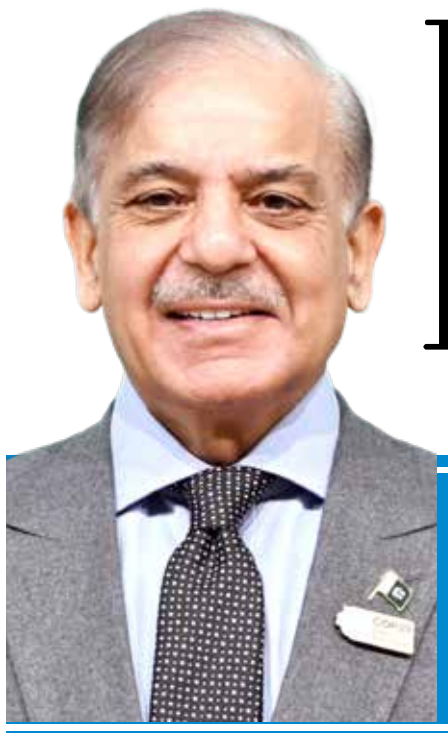
LAHORE - KARACHI - ISLAMABAD

A sister publication of CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency

WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK



Daily Islamabad POST

Friday, November 06, 2026

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 40

Fuel subsidy: pumps not following plan will be closed: PM

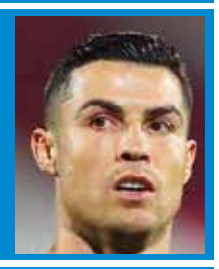
Detailed News On Page-08

Tribal areas minister meets Romaniain envoy



Detailed News On Page-08

Legend football player Ronaldo calls it a day



Detailed News On Page-08

After much ado

ECP sets Feb 7 for first phase of Punjab LG polls

Move aimed at ensuring all candidates and voters provided equal opportunities; Separately, the ECP decided to halt the local government election process in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts following a review of a federal government order

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The first phase of local government elections in Punjab will be held on February 7, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced on Thursday.

A four-member bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, presided over the hearing on the case concerning the LG elections in the province.

In a short order, the commission said that the request submitted by the Punjab chief secretary had been accepted.

During the hearing, the Punjab chief secretary briefed the ECP that the provincial government had initially agreed to hold local government elections between December 15, 2026 and January 15, 2027. However, following consultations by the Punjab cabinet committee, it recommended holding the elections in April 2027 due to smog, dense fog, adverse weather conditions, the holy month of Ramadan and the unavailability of schoolteachers during that period.

Citing these reasons, the provincial government had requested the ECP to hold the local government elections in April 2027.

According to the ECP, the provincial government has now requested that the elections be held in January or February 2027, saying that weather conditions usually improve in February.

"Taking the Punjab government's request into consideration, the ECP decided that the first phase of local government elections in Punjab would be held on February 7, 2027," the ECP said. The ECP said it was accepting the request to ensure that

Continued on Page 06

FCC bars PHC from hearing 3-MPO detention cases

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) on Thursday restrained the Peshawar High Court (PHC) from hearing cases concerning arrests under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The high court had earlier issued orders restraining authorities from making arrests under 3-MPO. It had also ordered the release of 28 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers detained in various districts of KP.

The KP government later challenged several of the high court's orders concerning arrests under the ordinance at the FCC. A two-member bench headed by Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan heard the case, during which the provincial government raised objections to the high court's jurisdiction. KP advocate general argued that the high court could not interfere in areas where the military was conducting operations under Article 245 of the Constitution.

Continued on Page 06

SELF-DEFENSE FORCES DAY OF JAPAN



ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Kh Muhammad Asif, PPP leader Raja Pervez Ashraf, Ambassador of Japan AKAMATSU Shuichi and Defence Attache cutting cake to celebrate the 72nd Japan Self Defense Forces Day, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. – DNA

Public holiday on Nov 9

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has declared Monday, November 9, a nationwide public holiday to mark Allama Muhammad Iqbal's birth anniversary (Iqbal Day), according to the annual public holidays schedule issued by the Cabinet Division. All government offices, educational institutions, and public-sector organizations across the country will remain closed on the occasion. The State Bank of Pakistan has also announced that it will remain closed on November 9 in observance of the public holiday. The decision effectively restores official observance of Iqbal Day, which had ceased to be observed as a regular nationwide public holiday during previous governments.

Continued on Page 06

Japan Self-Defense Forces Day

Relations with Japan from cordial to excellent, says Asif

In his address, Ambassador Akamatsu highlighted that the history of the Japan Self-Defense Forces embodies Japan's enduring "Will to Seek Peace." He noted that the JSDF continues to uphold the principles of Pacifism and Exclusive Defense, which remain central to Japan's security policy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan hosted a reception on Thursday to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) Day. The event was hosted by Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. AKAMATSU Shuichi, and Mrs. AKAMATSU Yumiko, while Defense Attaché Colonel TOYODA Takeshi represented the JSDF.

The ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Defence H.E. Khawaja Muhammad Asif as the Chief Guest and H.E. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Member of the National Assembly and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, as Special Guest representing President Asif Ali Zardari.

The dignitaries joined Ambassador Akamatsu in cutting the commemorative cake following the national anthems of Japan and Pakistan and the delivery of official speeches.

A video message from Japan's Minister of Defense, H.E. Mr. KOIZUMI Shinjiro, was also presented during the reception. The event drew a distinguished gathering of military officials, government ministers, parliamentarians, senior civil servants, diplomats, and representatives from the public and private sectors.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Erdogan hopes regional peace after US election

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said he hoped the US midterm elections results would contribute to peace and stability in the region and said Ankara would remain in close contact with the US administration and Congress. "Our biggest hope is that the election results contribute to lasting peace and stability in our region. We will continue to be in close dialogue with both the US Administration and the House of Representatives and Senate with that goal," Erdogan told reporters on a return flight from South Korea, according to a transcript shared by his office on Thursday.

Dar talks to Oman FM

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with the Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman, H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al Busaidi, today. The two Ministers discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations in areas of mutual interest. Recent regional and international developments also came under discussion.

Arab list likely to back Gadi for Israeli PM

NEWS DESK

TEL AVIV: Israel's largest Arab list on Thursday said it would back Gadi Eisenkot to form the next government, bolstering his chances of being picked over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who lost the support of an allied religious party.

CDF visits SSG headquarters, stresses operational readiness

During the visit, he laid wreaths at the martyrs' monument, paying tribute to the martyred SSG personnel



STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir stressed the need for sustained training, development of indigenous capability and operational preparedness to tackle evolving security threats and emerging challenges, the military's media wing said on Thursday.

CDF Munir made the remarks during a visit to the Special Services Group (SSG) headquarters in Tarbela, where he was briefed on "specialised training, operational preparedness and mission-oriented readiness", according to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

During the visit, he laid wreaths at the martyrs' monument, paying tribute to the martyred SSG personnel, the statement said.

He also witnessed a display of "state-of-the-art specialised equipment and a demonstration showcasing SSG's combat proficiency, agility and precision in executing special operations". According to the statement, in his interaction with the officers and troops, CDF Munir lauded their "professionalism, high morale, and unwavering devotion to duty".

He also stressed that "sustained training, indigenous capability development and an uncompromising focus on operational preparedness are essential to maintaining an edge over evolving security threats and emerging challenges."

Last month, CDF Munir visited the Corps Headquarters in Peshawar, where he was briefed on the security situation, ongoing counterterrorism operations, and border management measures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Pakistan reports ninth polio case

Seven-month-old child contracts polio as cross-border transmission concerns persist along Afghanistan border

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported its ninth polio case of 2026 after a seven-month-old child tested positive in Khyber district, with genetic evidence linking the virus to strains circulating in neighbouring Afghanistan, health officials confirmed on Thursday. According to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) for Polio Eradication, the infected child belongs to Union Council Mastak in Bara tehsil of Khyber district. This is the third polio case reported from the district and the seventh from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa this year, while Sindh has recorded two cases.

Officials said genetic analysis of poliovirus detected in all three cases reported from Khyber district this year showed links with strains circulating in Afghanistan, highlighting the continued threat of cross-border transmission between the two countries.

Pakistan and Afghanistan remain the only two countries in the world where wild poliovirus transmission has never been interrupted. Frequent population movements across the border, inaccessible communities, security challenges and gaps in childhood vaccination continue to complicate eradication efforts.

Health officials said the genetic links with Afghanistan demonstrated the need for closer coordination between the two countries, particularly in border districts where population movement increases the risk of virus transmission. However, experts cautioned that cross-border transmission was not the only challenge facing Pakistan. Continued local circulation of poliovirus, children missed during vaccination campaigns and

Continued on Page 06



Islamabad POST
Friday November 05 , 2026

Governor directs BoK to introduce student scooter financing

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday directed the Bank of Khyber (BoK) to introduce an easy-installment scooter financing scheme for students and upgrade its mobile banking application to improve digital banking services across the province.

He issued the directives while chairing a meeting on the affairs of the Bank of Khyber. Adviser to the Finance Minister Tariq Mahmood Pasha, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Islam Zeb, Managing Director Bank of Khyber Hassan Raza and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

The Governor was given a detailed briefing on various proposed financing schemes aimed at providing easy-term financial assistance to farmers, youth, entrepreneurs and other sectors. The meeting was also informed about the proposed Ubharta Naujawan, Agricultural Solarization, Khushhal Kisan and industrial financing schemes, besides progress on the two-phase home solarization scheme for the province, including the merged districts.

Governor Kundi said students of universities and other educational institutions should be provided scooters on easy installments through a dedicated financing scheme, adding that facilitating students with modern amenities remained among the government's priorities.

He said agriculture was the backbone of the national economy and the province's development, stressing that financial support for farmers was essential. He added that shifting agricultural tube wells to solar energy had become inevitable due to prolonged electricity load-shedding in the province.—**APP**

PM's Apna Ghar Programme crosses Rs100b in Punjab

ISLAMABAD, Nov 5 (APP):Adviser to the Finance Minister Khurram Schezad has said that the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Programme has crossed the Rs100 billion in housing loan disbursements, marking a significant achievement in the government's efforts to promote affordable housing and turning policy commitments into tangible results.

As of October 30,2026, a total of Rs104 billion has been disbursed through 17,697 housing loans, he posted on X. The programme has also recorded substantial growth in financing approvals, with Rs533 billion approved against 90,405 applications out of a total of 220,715 applications received. The overall approval rate stands at 41 per cent. He said loan disbursements had increased by 404 per cent since June 2026, rising from Rs21 billion to Rs104 billion. Similarly, financing approvals witnessed a 269 per cent increase, climbing from Rs144 billion to Rs533 billion during the same period. The progress reflects a major leap in affordable housing finance, financial inclusion and construction-led economic activity, bringing thousands of Pakistani families closer to owning a home._**APP**



ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia presents Chamber's shield to Punjab Minister for Industries, Commerce and Investment Chaudhry Shafay Hussain. Chairman ICCI Founder Group Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatha, former Presidents Khalid Javaid , Zafar Bakhtawari, Council member Chaudhry Waheed ud Din, Chief Organizer PML-Q Dr. Amjad Hussain, ICCI Executive members Abbas Hashmi, Mohammad Arif, Malik Rashid Tufail, senior members , Mazher Hussain Tehthal and other are also present.

Pakistan aims 1m AI professionals by 2030

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said Pakistan aimed to develop one million artificial intelligence (AI) professionals by 2030, as part of its broader strategy to strengthen the country's digital economy and expand technological cooperation with Russia.

Addressing the Pakistan-Russia IT Collaboration: Industry Engagement Framework, the minister called for stronger bilateral cooperation in information technology, emphasizing joint ventures, technology partnerships, market access and pilot projects to translate business interactions into tangible commercial opportunities.

He said recent business-to-business meetings organized by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) in collaboration with P@SHA had demonstrated the potential for closer commercial engagement, as five Russian companies held 16 meetings with 11 Pakistani firms. He said the latest initiative should build on those interactions by providing companies with a clearer pathway from business discussions to commercial contracts.

Highlighting the importance of technology in Pakistan's economic transformation, Ahsan Iqbal said e-Pakistan was one of the five core pillars of the National Economic Transformation Plan, with the government aiming to transform the country into a trillion-dollar economy by 2035.

He said cooperation with Russia could focus on automation and enterprise software for industry, digital supply chains for agriculture, secure digital systems for trade, artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and cybersecurity.

The minister stressed that Pakistan needed to move beyond exporting information technology services towards developing products and digital platforms for international markets.

Underscoring Pakistan's human resource potential, he said the country produced more than 75,000 graduates annually, while its National AI Policy aimed to develop one million AI professionals by 2030.

He added that seven new AI centers would connect research, skills development, startups and industry to strengthen the country's artificial intelligence ecosystem.

Referring to Pakistan's experience in digital governance, Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the internationally recognized digital identity system of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and the performance of the country's instant payment system, RAAST, which processed 646 million transactions in a single quarter.

The minister observed that Russia's longstanding scientific and engineering expertise, particularly in enterprise software, cloud computing and cybersecurity, complemented Pakistan's engineering talent and international technology delivery experience.

He said the two countries could jointly develop, integrate and deliver technology solutions in their respective markets as well as in third countries.

He identified artificial intelligence and digital governance as particularly promising areas of cooperation, adding that both countries had developed digital systems serving large populations. Emphasizing the need for commercially viable initiatives, he said successful partnerships should address practical problems and produce measurable results, including improved industrial productivity, better data management and more accessible public services. Ahsan Iqbal said bilateral technological cooperation should remain company-led, commercially driven and transparent, in accordance with the laws and international obligations of both countries. He acknowledged that payment and settlement mechanisms remained practical challenges, adding that relevant institutions were working to address these issues. The minister said the success of such forums should be measured not by announcements but by the trade, investment and employment opportunities they generated. He urged participants to conclude the session with specific business opportunities, identified counterparts and agreed follow-up steps. —**DNA**

RCCI hosts MD WASA to discuss water supply

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) hosted Managing Director WASA Rawalpindi, Mr. Aziz Ullah Khan, along with Assistant Director Mr. Muhammad Haseeb, to discuss water supply shortages, sanitation, infrastructure development, urban flooding and ongoing municipal challenges. The meeting was chaired by RCCI President Nosherwan Khalil Khan and attended by Patron-in-Chief Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Waseem Aslam, Vice President Ikram Abbasi, Executive Committee members and representatives of various trade associations, including Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, Haji Mumtaz, Sheikh Waheed and others.

During the meeting, MD WASA delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the authority's operational capacity, development projects, future water requirements and strategies for improving municipal services. He informed participants that WASA serves approximately 1.8 million people across a 90-square-kilometre service area. The authority operates around 500 tube wells and manages an extensive water supply and sewerage network. However, Rawalpindi faces a substantial water supply deficit, increasing groundwater depletion, rising operational costs and growing demand due to rapid urbanization.

The presentation highlighted major initiatives, including water supply projects based on Chahan and Dadhocha dams, proposed augmentation through Cherah Dam and additional resources from the Indus River. The Asian Development Bank-funded DREAMS-I project, worth approximately US$225 million, is also supporting water supply improvements, infrastructure expansion and solarization initiatives in Rawalpindi.

WASA officials further briefed participants on ongoing Punjab Development Programme projects involving replacement of 106 kilometres of old water supply lines, installation of tube wells, construction of reservoirs and development of sewerage and drainage infrastructure. The combined water supply and sewerage development programme represents an investment exceeding Rs8.8 billion.

RCCI President Nosherwan Khalil Khan emphasized that uninterrupted water supply and efficient sanitation services are essential for businesses, markets and commercial activities.—**DNA**

BRA to undergo major reforms: CM Bugti

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti chaired an important meeting to review institutional reforms, capacity-building measures and a practical strategy aimed at enhancing the performance of the Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA), improving revenue collection and achieving the province's annual revenue targets.

The meeting, held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, discussed the authority's overall performance, progress on revenue generation and proposals for administrative and institutional reforms. Finance Secretary Jahangir Khan and Chairman Balochistan Revenue Authority Abdullah Khan briefed participants on the organisation's operational performance, annual financial targets, prospects for increasing revenues and proposed reform initiatives.

During the meeting, it was decided that officers currently serving in the authority on deputation would be returned to their parent departments. In their place, professionals and specialists from relevant sectors and the market would be engaged to strengthen the institution's technical and professional capacity and help formulate modern revenue-generation strategies in line with contemporary requirements.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Bugti directed that the Balochistan Revenue Authority be transformed into a strong, efficient and professionally managed institution. He stressed the need to move beyond conventional methods of revenue collection and adopt modern administrative and technological practices to improve performance and maximise resource mobilisation.

The chief minister said, strengthening the authority's capacity was essential for increasing provincial financial resources and achieving revenue targets. He emphasized that reform measures should be implemented effectively and without delay to ensure sustainable improvements in revenue administration and institutional efficiency.

Sarfraz Bugti reiterated the provincial government's commitment to strengthening key public institutions through professional management, improved governance and modern systems, adding that a robust revenue authority would contribute significantly to the province's financial stability and development objectives. The meeting was attended by Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Finance Secretary Jahangir Khan, Chairman Balochistan Revenue Authority Abdullah Khan and other senior officials.—**APP**

CJP welcomes newly elected cabinet of SCBA

ISLAMABAD: The outgoing cabinet of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), led by Haroon ur Rasheed, and the newly elected cabinet, headed by Syed Amjad Shah, called on the Chief Justice of Pakistan at the Supreme Court premises here today. The Chief Justice congratulated the newly elected office-bearers and appreciated the outgoing cabinet's cooperation during its tenure. Emphasising that the Bench and Bar are integral to the administration of justice, he underscored the importance of sustained coordination, mutual respect and constructive engagement in strengthening public confidence in the justice system. Briefing the delegation on institutional reforms, the Chief Justice highlighted improvements in case management, digital transformation, judicial infrastructure and public facilitation. He informed the participants that comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been implemented for case fixation and early hearing, establishing transparent criteria and regulating discretionary powers. Old and new cases are fixed in the cause lists according to a prescribed ratio, while applications for early hearing are considered on merit upon submission of valid supporting evidence establishing urgency. The CJP further informed the delegation that approximately 20 to 30 cases are fixed before each Bench daily, with dedicated Benches for criminal and service matters. Death appeals instituted up to 2025 have been decided, while those instituted in 2026 are being heard. He also highlighted the target of disposing of pending cases concerning women's inheritance and partition by August 30, 2027. Highlighting digital reforms, the Chief Justice apprised that case records have been digitised with Optical Character Recognition (OCR) functionality and barcoding for efficient retrieval and tracking. The e-Office system has been activated to facilitate paperless workflows, while a dedicated Data Centre is being established to host the Court's digitised records. He also referred to the Smart Judicial Assistant, e-filing, electronic certified copies and ongoing ISO certification efforts aimed at improving judicial efficiency and accessibility.—**APP**

Swat varsity achieves significant success in QS rankings

DNA

ISLAMABAD: University of Swat has achieved a significant milestone in the QS Asia University Rankings 2027, secured 771st position in Asia, 229th in South Asia, and 59th in Pakistan. The university has also secured ninth position among universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The University of Swat has achieved a significant milestone in the QS Asia University Rankings 2027, securing 771st position in Asia, 229th in South Asia and 59th in Pakistan. The university has also secured ninth position among universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a press released issued here by the University of Swat, the achievement reflects the collective efforts and dedication of faculty members, administrative staff and students under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Husnul Amin. The university's inclusion in the QS Asia Rankings 2027 and its positions at various levels reflect its continued efforts towards academic development, improving the quality of education and promoting higher education.

The university administration termed the achievement an important milestone and reaffirmed its commitment to further improving academic, research, and administrative standards.

FM reviews SME financing, including lending volumes

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a meeting to review progress on access to finance specifically for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), with a view to assessing ongoing initiatives and identifying measures to further deepen and widen financing opportunities for businesses across the country. The meeting was held in line with the Prime Minister's vision of strengthening SMEs and promoting export-led growth.

The Finance Minister underscored the importance of improving access to finance for SMEs, recognising their role in supporting economic activity, investment and the Government's broader agenda of export-led growth. He emphasised the need to ensure that financing reaches a wider range of businesses, particularly smaller and export-oriented enterprises. The meeting reviewed progress in SME financing, including lending volumes and the number of borrowers. It was observed that while progress had been made in expanding financing, increasing the number of new SME businesses accessing formal credit remained a key priority. How commercial banks, microfinance banks.—**DNA**



Islamabad POST
METROLITE
Friday November 05 , 2026

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

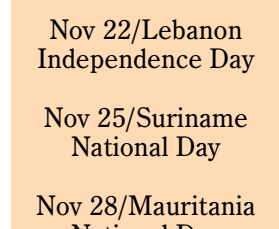
Nov 28/Mauritania
National Day

Nov 28/Albania
Flags Day



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....561116
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives briefing from Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Sohail Ashraf regarding the construction of Kashmir Underpass.

Pak recycles less than 10pc of plastic waste, call for stronger EPR

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Dr Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal on Thursday called for a comprehensive and harmonised Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework, improved waste segregation and greater investment in recycling infrastructure to address plastic pollution in the country.

Addressing a panel discussion titled "From Policy to Practice: Strengthening Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Better Systems in Pakistan" at the 29th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC), organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), she said Pakistan needed to strengthen its waste management systems and move towards a circular economy.

The minister said plastic, despite its affordability and usefulness in preserving food and protecting medicines, had become a major environmental challenge because of its durability and inadequate disposal and recycling systems.

She said fragmented waste collection, lack of segregation at household level and limited recycling capacity were contributing to plastic accumulation along roads, riverbanks and drainage systems, besides polluting air and water. Dr Shezra said Pakistan relied heavily on informal waste workers, who performed a significant role in waste collection but often lacked adequate protection, training, recognition and integration into the formal system.

She recalled that the federal cabinet had approved the Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations for Islamabad in 2023, building on the polyethylene bag ban introduced in 2019. The regulations restrict the manufacture, import, sale and use of specified single-use plastic products in the capital, with Pak-EPA and the ICT Administration responsible for enforcement. She said companies manufacturing, using or importing PET packaging also had responsibilities for managing and recycling post-consumer waste, adding that the initiative should be made more effective and extended across the country. Referring to Pakistan's participation in the Global Plastic Action Partnership in 2022, she said a national action roadmap had also been developed to reduce plastic pollution.

The minister identified stronger federal-provincial coordination, realistic waste management targets and clearly defined responsibilities for governments, industries, municipalities, retailers, recyclers and consumers as key priorities. She called on industries to work through Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) to finance and manage plastic waste collection, recycling and reporting.–**DNA**

PMIF26 to bring global mining investors to Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26) will bring together global mining executives, investors, policymakers, financial institutions and technical experts in Islamabad on November 12 and 13 to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's minerals sector. The two-day event aims to strengthen Pakistan's links with international mineral supply chains and attract investment in exploration, processing and sustainable mining. The forum is being organised by the government of Pakistan and endorsed by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), with Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDC) as its founding partner. Building on the momentum of PMIF25, the event will focus on strengthening international engagement, highlighting policy reforms and creating new investment opportunities in the country's mineral sector. The opening day, November 12, will focus on financing early-stage exploration, developing a skilled mining workforce and increasing women's participation in the sector. Participants will also discuss next-generation mining projects, including discoveries under active licences, antimony developments and strategies to move projects towards production. A session titled "Strengthening Geological Survey Collaboration: Unlocking Pakistan's Mineral Potential" will examine how cooperation, data sharing and technical partnerships can improve geological knowledge, reduce exploration risks and support investment. Another session will highlight the importance of developing local capabilities as international investment flows into Reko Diq and other mining projects. It will outline the National Minerals Capability Development Programme and initiatives led by state-owned enterprises. A certificate distribution ceremony will also be held for graduates of the programme's first two cohorts. The second day, November 13, will feature a government dialogue on developing investor-ready mining jurisdictions. Ministers from different countries will discuss policy reforms, value creation, regional cooperation, local content, skills development and long-term industrial growth. Strategic announcements covering different segments of Pakistan's mineral value chain are also scheduled. A session titled "License to Deliver: Building Trust, Infrastructure & Export Corridors" will focus on infrastructure, export routes and other requirements for large-scale mining operations. Mining executives will discuss the challenges of securing social acceptance through environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and strong security arrangements. The discussion will also cover infrastructure requirements, including last-mile logistics, export corridors, railways, electricity, water, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connectivity and investment models to support large-scale operations in remote areas. PMIF President and OGDC Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Ahmed Hayat Lak will deliver the closing remarks. Federal Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) Ali Pervaiz Malik has invited global investors, mining companies and international partners to participate in PMIF26, saying Pakistan's vast mineral resources offer significant investment opportunities.–**DNA**

Tarar urges PBA to setup journalists' welfare fund

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar called on the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) to establish a dedicated welfare fund for journalists and formulate a compensation package for those who lose their lives in the line of duty.

The minister said in a post on social media platform X, on Thursday, following his visit to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) to inquire about the health of an ailing journalist Muhammad Aslam Khokhar, who is currently under treatment at the hospital. the minister said television channels received advertisements from the government and private sector, besides generating revenue through digital platforms, yet no dedicated fund had been established for journalists' welfare and no compensation package had been prepared for journalists who die while performing their professional duties. "This cannot continue like this," he said, urging the PBA to devise a comprehensive mechanism for the welfare and financial protection of journalists. Earlier, during the visit to the hospital, Atta Tarar assured that no journalist would be left alone during difficult times. He said he stood with the journalist community in addressing its problems and difficulties. The minister also handed over an employment letter to Muhammad Aslam Khokhar and expressed his best wishes for his recovery. Tarar also met the treating doctors at PIMS and sought details about the journalist's health condition and ongoing treatment.–**APP**

PTA conducts survey to assess telecom service quality

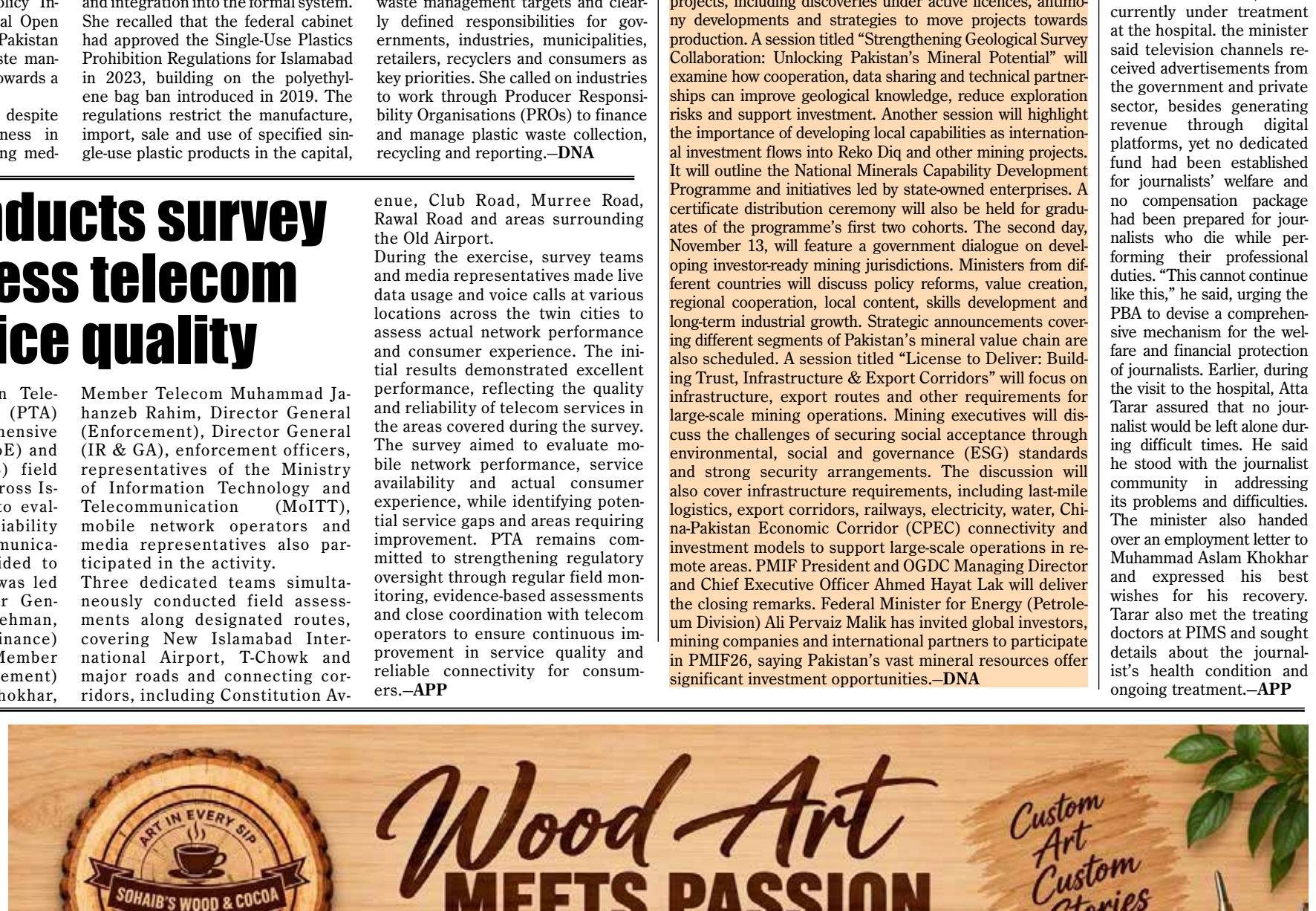
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) conducted a comprehensive Quality of Experience (QoE) and Quality of Service (QoS) field survey at key locations across Islamabad and Rawalpindi to evaluate the performance, reliability and quality of telecommunication services being provided to consumers.The exercise was led by Chairman PTA, Major General (Retd.) Hafeez Ur Rehman, HI(M), SI. Member (Finance) Muhammad Naveed, Member (Compliance & Enforcement) Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokhar, Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim, Director General (Enforcement), Director General (IR & GA), enforcement officers, representatives of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT), mobile network operators and media representatives also participated in the activity.

Three dedicated teams simultaneously conducted field assessments along designated routes, covering New Islamabad International Airport, T-Chowk and major roads and connecting corridors, including Constitution Avenue, Club Road, Murree Road, Rawal Road and areas surrounding the Old Airport.

During the exercise, survey teams and media representatives made live data usage and voice calls at various locations across the twin cities to assess actual network performance and consumer experience. The initial results demonstrated excellent performance, reflecting the quality and reliability of telecom services in the areas covered during the survey. The survey aimed to evaluate mobile network performance, service availability and actual consumer experience, while identifying potential service gaps and areas requiring improvement. PTA remains committed to strengthening regulatory oversight through regular field monitoring, evidence-based assessments and close coordination with telecom operators to ensure continuous improvement in service quality and reliable connectivity for consumers.–**APP**

ECP suspends all steps for KP local govt polls

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday suspended all steps taken so far for holding local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa until further orders, following a federal government order issued on November 4, 2026, suspending Article 140-A of the Constitution across the province. The commission reviewed the federal government's Order No. 3, dated November 4, particularly its Clause 2, which extended the suspension of Article 140-A to all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, beyond those already covered under an earlier order. The meeting, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, examined the constitutional and legal implications of the latest order for the ongoing local government election process in the province. The commission was briefed that Article 140-A provides for the establishment of local governments in the provinces, while its sub-article (2) assigns the responsibility of conducting local government elections to the ECP. –**APP**



Briefs

Traffic diversion plan issued

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have issued a traffic advisory for Thursday, warning motorists of temporary diversions at different points along Islamabad Expressway and Srinagar Highway due to the movement of a foreign delegation.

An ITP official told that traffic diversions would be imposed at different locations along Srinagar Highway, particularly between Serena Chowk and Ninth Avenue, to facilitate the delegation's movement.

He said motorists travelling along Srinagar Highway could use Suhrawardy Road, G-8 Service Road, G-9 Service Road and Zero Point as alternative routes.

Similarly, traffic heading towards Faizabad has been advised to use Faisal Avenue, while motorists travelling on Ninth Avenue should use Service Road East.

The official said citizens travelling out of Islamabad could use Jinnah Avenue and Margalla Road to avoid inconvenience. He warned that traffic congestion was expected on different roads during the diversions and advised motorists to allow an additional 20 to 25 minutes for their journeys. The official said ITP personnel would remain deployed at different locations to guide motorists and facilitate traffic movement.–**APP**

IRSA releases 102,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD :Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 102,200 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 51,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1501.85 feet, which was 99.85 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 26,700 cusecs and 58,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1193.15 feet, which was 143.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 7,400 cusecs and 27,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu, and Sukkur was recorded as 69,900, 50,100, 34,800, and 11,400 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,700 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 2,700 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.–**APP**

NCCIA nabs suspect in fake Facebook profile

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad has nabbed a suspect from Sahiwal for allegedly impersonating a citizen through a fake Facebook profile and defrauding his family members on the pretext of visa extension and visa agent services. According to an NCCIA official on Thursday, the suspect was taken into custody during an operation in Sahiwal following a complaint regarding identity misuse and online financial fraud. He said the suspect allegedly created a fake Facebook profile using the complainant's identity and approached his family members to obtain money in the name of visa extension and arranging visa agent services.

The official said the suspect allegedly received money from the complainant's family members by posing as the complainant.

He said a case had been registered under relevant sections of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016 and the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). The official said further investigation was underway to establish the suspect's alleged involvement in the fraud.–**APP**

IMCG G-10/2 holds investiture ceremony

Addressing the gathering, Principal Prof. Saadat Begum highlighted the college's achievements in academics, sports and co-curricular activities, along with recent developments in its infrastructure

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG), G-10/2, organised its annual Investiture Ceremony to formally induct the newly elected student council and society representatives, reaffirming the institution's commitment to leadership, discipline and character-building among students.

Director General, Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), Javed Iqbal Mirza, graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Director Colleges Prof. Ihsan-ul-Haq attended as the guest of honour. Principal Prof. Saadat Begum presided over the ceremony.

The event highlighted the importance of student leadership, responsibility and active participation in academic and co-curricular activities. Addressing the gathering, Principal Prof. Saadat Begum highlighted the college's achievements in academics, sports and co-curricular activities, along with recent developments in its infrastructure. A multimedia presentation was also screened to showcase the institution's progress, achievements and various initiatives undertaken to provide students with a conducive learning environment. An important feature of the ceremony was the inauguration of the college's Botanical Garden by the chief guest, guest of honour and principal. The garden has been established under the leadership of Prof. Saadat Begum as part of efforts to promote environmental awareness and provide students with opportunities for practical learning. The guests also visited a Kashmir-themed cultural stall, which reflected the region's rich cultural heritage, traditions and identity. Students further displayed their innovative prize-winning STEM models, demonstrating their creativity, scientific understanding and problem-solving skills.

The highlight of the ceremony was the oath-taking session, during which Director General FDE Javed Iqbal Mirza administered the oath to the newly elected members of the main student council. Alisha Kabir took oath as President, Maria Noor as Vice President, Mubahila Fatima as General Secretary and Farwa Khalid as Treasurer. The heads of the girls' senior sections representing both morning and evening shifts, Mahnoor Fazal and Mayra Shahid, also took their oaths and pledged to fulfil their responsibilities with dedication and commitment. Besides the main council, secretaries of various college societies and class representatives also formally took their oaths, marking the beginning of their responsibilities in representing their fellow students and contributing to institutional activities. The ceremony provided an opportunity to recognise students' abilities and encourage them to develop leadership skills, teamwork, confidence and a sense of responsibility. The newly inducted representatives were expected to serve as a bridge between students and the college administration while promoting a positive and disciplined academic environment.

The event concluded with the national anthem, bringing the memorable ceremony to a close.

PWDs success stories showcase value of hope

ISLAMABAD: Sightsavers showcased inspiring stories of young persons with disabilities building pathways towards employment and entrepreneurship at a special screening of success stories from its Ready for Inclusive Sustainable Employment and Entrepreneurship (RISE/E) project, held at Ramada Hotel, Islamabad. Titled "Creating and Celebrating Opportunities for Young Persons with Disabilities," the event brought together stakeholders from the development sector, disability rights organisations, government, employers and other institutions to recognise the achievements of young people and highlight the importance of creating equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in the world of work.

The screening featured stories of individuals whose journeys reflect how access to skills development, support and opportunities can help persons with disabilities pursue their professional aspirations, gain economic independence and participate meaningfully in society. The event also featured a panel discussion titled "From Skills to Decent Work: Building an Inclusive Employment Ecosystem," which explored the barriers persons with disabilities continue to face in accessing employment and entrepreneurship, and the role of employers, training institutions, policymakers and development organisations in addressing them. Speaking at the event, Syeda Munazza Gillani, Director for Pakistan and the Middle East at Sightsavers, said "Creating equal employment opportunities for persons with disabilities requires more than skills training. It calls for an enabling environment in which employers recognise talent, workplaces are accessible, and young people have the support and opportunities to pursue their professional ambitions. Through RISE/E, we are working towards making inclusive employment and entrepreneurship a reality. Real-life stories are powerful tools for changing perceptions, challenging stereotypes and inspiring action towards greater inclusion." Speakers highlighted that true inclusion requires shifting mindsets to recognise abilities, and building an inclusive economy where skills development is linked with employment and entrepreneurship to remove barriers for persons with disabilities. The programme also included an open-mic session, allowing participants to share reflections on the stories screened and discuss practical steps towards a more inclusive employment ecosystem. The event concluded with key takeaways, a call to action and a pledge-signing activity, encouraging stakeholders to translate their commitments into meaningful action.

RISE/E works to improve access to sustainable employment and entrepreneurship for young persons with disabilities. The initiative focuses on strengthening skills and employment readiness while encouraging employers and other stakeholders to address barriers and create more inclusive opportunities.–**DNA**

AIOU foreign students reach 1,500

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has achieved a major milestone on the global education landscape, with its number of international students reaching 1,500, including a significant majority from European countries. A large number of students from the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden and Norway, among other European countries, have placed their trust in AIOU, reflecting its growing international popularity. Students from developed European countries choosing Pakistan's Open University highlights its academic credibility, quality online system, and rising international profile. With educational access now extended to 47 countries and 1,500 international students, AIOU is successfully moving towards securing a prominent place for Pakistan on the global education map. The number of international students, which was less than 100 in the Spring 2021 semester, has increased to 1,500 in the Autumn 2026 semester. To celebrate this remarkable achievement, a special ceremony was organized by the Directorate of International Collaboration and Exchange, presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. Deans, faculty members and principal officers of the university attended the ceremony. Addressing the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that the selection of AIOU by international students from 47 countries is a matter of pride for us. He said the large number of students from European countries in particular reflects the growing confidence in the university's international academic identity and standards. He said the continuous increase in international students is proof that AIOU is providing educational opportunities across the world, beyond geographical boundaries. He added that the university's online education system provides an effective opportunity for students living abroad to pursue higher education while staying in their own countries. Dr. Nasir Mahmood appreciated the performance of the Directorate of International Collaboration and Exchange, saying its active role in admissions, academic facilities and other matters related to international students is a key source of the university's expanding global outreach. He congratulated the entire team on the achievement. Director, Directorate of International Collaboration and Exchange, Dr. Zahid Majeed, said the strong patronage, effective guidance and vision of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood for the promotion of international education played a fundamental role in this success.

Dr. Zahid Majeed said the Directorate is continuously taking steps to improve academic facilities for international students, strengthen global educational linkages and further consolidate the university's international identity.–**DNA**



Islamabad: 5 November, 2026 - Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meeting the UK Minister of State for Security, Mr. Dan Jarvis, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

APHC for global action on Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called on the international community to take urgent action to address the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), saying that continued silence over alleged human rights violations was encouraging further oppression. In a statement issued here on Thursday, the APHC said the people of Kashmir had been facing injustice, discrimination and repression for nearly eight decades under Indian rule. It said the fundamental rights and freedoms of Kashmiris remained denied and stressed that their struggle for freedom would not be silenced. The APHC urged the international community to play its role in ensuring a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the right to self-determination. It said justice for the people of Kashmir could not be delayed and called for meaningful international action to address the longstanding dispute. Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world will observe Jammu Martyrs' Day tomorrow. According to Kashmir Media Service, the people will renew their pledge to accomplish the martyrs' mission of freedom of their homeland from Indian subjugation. They will reaffirm their demand for a plebiscite under United Nations supervision. This would enable Kashmiris to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. Hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris were massacred in November 1947. Dogra forces of Maharaja Hari Singh, Indian troops and Hindutva groups, including the Hindu Mahasabha, were involved in the killings. The massacres occurred across different parts of Jammu region. The victims were migrating to Pakistan during the first week of November. APHC leaders and organizations, in statements issued in Srinagar, paid rich tributes to the Jammu martyrs. They said their blood would not go waste. –**APP**

HEC announces MBBS/BDS admissions criteria

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has issued an important announcement for all potential candidates seeking admission to MBBS/BDS programmes under the project "Provision of Higher Education Opportunities for the Students of Balochistan and Erstwhile FATA (Phase-III)" for Academic Session 2026-27.

According to the announcement, for Session 2026-27 and subsequent academic sessions, admissions to MBBS/BDS under the project shall be undertaken directly by the respective admitting universities, strictly in accordance with the seat allocations approved by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PM&DC) and the applicable admission rules. The HEC clarified that while it will provide scholarship funding to all those candidates who have been selected by HEC through its prescribed merit-based scholarships process, HEC shall not be responsible for admission, seat allocation or placement of candidates in medical colleges and universities.

All prospective applicants have been advised to apply directly through the admission portals of their desired admitting universities and to fulfill all applicable eligibility criteria, admission requirements and procedural formalities to secure admission.–APP

Bahria varsity students visit Parliament House

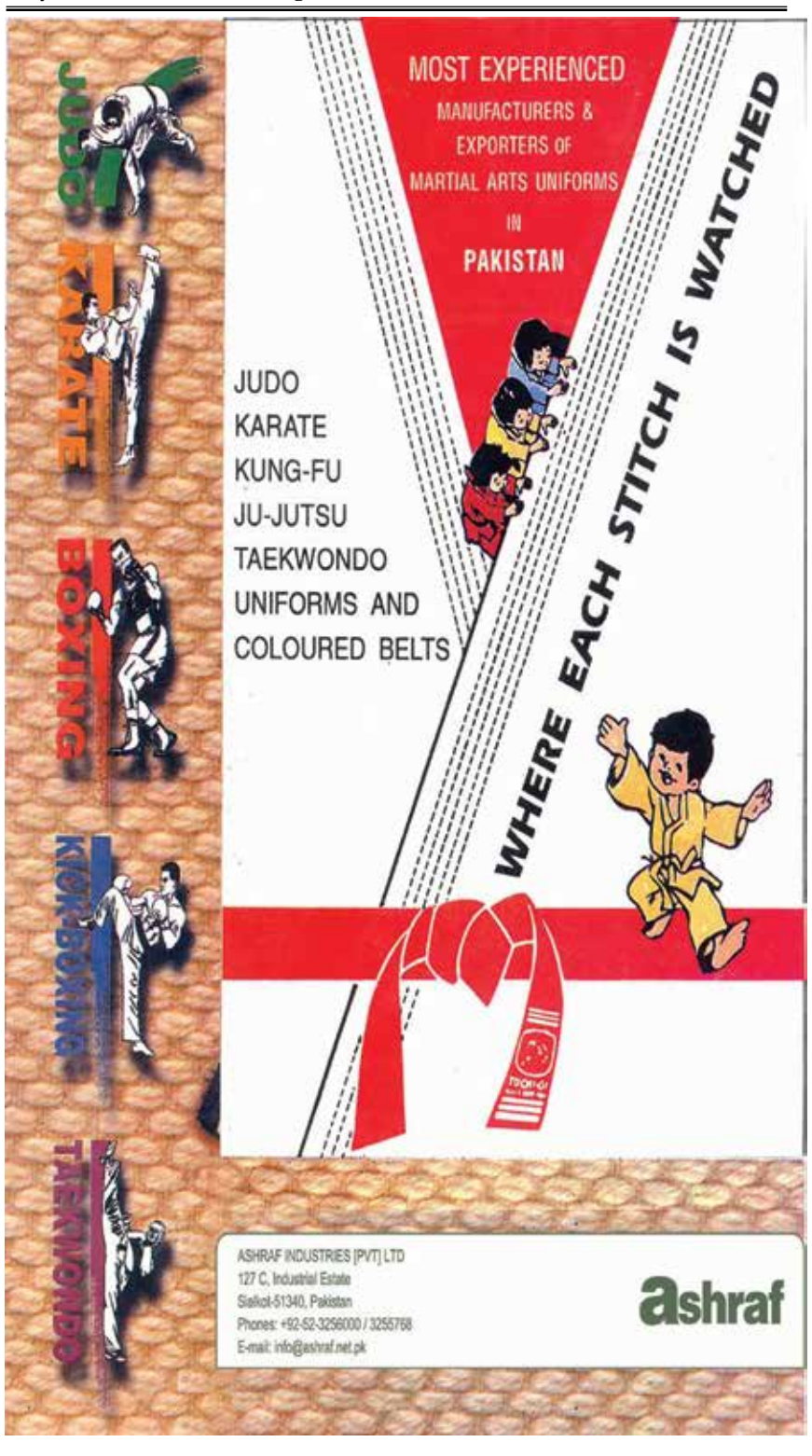
ISLAMABAD, Nov 05 (APP):A 35-member delegation of students from Bahria University Islamabad, accompanied by two faculty members, visited Parliament House in Islamabad as part of an educational tour.

Officials of the Senate Secretariat welcomed the delegation upon their arrival.

The students visited the Senate Museum, where they received a detailed briefing on the history of the Upper House, its evolution, the legislative process and the Senate's constitutional role and responsibilities.

An informative documentary on Pakistan's parliamentary history and the role of the Senate was also screened for the delegation.

The students later visited Gali-e-Dastoor (Constitution Street), where they learned about the drafting of the Constitution of Pakistan, the democratic struggle and key milestones in the country's constitutional history.–**APP**



Daily Islamabad POST

Friday, November 06, 2026

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 07 Issue: 61
Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960
Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

Capital must heed the street

IN times of uncertainty, leaders instinctively look to markets, forecasts and geopolitical developments for signals about the future. Yet some of the most important signals come from ordinary people. Long before tensions emerge in economies, institutions or societies, citizens tell us what they fear, what they need and what they expect from the future. The challenge for leaders is not the absence of warning signs. It is whether we are willing to listen. At the Future Investment Initiative Institute, our PRIORITY Compass surveyed more than 60,000 people across 32 countries this year. The message was strikingly consistent with the findings of previous years. Across regions, cultures and income groups, people continue to identify the rising cost of living as their most urgent concern. More importantly, the anxiety surrounding that challenge is deepening.

This year, 56 percent of respondents ranked the cost of living among their country's three most pressing problems. In the UK, that figure rises to 74 percent. Across Europe, three-quarters believe their country is on the wrong track, while fewer than one in five trust politicians to act in the public interest. These findings should concern us not simply because they reveal economic pressure but because they point to a growing gap between public priorities and the institutions expected to address them. Across regions, cultures and income groups, people continue to identify the rising cost of living as their most urgent concern

The impact is visible in everyday life. Nine in 10 respondents reported choosing cheaper and less nutritious food because of rising prices. Food and housing remain dominant concerns but we also observed a sharp rise in anxiety around energy costs. One-third now cite energy and fuel bills among their primary cost-of-living worries, compared with one-quarter a year ago. In some countries, particularly the UK and France, more than half of respondents express concern.

At the same time, societies are grappling with the transformative impact of artificial intelligence. While investment in AI continues to accelerate, public confidence has not kept pace. One-third of respondents identify technology-driven unemployment as a major long-term risk, seven in 10 support slowing the deployment of AI until appropriate safeguards are established, and three-quarters believe major technology companies are more likely to prioritize profit than public safety. For investors, these findings should not be viewed as political sentiment or social commentary. They are indicators of future demand. Capital generates returns by solving problems, meeting needs and creating value. A clear understanding of what people are struggling with today provides one of the strongest signals about where long-term opportunities will emerge tomorrow.

Consider healthcare. Staying healthy and accessing quality care remains the most important personal priority globally, identified by 44 percent of respondents and 55 percent in Europe. Yet four in 10 people are dissatisfied with the availability of doctors, rising to six in 10 in countries such as France and Italy. Perhaps even more telling, nearly two-thirds would rather pay more for higher-quality healthcare than accept lower-quality care at no cost.

Education presents a similar picture. Seven in 10 respondents believe higher education has become unaffordable for the average family, while the same proportion believe governments should place greater emphasis on vocational and practical skills as technological change reshapes the workforce.

The survey also highlights an important divergence between the Global North and the Global South. While many advanced economies are experiencing declining confidence, a majority of respondents in the Global South believe their countries are moving in the right direction. They are significantly more optimistic about the role of technology, more willing to embrace AI-enabled services and more confident that innovation can improve their lives. A majority of respondents in the Global South believe their countries are moving in the right direction

This contrast matters. In one part of the world, technology is increasingly viewed as a source of disruption and uncertainty. In another, it is viewed as a pathway to opportunity and progress. Understanding these differences will be critical for governments, business leaders and investors seeking to build sustainable growth. The implications are clear. The strongest demand for AI services, digital health solutions, online learning platforms and emerging technologies is likely to come from societies with confidence in the future. At the same time, demand for affordable housing, reliable public services, accessible healthcare and lower-cost energy will continue to shape political and economic outcomes in societies where frustration is growing. Both realities create opportunities for investment. Both deserve attention.

As we navigate an increasingly complex world, I believe three principles should guide decision-making. First, we must recognize that issues such as energy affordability are not merely technical or commercial challenges. They are social and economic priorities that shape public trust and societal resilience.

Second, we should direct greater capital toward the areas where people's needs are most evident: healthcare, housing, education and workforce development. These are not only social imperatives; they are among the most significant long-term investment opportunities of our time.

Third, we must remember that trust remains the most valuable license to operate. Institutions and enterprises succeed when they create value for society, not only for shareholders. The public increasingly expects business leaders to contribute meaningfully to the challenges facing their communities and those expectations will only continue to grow.

The purpose of the PRIORITY Compass is to understand where public priorities align and where they diverge from those of leaders and institutions. Five years of data suggest that this gap remains significant. The events of this year have demonstrated the consequences of allowing that gap to widen further.

The future will not be shaped solely by those who move capital most efficiently. It will be shaped by those who direct it where humanity needs it most. In an era of disruption, uncertainty and rapid technological change, listening carefully to people may be the most important investment decision of all.



America's Democratic Awakening: The Triumph of Diversity Over Division

Qamar Bashir



The same election produced historic breakthroughs across the country. Keisha Lance Bottoms became the first Black woman elected governor of an American state, winning in Georgia. Deb Haaland became the first Native American woman elected governor in New Mexico. Gina Hinojosa broke another barrier in Texas, becoming its first Latina governor. Amy Acton won Ohio's governorship, while Peggy Flanagan of Minnesota became the first Native American woman elected to the United States Senate

THE United States is witnessing a remarkable political transformation, one that reaches far beyond the familiar contest between Democrats and Republicans. The deeper significance of the 2026 midterm elections lies in the renewed assertion of a principle embedded in the American Constitution: that political power belongs to the people, irrespective of their religion, race, color, ancestry or social background. The electoral successes of candidates representing historically marginalized communities have challenged the politics of exclusion and revived the promise of the American dream.

At the heart of this transformation stands Zohran Mamdani, whose rise to the mayoralty of New York City became a powerful symbol of resistance to religious prejudice and political intimidation. His campaign encountered fierce opposition from conservative political forces, wealthy interests and pro-Israel advocacy groups. Critics questioned his ideology, challenged his positions on Israel and Palestine, and portrayed his political ambitions as a threat to established American values. Yet Mamdani's victory demonstrated that voters could look beyond the identity-based fears promoted by his opponents. His achievement carried extraordinary symbolism. New York is not merely another American city. It is a global financial capital, an international cultural center and the headquarters of the United Nations. That a Muslim politician of South Asian ancestry could rise to its highest municipal office represented a profound affirmation of America's capacity to accommodate diversity within its democratic institutions. His victory challenged the assumption that Muslim identity and American political leadership are somehow incompatible.

The significance of Mamdani's political journey becomes even greater when viewed against the atmosphere of suspicion surrounding Muslims in American politics since September 11, 2001. For decades, Muslim candidates have faced questions about loyalty, patriotism and religious beliefs that their political competitors have rarely been required to answer. Mamdani's success offered a compelling response: American citizenship is not conditional upon religious conformity, and political legitimacy cannot be reserved for any single community. Michigan has provided another important chapter in this unfolding story through the political rise of Abdul El-Sayed, whose campaign brought questions of Muslim representation, economic justice and national identity into sharp focus. His political opponents scrutinized his ideological positions, family background and religious associations. Accusations involving socialism and alleged links to Islamist movements became part of the wider political controversy surrounding his candidacy. Such attacks illustrate how readily legitimate political disagreements can become entangled with insinuations about faith and belonging.

What makes these developments particularly important is that Muslim political participation is not a demand for special treatment. It is an exercise of the same constitutional rights enjoyed by every American. A Muslim elected official does not enter public office as the representative of a foreign civilization. Such a person enters as an American citizen, accountable to American voters, American laws and the American Constitution. That distinction is fundamental to understanding the democratic significance of minority representation.

The results of November 3 gave this political awakening an unmistakable national dimension. Democrats captured both chambers of Congress, ending unified Republican control of Washington. Abdul El-Sayed defeated Republican Mike Rogers in Michigan, becoming the first Muslim elected to the United States Senate. His victory was especially significant because it demonstrated that religious identity, however aggressively politicized, need not prevent a candidate from earning the confidence of a broad electorate.

The same election produced historic breakthroughs across the country. Keisha Lance Bottoms became the first Black woman elected governor of an American state, winning in Georgia. Deb Haaland became the first Native American woman elected governor in New Mexico. Gina Hinojosa broke another barrier in Texas, becoming its first Latina governor. Amy Acton won Ohio's governorship, while Peggy Flanagan of Minnesota became the first Native American woman elected to the United States Senate. Chris Pappas of New Hampshire made history as the first openly gay man elected to that chamber. These victories reflected an expanding understanding of who could legitimately exercise American political authority.

Together, these developments delivered a powerful political rebuke to President Donald Trump, whose rhetoric about immigration, Muslims and minority communities has repeatedly generated controversy. His attacks on Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, including remarks questioning her belonging in America, exemplified a political vocabulary in which ancestry and religion could become instruments of humiliation. Such rhetoric may energize a political constituency, but it also risks undermining the constitutional principle that citizenship confers equal political standing.

The electorate's response was remarkable because it came through ballots rather than confrontation. Americans did not need to abandon their constitutional institutions to challenge exclusionary politics. They used those institutions to elevate candidates whose backgrounds had once been treated as electoral liabilities. The very democratic machinery that critics sometimes portray as vulnerable to prejudice demonstrated its capacity for correction, renewal and peaceful redistribution of political authority.

Lawrence O'Donnell's description of the election as the end of Trump's political domination in Washington captures the dramatic shift in congressional power. Yet the constitutional reality is more nuanced. Trump remains president, retains executive authority and possesses the veto. Nevertheless, Democratic control of both chambers will substantially restrict his legislative ambitions, strengthen congressional oversight and complicate his ability to secure appointments requiring Senate confirmation.

The presidency has not become powerless, but the era of largely unchecked congressional cooperation has ended.

America's democratic achievement is especially striking because the country itself was shaped by successive generations of immigrants. People arrived from Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere, bringing languages, traditions, knowledge, enterprise and ambition. Their contributions helped transform a collection of colonies into an economic, technological, scientific and military superpower. The nation's strength was never derived exclusively from uniformity. It emerged from the extraordinary capacity to combine different human experiences within a common constitutional framework.

This does not mean that discrimination has disappeared or that every American has suddenly embraced diversity. Racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism and hostility toward immigrants remain serious challenges. Nor can every electoral outcome be attributed solely to voters rejecting prejudice. Economic dissatisfaction, the cost of living, foreign wars and concerns about presidential accountability also influenced the midterms. But the election has demonstrated that political campaigns built around suspicion of minorities cannot automatically overcome the electorate's broader judgment.

The most enduring lesson is that the American dream survives whenever opportunity is allowed to triumph over inherited privilege. A Muslim can become a senator, a Black woman can govern a state, a Native American woman can lead a state government, and citizens from historically excluded communities can occupy positions once considered beyond their reach. Their achievements belong not merely to their communities but to the entire American republic.

The United States has often encouraged other nations to embrace democracy, equality, religious freedom and human dignity. Its international credibility depends upon demonstrating those principles at home. The 2026 elections have offered an opportunity to restore that credibility, not through declarations of exceptionalism, but through the practical exercise of constitutional rights.

Ultimately, the triumph belongs neither exclusively to Democrats nor to any religious or ethnic community. It belongs to the American people and to a constitutional system capable of resisting political intimidation and renewing itself through democratic participation. The message emerging from this extraordinary election is that America's greatness does not require the exclusion of those who look different, worship differently or speak another language. Its greatness lies in allowing them to belong, contribute, compete and lead. America has not become weaker by embracing diversity. It has demonstrated why diversity remains one of its greatest sources of strength.

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

The Middle East's Secret Diplomacy

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The relationship between Jordan and Israel subsequently developed through similar channels. King Hussein began meeting Israeli representatives secretly in the 1960s. During Jordan's 1970 conflict with Palestinian armed groups, Syrian forces entered Jordanian territory. Hussein appealed to Washington for immediate intervention

AN excerpt from Matthew Cole's book Princes and Thieves, published by Vanity Fair, alleges that the United Arab Emirates' President Mohamed bin Zayed and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman placed at least $2 billion in accounts associated with Kushner. It also refers to an arrangement intended to help Israel defend the UAE against Iran. Kushner has rejected the allegations as "outrageous and categorically false", arguing that the account contains no verifiable banking records. His lawyer has threatened legal action. The claims remain unverified. No conclusions about their accuracy should be drawn without documentary evidence and independent confirmation. Nevertheless, the controversy offers an opportunity to examine a less discussed feature of Middle Eastern politics: the role of secret diplomacy in preventing conflicts, resolving disputes and building relationships between states that have publicly regarded one another as enemies. In November 1947, shortly before the United Nations voted on the partition of Palestine, Golda Meir met Transjordan's King Abdullah at Naharayim. Abdullah reportedly assured her that he would not enter the territory allocated to the proposed Jewish state. Four days before Israel declared independence in May 1948, Meir travelled secretly to Amman, disguised as an Arab woman. The meeting did not prevent war, but it demonstrated that political contacts could continue even when public positions left little room for compromise.

The relationship between Jordan and Israel subsequently developed through similar channels. King Hussein began meeting Israeli representatives secretly in the 1960s. During Jordan's 1970 conflict with Palestinian armed groups, Syrian forces entered Jordanian territory. Hussein appealed to Washington for immediate intervention. American officials discussed the possibility of Israeli military action, and Israel mobilised its forces. The Syrian troops eventually withdrew. Three years later, Hussein secretly warned Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir that Syrian forces were preparing for action. Israeli intelligence did not fully appreciate the warning, and the October 1973 war followed. The episode demonstrated both the value and the limitations of intelligence shared through confidential relationships: access to information does not guarantee that political and military leaders will interpret it correctly.

Secret diplomacy also helped transform relations between Egypt and Israel. In September 1977, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan met Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's envoy Hassan Tuhami in Morocco. The participants agreed that Washington should remain outside the discussions until a basic understanding had been reached. Two months later, Sadat travelled to Jerusalem, an extraordinary step that opened the way for negotiations. The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was signed at the White House in March 1979. The agreement did not resolve the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, but it ended the state of war between two of the region's most important countries. Its consequences were substantial: Egypt recovered the Sinai Peninsula, while Israel reduced the threat of a major conventional war on its southern front. A similar process shaped Jordanian-Israeli relations in the 1990s. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met Hussein privately to explain the Oslo agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Later, the two leaders settled difficult questions concerning borders and water rights through direct discussions. Their peace treaty was signed on October 26, 1994.

The relationship was tested in 1997 when Mossad agents were caught in Amman after poisoning Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal. Hussein threatened severe consequences if Mashaal died. Israel provided an antidote, and negotiations helped secure the release of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin from Israeli custody. The crisis showed that secret channels could help contain a confrontation even when intelligence operations threatened to destroy diplomatic trust. Covert cooperation has continued into the present century. In 2018, The New York Times reported that Egypt had allowed Israel to conduct more than 100 air strikes against jihadist targets in northern Sinai over two years. The arrangement illustrated how governments could cooperate against common security threats while avoiding public acknowledgement of their partnership.

Intelligence cooperation also played a role in the confrontation with Iran. Following the US killing of Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad in January 2020, NBC News reported that Israeli intelligence had helped confirm details concerning his movements. Later that year, the UAE and Israel established formal diplomatic relations through the Abraham Accords. The accords themselves emerged partly through discreet negotiations involving the UAE ambassador to Washington, Yousef al-Otaiba, Kushner and Israeli officials. They represented a major change in regional politics, although the absence of a settlement for the Palestinians remained a central criticism of the agreement. The importance of these relationships became particularly clear on April 13, 2024, when Iran launched drones and missiles towards Israel. Regional intelligence-sharing and air defence cooperation helped counter the attack. Reports described contributions from the United States, Jordan and Gulf states, demonstrating that security arrangements developed over years could be activated during a crisis. Such cooperation has not eliminated rivalries or guaranteed lasting peace. Nor should secrecy be treated as proof of wisdom or integrity. Confidential diplomacy can conceal abuses of power, private financial interests and agreements made without public scrutiny. That is why allegations involving large sums of money demand credible evidence and independent investigation.

But the history of the Middle East also shows why governments sometimes negotiate away from public view. Leaders facing domestic opposition, hostile neighbours or sensitive security questions may need room to explore compromises before announcing them. Public diplomacy establishes legitimacy; private diplomacy can create the conditions in which an agreement becomes possible. The real issue, therefore, is not whether secret diplomacy should exist, but where its limits should lie. Confidential negotiations may protect national security and prevent conflict, yet they must not become a shield for corruption or personal enrichment. The Middle East has repeatedly benefited from quiet contacts that reduced tensions and opened doors to peace. Whether the latest allegations against Kushner prove true or false, the distinction remains essential: diplomacy conducted privately can serve the public interest, but private dealings must never be mistaken for diplomacy simply because powerful people are involved.

Islamabad POST
Friday, November 06, 2026

Briefs

ECP sets Feb 7 for first phase of Punjab LG polls

FROM PAGE 01

all candidates and voters in the constituencies were provided equal opportunities. The commission also highlighted its responsibility to conduct local government elections across the provinces, cantonment areas and Islamabad. Separately, the ECP decided to halt the local government election process in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts following a review of a federal government order. Last week, the ECP directed its office to prepare the local government election programme for KP districts where constituency delimitation has been completed, with 12 districts excluded under special administrative arrangements. The poll organising body had ruled that elections would not be scheduled in Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Mohmand, Orakzai and North Waziristan under the federal government's order dated October 11. During today's meeting chaired by CEC Raja, the commission examined an order issued by the federal government on November 4.

Pakistan reports ninth polio case

FROM PAGE 01

inadequate immunity in vulnerable communities also contribute to the persistence of the disease. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has repeatedly identified Pakistan and Afghanistan as a single epidemiological block for polio eradication, stressing that transmission in either country poses risks to the other. WHO has also raised concerns over restrictions affecting house-to-house vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, particularly in southern provinces, where vaccination activities have largely been conducted at designated sites rather than through household visits. Such arrangements can leave children unvaccinated, particularly infants and those living in remote communities, increasing the risk of continued poliovirus transmission. In Pakistan, environmental surveillance has detected poliovirus in sewage samples from the Peshawar block, including Peshawar and Khyber districts, indicating that the virus continues to circulate despite repeated vaccination campaigns. According to official figures, Pakistan reported 74 polio cases in 2024 and 31 in 2025. The number has declined to nine so far this year, including seven from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and two from Sindh. Officials said the decline in reported cases was encouraging but warned that the continued detection of poliovirus in children and environmental samples showed that the threat had not been eliminated. Meanwhile, the government is conducting a seven-day polio vaccination campaign from November 2 to 8, targeting approximately 24 million children under five years of age across 97 districts.

Public holiday on Nov 9

FROM PAGE 01

The move has been welcomed by many who regard Allama Iqbal as the ideological architect of Pakistan and one of the most influential poets and philosophers of the Muslim world. Born on November 9, 1877, in Sialkot, Allama Iqbal's vision and poetry played a significant role in inspiring the Pakistan Movement. Every year, seminars, conferences, and literary events are organized across the country to pay tribute to his contributions. As November 9 falls on a Monday, employees and students observing a Saturday-Sunday weekend will enjoy a three-day break, with normal activities resuming on Tuesday, November 10.

China, Pakistan team up to protect Gandhara relics

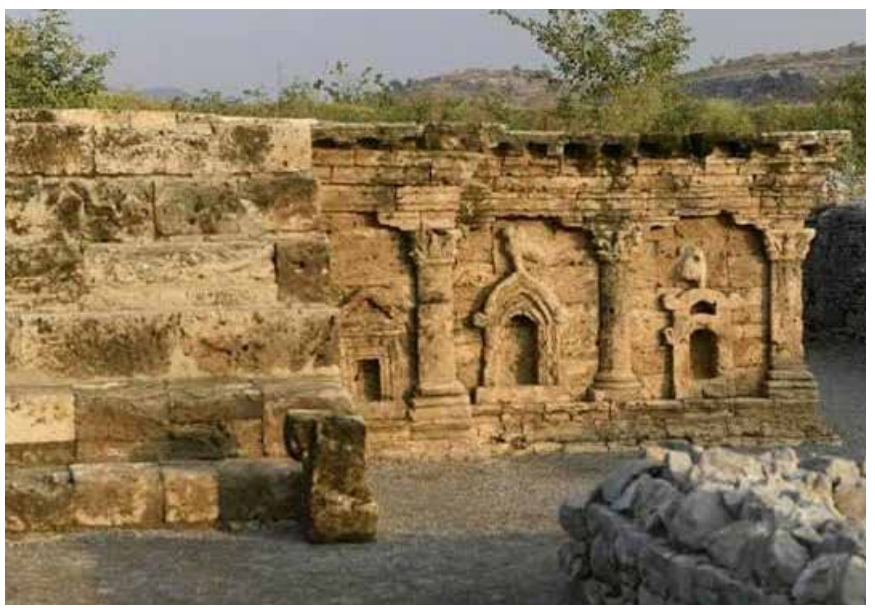
The directorate has also signed MOUs with Chinese institutions, Khan added, and is working on digitising museum collections and producing digital catalogues

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has signed agreements with Chinese institutions as it works to digitise and promote its Gandharan collections, a provincial heritage official said.

Fawad Khan, an assistant director at the province's Directorate General of Archaeology and Museums, called looking after its heritage sites "a big job" and "a big headache" in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN) on the sidelines of the ninth Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Culture Expo. By his account, the directorate runs 15 museums and looks after thousands of sites, with about 10,000 Gandharan sculptures at the Peshawar Museum alone.

He named looting and antiquities smuggling among the province's main problems, and pointed to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Chinese government on the issue. At national level, the two governments signed an agreement in 2022 on preventing theft, clandestine excavation and illicit trade in cultural property, followed by another on heritage cooperation in October 2025.

The directorate has also signed MOUs with Chinese institutions, Khan added, and is working on digitising museum collections and producing digital catalogues.



According to a March 2025 announcement on its website, it established a digital heritage partnership with Tsinghua University, using 3D scanning and digital modelling.

Fazal ur Rahman, executive director of the Pakistan Council on China, described heritage work as one strand of cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. China has "more advanced technology than Pakistan" in preservation and "definitely can help Pakistan in promoting and preserving our national heritage in a better way", he said. Exhibitions have brought Gandharan art to Chinese audiences. A show of 203 artefacts, 173 of them on loan from Pakistan, opened at the Palace Museum in Beijing in March 2023 and later travelled to museums in Gansu and Shenzhen.

The directorate plans more at museums in different parts of China, Khan added.

It has also worked with Germany's Ruhr University Bochum on digitally cataloguing Gandharan sculptures in the Dir Museum, he noted, while an Italian archaeological mission has worked in the province for many years.

Khan traced the link between the two sides back thousands of years, with Buddhism, trade and culture moving along the Silk Road and Gandharan art influencing Dunhuang, Kucha and the Kizil Caves. – **APP**

LIV Golf relaunch collapses as key investor withdraws: reports

DNA

LOS ANGELES: The rebel LIV Golf tour's bid to relaunch itself after filing for bankruptcy has collapsed following the withdrawal of new lead investor BC Partners, multiple outlets reported Wednesday

The private capital firm made the decision to walk away after struggling to convince several star players to fully commit to the league going forward, the Financial Times and the Athletic reported, citing anonymous sources.

The once free-spending Saudi-backed league that turned the golf world upside-down by luring superstars away from the traditional PGA Tour is now expected to have its remaining assets liquidated.

LIV Golf did not immediately respond to AFP request for comment.

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) had poured an estimated $5 billion into the tour since 2022, before abruptly pulling the plug earlier this year. LIV formally filed for bankruptcy protection in September, though officials vowed to relaunch as "LIV 2.0" next season with a shorter schedule and reduced prize money, and equity stakes in the league for players. New lead investor BC Partners Credit had pledged an initial funding commitment of a potential $300 million. But several former LIV stars including Jon Rahm publicly announced their decisions to withdraw from the new version of the tour in recent weeks. Several others were believed to be on the fence. Even Bryson DeChambeau — arguably the breakaway circuit's biggest name, who continued to back the tour — did not publicly commit to returning. LIV's attempt to relaunch was made more complicated after the DP World (European) Tour reversed its policy of allowing golfers to appear in events on both tours, instead forcing the likes of Rahm to choose.

DP World Tour CEO Guy Kinnings on Tuesday told the Scotsman newspaper he had a duty "to protect the Tour against an entity who spent, so we are told, over $7 billion, with one of their aims being to 'destroy the DP World Tour'." Golf superstar Rory McIlroy, an outspoken critic of LIV, on Wednesday lent his support to Kinnings' stance and said he also believed LIV had set out to eradicate its rivals.

"I agree with Guy... [LIV] were going around at Augusta this year telling people that that's what they wanted to do," McIlroy told reporters ahead of the DP World Tour playoff Abu Dhabi Championship event. "And then, it's ironic that a week later, now they are talking about 'completing and not competing' and all that. That's different from what they were saying at the start of the year

Documents from bankruptcy filings showed that LIV owes between $500 million and $1 billion in estimated liabilities to at least 1,000 creditors, including star players. Rahm, DeChambeau and fellow golfer Dustin Johnson hold the largest unsecured claims against the tour, totaling more than $5 million each in immediate past-due payments.

Haaland breaks City out of mini-rut at Leipzig

DNA

LEIPZIG, Germany: Erling Haaland's 78th-minute strike helped Manchester City shake off a mini-slump with a 3-2 Champions League win at RB Leipzig on Wednesday. After an excellent start to the season, City had lost two Premier League games in a row either side of beating Brighton on penalties in the League Cup. The visitors twice went ahead through a Castello Lukeba own goal and an Enzo Fernandez header, only to be pegged back by goals from Ridle Baku and the impressive Antonio Nusa both times. Despite having scored more against Leipzig than any other opponents in his career, Haaland had few chances but was right on the spot to turn in an Elliot Anderson cross for the winner. Haaland has now scored 13 times in nine matches against Leipzig, including a memorable five-goal performance in a 7-0 rout in March 2023. Despite the victory, City were well below their usual best against a Leipzig side in a rebuilding process under new coach Martin Demichelis.

Arsenal edge stubborn Slavia in Champions League

DNA

PRAGUE: Noni Madueke and Viktor Gyokeres scored in the first half to hand Arsenal a 2-1 win at Slavia Prague in the Champions League on Wednesday. Arsenal got back to winning ways in Europe after a 2-2 draw at Bayern last month, reaching 10 points from four Champions League games so far, while Slavia have a single point in the standings. "We have to value the fact that it's very difficult to win away from home. We've done it against a really tough opponent, as we expected," said Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta. "Two very different halves. The first one where we played at a really high level in terms of tempo, intensity, quality and clarity in what we had to do," he added.

The Premier League champions were quick to take control of the game in chilly conditions in the Czech capital. Madueke reaped the rewards on nine minutes. Gyokeres controlled David Raya's long clearance with his chest and passed the ball instinctively to Madueke sprinting behind him down the right flank. Madueke left the Slavia back four behind him with ease and beat diving Ukrainian teenager Nazar Domchak in the Slavia goal with a low shot.

Gyokeres, one of six changes in Mikel Arteta's starting line-up from Sunday's 1-0 win at Liverpool, made it 2-0 on 38 minutes. He beat Domchak with a neat shot off the far post after a one-two with Mikel Merino on the edge of the Slavia box. 'Far from our standards' Czech champions Slavia were sluggish throughout the first half, producing a single chance when skipper Tomas Holes fired wide from inside the box. But they stepped up their pace considerably in the second half to stave off a repeat of a 3-0 home loss to the Gunners in the competition exactly a year ago.

Slavia's Polish midfielder Oskar Kubiak forced a diving save from Raya seconds into the second half. Gabriel Magalhaes and Raya cleared two headers off the goalline in quick succession with 15 minutes to go, while David Zima fired over the bar. Raya then forced a Kubiak header onto the post.

VC Hazara University, former international hockey player discusses promotion of national sport

DNA

MANSEHRA: Hazara University Mansehra Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ikramullah Khan and former international hockey player Sardar Muhammad Riyasat have discussed measures to promote hockey and revive sports activities in educational institutions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Business news updates During a meeting at the Vice Chancellor's office, former international hockey player Sardar Muhammad Riyasat, who belongs to Hazara Division, emphasized the need to strengthen hockey at the grassroots level and encourage young players in educational institutions. University Director Sports Syed Bilal Shah was also present at the meeting.

The participants discussed challenges facing hockey, promotion of the national sport in educational institutions and revival of sporting activities in the province. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ikramullah Khan said sports and co-curricular activities alongside academic pursuits were essential for students' character building and the development of a healthy society. He assured that the university administration would utilize available resources and take all possible measures to provide students with better sports facilities and promote hockey.

Maliha Ali Makes History, Reaches IMMAF World Final

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Maliha Ali has created history by becoming the first Pakistani woman to reach the IMMAF World Championship final, defeating Mexico's Pan-American champion Andrea Gabriela Guzman in a stunning performance. Despite carrying an injury from her previous fight against Russia's European champion, Maliha produced a breathtaking display of striking, precision and tactical brilliance, completely outclassing her highly decorated Mexican opponent. Her explosive stand-up fighting, exceptional footwork and commanding cage control established her as one of the most exciting strikers and standout performers of the World Championships.



Having already stunned Russia's highly rated European champion, Maliha delivered another masterclass against Mexico, defeating two of the world's most formidable competitors on her remarkable journey to the final.

Remarkably, Maliha began training in MMA just 10 months ago at BRAVE Gym Lahore, making her extraordinary rise to the world stage even more inspiring. Maliha credited her success to her parents' prayers, the relentless training and winning mindset developed by her coaches, and the unwavering support of her training partners at BRAVE Gym. She also expressed heartfelt gratitude to ACTIVIT and its CEO Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed for their invaluable sponsorship and continued support, which made her international journey possible. Maliha further acknowledged the exceptional medical support provided by National Hospital, which played a critical role in treating and managing various injuries sustained by the athletes during their preparations for the World Championships. The hospital's dedicated medical care and commitment to athlete recovery have been instrumental in ensuring that Team Pakistan could compete at the highest international level.

Antonelli back to work as Mercedes chase title double

The speed of his team-mate Isack Hadjar will be a threat along with both Ferraris, with Hamilton still smarting from their failure to triumph in Mexico due to poor teamwork and Charles Leclerc's first-lap attack

DNA

SAO PAULO: Five celebratory days on from claiming the Formula One world title, Kimi Antonelli will seek to lead Mercedes to the double this weekend by beating Ferrari to take the constructors' championship at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix. The youngest champion in F1 history, and first Italian winner for 73 years, will be bidding for his 10th win of a remarkable season, but knows luckless team-mate George Russell will be intent on returning to winning ways himself.

Blighted by ill-fortune and a series of car failures, the Briton is aiming for a strong end to the season, with a repeat of his 2022 triumph at Interlagos, to give him a springboard for a title challenge in 2027.

"All I can promise is that for the rest of this season, and into the next one, I will be giving my absolute all to rediscover the performance I have been capable of producing for the majority of my career," Russell said. "And fingers crossed that a little bit of luck returns," he added earlier this week after congratulating 20-year-old Antonelli on finishing third in Mexico to clinch his maiden title. Russell is without a win in four races since dominating from pole position in Baku and is chasing a fourth win this year.

Deputy technical director Simone Resta conceded, as did team chief Toto Wolff, that Mercedes had failed Russell.

"We really need to sort out these problems for the future," he said. "We let George down and he really deserves to have a chance to fight for a much higher position... "It's clear for the team — we need to maximize our points and results to win the championship. We are focused on it and we will do our best to achieve it."

Mercedes need to outscore Ferrari by three points or more to be champions.

While Russell licked his wounds, Antonelli visited the family of his childhood hero Ayrton Senna and was photographed sitting in the three-time champion's famous black and gold Lotus 98T car — complete with number 12 on the nose, the number the Italian has said he will keep next year.

Both of the Silver Arrows' drivers will be strongly challenged too by Red Bull's in-form four-time champion Max Verstappen, who has won three of the last four races including resisting Lewis Hamilton's late charge in Mexico last Sunday.

The speed of his team-mate Isack Hadjar will be a threat along with both Ferraris, with Hamilton still smarting from their failure to triumph in Mexico due to poor teamwork and Charles Leclerc's first-lap attack.

Ferrari, however, are without a win in Brazil since 2017 when the previous youngest champion Sebastian Vettel was victorious.

After flying home to Monaco to be with his wife Alexandra Saint Mleux for the birth of their first child, a daughter called Bianca, the late-arriving Leclerc may have other things on his mind.

He is set to be rested in Friday's first practice with reserve driver Dino Beganovic running alongside Hamilton, who is both a three-time winner and an honorary citizen of Brazil loved by the passionate Interlagos crowd. Last year's winner and champion Lando Norris of McLaren should not be ruled out on a track where he has started from pole for the last two years. Local hope Rafael Camara, 21, was expected to replace Leclerc but has instead been given a seat at Haas, succeeding Ryo Hirakawa who replaced the dumped Esteban Ocon in Mexico last weekend and finished 10th on debut.

Camara will make his F1 debut on his home track with the American team. – **APP**

Relations with Japan from cordial to excellent, says Asif

FROM PAGE 01

In his address, Ambassador Akamatsu highlighted that the history of the Japan Self-Defense Forces embodies Japan's enduring "Will to Seek Peace." He noted that the JSDF continues to uphold the principles of Pacifism and Exclusive Defense, which remain central to Japan's security policy. "The peace we seek is not of silence but of dialogue, not division but of cooperation, and not one governed by force but one underpinned by the rule of law," Ambassador Akamatsu stated. Emphasizing the importance of diplomacy, the Ambassador stressed that preserving peace requires more than military capability and calls for continuous efforts to build bridges of dialogue and mutual understanding among nations. Praising Pakistan's role on the international stage, Ambassador Akamatsu remarked that the country's diplomatic ability to transform disputes into dialogue deserves the highest recognition and appreciation from the global community. The Ambassador also recalled several notable examples of cooperation between Japan and Pakistan involving the JSDF. These included educational exchanges through the acceptance of international students at the Ground Self-Defense Force's Fuji School, humanitarian airlift assistance during the devastating 2010 floods in northwestern Pakistan, and the participation of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer Murasame in the multinational naval exercise AMAN-25. Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Akamatsu expressed his hope that the reception would deepen public understanding of the JSDF and further strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Japan and Pakistan. This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the establishment of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, founded on July 1, 1954, alongside the Japan Defense Agency. JSDF Day is observed annually to commemorate this milestone and recognizes the organization's contribution to national security, disaster response, and international cooperation. Japan has consistently pursued the path of a peace-loving nation since the end of the Second World War and remains committed to promoting peace, stability, and prosperity across the Asia-Pacific region and the wider international community. Its security policy continues to be guided by these principles.

FCC bars PHC from hearing 3-MPO detention case

FROM PAGE 01

He further maintained that the high court could not exercise its jurisdiction under Article 199 in such matters.Justice Aamer Farooq observed that the high court received several cases under Article 199 on a daily basis."Would the high court not hear cases that come before it on a daily basis?" Justice Farooq asked. During the hearing, former additional advocate general Shah Faisal Ilyas appeared on behalf of the parties and requested the court to hear the parties before issuing an interim injunction.Ilyas also argued that the provincial government's three objections could not be sustained. Responding to the arguments, FCC Chief Justice Khan said that the parties could file their objections after examining the court's order. The FCC suspended the challenged orders passed by different benches of the PHC, saying notices were being issued to the parties in the matter. After issuing the directives, the constitutional court adjourned further proceedings indefinitely.

Islamabad POST
Friday November 05 , 2026

Pakistani business delegation to visit Ethiopia: Dr Oumer

LCCI Vice President Khadim Hussain delivered the vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to the Ethiopian ambassador and accompanying dignitaries, as well as members of Lahore's business community, for participating in the forum

DNA



LAHORE: Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Oumer Hussien Oba has announced that the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad will leadction plan with the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad to identify priority sectors, facilitate business contacts and take practical measures to enhance bilateral trade. He said a structured approach involving the chamber and the embassy could help address existing gaps and create new avenues for economic cooperation.

He also invited Ethiopian chambers of commerce to visit the LCCI, saying direct engagement between business organisations and entrepreneurs would help promote business-to-business contacts, identify areas of mutual interest and develop long-term commercial partnerships.

The ambassador's proposed visit is expected to provide a platform for Pakistani businesses to assess Ethiopia's market potential and explore opportunities for exports, investment and joint ventures.

LCCI Vice President Khadim Hussain delivered the vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to the Ethiopian ambassador and accompanying dignitaries, as well as members of Lahore's business community, for participating in the forum. a Pakistani business delegation to Ethiopia from January 24 to 29, 2027, to explore trade and investment opportunities and strengthen economic relations between the two countries.

The announcement was made during a business forum at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Wednesday, where the ambassador invited Pakistani entrepreneurs and investors to participate in the proposed visit and explore opportunities in Ethiopia's expanding economy. The delegation will focus on key sectors, including pharmaceuticals, surgical goods, textiles, agriculture, agro-processing, information technology and tourism. The ambassador said the visit would provide Pakistani businesses with an opportunity to establish commercial links, explore investment prospects and develop partnerships with their Ethiopian counterparts.

Dr Oumer Hussien Oba said the initiative reflected the commitment of both countries to expanding economic cooperation and translating their friendly relations into stronger trade and investment ties.

Earlier, the ambassador was received at the LCCI by its President Ali Hussam Asghar, Vice President Khadim Hussain and other office-bearers. He also congratulated the newly elected president and office-bearers of the chamber and expressed his best wishes for their tenure.

Welcoming the Ethiopian envoy, LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar assured him of the chamber's full support in organising the proposed delegation. He said the LCCI would facilitate the participation of Lahore's business community and encourage entrepreneurs to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Ethiopian market.

He observed that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Ethiopia remained below its actual potential, despite considerable opportunities for cooperation in several sectors. He emphasised the need to strengthen commercial engagement and improve interaction between the business communities of the two countries.

Briefs

PSX stays bullish, gains 3,366 points

ISLAMABA: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with a strong positive trend on Thursday, gaining 3,366.38 points, a massive positive change of 1.96 percent, to close at 175,379.87 points against 172,013.48 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 999.812 million shares, compared to 841.615 million shares traded in the previous session. The traded value of the ready market reached Rs46.062 billion, up from Rs35.392 billion a day earlier.

Meanwhile, total market capitalisation increased to Rs19.113 trillion from Rs18.777 trillion recorded in the previous session.

Out of 501 companies that traded in the ready market, 365 posted gains, 103 suffered losses, while 33 remained unchanged, reflecting a highly bullish trend across the overall market.

Cnergyico PK led the volume chart with 74.002 million shares, followed by B.O.Punjab with 69.726 million shares, and K-Electric Ltd. with 61.114 million shares. Among the top gainers in the ready market, PIA Holding Company LimitedB surged by Rs220.01 to close at Rs14,000.00, while The Thal Industries Corporation Limited advanced by Rs79.45 to settle at Rs873.97. On the losing side, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited declined by Rs98.57 to close at Rs25,703.00, while Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited fell by Rs56.49 to Rs8,501.25. In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 242.975 million shares with a traded value of Rs12.638 billion, compared with 203.911 million shares worth Rs13.498 billion in the previous session. Of the 312 companies traded in the DFC market, 260 advanced, 46 declined, and 6 remained unchanged.—**APP**

Gaza turns rubble into power with homemade wind turbines

KHAN YUNIS: Above a maze of tents in a crowded displacement camp in Gaza, homemade wind turbines made from scrap metal and salvaged debris spin in the sea breeze, bringing electricity to struggling Palestinians. In the southern Khan Yunis camp, Kamal Al-Dabary, a former engineering student, has put his skills to work for families who, like most Gazans, live in displacement with no direct access to the tiny territory's shattered power grid.

According to the World Bank, more than 90 percent of Gaza's power generation and distribution capacity was destroyed in April 2026, much of it in Israeli strikes that devastated homes and infrastructure.

Sitting on the ground, Dabary tinkered with electrical wires, metal parts and basic tools on a plastic table. After carefully twisting cables together and testing them with a multimeter, a small bulb flickered on, then another, signalling that the current was flowing. "When solar panels were still relatively affordable, we bought one and kept moving it around to follow the sun," the 60-year-old, displaced by the fighting between Israel and Hamas, told AFP. The war was triggered by the Palestinian Islamist movement's deadly October 7, 2023 attack on Israel. But after three years of war, prices have soared as aid and commercial supplies trickled into Gaza through crossings tightly controlled by Israel. A single solar panel now costs at least 15,000 shekels (nearly $5,000), putting it out of reach for most Gazans, Dabary said. 'Changed everything' "We haven't had work or income for three years," he added. "That's when the idea of a wind turbine came to mind. Why not harness the wind? So we salvaged parts from the rubble." The turbines are built from scooter motors and old water tanks cut into blades. As the wind turns the blades, they drive a motor that generates electricity. The power then passes through circuits assembled from parts recovered from destroyed homes before being stored in batteries.—**APP**

Pak concludes Second Periodic Review before UN Committee

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has successfully concluded its Second Periodic Review before the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva, presenting its progress on legislative, policy and institutional measures aimed at fulfilling its international human rights obligations. Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik led the Pakistani delegation during the review, which examined the country's efforts to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights. Federal Secretary for Human Rights Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Director (IC) Dr Muhammad Arif and transgender rights expert Nayab Ali were also part of the Pakistani delegation. During the review, Pakistan highlighted various initiatives and reforms in the areas of education, healthcare, social protection, labour rights and women's empowerment. The delegation also outlined measures undertaken to strengthen child protection, prevent child marriages and address gender-based violence. The Ministry of Human Rights coordinated the periodic reporting process in consultation with relevant federal and provincial stakeholders to present a comprehensive account of Pakistan's progress in implementing its international commitments. The Pakistani delegation responded to observations and questions raised by members of the UN Committee, providing details of legislative developments, institutional mechanisms and policy initiatives undertaken to advance human rights across the country.

Barrister Aqeel Malik emphasized the importance of sustained institutional coordination and effective implementation of human rights commitments, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to constructive engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms. Pakistan reiterated its resolve to protect vulnerable communities, strengthen human rights institutions and advance economic, social.—**DNA**

Bread shortage threatens to plunge more Sudanese into hunger

KHARTOUM: Nearly three and a half years into Sudan's unrelenting war, soaring costs and a nosediving currency have left people like Sawsan Mahmoud struggling to afford even the most basic staple — bread. Most bakeries in the capital Khartoum have shut their doors because of surging wheat prices and fuel shortages. Mahmoud, 44, says she and her husband now spend their combined salaries on bread alone. "The situation has become unbearable," the mother of three said. "We've reduced the amount of bread we eat and now only have it with one meal a day." "We have to set aside 900,000 pounds ($88) a month to buy it. That's almost my salary and my husband's combined." The price of a loaf in Khartoum has doubled from 250 to 500 Sudanese pounds over the past week. International organizations have been sounding the alarm over the possible spread of famine, already declared in parts of the country, while around 20 million people suffer from severe food insecurity. In one of the few bakeries still operating in the capital, Abir Mohammed complained that "we used to eat bread with all our daily meals; now we can't do that." Sudan imports most of its wheat, making prices vulnerable to the deterioration of the local currency.= Over the past month, the Sudanese pound has lost about 25 percent of its value against the dollar, hitting a record low of more than 10,500 pounds to the dollar before recovering slightly to around 10,200 on Wednesday. The dollar was worth 500 Sudanese pounds in 2023, when the war broke out between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the army. 'No flour' Inside Mohammed Al-Fateh's bakery in Khartoum, workers mixed flour, water and yeast into a thick dough, which they divided into round discs and slid into the oven on long wooden paddles. Within minutes, the dough turns into the traditional flatbread that forms an essential part of Sudanese meals. "Many bakeries have closed because there is no flour in the market," Fateh said, adding: "You can spend a whole day or two at the distribution center and still come back empty-handed." In Khartoum's southern Al-Azhari neighborhood, Mutawakil Ahmed Babiker is struggling to keep his bakery afloat after the price of flour doubled. He also pointed to "power cuts that have forced us to buy fuel for the generator." "Most likely I will close the bakery," he said. "We sell a loaf of bread for 500 pounds, which is less than its cost, but I can't raise the price because of people's circumstances." Khartoum and parts of eastern Sudan are suffering widespread power outages after repeated drone attacks on power stations. Across the capital, Sudanese have returned to lining up outside public kitchens, waiting for free meals. Many of these kitchens had stopped operating when the army retook control of the capital and expelled the RSF in March 2025. The Ombada Emergency Room in Omdurman, which coordinates community kitchens in the area, has warned that "the circle of need is expanding to include thousands of families and displaced people." It cautioned of "a shortage of food supplies and soaring prices, making access to even a single daily meal a dream." Poverty rates in Sudan have soared to 80 percent, according to data from the central bureau of statistics, while inflation registered an astounding 99 percent last year. 'No fuel' Outside Khartoum, most wheat supplies arrive in the form of aid, but fuel shortages and spiralling prices, along with road closures due to the fighting, prevent deliveries. The war has divided the country into rival zones of influence: the army holds Khartoum and central and eastern Sudan, while the RSF controls the vast Darfur region in the west and parts of the south. More than 200,000 people in South Kordofan and North Darfur states are experiencing famine, according to UN-backed reports that also warn it could spread to eight cities by 2027.—**DNA**

French unions join forces for nationwide strikes

PARIS: Tens of thousands of trade union members joined nationwide strikes and demonstrations on Thursday to demand higher wages and support the high school protest movement, piling fresh pressure on the beleaguered government.

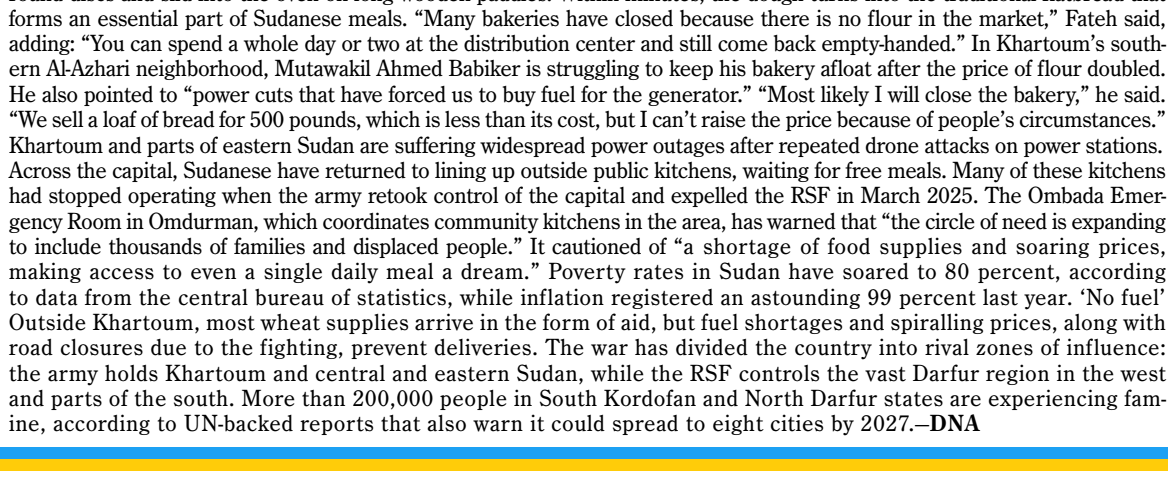
After more than a month of large, recurring protests across France, major rallies took place again in Paris, Lyon, Marseille and elsewhere, with hundreds of thousands of people expected to attend. Unions said about 260 rallies against rising living costs were planned nationwide.

Students also held fresh protests. About a third of France's high schools were closed or unable to operate, some because of student blockades and others because teachers were on strike. Public transportation was heavily disrupted. Police in the northeastern city of Strasbourg urged people to exercise extreme caution near certain schools. The Eiffel Tower was also closed. The atmosphere was joyful and relaxed despite heavy security at the capital's Place de la République, where Thursday's march was due to begin in the early afternoon. Rioters had clashed with police there during protests marred by looting on Oct. 17. Protesters carrying trade union flags gathered as hundreds of musicians played string, brass and percussion instruments, accompanied by singers. Police are prepared but violence flares again

Interior Minister Laurent Nu ez said that 70,000 police officers are being deployed, backed by armored vehicles, drones and helicopters. Police have been criticized for injuring protesters with heavy-handed tactics Many demonstrations have been marred by violence, much of it committed by masked rioters who do not support the students' or workers' demands. Authorities in the western region of Brittany said "masked individuals" tried to block roads in Rennes on Thursday. They said young people, often accompanied by adults, committed "serious acts of violence," including throwing steel balls at police. Unions aim to send a warning France's main unions warned that the country is on the brink of recession and that layoff plans are multiplying. "Fuel, food products, rent, gas, electricity ... everything's going up except wages and pensions," they said in a joint statement.—**APP**

Jam holds series of bilateral meetings with int'l delegates

The Commerce Minister also stressed the need for greater institutional and private-sector engagement to translate economic potential into practical business partnerships



ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a series of bilateral meetings with Mr. Fareed S. Alasaly, Deputy Governor for International Organizations and Agreements of Saudi Arabia; Mr. Mohamed Farid Saleh, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Egypt; and Samir Abid, Minister of Trade and Export Development of Tunisia, on the sidelines of the 42nd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, Türkiye. The meetings focused on strengthening bilateral economic relations, expanding trade and investment opportunities, promoting joint ventures and enhancing industrial cooperation in sectors of mutual interest.

During his meeting with Mr. Fareed S. Alasaly, Deputy Governor for International Organizations and Agreements of Saudi Arabia, both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in agriculture and industrial development, particularly in human resource development, livestock and food security, said a release issued here on Thursday.

Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the importance of identifying new avenues for mutually beneficial joint ventures between Pakistani and Saudi companies.

He particularly proposed partnerships between leading businesses of the two countries to explore emerging trade opportunities in African markets.

The Commerce Minister also stressed the need for greater institutional and private-sector engagement to translate economic potential into practical business partnerships. He invited the Saudi representative to visit Pakistan during the upcoming FoodAg exhibition to explore opportunities in agriculture, livestock and food-related industries.

In a separate bilateral meeting with Egypt's Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, Mr. Mohamed Farid Saleh, Jam Kamal Khan discussed opportunities to enhance bilateral trade, investment and industrial cooperation, particularly in the cotton and textile sectors.

The Egyptian Minister highlighted investment opportunities in Egypt and encouraged Pakistani companies to explore manufacturing and industrial partnerships. He drew attention to Egypt's preferential trade arrangements with the United States, which offer opportunities for Pakistani investors to establish manufacturing operations in Egypt and access the American market, subject to applicable trade requirements.

Mr. Mohamed Farid Saleh also requested details of Pakistani companies expected to participate in the upcoming business forum to facilitate direct engagement between the business communities and identify potential investment partnerships.

The Egyptian Minister further highlighted educational opportunities for Pakistani students in Egypt, particularly in science, technology, medicine, healthcare and engineering, noting the availability of educational facilities at competitive costs. Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the need to develop joint ventures between Pakistani and Egyptian private-sector companies and explore opportunities in textiles, manufacturing and other mutually beneficial sectors.

He stressed that closer business-to-business engagement and stronger institutional linkages could help both countries expand their commercial partnerships and explore new international markets.—**DNA**

CENTRELINE
Largest Diplomatic Magazine

Daily
Islamabad POST

DNA
DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2026 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

Briefs

US slaps curbs on Indian firms

Treasury said Wednesday's action targeted what it called "the vast criminal network" run by India-based Suniel Kumar Sharma, his wife Jaspreet Preeti Shahid, and two other Indian citizens who head two of the couple's businesses

WASHINGTON: The US Treasury issued fresh sanctions against companies and individuals based in India and Turkiye for their ties to Iran, warning that it would continue to go after anyone who supported the Iranian regime.
The sanctions are part of the Trump administration's "Operation Economic Outcast," which aims to cut off Iran's ability to sell oil to fund the war with the United States.
Treasury last week said its actions were decimating Iran's economy, driving the rial currency to new lows and sending domestic inflation rates to levels around 90 percent.
Treasury said Wednesday's action targeted what it called "the vast criminal network" run by India-based Suniel Kumar Sharma, his wife Jaspreet Preeti Shahid, and two other Indian citizens who head two of the couple's businesses, as well as nine separate entities connected to Sharma.
"Their schemes have provided false flags and certifications to sanctioned vessels involved in transporting Iranian petroleum, including vessels operating on behalf of the Iranian military and its proxies," the department said in a statement. The department also sanctioned Turkiye-based Fugo Group Services Inc. for its ongoing support of Iran's heavily sanctioned aviation sector. – **APP**

Jordanian security officer killed

AMMAN: A Jordanian security officer was killed and another wounded in a stabbing attack by a suspect described as a "terrorist" in the capital Amman, state news agency Petra reported on Thursday, adding that the attacker had been arrested.
Local press reported that the deadly attack took place on Medina Street - one of Amman's main thoroughfares, adding that the attacker was found with two daggers in their possession.
The victim's identity and further details surrounding the attack have not been made available. The spokesman said security authorities had launched an investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident and take the necessary measures. – **APP**

Fuel subsidy: PM directs to cancel non-compliant pumps

PM Shehbaz announced a relief scheme in September for owners of motorcycles, rickshaws and vehicles with engine capacities of up to 800cc. Under the scheme, owners of two- and three-wheeled vehicles are eligible for a subsidy of Rs100 per litre on a monthly quota of 20 litres, while owners of vehicles with engine capacities of up to 800cc are entitled to the same subsidy on a monthly quota of 30 litres



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to cancel the licences of petrol pumps that fail to facilitate registered beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Programme.
Chairing a meeting to review progress on the programme, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over its implementation and transparency, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). "Simplifying the registration and subsidy disbursement procedures has led to an increase in registrations, enabling more deserving citizens to benefit from the facility," the prime minister said. He said the technology-driven and transparent subsidy scheme would prove to be a "game changer" for similar public welfare initiatives in the future. The prime minister also appreciated Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima, Federal Secretary for Information Technology and Telecommunication Zarar Hashim Khan and their team for developing an effective monitoring and dashboard system for the programme.
The meeting was informed that 15,519,282 citizens had registered under the subsidy scheme so far, including 15.06 million motorcycle owners and 449,000 owners of vehicles with engine capacities of up to 800cc. A total of 63,153,685 fuel tokens had been issued under the scheme, of which 59,445,347 had been used, the meeting was told.
Payments amounting to Rs28.6 billion had been disbursed under the fuel subsidy scheme as of November 4, 2026, the briefing added. The meeting was also informed that separate call centres had been established for consumers and petrol pumps to provide information about the programme and address complaints. PM Shehbaz announced a relief scheme in September for owners of motorcycles, rickshaws and vehicles with engine capacities of up to 800cc. Under the scheme, owners of two- and three-wheeled vehicles are eligible for a subsidy of Rs100 per litre on a monthly quota of 20 litres, while owners of vehicles with engine capacities of up to 800cc are entitled to the same subsidy on a monthly quota of 30 litres.

Electoral reforms panel to have 2 members each from PML-N, PPP and PTI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The ruling PML-N, its coalition partner PPP and the opposition PTI will each get two seats on the proposed Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms (PCER), Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said on Thursday.
In a post on X, Chaudhry said the allocation of seats in the Senate for the committee would give two seats each to the PML-N, PPP and PTI. The Awami National Party (ANP), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), National Party and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) will each be allocated one seat, he added.
"The final decision on the names of the committee members will be made by the leader of the house (the prime minister) and the deputy prime minister after consultations with the opposition, coalition partners and relevant parliamentary leadership," Chaudhry said.
Earlier this week, the government, taking ownership of an initiative to bring all parliamentary parties, including the opposition, to the negotiating table on electoral reforms, formally approached its allies to join the proposed PCER.
It had contacted its key allies, the PPP and the MQM-P, seeking nominations for their representatives on the proposed committee. The PPP had submitted the names of its legislators for the PCER. However, the names have not yet been made public.
On Tuesday, the government formally approached the opposition to seek its representation on the proposed PCER. However, the opposition had termed the formation of the committee a "futile exercise" unless its long-standing demands were met.
Chaudhry had also contacted PTI chief whip in the National Assembly, Aamir Dogar, asking him to submit the names of opposition lawmakers for the committee.
However, Dogar had expressed reservations over the proposed composition of the committee and demanded equal representation for the government and opposition. Last week, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari urged National Assembly Opposition Leader Mehmood Khan Achakzai to use the "authority and power" delegated to him by jailed PTI founder Imran Khan to direct opposition members to participate in parliamentary committees.

Chaos hits European skies amid passenger jet bomb threats spree

SOFIA: A number of passenger jets have been rerouted after bomb threats were received on Thursday. The first report came from an Aer Lingus flight from Dublin to Rome early in the afternoon.
The flight from Ireland to Italy was diverted to a military air base in western France, the French prime minister's office said.
The flight landed safely at the base in Evreux in Normandy, Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu's office said. All 151 passengers and six crew members are safe and military bomb defusal teams are examining the plane. The prime minister's office said that it's following the situation in real time.
No other information was immediately released. Flight tracking sites showed that the Aer Lingus Dublin-Rome flight was approaching Paris when it turned sharply off its trajectory and made several loops before heading toward Evreux.
Another flight from Warsaw landed safely at Brussels Airport also after receiving a suspicious report. No additional security measures were required, the airport operator confirmed, Belgium newspaper Le Soir reported. "We have been informed of a suspicious report concerning a flight to Brussels Airport," said airport spokesperson Ihsane Chioua Lekhli. – **APP**

Govt cuts petrol price by Rs9.41 per litre, diesel by Rs5.56

Petrol will be sold at Rs352.59, high-speed diesel fixed at Rs382.25 per litre, reads notification

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday slashed the price of petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs9.41 and Rs5.56 per litre, respectively. With the latest adjustment, petrol will cost Rs352.59 per litre, while HSD will be available at Rs382.25 per litre. The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) said the revised prices would be effective for November 6.
Ogra has also begun publishing daily petroleum prices on its website to improve transparency and allow changes in international oil prices to be passed on to consumers more quickly. Amid volatility in global oil rates on the back of renewed hostilities in the Middle East, the government decided to switch to a daily fuel price review mechanism. The government had introduced a weekly fuel price review system after the conflict in the Middle East began on February 28, when Israel and the United States attacked Iran, leading Tehran to shut the Strait of Hormuz – the main route before the war for around a fifth of global energy supplies. Tensions have mounted since a fragile June truce between Tehran and Washington collapsed, reviving fears of full-scale war and disrupting energy flows through the Strait. Previously, the petroleum rates were revised fortnightly.
The federal cabinet approved changes to the petrol pricing mechanism on October 30 amid volatility caused by the US-Iran war. Under the revised formula, the import price of petrol is determined on the basis of the actual import cost of the relevant PSO cargo. If that cost is unavailable for daily pricing, the premium, incidentals and customs duty of the last available cargo are used instead.
For local refineries, the government has temporarily fixed the premium, incidentals and customs duty used in calculating the ex-refinery petrol price at their March 7, 2026 – pre-war – levels for 30 days.
The difference between the import price and the resulting ex-refinery price is to be surrendered by refineries under the petroleum levy account, with the resulting benefit passed on through a corresponding reduction in the petrol price. The government has also introduced a short-term adjustment to smooth petrol price movements, incorporating the benefit arising from a premium differential into petrol prices at a rate of $2.950 per barrel per day.

Ronaldo announces retirement

Ronaldo captained the team to their first major trophy at Euro 2016 and helped them win the 2019 and 2025 Nations Leagues. "It was not an easy decision, because there are decisions that are not made only with the head. They are also made with the heart," said Ronaldo.

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo announced his intention to retire from the Portugal national team on Thursday in a social media post, bringing to an end one of the most illustrious international careers in the history of football.
The 41-year-old said he would 'hand back the number 7 shirt' after the November international break.
Ronaldo captained the team to their first major trophy at Euro 2016 and helped them win the 2019 and 2025 Nations Leagues. "It was not an easy decision, because there are decisions that are not made only with the head. They are also made with the heart," said Ronaldo.
"If I ever made you happy, if one of my goals ever made you hug someone, forget a worry or feel proud of our country, then it was all worth it." Ronaldo thanked his family, the Portuguese people and the teammates, coaches and staff he worked with over his 23-year career with national team.
"Portugal will always be a part of me," he captioned the announcement video.
Ronaldo has made 234 appearances for Portugal and scored 146 goals. He holds the all-time record for international appearances and for international goals.

Eiffel Tower closed

PARIS: The Eiffel Tower was closed to the public Thursday as a nationwide strike disrupted a range of services including schools and trains in France, the monument's official website said.
As many as 80,000 people were expected to march from in the capital Paris, as the European Union's second largest economy battles to redress its finances ahead of presidential elections next year.

Tribal affairs minister meets Romania envoy

The meeting highlighted opportunities to promote trade and investment between Romania and all regions of Pakistan, including the Tribal Areas, and to explore Romania's potential as a gateway to wider European Union markets for Pakistani products and businesses



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mubarak Zeb Khan, Minister of State on Tribal Affairs, Government of Pakistan, held a courtesy meeting with His Excellency Dr. Dan Stoenescu, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, at the Embassy of Romania in Islamabad. The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest and opportunities to strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation between Pakistan and Romania. Discussions covered education and skills development; youth empowerment and employment opportunities; trade, investment and economic cooperation; agriculture and rural development; tourism and cultural exchange; and vocational training and technical cooperation.
Particular attention was given to potential development projects in Pakistan's merged districts, with emphasis on expanding educational opportunities, enhancing technical skills, supporting sustainable livelihoods and creating employment opportunities for young people. The meeting highlighted opportunities to promote trade and investment between Romania and all regions of Pakistan, including the Tribal Areas, and to explore Romania's potential as a gateway to wider European Union markets for Pakistani products and businesses.
The Minister expressed appreciation to His Excellency for the meeting and the opportunity to exchange views on prospects for closer cooperation between the two countries. The ruling PML-N, its coalition partner PPP and the opposition PTI will each get two seats on the proposed Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms (PCER), Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said on Thursday. In a post on X, Chaudhry said the allocation of seats in the Senate for the committee would give two seats each to the PML-N, PPP and PTI. The Awami National Party (ANP), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), National Party and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) will each be allocated one seat, he added. "The final decision on the names of the committee members will be made by the leader of the house (the prime minister) and deputy prime minister after consultations with the opposition, coalition partners and relevant parliamentary leadership," Chaudhry said.

General Practice HOSPITAL

Your Health, Our Priority – Every Step of the Way!



General Practice Hospital (GPH) is a state-of-the-art healthcare facility in the heart of Islamabad, offering international-standard medical care for individuals and families. From urgent care and specialized consultations to advanced diagnostics, surgery, and executive health packages — all services are available under one roof. Our concierge consultations, personalized care plans, and comprehensive health programs ensure a smooth and stress-free experience.

We understand that seeking medical care can be overwhelming, but you are never alone. With empathy at the heart of everything we do, we listen, guide, and support you every step of the way. In our clean, premium environment, you'll feel safe, valued, and cared for. Book your appointment today and experience healthcare with compassion.

Our Departments

General Physician Services
General Surgery
Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery
Plastic Surgery
Ear, Nose & Throat
Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle
Internal Medicine
Pediatrics & Child Health
Breast Surgery
Anaesthesiology
Pulmonology
Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation
Gynecology & Women's Health
Cardiology
Bariatric Surgery
Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Endocrinology
Psychology & Mental Health
Dermatology & Aesthetics
Urology
Pediatric Surgery
Neurosurgery
Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
Diagnostic Radiology

Our Services

Empathic & Caring for everyone

FOR APPOINTMENT +92 33 22 474 474
or Visit: Pakland Tower 2, New Blue Area, Islamabad
www.generalpractice.com.pk | generalpracticeislamabad | +92 51 6160 474 | +92 51 6161 474

Published by Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Printed at Rohani Art Press, Islamabad Ph: 051-8488394 Email: newsroomisbpost@gmail.com