitely. Islamist movements may seek a religious order, while the secular left generally supports a different social and political arrangement. Their disagreements over gender equality, freedom of expression and the role of religion cannot be permanently concealed by a shared opposition to Israel. For now, however, the common adversary continues to provide a basis for cooperation. Social media reinforces simplified narratives, while political polarisation discourages people from questioning the actions of their own side. Democratic societies must protect peaceful protest and criticism of governments while rejecting threats, antisemitism and anti-Muslim discrimination. They must also distinguish advocacy for Palestinian rights from support for attacks on Israeli civilians.

The central issue is not whether Israel should be beyond criticism. No state should be. It is whether the same moral standards apply to all political actors. Palestinian suffering deserves recognition, Israeli civilians deserve protection, and both peoples have a right to security and dignity. Political solidarity is meaningful only when it upholds these principles consistently. When opposition to a common enemy becomes more important than human rights, an alliance may gain political strength, but it loses its moral foundation.

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17 terrorists killed in two Balochistan...

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During the operation, 10 terrorists were killed, while a cache of weapons, ammunition, and other military equipment was also recovered from their possession. Officials said the operation prevented a potentially dangerous situation and demonstrated the vigilance and preparedness of Pakistan's security forces in countering terrorist threats before they materialize. In a separate operation in Kharan district, security personnel targeted a terrorist hideout after receiving intelligence about militant activity in the area. The ensuing firefight was intense, with troops effectively engaging the terrorists and eliminating seven militants. Security forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from the hideout, further weakening the operational capabilities of terrorist networks active in the region. However, during the exchange of fire, Sepoy Hikmat Ullah, a 25-year-old soldier from Karak district, laid down his life in the line of duty. The ISPR paid tribute to the brave soldier, acknowledging his sacrifice in the fight against terrorism and his commitment to protecting the nation.

Maryam seeks Rs5bn in damages...

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harm caused to the chief minister's reputation. The recipients have been given seven days to comply with the demands, failing which the chief minister could initiate legal proceedings, including under the Punjab Defamation Act, 2024. The legal notice follows a public exchange between Maryam and Salik over his remarks about corruption in the provincial administration. Addressing a ceremony in Attock earlier, the chief minister challenged the federal minister to produce evidence supporting his assertions and warned that she would take him to court if he failed to do so. "You are a federal minister. Don't make allegations, present evidence," Maryam had said.

Trump faces tough time as voters...

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unlikely earlier this year, given a map widely seen as favoring their party. Still, the margins are tight in both chambers, and just one or two seats could tip the balance. Democrats need a net gain of four seats in the 100-member Senate to win the majority, an uphill climb because many of the most competitive races are in historically red states. In the 435-member House, they only need three. More than 57 million people had already cast ballots as of Monday, with turnout surpassing the early vote four years ago in many closely watched states. Trump, whose party has struggled when he is not running to turn out the low-propensity voters who have fueled his victories, has told voters to act as though he is, even as many Republican candidates have tried to keep their distance.

Petitions against detention...

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the non-functional Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister – to the chief justice for the constitution of a larger bench. Afridi has not been seen since the imposition of governor's rule and emergency in KP on Oct 11. His whereabouts remained unknown on the day governor's rule was imposed, and a federal minister confirmed a day later that he and some of his cabinet members were in preventive custody. The PTI has also alleged the detention and arrests of several of its other members, including lawmakers and ministers. Their whereabouts have not been disclosed by the government so far.



ISLAMABAD: Sri Lanka delegation visited Pakistan foreign office on Tuesday. In the group picture Spokesperson Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sajjad Ahmed and High Commissioner of Sri Lanka also present. – DNA

Amin Mukaty Makes History at New York Marathon



Mukaty described the New York City Marathon as an extremely challenging experience. He said he was the only Pakistani runner in this year's event to complete the full marathon in under three hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani long-distance runner Amin Mukaty has achieved a remarkable international milestone by becoming the fastest Pakistani finisher at the New York City Marathon 2026, completing the gruelling 42.195-kilometre race in an impressive time of 2 hours, 53 minutes and 42 seconds.

His outstanding sub-three-hour performance at one of the world's most prestigious marathon events marks a proud moment for Pakistan, showcasing his dedication, discipline and determination on the international running circuit.

Mukaty described the New York City Marathon as an extremely challenging experience. He said he was the only Pakistani runner in this year's event to complete the full marathon in under three hours. "Completing the 42.195-kilometre race in 2:53:42 is a special moment for me and my country, Pakistan. It was an exceptionally tough race, and I am proud to have achieved this milestone," he said.

He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to ACTIVIT CEO Dr. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed for his continued 360-degree support, encouragement and motivation throughout his international marathon journey.

"His unwavering support has helped me remain focused on my goals. With the prayers and encouragement of my family, well-wishers and ACTIVIT, I am hopeful of completing the remaining marathon. It would be a tremendous honour for me and my country," Mukaty added. Mukaty further revealed that he was pursuing his ambitious goal of completing all six major international marathons, with only one remaining to accomplish this remarkable target.

AFC postpones Asian Cup 2027 in Saudi Arabia from January to December

DNA

KUALA LUMPUR: The 2027 Asian Cup football tournament in Saudi Arabia will be postponed from January to December due to "exceptional circumstances" in the region, the continent's governing body said on Tuesday. A number of big sports events in Saudi Arabia have been cancelled or postponed in recent weeks following Houthi attacks on the country. "The organising committee for AFC Asian Cup approved to reschedule the flagship national team tournament in light of the current exceptional circumstances arising from developments in the region," the Asian Football Confederation said in a statement. The AFC also cited "substantial logistical complexities and travel disruptions". "The new dates of the tournament will be presented to Fifa for approval," it said. The continental showpiece was originally scheduled to take place from January 7 to February 5 next year. The new dates are December 23, 2027, to January 21, 2028. Local organisers insisted last month that the Asian Cup was "on schedule", despite growing fears for the fate of the tournament. The Saudi cities of Jeddah, Riyadh and Al Khobar are set to stage the month-long competition. The decision to move the tournament back almost a year came after "extensive discussions and close consultation" between Saudi officials and the AFC, the governing body said. "Exceptional circumstances have been created for the organisation and delivery of the competition as originally scheduled, making the postponement necessary in the interest of all participating teams, officials, spectators and other stakeholders," it said.

Pakistan, China needed to explore shared Silk Road heritage: says expert

BEIJING: Pakistan and China should explore the cultural similarities they share along the ancient Silk Road and pass that understanding on to young people, a Pakistani media official told China Economic Net (CEN) in Dunhuang, northwest China. "There is a need of the time to explore the similarities and connections between our different cultures, and that must be translated to our young people," said Muhammad Zamir Assadi, Director of the Lord Media Network, on the sidelines of the ongoing international cultural expo in the city.

Seeing products based on Mogao Caves patterns, including the Flying Apsara and a deer motif, Assadi said they bear similarities with the collection of Pakistan's Taxila Museum. "Such products show the cultural connections between Pakistan and China," he said. "Pakistan and China are both on the route of the Silk Road, and we share a lot of historical stories together." According to UNESCO, Taxila sat on a Silk Road branch linking China to the West, and the art of the Mogao Caves shows Gandharan influence. Pakistan has its own heritage to share, Assadi said, from Gandhara sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Lahore. In July, Pakistan launched a task force to promote Gandhara heritage tourism. Young people are key to keeping that heritage alive, he said. "If young people know the significance of history, your legacy will be carried on, and your coming generations will become guardians of your values." "If you want to explore the similarities between Pakistan and China, you must visit Pakistan," he said. "You will love to see how Pakistan has preserved such historical products." – **DNA**



Colby Covington training with bigger wrestlers, vows to make Khamzat Chimaev 'quit' in Abu Dhabi

DNA

DUBAI: Colby Covington is training with bigger wrestlers to prepare for Khamzat Chimaev's size advantage and has vowed to "make him quit" when he defends his RAF cruiserweight crossover championship in Abu Dhabi on Nov. 14. The headline clash will take place at Etihad Arena, Yas Island, as RAF stages its first event in the Middle East. Both enter the contest undefeated in RAF, with Chimaev set to compete in front of a home crowd having represented the UAE since 2023.

Covington, a two-time NCAA All-American wrestler and former interim UFC welterweight champion, told Arab News in an exclusive interview that he has tailored his preparation to the physical challenge posed by Chimaev. "The way I've been training is I've been wrestling with bigger guys because he has a lot of weight on me," Covington said. "He weighs significantly more than me, maybe 20 (9 kg), 25 pounds. So I have to wrestle with bigger guys, guys that have a body like him."

The American has been training twice a day and believes the intensity of his preparation reflects what is at stake in Abu Dhabi.

"I'm taking no days off. I want this win more than I've wanted any win in my whole entire career. "So you're going to bring the best Colby Covington that you've seen in any competitive format to Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi." While Chimaev's size has shaped his training camp, Covington sees the Russian-born fighter's height as something he can exploit once they step onto the mat. "He's a tall guy. He's 6'2 (over 1.8 meters), 6'3, but it's going to be easier to get to those legs because he's so tall.

"I'm gonna get to his legs. I'm gonna take him down. I'm gonna slam him. I'm gonna make him quit. Covington added: "I'm going to break him with pace and just pressure and I'm going to stay on it. I'm going to be in his face the whole time.

"I'm going to go forward the whole time. He's not going to have the resilience to keep up with me." The contest forms part of a card bringing together leading names from wrestling and MMA. UFC No. 1-ranked lightweight contender Arman Tsarukyan will face three-time World BJJ bronze medalist Neiman Gracie in a catchweight crossover matchup.

Two-time Olympic bronze medalist and four-time world champion Kyle Dake will defend his cruiserweight title against Turkmenistan's Alp Arslan Begenjov, while Olympic silver medalist Kennedy Blades defends the women's middleweight title against Bella Mir. Former UFC contender Zabit Magomedsharipov will face Georgia's Giga Chikadze in a welterweight crossover contest, while Olympic champion and six-time world champion Jordan Burroughs takes on Belarusian Azamat Nurykau at middleweight. Four Arab athletes are also set to make their RAF debuts at Etihad Arena. Bahrain's Hamza Kooheji will meet Jordan's Ali AlQaisi at lightweight, while Egypt's Osama Elsaidy faces Bahrain's Murtaza Talha at light-heavyweight.

Covington believes the mix of international and regional names can help bring professional freestyle wrestling to a wider Middle Eastern audience. "There are some huge names on the card," he said. "When you have big names and role models and people that are looked up to like we all are, I think that's gonna bring the next generation of people in the Middle East and the people around the world really that are gonna be drawn to wrestling because of RAF."

He believes the sport can appeal to an audience in Abu Dhabi already accustomed to other forms of combat sports. "A lot of people in Abu Dhabi, they know about martial arts, they know about UFC and they know about jiu-jitsu, but they don't know about wrestling and they're about to find out about wrestling. "I think wrestling is going to become their favorite sport after they see RAF." Covington also sees RAF as offering wrestlers a professional pathway to continue competing in the sport.

"I think people are gonna see that there's this new outlet in RAF where they can make a living for themselves," he said

"They can make good financial incentives and really secure their financial future for themselves and their families through the sport of wrestling." For Covington, the Abu Dhabi event is ultimately a chance to show a new audience what the sport can offer.

"It's going to be intense. It's going to be, I think it will become violent at some point where it's just going to be gritty. "Wrestling is not easy, but all good things in life don't come easy. "We're going to show them what wrestling is all about. And hopefully this inspires a tonne of people in Abu Dhabi to follow down the wrestling circuit." RAF Abu Dhabi marks the start of a five-year partnership between Real American Freestyle, the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi, and the UAE Wrestling Federation.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia...

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The promotion of tourism in AlUla and the modern presentation of the historical and cultural significance of Diriyah were prominent examples of the Saudi leadership's vision, he added. Economic relations seminar Emphasising the importance of cultural diplomacy, Tarar stressed the need for joint initiatives to promote cultural cooperation and introduce Pakistani television dramas in Saudi Arabia. He said Pakistani dramas reflected family values, eastern traditions and Islamic culture and could serve as an effective medium for bringing the people of the two countries closer. The minister also proposed exchanges of delegations comprising writers, poets, artists, musicians, media professionals and digital content creators to strengthen cultural and professional linkages.

PTI rejects reports Imran...

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Safdar's meeting with the incarcerated PTI founder. "One thing I must strongly refute – which some TV channel ran, claiming Khan Sahib said it was very good that his government ended in KP – that is completely false," Gohar said. "Khan sahib never used any such words," he added. Gohar said Safdar had informed him that Imran was aware of the emergency and governor's rule imposed in KP, but maintained that little political discussion took place during the meeting. He said Safdar had not returned from the meeting with any major political message from the PTI founder. Safdar met Imran and his wife Bushra Bibi at Adiala jail on Monday following repeated requests for access. The lawyer said the meeting lasted around 40 minutes and covered their health, living conditions and pending legal matters. Gohar welcomed Safdar's meeting with Imran, saying restrictions on access to the former premier had contributed to heightened political tensions.

Iran-US deal still out of reach

FROM PAGE 01

Iran's parliament speaker and chief negotiator in talks with the United States, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said on Tuesday that the ball was in Washington's court to "prevent war". "The countries of the region should know that, just as the Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready for battle with its finger on the trigger, it has also given the American side a powerful and rational response," he said in a televised speech. "The ball is now in America's court to prevent war." Iran FM Seyed Abbas Araghchi, in an interview with Al Jazeera, said that Tehran "harbours no hostility toward the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council", and appreciates the positive role played by Qatar and Oman. "We continue the dialogue with Saudi Arabia. Our goal is to reach new regional security arrangements carried out by the countries of the region themselves, away from any foreign military presence," he wrote on X.

Govt to meet gas demands in winter

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Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Malik said, "Seeing people's distress and also knowing that from December and January, winter will be at its peak [...] even if the most expensive fuel has to be purchased for the piped network, we will bring it in and try to meet demand through LNG (liquefied natural gas)." The minister assured the public that the government will make "utmost efforts" to ensure piped supply of domestic gas for meal times. Besides this, LPG will be needed for other needs and by those without piped connections, he noted.

Briefs

Qatar says remains 'hopeful' of a US-Iran deal

DOHA: Qatar said on Tuesday it remained hopeful that a deal could be reached between the United States and Iran as both sides review proposals put forward by mediators including Doha. "Both parties remain committed to the negotiation process; as we mentioned, we are facilitating the real-time exchange of proposals between them," foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari told reporters, while adding that both sides "are currently reviewing the ideas and proposals we have presented."–**APP**

Indian sailor killed after vessel attacked off Oman

NEW DELHI: An India-flagged cargo vessel was struck by an "unidentified aerial object" off Oman, killing one Indian crew member, New Delhi said Tuesday. Indian Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the tanker MSV Al Jusufi had 14 Indian seafarers on board when it was attacked.
"While 13 crew members safely evacuated and were rescued by the Omani Coast Guard, I am deeply saddened to report that one of our seafarers, Gandhar Nahim Ajij from Gujarat, tragically succumbed to his injuries," Sonowal said in a statement on social media. India is one of the largest contributors of sailors to merchant shipping worldwide, with more than 320,000 active seafarers in 2025, according to the shipping ministry. Several of its mariners have been killed in attacks in the Strait of Hormuz since the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran on February 28. India's foreign ministry has repeatedly condemned attacks on commercial vessels, calling for unimpeded and safe navigation through international waters.–**APP**

Students blockade dozens of high schools in France

PARIS: Students blockaded dozens of high schools across France on Tuesday to maintain pressure on the government over education reforms as trade unions prepared for a nationwide strike later this week.
After returning from a two-week autumn break on Monday, some students resumed their protest campaign, calling on authorities to renovate dilapidated schools, reduce class sizes and create more university places. Authorities said 48 out of France's 3,700 high schools were blocked, including in cities such as Paris, Rennes, Toulouse and Lyon. The Union syndicale lyceenne (USL) contested those figures, saying 500 establishments were blocked. The student union denounced what it called heavy-handed tactics, with "young people pinned against walls and riot police units deployed" outside schools. "Our impression is that the objective is to suppress the movement and prevent Thursday's mobilization," a union representative told AFP. On Thursday students plan to stage a new day of blockades as trade unions called for a nationwide strike. In the northwestern city of Rennes, around 30 students blocked access to the Brequigny High School, one of the country's largest secondary schools. Tensions quickly flared between students and a member of the school administration. "You are not the majority," the staff member protested."If we're doing this, it's because everything we've tried before hasn't worked," a student replied. The school protests have fueled a nationwide movement against soaring prices and inadequate public services, which has drawn hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets over the past three weekends and led to some of the worst unrest seen in France in years on October 17.–**APP**

Jam calls for stronger trade integration, digital coop

Highlighting this year's theme, "Developing Effective Trade Financing Tools for Increasing Exports in the OIC Member Countries," Jam Kamal Khan stressed the importance of expanding access to affordable and innovative financing solutions, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to enable them to enter international markets and become competitive exporters



ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan called for deeper economic integration, improved access to trade financing and stronger private-sector cooperation among Islamic countries while addressing the 42nd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul. Addressing the high-level gathering chaired by Vice President of Türkiye, Cevdet Yilmaz, the Commerce Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening economic and commercial partnerships with OIC member states, emphasizing that greater trade integration could unlock substantial opportunities for shared prosperity across the Islamic world, said a release issued here on Tuesday. Highlighting this year's theme, "Developing Effective Trade Financing Tools for Increasing Exports in the OIC Member Countries," Jam Kamal Khan stressed the importance of expanding access to affordable and innovative financing solutions, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to enable them to enter international markets and become competitive exporters. The Minister said Pakistan had undertaken concrete measures to modernize its trade ecosystem, reduce export-related risks and facilitate businesses seeking access to new markets. He highlighted the operationalization of the Export-Import Bank of Pakistan (EXIM Bank), which provides trade credit insurance, guarantees and refinancing facilities to protect exporters and support their expansion into international markets, including OIC countries. Jam Kamal Khan informed the gathering that Pakistan was also expanding Shariah-compliant financing instruments, including Murabaha, Salam and Ijarah, to provide businesses with alternative financial solutions consistent with Islamic principles. Emphasizing the importance of financial accessibility, the Minister said Pakistan was digitalizing export credit processes through integrated online portals connecting commercial banks and development finance institutions. These initiatives, he noted, would reduce processing times and improve access to financing for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). He further highlighted that Pakistan had substantially enhanced concessional financing facilities for exporters to strengthen their competitiveness and facilitate greater participation in international trade. The Commerce Minister underscored Pakistan's role as host of the headquarters of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD), describing it as an important platform connecting the private sectors of 57 Islamic countries. He reaffirmed Pakistan's continued support for the ICCD as a bridge between businesses and policymakers to promote investment, commercial partnerships and stronger private-sector engagement across OIC member states. Referring to emerging global economic challenges, Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the need for closer cooperation in digital integration, artificial intelligence and sustainable development.–**DNA**

Export-led growth key to eco revival: Aurangzeb

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Ali Hussam Asghar Tuesday discussed key priorities, including export-led growth, improved access to financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and a predictable business policy environment. During the meeting, they focused on strengthening role of private sector in economic growth, addressing business community concerns and introducing measures to improve competitiveness, investment and exports, according to LCCI spokesman here. The finance minister welcomed Ali Hussam Asghar and highlighted the government's commitment in achieving sustainable economic growth through greater private-sector participation, enhanced competitiveness and an expanded export base. He said that exports must remain central to the country's growth strategy and that policies should facilitate exporters in becoming more competitive in regional and international markets. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kiyani, Governor of State Bank of Pakistan, Federal Secretary Finance, and senior representatives from the Tax Policy Office, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Finance Division. Emphasizing the importance of an improved business environment, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said that ease of doing business requires a facilitative and predictable policy framework, simplified regulatory procedures and effective coordination among relevant institutions. He underscored the need to address the concerns of businesses, particularly SMEs, and ensure that government policies support investment, productivity, employment generation and business expansion.= Ali Hussam Asghar presented Lahore Chamber's perspective on promoting SMEs, improving access to finance and facilitating business expansion. He highlighted the importance of a supportive business ecosystem, greater policy predictability, modernization and export growth. He also stressed the need for continued consultation with chambers of commerce and industry to ensure that business policies address ground-level challenges and support sustainable economic activity. The LCCI President also covered the ways to strengthen the SME sector as an important driver of economic activity, exports and employment. The Finance Minister said that improving access to finance for SMEs, facilitating business expansion and encouraging investment in modernization and capacity-building. He said that there is a dire need for practical and targeted measures to encourage businesses to expand their operations, increase investment and contribute to economic growth. Discussing taxation and regulatory policies, the finance minister said that these should support productive economic activity while promoting documentation and broadening the tax base.–**DNA**

Baghdad's first Jewish museum opens its doors

BAGHDAD: Dozens of visitors have begun flocking to a new museum opened by Iraq's Jewish community, the first of its kind, amid ongoing efforts by the minority to preserve its heritage. Last month, the Shamash Jewish Museum opened inside a former Jewish school that was founded in 1928 on Baghdad's Al-Rashid street, in the heart of the capital. "It's the only museum in Iraq belonging to the Jewish community," Ammar Al-Tamimi, lawyer for the committee of Iraqi Jews that manages the community's properties, told AFP. The Jewish community in Iraq was once one of the largest in the Middle East, numbering more than 130,000 people in the 1940s, and traces its history back 2,600 years. But today there are only a few dozen Jewish residents remaining, most of them in the Kurdistan region. The museum, with its large wooden entrance topped by menorahs and stained-glass geometric patterns, consists of a hall displaying antique documents and photographs of Iraqi Jews, along with old school certificates, and has begun to attract local and foreign visitors. Its walls are adorned with photos of prominent Jewish figures, including Iraq's first finance minister Sassoon Eskell (1860-1932) and physician Dhafer Fouad Eliyahu (1960-2021), who was well known in Iraq for providing free services. The Shamash Jewish School, started by Yaqub Shlomo Shamash nearly a century ago, offered an English-language curriculum to students from various communities, and in particular Jews.–**APP**

Pakistani tourists invited to Uzbekistan through Heritage of Pilgrimage

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan's rich historical and spiritual heritage, sacred pilgrimage sites and unique culture are attracting considerable interest among international tourists. With the aim of further increasing the number of pilgrims from Muslim countries, a tourism routes programme entitled "Heritage of Pilgrimage" has been developed in the Namangan Region. Initiated by the Namangan Regional Administration, this programme is designed to introduce international visitors to the region's rich religious, historical, and cultural heritage. Through this initiative, visitors will not only have the opportunity to visit sacred sites but also to gain a deeper insight into the centuries-old history, national traditions, and profound spiritual values of the Fergana Valley, said a news release issued here on Tuesday. In particular, the "Heritage of Pilgrimage" tourism programme includes historical monuments and pilgrimage sites located in various districts and cities of the region. Key destinations along the route include the Aksikent Archaeological Park in Turakurgan District, the Bibiona Mazar pilgrimage site in Chust District, and the Sultan Uvays Qaraniy and Bibi Naima Ona pilgrimage sites in Chortoq District. Other notable destinations include the "Mothers' Tears" Complex in Pop District, the "Eleven Ahmad" pilgrimage site in Davlatabad District, and the Mulla Kyrgyz Okhund Complex in Namangan city and importantly, the routes are not limited to these destinations alone. The programme also encompasses more than 20 other major pilgrimage sites and cultural heritage attractions located throughout the region. This will enable international tourists to explore Namangan's historical and spiritual treasures in greater depth. The initiative is primarily aimed at showcasing the potential of pilgrimage tourism in the Namangan Region on the international stage. At the same time, by bringing historical monuments and sacred sites together into integrated tourist routes, it will enhance the region's appeal as a travel destination.–**DNA**



ISLAMABAD: Yerkin Tukumov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, presented copies of his Letters of Credence to Mr. Nauman Bashir Bhatti, Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.=DNA

ICCI seeks removal of encroachments, up gradation of market on urgent basis

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia, has assured the leadership and business community of Islamabad Fruit & Vegetable Market of the chamber's full support in resolving their longstanding issues, emphasizing that the protection of traders' businesses and livelihoods remains a top priority.
Addressing a joint delegation of the Fruit & Vegetable Market I-11/1 he appreciated the unity, commitment and hard work of market representatives and acknowledged their vital role in ensuring an uninterrupted supply of fresh fruits and vegetables to Islamabad and adjoining areas. The ICCI President expressed concern over the difficulties faced by the traders and highlighted concerns regarding basic facilities, including sanitation, streetlights, footpaths, market infrastructure and especially the encroachments, as well as apprehensions about any proposed relocation of the market. He stressed that the livelihoods of hundreds of businesses and thousands of people associated with the market must be protected, adding that the chamber would actively take up these matters with the concerned authorities and pursue their early resolution. Highlighting the export potential of Pakistan's agricultural sector, Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia said that fruits and vegetables, particularly Pakistani Kinnow, have considerable demand in international markets, including Russia. He proposed capacity-building programmes for market traders, greater participation of their representatives in international trade delegations, improved packaging and supply-chain standards, and exploration of new export destinations to enable a wider segment of the business community to benefit from international trade opportunities. Speaking on the occasion, President of the Fruit and Vegetable Association Babu Aleem thanked the ICCI President for his timely intervention and support in taking up the market's concerns with the relevant authorities. He said that the market was one of the largest wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in Pakistan, comprising over 600 business establishments and serving Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
He added that millions of livelihoods were directly or indirectly linked to its commercial activities.
Former Senior Vice President ICCI and Secretary General of the Association Tahir Ayub expressed serious concern over the neglect of the market by CDA despite the traders regularly paying substantial property taxes and water conservation charges.
He urged the authorities to clarify the utilization of funds, resolve administrative jurisdictional issues between CDA and the Market Committee, restore encroached or diverted market land, and ensure that the market's wholesale status and legitimate commercial interests were protected.
He called for a comprehensive development plan covering improved roads, drainage, sanitation, water supply, parking facilities, modern auction grounds and cold-storage infrastructure, in line with international standards.
He also sought the ICCI leadership's intervention regarding land being used by unrelated entities, including Northern Areas Transport Company (NATCO).
ICCI Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chtha emphahised the need for unity among the ranks of the community for the resolution of the problems and chalking out a consensus course of action for the needful by assuring that the Chamber's leadership was determined for the availability f the ease of doing business atmosphere.–**DNA**

Pakistan's first SPAC transaction completes

KARACHI: Pakistan's first-ever Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC) transaction completed successfully as Ningbo Green Light Energy Limited (NGLEL) achieved the listing on the main board of Pakistan Stock Exchange.
Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), on Tuesday, hosted a Gong Ceremony to celebrate the listing of NGLEL operating in the renewable energy sector, specializing in solar engineering, procurement and construction (EPC), system integration and operations and maintenance services, said a statement issued here.
Originally identified as the target company of LSE SPAC-I Limited, NGLEL successfully completed its business combination through a Scheme of Arrangement sanctioned by the Lahore High Court on September 30, 2026, it stated, adding that the transaction resulted in the merger of LSE SPAC-I into NGLEL, paving the way for the solar energy company to become publicly listed.
Director of PSX Ahmed Chinoy, speaking at the occasion, said that the ceremony marked a landmark achievement for Pakistan's capital market with the successful completion of the country's first SPAC transaction.
"NGLEL's admission to the Main Board demonstrates how innovative capital market structures can create new opportunities for growth-oriented companies to access public capital and expand their businesses," he stated and added that the listing supports Pakistan's transition towards renewable energy and further strengthens economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.
Chief Executive Officer NGLEL, Muhammad Qasim, termed the listing as a significant financial milestone after spending years building our capabilities, delivering projects and establishing our presence in Pakistan's solar energy market. The achievement will help the company to pursue larger opportunities, expand operations and build lasting value for shareholders, he added.–**APP**

Footwear exports increase14.59% to $52.226m

ISLAMABAD: The export of footwear from the country witnessed an increase of 14.59 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (2026-27) as compared to the exports of the corresponding quarter of last year.
The country exported footwear worth US$ 52.226 million during July-September 2026-27 as opposed to the export of US$ 45.577 million during July-September 2025-26, according to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).
Among the footwear products, the exports of leather footwear witnessed an increase of 18.82 percent, from US$ 35.948 million to US$ 42.712 million during the quarter under review. The exports of canvas footwear also increased by 83.28 percent by going up from US$ 0.441 million last year to US$ 0.808 million, the PBS data revealed.
However, the exports of all other footwear decreased by 5.25 percent to US$ 8.706 million from US$ 9.188 million in the same quarter last year.
Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the footwear exports rose by 58.83 percent during the month of September 2026 as compared to the same month of last year.
The footwear exports during September 2026 were recorded at $19.017 million against the export of $11.973 million in September 2025.
During the quarter under review, the export of leather and canvas footwear appreciated by 74.05 and 1066.21 percent, respectively. In addition the export of all other footwear surged by 15.27 percent.
On a month-on-month basis, the exports of footwear commodities went up by 18.72 percent during September 2026 as compared to the exports of $16.018 million in August 2026, the PBS data revealed.
On a month-on-month basis, the exports of leather and all other footwear increased by 16.10 and 39.11 percent, respectively. However, exports of canvas footwear decreased by 55.46 percent.–**APP**

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Briefs

French judge probes war crimes

News Desk

PARIS: France has opened a judicial investigation into a war crimes complaint over an Israeli strike on a residential building in Lebanon, a lawyer told AFP on Tuesday. French-Lebanese artist Ali Cherri, whose parents were killed in the Beirut strike in 2024, filed the complaint as a civil party this year with the International Federation for Human Rights, Cherri's lawyer Clemence Bectarte explained.
The crimes against humanity unit of the Paris Judicial Court has appointed two investigating judges to the case, she added, hailing the move as "a first".
Hezbollah fought with Israel at the start of the war on Gaza following the events of October 7, 2023.
The hostilities, which escalated into open war in September 2024, have left more than 4,000 dead in Lebanon and forced more than a million people to flee. Seven civilians, including Cherri's father and mother, aged 87 and 77, were killed in the bombing of their 12-storey apartment building in central Beirut on November 26, 2024, according to the complaint seen by AFP. Three floors were destroyed.
The strike occurred "just a few hours before the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hezbollah came into effect," the complaint stated, citing detailed research by Amnesty International and Forensic Architecture into the incident.

Iran hangs two men

TEHRAN: Iranian authorities on Tuesday hanged two men after convicting them of involvement in the killing of four police officers during January protests in central Iran, the judiciary said.
"Amirhossein Maleki and Amirhossein Ebrahimi, two armed perpetrators of the January 2026 crime in Isfahan whose brutal and atrocious actions led to the martyrdom of four police officers, were hanged," the judiciary's Mizan Online website reported.
The executions were carried out "after their cases underwent a thorough legal review and their death sentences were upheld by the Supreme Court," following appeals by the defendants, the report said. A wave of protests erupted in Iran in December over a surge in foreign currency rates and soon escalated into anti-government demonstrations, peaking on cJanuary 8 and 9. Tehran has accused its arch-foes Israel and the United States of fomenting the protests. According to official figures, more than 3,000 people, including police and security personnel, were killed during the clashes, while rights groups based abroad have cited higher figures.– **APP**

UK partnership opens more opportunities for Pakistanis



Jane Marriott says Pakistan's greatest strength is its people. This partnership will help impressive future leaders to study at world-leading UK universities and bring fresh ideas home

Mahnoor Ansar

ISLAMABAD" The UK Government's Chevening programme and Allied Bank Limited (ABL) have launched a new partnership that will enable talented Pakistanis to pursue fully funded master's degrees at leading UK universities.
Allied Bank is the first organisation to establish a locally funded Chevening Scholarship partnership in Pakistan, bringing together the UK's flagship international scholarship programme and Pakistan's private sector to invest in the next generation of Pakistani leaders. Chevening partners with more than 140 organiSations, including private companies, NGOs, foreign government departments, and UK universities.
Under the Chevening Scholarship, two scholars will be supported each year over three academic years, starting in 2027-28. They will study subjects important to Pakistan's future growth, including artificial intelligence, technology, cybersecurity, digital transformation, economics and financial inclusion.
British High Commissioner Jane Marriott CMG OBE said: "Pakistan's greatest strength is its people. This partnership will help impressive future leaders to study at world-leading UK universities and bring fresh ideas home. "
"It is especially fitting that a former Chevening Scholar is now opening the same door for the next generation." The partnership also marks a full-circle moment for Allied Bank President and CEO Aizid Gill, who studied MSc Business Economics at the University of Manchester as a Chevening Scholar in 2001. Twenty-five years later, he is helping create the same opportunity for a new generation of Pakistani scholars.
The first two Chevening-ABL scholars will be selected from the existing applicant pool for the 2027-28 academic year. Applications for the 2028-29 Chevening-ABL Scholarships are expected to open as part of the Chevening application cycle in August 2027, with successful candidates beginning their studies in the UK in 2028.

Imaan Mazari, Hadi Ali Chattha granted bail

Islamabad ATC approves bail against surety bonds of Rs5,000 each after police submit case record

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Tuesday granted bail to lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, in a case involving an alleged altercation with police. Judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain approved their bail against surety bonds of Rs5,000 each. During the hearing, police submitted the case record before the court.The case against Mazari and Ali was registered at Kohsar police station on charges of interfering in official duties.
The development came a week after the lawyer couple was sentenced to 10 years in prison each in a separate case of security breach case, under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997 and fines of Rs100,000.
This case, registered at Aabpara Police Station, stems from allegations that the lawyer couple posed a security risk by interfering in state affairs during the visit of an international cricket team in October 2024.
According to the court's order, the lawyer couple was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and fined Rs50,000 under Section 353, while Section 186 carries a one-year prison term and an additional fine of Rs50,000. The court, however, granted the defendants the benefit of Section 382. The court indicted Mazari and Chattha on October 7 in the case registered on October 25, 2024. The lawyer couple has been in custody since their arrest on January 23 in a case registered against them over a protest outside the Islamabad High Court.
A day later, a sessions court sentenced them to 17 years on multiple charges under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) in a case related to controversial social media posts. On September 17, following months of proceedings, the Supreme Court suspended the couple's sentences in a case related to controversial tweets and granted them bail against surety bonds worth Rs200,000 each, until the final decision on the case pending before the Islamabad High Court. However, the relief was short-lived. Hours later, Islamabad police arrested the couple again in connection with another case and produced them before an anti-terrorism court (ATC).

Pakistan offers Bangladesh expertise in managing energy crisis amid Mideast conflict

Ali Pervaiz Malik, Bangladeshi adviser discuss strategies to ensure uninterrupted fuel supplies, per statement

Saifullah Ansar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has offered support to Bangladesh in dealing with the ongoing energy crisis triggered by the Middle East conflict and the subsequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz — a key oil trade route from which around one-fifth of global oil shipments pass. The development came as Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with Adviser on Finance of Bangladesh Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir in Islamabad to exchange views on the evolving global energy situation, its impact on international energy markets, and the measures taken by both countries to address energy supply challenges.
According to a statement issued by the Pakistan High Commission in Bangladesh on Tuesday, both sides discussed their respective strategies for managing the unprecedented energy crisis, ensuring uninterrupted fuel supplies and mitigating the impact of rising energy market uncertainties on their economies. The petroleum minister briefed the Bangladeshi adviser on Pakistan's efforts to secure fuel supplies amid challenging global circumstances.
He also shared details of the government's initiatives, including targeted fuel subsidy measures, to provide relief to the public while managing the impact of the crisis.
Al Mahmud Titumir shared the steps taken by Bangladesh to ensure fuel supply security and manage the emerging challenges. He observed that the current crisis had brought energy security to the forefront of policymaking, highlighting the need to make it a central consideration in national energy strategies.
The Bangladeshi official also emphasised the importance of diversifying energy sources and supply routes to strengthen resilience against global disruptions.
He appreciated Pakistan's diplomatic efforts towards de-escalation of the conflict involving Iran, stressing that de-escalation was essential for global economic stability, as the crisis was affecting economies and energy markets worldwide. The adviser also commended Pakistan's efforts to secure LNG cargoes from Qatar through the Strait of Hormuz despite the challenging circumstances. Petroleum Minister Malik termed the situation an unprecedented energy crisis, underscoring the importance of preparedness, diversification and regional cooperation in navigating global energy disruptions.

Foreign woman rape victims go scot-free

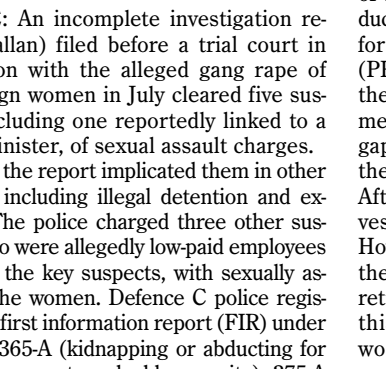
News Desk

LAHORE: An incomplete investigation report (challan) filed before a trial court in connection with the alleged gang rape of two foreign women in July cleared five suspects, including one reportedly linked to a senior minister, of sexual assault charges.
However, the report implicated them in other offences, including illegal detention and extortion. The police charged three other suspects, who were allegedly low-paid employees of one of the key suspects, with sexually assaulting the women. Defence C police registered the first information report (FIR) under Sections 365-A (kidnapping or abducting for extorting property, valuable security), 375-A (rape), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence), 368 (wrongfully concealing or keeping in confinement, kidnapped or abducted person) and 337-L (II) (punishment for other hurt) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) in July. The investigation report said the two complainants alleged that they had met one of the three prime suspects in Singapore in 2025 and invited him to invest in their cryptocurrency business.
After receiving returns on his initial investment, he invested a further $500,000. However, according to the police report, the women did not pay him any profits or return his investment this time. In June this year, the suspect invited the foreign women to Pakistan on the pretext of arranging a meeting with another investor.

Japana govt decorates Pakistan's former envoy

Farukh Akhter Amil had served as Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan from 2013 to 2017. He enhanced the Japan-Pakistan relations in many fields, including cultural and people-to-people exchanges

DNA



ISLAMABAD: On 3rd November, 2026, the Government of Japan announced the 2026 Fall Conferment of Decorations on Foreign Nationals. H.E. Mr. Farukh Akhter Amil, former Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Japan, was decorated with "the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star", in recognition of his contributions towards strengthening bilateral relations and promoting friendship between Japan and Pakistan.
H.E. Mr. Farukh Akhter Amil had served as Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan from 2013 to 2017. He enhanced the Japan-Pakistan relations in many fields, including cultural and people-to-people exchanges. In August 2015, he invited Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado to the calligraphy exhibition held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Japan, symbolically strengthening cultural ties with the Imperial Family. Moreover, he delivered lectures at more than 50 universities across Japan and engaged in repeated direct dialogue with students and researchers, greatly promoting mutual understanding among the younger generations who will shape the future. In addition to his distinguished diplomatic activities, he has made significant contributions to Japanese people. Shortly after his arrival as Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, he visited Fukushima, a prefecture devastated by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, clearly demonstrating his commitment to standing with those affected by the disaster.
This visit took place before the presentation of credentials, and the fact that a foreign ambassador who had recently taken up his post personally traveled to the affected area elicited deep gratitude from local residents. Local residents described it as "unforgettable support," and his visit left a lasting impression on the hearts of the people in Fukushima.
Furthermore, even after completing his term as Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, he continued to work tirelessly to promote understanding of Japan. In February 2025, he co-hosted a photo exhibition titled "Beautiful Japan – Through the Eyes of an Ambassador" with the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, which displayed the photos that he had taken in Japan during his tenure as ambassador and the exhibition was covered by 14 major newspapers in Pakistan.'

Two cops martyred, one injured

MOHMAND: Two police personnel were martyred, and another was injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire on cops deployed for an anti-polio campaign in Mohmand district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, police said on Tuesday.
According to police, the attack took place in the Dag Tamanzai area, where the policemen were heading to perform security duties for the polio vaccination campaign. Police said a search operation has been launched in the area to arrest the culprits.
Hostile elements often target polio teams in the terrorism-hit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces in an attempt to disrupt the vaccination drive. In September this year, two policemen guarding a polio team were martyred after unidentified armed men opened fire in Nushki district of Balochistan, The latest firing incident comes amid an ongoing subnational polio vaccination campaign aimed at reaching around 24 million children in 97 districts, according to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). The subnational polio vaccination campaign, which began on November 2, will continue until November 8. **APP**

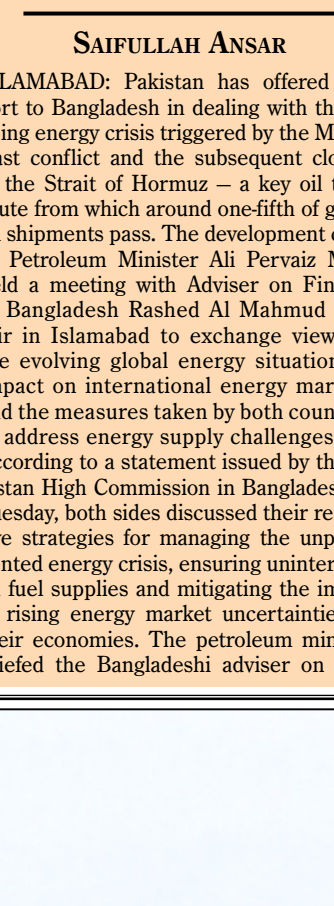
US to host trilateral talks with Ukraine

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States will bring together delegations from Ukraine and Russia in Abu Dhabi on November 10-11 to discuss ending Moscow's war against Ukraine, post-war security agreements and de-escalation, US envoy Steve Witkoff said .
US negotiators have been seeking a breakthrough in the long-running conflict before the winter sets in. The last US-mediated peace talks took place in February before the United States and Israel launched a war against Iran.
Witkoff, in a social media post, said the new Abu Dhabi discussions will cover "post-war security agreements, de-escalation, humanitarian measures, and ending the war." Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the lead US negotiators, are expected to represent the US in Abu Dhabi, a senior US official told Reuters.

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