LAHORE - KARACHI - ISLAMABAD

A sister publication of CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency

WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

Daily
Islamabad POST

Saturday, November 07, 2026

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 40



Defence minister says something cooking up against Punjab CM

Detailed News On Page-01

Turkish envoy keen to boost ties with Pak



Detailed News On Page-02

PPP Chairman urges govt to talk to the Opp.



Detailed News On Page-01

Couter-terrorism

Pakistan, UK agree to expand cooperation

UK state minister Jarvis praises Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the fight against terrorism

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Kingdom have agreed to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism, anti-narcotics efforts, cybercrime, immigration, coast guard operations and training programmes, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement on Friday. The understanding was reached during a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and UK Minister of State for Security Dan Jarvis at the Ministry of Interior. The two sides also held delegation-level talks.

According to the statement, UK security minister Jarvis acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the fight against terrorism and praised the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for its performance in curbing illegal immigration. "Cybercrime is an international issue, and all countries must work together to effectively address it," Jarvis said, adding that Pakistan and the UK had strong cooperation in various fields and wanted to expand it further.

The two sides also agreed to finalise a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on anti-narcotics cooperation soon. The agreement is expected to make cooperation between the UK's National Crime Agency and Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) fully operational. Naqvi said 330 cases involving drugs being smuggled to the UK had been thwarted over the past few years. The sides also agreed to convene a meeting of the working group established between the interior ministries of the two countries soon.

The security czar praised progress under the upskill project, saying it was helping build the capacity of Pakistani institutions. British High Commissioner Jane Marriott and officials from relevant Pakistani security and government institutions also attended the meeting.

Sudan interior minister meets field marshal

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening relations between the two countries, particularly in the fields of security, counterterrorism and institutional cooperation

DNA

RAWALPINDI: H.E. Lieutenant General (Police) Babiker Samra Mustafa Ali, Minister of Interior of the Republic of the Sudan, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, evolving regional and global security dynamics and avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation were discussed. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening relations between the two countries, particularly in the fields of security, counterterrorism and institutional cooperation.



RAWALPINDI: H.E. Lieutenant General (Police) Babiker Samra Mustafa Ali, Minister of Interior of the Republic of the Sudan, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces. – DNA

PM calls for promotion of cashless economy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed to ensure internet availability across the country and easy public access to technology to promote a cashless economy. He was chairing a review meeting regarding promotion of the cashless economy in Islamabad today.

The Prime Minister said promotion of a cashless economy is among the government's top priorities and positive results have started emerging.

He appreciated the ongoing efforts of the Ministry of Finance and all relevant state institutions to promote a cashless economy. Shehbaz Sharif directed the relevant authorities to present a clear roadmap, with specific timelines and targets,

Continued on Page 06

Qatar's emir, Trump discuss mediation efforts

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said in a statement carried by state media Friday that two oil tankers caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz, a day after Tehran claimed five other tankers had similar fates, media reports

NEWS DESK

DOHA: Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani spoke by phone with US President Donald Trump to discuss Qatar's mediation efforts towards a comprehensive agreement to end the regional crisis, a Qatari statement said, Reuters reports.

Iran has submitted a nuclear proposal to Washington through Qatar, a senior Iranian official told Reuters on Thursday, saying the United States was reviewing it but discussions would depend on Washington first meeting Tehran's seven demands.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said in a statement carried by state media Friday that two oil tankers caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz, a day after Tehran claimed five other tankers had similar fates, media reports. Since the outbreak of the Middle East

Continued on Page 06

Brent oil price benchmark set for biggest weekly drop

DNA

LONDON: Oil prices are set for a sharp weekly fall after the election losses of US President Donald Trump's Republican Party raise hopes of a de-escalation in the US-Israeli war on Iran and a stock market sell-off, though attacks on vessels in the Middle East continue to provide a floor to crude, Reuters reports.

In a whiplash see-saw session, Brent crude futures for January are up 26 cents, or 0.3 per cent, at $98.55 a barrel, as of 1346 GMT (6:46pm PKT). US West Texas Intermediate futures have edged up by 57 cents, or 0.6pc, to $91.09.

Briefs

EU charges TikTok

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS:European Union's (EU) tech regulators charged social media platform TikTok on Friday with breaching the bloc's online content rules, telling it to fix the so-called "rabbit hole" effect of its recommender system, which attracts users' attention to a constant stream of similar videos.

TikTok's Chinese owner ByteDance risks a fine next year of up to six per cent of its global annual turnover unless it can resolve the issue, the regulators said.

Social media companies are under pressure to modify their algorithms amid growing concerns worldwide that their platforms are contributing to a mental health crisis among children, prompting some governments to impose or consider bans for underage users.

Chinese, North Korean officials meet

BEIJING: Senior Chinese official Cai Qi on Friday told a North Korean delegation in Beijing that both sides should enhance strategic communication and coordination, and promote regional peace, stability and development, Chinese state media reported.

China is willing to work with North Korea to "implement the important consensus" reached by both sides' top leaders, carry forward traditional friendship and strengthen mutual learning on party governance, Cai told Kim Song Nam, director of the International Affairs Department of the Workers' Party of Korea, which manages party-to-party ties with China's ruling Communist Party.

The North Korean delegation's China trip came on the heels of a key Chinese Communist Party conclave on tightening internal party discipline, and followed a visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to the Chinese border city of Dandong in late October.

Turkish parliament ratifies Makkah defence agreement

Trilateral pact contains no approach against any country and aimed at preventing conflicts, says Turkish lawmaker

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Turkiye's parliament has ratified the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, a collective security pact between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, clearing the way for Ankara to send military support to Riyadh amid attacks by Houthis against the kingdom.

Under the agreement, signed by the three regional powers in August and sent to parliament's approval last month, an attack on one party constitutes an attack on all. A ruling party lawmaker told Reuters last month that Turkiye would also submit to parliament a mandate allowing for military personnel to be deployed to Saudi Arabia under the pact.

During the debate in parliament, ruling Justice and Development Party lawmaker Ziya Altunyaldiz stressed that the agreement aims to expand security cooperation in the region, state-run Anadolu reported. He emphasised that it contains no approach against any third

Continued on Page 06

'Makkah Defence Alliance secretary general to assume duties in Riyadh soon'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Friday said that the secretary general of the Makkah Defence Alliance, Lieutenant General (retd) Nauman Mahmood, is expected to assume his responsibilities in Riyadh soon. Mahmood was appointed as the first secretary general of the alliance between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye on Sep 23. Speaking at the FO's weekly press briefing, Spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan also touched upon the crisis in the Gulf, saying that

Continued on Page 06

Kh Asif smells change in Punjab

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has claimed that Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain's recent corruption allegations against the Punjab government are part of efforts to set the ground for an "alternative arrangement".

His remarks came during TV show, when he was asked about his earlier statement, wherein he had suggested that Salik's allegations could be "part of some future political agenda — to target Maryam Nawaz's government and carve out space for himself in Punjab and at

Continued on Page 06

Bilawal urges govt to engage in dialogue with opponents

PPP chairman calls for PTI's inclusion in parliamentary electoral reforms committee

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday urged the federal government to engage all stakeholders and set aside political differences, saying economic hardships required collective attention.

"The people of Pakistan are finding it difficult to live economically," Bilawal said while addressing a groundbreaking ceremony for a 600-bed hospital in Larkana. He said the government's priority should be addressing the difficulties faced by the public rather than engaging in political confrontations. "Every country's first responsibility is to look after its people," he said, adding that the biggest challenge was to protect the public from economic hardships.

Continued on Page 06

Reports about Imran Khan's health not encouraging: Gohar

PTI chairman urges Supreme Court to ensure treatment for incarcerated former premier

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Friday expressed concern over reports about incarcerated party founder Imran Khan's health, saying the information emerging about the former prime minister's condition was not encouraging.

Speaking to reporters outside Parliament House in Islamabad, Gohar said the entire nation was concerned about Imran's health and stressed that there should be no compromise on his medical treatment. "The reports concerning the PTI founder's health are not encouraging, and the entire nation is worried," he said. The PTI chairman said lawyer Salman Safdar had managed to meet Imran and received certain instructions concerning his health and pending legal cases.

Gohar said the party had approached the Supreme Court seeking implementation of its August 18 order concerning the former prime minister's medical treatment. The court had directed that Imran be shifted for treatment and that a medical board be constituted to assess his condition, the PTI chairman said. He said an application had been submitted requesting the apex court to fix the matter for an early hearing. "Decisions should be taken regarding the PTI founder's transfer to hospital and medical treatment," Gohar said.

The PTI chairman also called for an end to political tensions in the country, saying the situation should not be allowed to deteriorate further. He demanded an end to the detention of lawmakers, party workers and supporters.

Gohar further expressed concern over the detention of Imran's sisters, saying the party had yet to receive information about their condition, and demanded their immediate release. Gohar's remarks come amid uncertainty surrounding Imran's health following alarming statements circulated on social media by his sister Rubina Khan and son Kasim Khan. According to The News, Rubina, in a statement shared by Kasim, said the former prime minister had conveyed that his blood pressure had suddenly risen to 192, raising concerns about his safety in prison.

She demanded that Imran be immediately admitted to an independent medical facility in the presence of his personal doctor. Kasim also expressed concern over his father's prolonged isolation, warning of serious consequences for his health. However, the source of the information shared by Imran's family remains unclear. Safdar, who met Imran and his wife Bushra Bibi at Adiala Jail on November 2,

Continued on Page 06



Islamabad POST
Saturday November 07 , 2026

Envoy for Pak-Türkiye ties into tangible eco benefits

ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia stressed that improved connectivity, infrastructure development and industrial collaboration were essential to unlocking the full potential of Pakistan-Türkiye economic relations

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, Dr. rfan Neziro lu, has called for transforming the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan and Türkiye into a stronger economic partnership through enhanced trade, investment, joint ventures and industrial cooperation, saying that both countries have tremendous potential to cooperate. He expressed these views during a meeting with President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia, at his residence, where he visited to offer condolences on the demise of his father and pray for the elevation of the departed soul's status in the hereafter. The Ambassador said that Pakistan and Türkiye enjoy excellent relations, particularly in defence and military cooperation, but there was a need to substantially expand their commercial and investment ties to translate their historic friendship into tangible economic benefits. Referring to the close brotherly relations among Pakistan and Türkiye , he emphasized that our countries should benefit from one another's expertise, promote joint ventures and develop collaborative arrangements to access wider markets in both countries. Describing Pakistan and Türkiye as attractive destinations for investment, Dr. Neziro lu said that businesses in both countries should explore new avenues of cooperation, including infrastructure and development projects. He proposed sector-specific visits between Pakistani and Turkish businessmen, to establish direct business linkages. He assured that the Turkish Embassy is ready to facilitate such engagements and stressed the importance of regular interaction between the Embassy and ICCI leadership, supported by joint awareness programmes to familiarize the business communities with investment opportunities and avenues of bilateral cooperation. Speaking on the occasion, ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia stressed that improved connectivity, infrastructure development and industrial collaboration were essential to unlocking the full potential of Pakistan-Türkiye economic relations. He highlighted the importance of rail link between the two countries, saying that it could significantly facilitate bilateral trade and provide businesses with an efficient corridor for onward transportation of goods to other regional and international markets. The ICCI President sought Türkiye's technical cooperation in waste recycling and waste-to-energy projects, emphasizing that modern recycling technologies could help Pakistan produce affordable energy while addressing growing environmental and waste-management challenges. Commercial Counsellor Enes Malik Cetin shared his views on the existing bilateral relationship and its future prospects, highlighting the potential for greater engagement between the business communities of the two countries. ICCI Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan Swati, senior ICCI member Mazhar Hussain Thathal and Liaqat Ali Thathal also highlighted potential areas of trade and investment, emphasizing the importance of stronger business-to-business contacts and institutional cooperation to expand bilateral economic engagement.

APHC leader urges remembrance of Jammu martyrs

ISLAMABAD: Former Information Secretary of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Mushtaq Ahmad Butt on Friday, paid tribute to the martyrs of Jammu, calling for their sacrifices to be remembered by future generations.
In a statement issued here on the occasion of Jammu Martyrs' Day, he said the tragedy of 1947 was an unforgettable chapter in the history of the Kashmiri people. He said the sacrifices and suffering of the martyrs should never be forgotten and their story must continue to be remembered.
Mushtaq Ahmad Butt reaffirmed the commitment to honour the martyrs and continue the mission for which they had laid down their lives. He said remembering the martyrs and preserving their legacy was a responsibility of every generation.—**APP**

NCCIA recruitment tests enter third day at F-9 Park

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) continued physical recruitment tests at F-9 Park Islamabad for the third consecutive day on Friday, with drones and Safe City cameras being used to monitor the process and ensure transparency.
According to an NCCIA spokesperson, candidates appearing for various posts were undergoing physical fitness tests involving different stages to assess their physical abilities. She said a medical camp had also been established at the testing centre to facilitate candidates, with medical staff available for on-the-spot examinations, first aid and emergency assistance.
Senior NCCIA officers remained present at the venue to review arrangements and ensure the smooth conduct of the recruitment process. All stages of the physical tests were being monitored through drones and Safe City surveillance cameras to maintain transparency and proper supervision.—**APP**

FIA seizes large consignment of fake branded products

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested two suspects and seized a large quantity of counterfeit branded products during operations in Lahore.
According to an FIA spokesperson, the agency's Corporate Crime Circle conducted a raid in Shah Alam Market, Lahore, and busted a factory involved in manufacturing counterfeit products. The arrested suspects, identified as Nabeel Ayub and Zeeshan, were allegedly manufacturing and selling fake products bearing the brand name of a well-known registered company without its authorisation. The FIA seized a large quantity of counterfeit products during the operation. The suspects were also found involved in violations of the Copyright Act, the spokesperson added.—**APP**

Climate disasters deepen Pak's eco vulnerabilities: Musadik

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik said on Friday that climate disasters, technological disruption and an increasingly unequal global economic order are converging to deepen Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities, warning that their combined impact could reverse decades of progress made by vulnerable communities. Addressing a keynote session at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi University Campus, the minister argued that Pakistan's economic difficulties could not be understood solely through domestic policy failures, as global commodity cycles, interest rates, geopolitical conflicts and technological changes also shaped the country's economic prospects. But it was the human cost of climate disasters that formed one of the central themes of his address. Referring to flood-hit communities in Gilgit-Baltistan, Dr Musadik Malik said some families had taken three generations to escape poverty, only to lose their homes, livestock, schools, clinics and other assets in a single devastating flood. He described how communities that had gradually built their livelihoods were pushed back into poverty after floods destroyed the foundations of their economic security. Recalling the experiences of farmers in Sindh and along the Sindh-Balochistan border, he said some families had returned to their land after repeated floods, driven by their attachment to their ancestral homes, but were eventually forced to abandon farming after successive losses. The minister also highlighted the dangers faced by workers in Jacobabad, where extreme temperatures had made outdoor and industrial labour particularly hazardous.—**APP**

Governor highlights higher edu reforms

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has said that providing employment opportunities to the province's youth remains Balochistan's greatest challenge and stressed the need to modernise agriculture and other economic sectors to address the issue effectively. He emphasized that young people should be equipped not merely to seek government jobs but to become capable of creating employment opportunities for others. The governor expressed these views while addressing the orientation and White Coat Ceremony organized by the Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS), Quetta, in honour of newly enrolled students. The event was attended by Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Vice Chancellor Dr Shabir Lehri, faculty members, students and other distinguished guests. During the ceremony, laptops were distributed among female students under the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Programme, while the governor also inaugurated a modern digital e-library at the university.
Describing the facility as a significant achievement, he said access to digital resources would help broaden students' intellectual horizons, strengthen research activities and promote the dissemination of knowledge. Jaffar Mandokhail noted that every era has its own requirements and challenges. While academic degrees were once the primary yardstick of success, he said the modern world increasingly values practical skills and professional competencies. He urged students to focus on skill development, adding that those completing professional and technical courses would enjoy better employment prospects both within Pakistan and abroad. The governor said efforts were underway to create scholarship opportunities for Balochistan's youth in countries such as Japan and China. He also commended the provincial government and Education Minister Raheela Durrani for supporting public-sector universities and addressing financial and administrative challenges confronting higher education institutions.—**APP**

PRCS, Turkish Red Crescent Society distribute food packages

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), organized a food assistance distribution in Peshawar, providing essential food packages to 70 families affected by the tragic Dir Colony School incident in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Each 54 Kg food package comprised essential household food items, including wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, red lentils, mung beans, chickpeas, sugar, tea and salt, to help address the basic food and nutritional needs of the affected families.
This initiative aimed to support families affected by the tragic incident at Dir Colony School in Peshawar, where several school children and teachers lost their lives, while many people sustained injuries.
Speaking on the occasion, Secretary General PRCS, Mr Muhammad Abaid Ullah Khan, said, PRCS stands in solidarity with the families affected by the tragic Dir Colony School incident. The loss of innocent children and teachers is deeply distressing, and we recognise the immense challenges faced by the affected families. Through this initiative, PRCS has extended food assistance to 70 families to support their immediate needs. I sincerely appreciate the valuable collaboration of the Turkish Red Crescent Society and acknowledge the continued guidance and leadership of Chairperson PRCS, Mrs Farzhana Naek, for strengthening the Society's humanitarian response and commitment to serving vulnerable communities.
Mr Kaan Saner, Head of Delegation, Turkish Red Crescent Society in Pakistan, stated,The Turkish Red Crescent Society remains committed to supporting communities affected by humanitarian emergencies and difficult circumstances. Our collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society reflects the longstanding spirit of friendship, solidarity and humanitarian cooperation between our two National Societies. We hope that this food assistance will provide some relief to the 70 affected families as they navigate these challenging circumstances.—**DNA**



Nehal lauds varsities' academic progress

SUKKUR: Governor Sindh and Chancellor of Public Sector Universities, Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi chaired a high level meeting at Governor House, Karachi. The meeting was attended by Chairman Sindh Higher Education Commission Prof Dr S. M. Tariq Rafi, Vice Chancellors of public and private universities and senior officials of higher education.
Vice Chancellor (VC), Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU), Khairpur also participated.
According to release issued by SALU here on Thursday, the Vice Chancellors briefed the Governor on academic and institutional progress, initiatives for educational and financial improvement and challenges faced by universities.
The meeting discussed strengthening academic standards, improving institutional performance, promoting research and innovation, and future priorities for sustainable development of universities in Sindh. Governor Sindh appreciated the efforts of universities for academic advancement and assured his support in addressing genuine concerns. The meeting also discussed commemorating Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah through academic, educational and cultural activities in universities to engage youth with the vision and principles of the Founder of Pakistan.
The meeting was held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere and concluded.

Weekly inflation increases 0.29pc

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI)-based weekly inflation increased by 0.29 percent during the week ended on November 05, 2026, for the combined consumption group, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported here on Friday.
According to PBS data, the SPI for the week under review increased to 374.61 points from 373.51 points recorded in the previous week. On a year-on-year basis, the SPI increased by 12.31 percent. The weekly SPI, with base year 2015-16=100, covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.
The SPI for the lowest consumption group (up to Rs 17,732) increased by 0.86 percent to 361.00 points from 357.92 points.
Likewise, the SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,733–22,888, Rs 22,889–29,517, Rs 29,518–44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 0.70 percent, 0.52 percent, 0.40 percent and 0.10 percent respectively During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 items (41.18 percent) increased, 10 items (19.60 percent) decreased, while 20 items (39.22 percent) remained unchanged.—**APP**

NCCIA busts illegal call centers, arrests 12

LAHORE: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Lahore Zone on Friday raided two illegal call centers involved in international telecom fraud, arresting 12 suspects, including two women, and confiscating 28 digital devices.
According to a spokesperson, the operations were executed at 'Solution Hub' in Batapur and 'Task Taker' in Punjab Housing Society following search warrants issued by a competent court on credible intelligence.
Preliminary investigations revealed that the illegal establishments were defrauding foreign nationals in Canada, the United States, and other countries through deceptive offers of mobile phone upgrades, network packages, and SIM deals.
The suspects allegedly impersonated customer service representatives of international telecommunication companies, including Rogers, Bell, Telus, and AT&T, to harvest financial credentials and execute carding fraud.
During the first raid, Arsala Tahir alongside six male accomplices—Muhammad Sameer Tahir, Hussain Rizwan, Abdul Rehman, Umar Khalid, Syed Ali Murtaza, and Sohaib Ali—were apprehended. In the second action, Ayesha Muzammil and four men—Moazzam Sultan, Zain Ashraf, Zain, and Muhammad Faisal—were taken into custody.
Enforcement teams seized 13 laptops, two desktop computers, and 13 mobile phones containing automated dial-up software and foreign contact databases. The digital devices were sent for forensic analysis.
Cases were registered and further investigations were underway.
NCCIA Additional Director Atif Ameer affirmed that crackdowns against illegal call centers and financial data abuse will continue across the region.—**APP**

27 bottled water brands found unsafe for consumption

ISLAMABAD, Nov 06 (APP):Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has declared 27 commercially available bottled/mineral water brands unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological and chemical contamination during the third quarter (July-September) of 2026.
Under the government's directives, PCRWR conducted quarterly monitoring of commercially available bottled water brands and collected 223 samples from 20 major cities across the country to assess their compliance with the quality standards set by the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA).
According to the test results, three brands, Aab-e-Haram, AB-Blue Water and HR Water Healthy Life – were found to contain excessive sodium levels ranging from 94 to 164 parts per million (ppm), against the permissible limit of 50 ppm.
Aab-e-Haram was also found to have a higher total dissolved solids (TDS) level of 680 ppm, exceeding the prescribed limit of 500 ppm, while Fresh Smart Pure Water contained potassium at 20 ppm, double the permissible limit of 10 ppm.
Similarly, two brands–Akwafine Bottled Drinking Water and Premium Safa Purified Water – were found to contain excessive arsenic levels ranging from 13.5 to 23.2 parts per billion (ppb), against the permissible limit of 10 ppb.
The report further revealed that 22 brands were contaminated with bacteria, making them unsafe for drinking purposes. These included Aab-e-Haram, Douro, Aab-e-Makuran, Water Verse Purified, Jel Bottled Drinking Water, Sip Bottled Drinking Water, Safi Bottled Drinking Water, Pure Aqua Tech Bottled Drinking Water, Aqua Grain Bottled Drinking Water, Water Time Bottled Drinking Water, Al Saha Drinking Water, Aab-e-Hayat, K&S Aqua Sea, JERS Safe Life, Athar Premium, Aqua Dor, HHG Sweets and Bakers, Drinkly, One Flow Bottled Drinking Water, Zalmi Pure Mineral Water, New A2Z Bottled Water and Aqua Indus.
PCRWR has urged consumers to consult the detailed quarterly report before purchasing or consuming bottled water brands to make informed decisions and safeguard their health.
The complete report is available on the PCRWR website at www.pcrwr.gov.pk.—**APP**



Islamabad POST
METROLITE
Saturday November 07 , 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



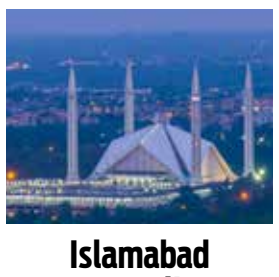
Hospitals

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's growing cleanliness crisis: A capital losing its shine

A walk through many streets of the G sectors reveals a worrying picture. Garbage remains uncollected for days, overflowing waste bins are becoming a common sight, and shopping bags, plastic bottles, and other litter are scattered along roadsides and green areas. Residents complain that sanitation workers rarely visit some localities, forcing people to live amid growing piles of waste

Staff Report

Islamabad was once celebrated as one of the cleanest and most organized capitals in the region. Its wide roads, green belts, orderly sectors, and scenic surroundings made it a model city. Today, however, residents of several G sectors are witnessing a disturbing decline in cleanliness standards, raising serious questions about the effectiveness of the city's sanitation management. A walk through many streets of the G sectors reveals a worrying picture. Garbage remains uncollected for days, overflowing waste bins are becoming a common sight, and shopping bags, plastic bottles, and other litter are scattered along roadsides and green areas. Residents complain that sanitation workers rarely visit some localities, forcing people to live amid growing piles of waste. The situation is particularly concerning in residential streets where garbage accumulates near homes, creating unpleasant odors and potential health hazards. The Capital Development Authority (CDA) had outsourced parts of its cleaning and sanitation services with the promise of improved efficiency and better service delivery. The objective was to modernize waste management and maintain the capital's reputation as a clean city. Unfortunately, many residents argue that the results have been disappointing. Instead of improvement, the quality of cleanliness appears to have deteriorated in several sectors. Questions are being raised about monitoring mechanisms, accountability of contractors, and whether performance standards are being properly enforced.

At the same time, policymakers seem increasingly focused on large-scale urban development projects. Discussions about commercial expansion, high-rise buildings, and land management continue to dominate official agendas. Significant efforts are also being directed towards anti-encroachment operations and vacating state land across Islamabad. While these initiatives may have their own importance, citizens argue that the authorities must not overlook basic municipal services. Cleanliness, waste management, and public hygiene are fundamental responsibilities of any city administration and deserve equal attention.

The sanitation issue is only one part of a larger urban management challenge. Islamabad is also witnessing growing traffic congestion, a problem that seemed unimaginable a decade ago. Major intersections experience long delays, especially during peak hours. Faulty or poorly synchronized traffic signals frequently add to commuters' frustration. The increasing number of vehicles, combined with inadequate traffic management, is steadily eroding the city's reputation for smooth and orderly movement. Urban experts often point out that a modern capital is judged not only by its skyscrapers and infrastructure projects but also by the quality of everyday services available to its residents. Clean streets, efficient waste collection, functional traffic systems, and responsive civic administration are what truly define a livable city.

Islamabad still has the potential to reverse the decline. Stronger oversight of outsourced sanitation contracts, regular waste collection schedules, stricter monitoring, and prompt responses to citizens' complaints could significantly improve the situation. Likewise, upgrading traffic management systems and ensuring the functionality of road signals would ease daily hardships for thousands of commuters.

The capital's beauty has long been one of Pakistan's greatest assets. Allowing litter to accumulate and civic services to deteriorate risks undermining that legacy. If urgent corrective measures are not taken, Islamabad may soon lose its standing as a model city and increasingly resemble the very urban chaos it was designed to avoid.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal visiting the Nepali's stall on the first day of Pakistan Tourism, Sports & Family Festival 2026 at Jinnah Sport Complex.

Tourism & Sports Festival opens in Islamabad

The festival also attracted ambassadors of various countries, their families, diplomatic staff and foreign tourists, who visited the colourful event

ISLAMABAD: The second Pakistan Tourism, Sports and Family Festival commenced at the Islamabad Sport Complex on Friday, attracting visitors with a variety of cultural, recreational and adventure activities.

The festival's opening day featured paragliding, paramotoring, hot air ballooning, horse riding and a heavy bike show which remained among the major attractions for visitors.

Managing Director Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana was also present on the occasion. Cultural stalls representing all provinces of Pakistan showcased the country's diverse heritage, traditions, lifestyles, traditional cuisine and handicrafts. Stalls featuring local food, popular snacks and handmade cultural products attracted considerable attention.

Women artisans also displayed their traditional crafts, highlighting their contribution to preserving Pakistan's cultural heritage and skills passed down through generations.

The festival also attracted ambassadors of various countries, their families, diplomatic staff and foreign tourists, who visited the colourful event.

Speaking to the media, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan had immense tourism potential, adding that the hospitality of its people was a distinguishing feature of the country.

He said the government was committed to promoting tourism and stressed the need for an effective strategy to fully utilise the country's natural beauty and tourism resources.

He also emphasised better coordination among relevant stakeholders to promote tourism and sports.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan highlighted the importance of tourism promotion, cultural diplomacy and regional connectivity. He said effective initiatives were needed to showcase Pakistan's cultural heritage, natural beauty and tourism and investment opportunities at the international level. Such efforts would help promote international tourism, strengthen commercial ties and foster people-to-people contacts, he added. – **APP**

PWW 2026 concludes with landmark calls for water policy

ISLAMABAD: The sixth Pakistan Water Week (PWW 2026) has concluded here, with a clear message to stakeholders, development partners and the international community: the time for generating knowledge about Pakistan's water challenges must give way to measurable, accountable and coordinated action. Held under the theme "Commitments to Action: Advancing Water Security and Climate-Resilient Food Systems in Pakistan", the conference brought together around 350 in-person and over 800 online participants, including federal and provincial officials, researchers, development finance institutions, civil society organisations and international experts, across 26 sessions. It was organised by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the CGIAR Policy Innovations Science Program, in collaboration with Pakistani government institutions and development partners including UNICEF, ACIAR, ICIMOD, EU and FAO, said a press release issued here on Friday.

Chief Guest at the closing ceremony, Federal Minister for Water Resources Mian Muhammad Mueen Wattoo, said the Government of Pakistan is committed to pursuing water security through lawful, peaceful and evidence-based means. He appreciated IWMI and its partners for convening a platform that moves beyond diagnosis, and called on the organising institutions to turn the conference recommendations into practical programmes with clear indicators. He outlined four implementation priorities: explicit responsibility for putting water policy into practice, judging water infrastructure by its performance, linking water investment to agricultural productivity, and protecting water quality while managing surface water and groundwater together. He also committed to measuring progress over the coming year against water service reliability, farmer benefits and community protection. Presenting the synthesis of Thematic Area 1, "Policy to Practice", Johan Gély of IWMI said Pakistan already has the policy architecture it needs, but lacks the institutional mechanisms, accountability structures and evidence-integration systems to deliver on it. He called for a shift from fragmented initiatives to coordinated governance, from evidence generation to evidence-informed decisions, and from reactive spending to preventive investment. Priorities included a legal framework for groundwater governance, updated hydrological assessments and design standards, greater use of nature-based solutions, and structured roles for young people in water governance, including a proposed youth innovator prize. Dr. Claudia Ringler of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)—presenting the synthesis for Thematic Area 2, "Innovation to Impact" stressed that innovation without inclusion falls short of true impact, emphasizing that solutions must be designed with and for women, smallholder farmers, and marginalized communities.—**DNA**

SP visits ailing constable at PIMS

ISLAMABAD: Superintendent of Police (SP) Prime Minister's House/Office Khan Muhammad Hasbani visited the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) to inquire after the health of Constable Muhammad Sadiq, who is undergoing treatment at the hospital's Cardiology Department. An Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police official told APP on Friday that the SP met the ailing constable, inquired about his health and wished him a speedy recovery. He said departmental financial assistance was also provided to Constable Muhammad Sadiq to help meet his medical treatment expenses.—**APP**

IIUI, Turkmenistan inching closer to extend coop in Arabic language

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) and Turkmenistan have made progress in extending cooperation in higher education studies of different disciplines related to religion and Arabic language. In this regard, His Excellency Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan have recently called on Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, President and Acting Rector of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI). They were accompanied by a high-powered delegation from the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Mr. Atamyrat Saparmyradov, Specialist at the Office of the Mufti of Turkmenistan, also attended the meeting. The visiting dignitaries expressed their keen desire to enter into cooperation with IIUI in the fields of Usul-ud-Din, Shariah and Arabic. They acknowledged IIUI as the prime institution of Pakistan offering advanced-level research and study in these disciplines.

Warmly welcoming the guests, the worthy President offered the people of Turkmenistan the opportunity to benefit from IIUI's academic strength and promote education through the university's programmes. He assured the delegation of the university's full support in building academic partnerships that would enable Turkmen students and scholars to pursue higher studies and research at IIUI. Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, an internationally acknowledged academician, a Hafiz-e-Quran and a prayer leader, took keen interest in the proposal put forward by the Turkmen Ambassador and the former Mufti. The two sides discussed all its details thoroughly. Later, the delegation attended a presentation by Maj. Gen. (R) Dr. Ghulam Qamar, Director General of Religious Education. The Turkmen Ambassador and the former Mufti thanked the worthy President for his generosity and for the university's openness to the Turkmen people, and expressed hope that the cooperation would further strengthen educational and religious ties between the two brotherly countries.—**APP**

Muqam pays tribute to Jammu and Kashmir martyrs

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam on Friday paid tribute to the martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir, saying their sacrifices for the right to self-determination would always be remembered. In a message issued here on Jammu and Kashmir Martyrs' Day, the minister said the day was a reminder of the sacrifices made by Kashmiris for their love for Pakistan and their struggle for freedom. He said the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs constituted an unforgettable chapter in the history of the Kashmiri people and served as a guiding light for future generations. Amir Muqam said the Pakistani nation would always remember the sacrifices of the martyrs, who had rendered unparalleled sacrifices for their right to self-determination. He reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue its political, moral and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people._**APP**



Briefs

PM's Hepatitis Programme screens 900 employees

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Programme for Elimination of Hepatitis C has conducted a two-day screening camp at the Prime Minister's House, screening around 900 employees from senior officers to staff members at all levels. A dedicated medical team also visited the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) office at the Prime Minister's Office and screened its entire staff.

The initiative was widely appreciated, reflecting the importance of institutional participation in the national campaign to eliminate Hepatitis C and ensure timely diagnosis and treatment.

The screening activity aimed to promote awareness about the disease and encourage individuals to undergo testing, as early detection is essential for preventing complications and reducing its transmission.

According to an official of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, institutional-level screening initiatives were an important component of the national effort to achieve a Hepatitis C-free Pakistan.

The programme aims to expand screening opportunities and facilitate access to diagnosis and treatment, particularly for people who may otherwise remain unaware of their infection, he added. The ministry emphasized that collective efforts by government institutions, healthcare providers and the public were essential to achieving the national target of eliminating Hepatitis C.–**APP**

IRSA releases 102,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 102,900 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 48,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1500.65 feet, which was 98.65 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 26,600 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1192.30 feet, which was 142.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 5,200 cusecs and 30,900 cusecs, respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu, and Sukkur was recorded as 66,000, 50,100, 34,800, and 11,500 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 2,700 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.–**APP**

AI Geo Navigators showcases climate-tech

ISLAMABAD: AI Geo Navigators participated in the 4th Sustainability Investment Expo (SIE 2026), held alongside the 29th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC). The event was organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) from November 2 to 5 at AIOU, Islamabad. The participation provided AI Geo Navigators with an opportunity to showcase its technology-driven solutions, connect with professionals from various sectors, and engage in discussions on climate innovation, sustainability, and the role of technology in addressing development challenges, according to a press release issued here on Friday. Throughout the four-day event, AI Geo Navigators showcased its work in AI-powered geospatial intelligence, climate risk management, localized weather forecasting, and sustainability solutions. The team also interacted with industry professionals, local stakeholders, academic representatives, and other participants, exchanging ideas and exploring potential areas for collaboration. Building on its participation in the 28th Sustainable Development Conference in 2025, AI Geo Navigators' return to this year's event further strengthened its engagement with the climate and sustainability community while creating opportunities to establish new professional connections. Through its participation, AI Geo Navigators highlighted the potential of AI, Remote Sensing (GIS), and geospatial intelligence to support informed decision-making.–**APP**

Pak & Turkiye set to revive landmark offshore exploration

Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik emphasized that the government was fully committed to facilitating the offshore exploration initiative and ensuring all necessary arrangements for the successful commencement of operations

DNA



ISLAMABAD : Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik chaired a high-level meeting to review preparations and arrangements for the arrival of the seismic vessel of Turkish Petroleum Offshore Company (TPOC) in Pakistan. The vessel is expected to arrive in Karachi between November 17-20, 2026 marking the revival of Pakistan's offshore exploration efforts after nearly two decades.

The Minister described the occasion as a special milestone in Pakistan-Türkiye relations, particularly following the signing of the Mecca Agreement. He said the arrival of the vessel represented a new chapter in the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

This is a special moment for Pakistan-Türkiye friendship. I will try to personally receive the vessel upon its arrival in Karachi," the Federal Minister said.

Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik emphasized that the government was fully committed to facilitating the offshore exploration initiative and ensuring all necessary arrangements for the successful commencement of operations. He assured the Turkish delegation of Pakistan's full support, stating that both countries would work together to achieve a landmark success that would be remembered for generations to come. Secretary Petroleum also expressed enthusiasm over the upcoming arrival, saying that the Petroleum Division was eagerly looking forward to welcoming the vessel to Pakistan. He underscored the importance of coordination among all relevant departments and stakeholders to ensure smooth arrangements.

Project Manager TPOC appreciated the support and cooperation extended by Pakistan, expressing confidence in the project. He said that the team had received encouraging support from Pakistani authorities and hoped for a successful outcome from the exploration effort.

The meeting reviewed operational, logistical, maritime, security and interdepartmental arrangements for the vessel's arrival and commencement of the offshore exploration campaign to build Pakistan's energy security. Relevant departments were directed to maintain close coordination to ensure timely facilitation.

The meeting was attended by the Project Manager TPOC, Secretary Petroleum, Additional Secretary Petroleum, Director General Petroleum Concessions, Managing Directors of OGDCL, PPL and GHPL, and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Hydrographic Office Pakistan (NAVAREA IX), Karachi, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Board of Investment, and Directorate General Ports and Shipping, Karachi. The arrival of the Turkish seismic vessel marks an important step towards revitalizing Pakistan's offshore exploration activities and strengthening bilateral energy cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye.

Mohsin reviews Margalla Road extension, Sangjhani interchange projects

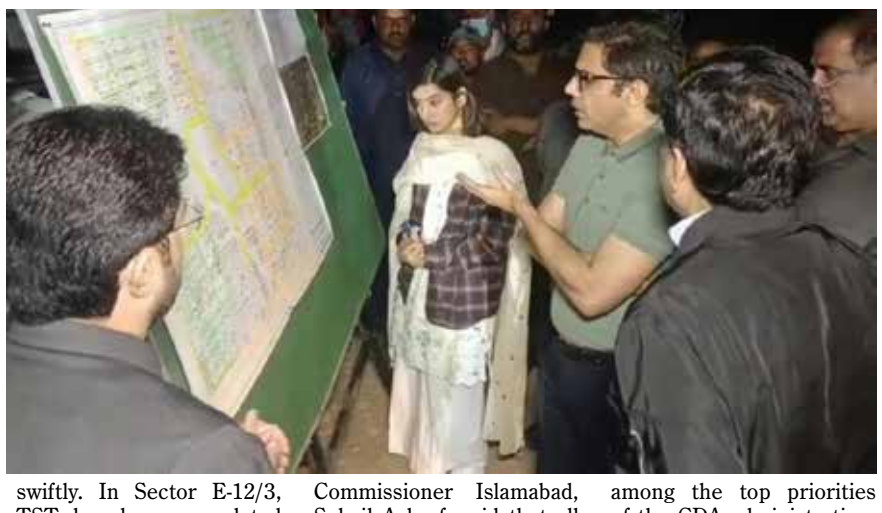
ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday visited the Margalla Road Extension and Sangjhani Interchange projects in Islamabad to review construction progress, with 35 per cent of the development work completed so far. He directed the authorities to further accelerate the pace of work to ensure timely completion. During the visit, the interior minister reviewed the ongoing construction activities and received a briefing on the progress of the projects. Mohsin Naqvi said the project would connect Margalla Road with the motorway and provide an alternative route for people travelling to and from Islamabad. He said the completion of the project would make access to Islamabad easier for people coming from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It would also facilitate commuters travelling to Islamabad International Airport. The minister said residents of the relevant sectors of Islamabad and people travelling from GT Road would also have easier access to the federal capital through the new route. He said special attention was being given to tree plantation and environmental protection as part of the project. Thousands of new trees were being planted, while green areas were also being improved. The interior minister directed the concerned authorities to speed up construction work further. During the briefing, officials informed the minister that 35 per cent of the development work had been completed. They said the project included one underpass and one interchange, which would form part of the road network connecting Margalla Road with the motorway. CDA Chairman, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad and other concerned officials were also present during the visit.–**DNA**

Environmental awareness campaign reaches schools

ISLAMABAD: An environmental awareness campaign initiated in Islamabad's Margalla Hills National Park has reached schools and colleges in Narowal district, highlighting the role of students and local communities in addressing plastic pollution, improving waste management and protecting the environment. Environmental volunteer Mansoor Sherwani, who has been engaged in voluntary environmental activities in Margalla Hills National Park for the past five years, recently visited educational institutions in Baddomalhi, where he conducted awareness sessions for around 2,000 students, according to information shared by the volunteer with APP. The sessions focused on environmental protection, cleanliness, the harmful effects of plastic, and the importance of proper waste disposal. Students were encouraged to keep their homes, educational institutions and neighbourhoods clean and to spread environmental awareness among their families and communities. Sherwani said environmental protection was not solely the responsibility of the government or public institutions but required individual and collective efforts from citizens. He said the initiative was aimed at extending the environmental awareness work undertaken in Islamabad to other parts of the country, encouraging young people to become active participants in protecting their surroundings. The educational institutions identified as part of the campaign included Government Girls High School Darbar Sharif, Government Islamia High School, Government Muslim High School, Dar-e-Arqam School Ali Campus, Victorious College and The Savvy School Allama Iqbal Campus. The outreach in Badomalhi is part of Sherwani's broader effort to promote a cleaner, greener and plastic-free Pakistan through community engagement, educational activities and door-to-door awareness campaigns.= He said his experience of working in Margalla Hills National Park had encouraged him to take the message of environmental protection beyond Islamabad and engage students and residents in other cities. During his visit, Sherwani also met Baddomalhi Chairman Chaudhry Amjad Gujjar to discuss sanitation, environmental protection and other public issues concerning the town. He presented suggestions and highlighted issues requiring attention, while the chairman assured him that steps would be taken to address the matters discussed and that relevant teams would be directed to work on their resolution. Sherwani appreciated the chairman's cooperation and expressed hope that continued coordination between citizens and local authorities would help improve sanitation.–**DNA**

CDA retrieves 1,135 kanals of govt land in sector E-12

DNA



ISLAMABAD: After the retrieval of 1135 kanals of Government land in Sector E-12 that had been pending for four decades, full-scale work on the sector's development is underway. Overall, more than 60 percent of the development work in Sector E-12 has been completed so far. According to details, in line with the direction of Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Sohail Ashraf, development activities are continuing rapidly in Sector E-12 by the relevant departments. In Sector E-12/4, earthwork has been completed, while work on the base, sub-base, and drainage is progressing rapidly. Earthwork on the Service Road, Khayaban-e-Iqbal, has been completed, while earthwork on the South and East Service Roads has also been completed. Similarly, work on the base and drainage is also proceeding swiftly. In Sector E-12/3, TST has been completed in 15 streets, while work on earthwork and base work is rapidly continuing in the remaining streets. Similarly, in Sector E-12/2, TST has been completed in 25 streets, while earthwork and base work are rapidly progressing in the remaining streets. Meanwhile, in Sector E-12/1, TST has been completed in 25 streets, while earthwork is underway in the remaining streets. On this occasion, Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Sohail Ashraf, said that all obstacles in the way of sector development are being removed in accordance with the law. He said that after 40 years, 1135 kanals of Government land worth billions of rupees has been retrieved in Sector E-12. He said that encroachment on Government land will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf said that the completion of development work in Sector E-12 and other sectors is among the top priorities of the CDA administration. He said that all available resources are being utilized for the early completion of the project. Chairman CDA said that the development of Sector E-12 will not only provide better residential facilities to citizens but will also contribute to the overall development of the City. He further added that, in view of the growing population, meeting the residential needs of the Federal Capital Islamabad is among our top priorities.

Over 22.1m kids vaccinated during first 4 days

ISLAMABAD: More than 22.1 million children have been vaccinated against polio during the first four days of the ongoing sub-national immunisation campaign being conducted in 97 selected districts across the country, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) said on Friday.

The fifth day of the campaign is underway, with vaccination activities continuing uninterrupted until November 8. Approximately 24 million children under five years of age are being targeted during the campaign, which is being carried out with the participation of more than 200,000 frontline polio workers. According to the NEOC, the campaign is being conducted simultaneously in Pakistan and Afghanistan to strengthen regional efforts against the crippling disease and prevent the transmission of poliovirus across borders. Provincial and regional vaccination figures showed that 8.535 million children had received polio drops in 13 selected districts of Punjab, while more than 6.382 million children were vaccinated in 20 selected districts of Sindh. Similarly, over 4.429 million children were vaccinated in 27 selected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), while 2.008 million children received polio drops in 31 selected districts of Balochistan. In Islamabad, more than 450,000 children were vaccinated, while approximately 160,000 children received polio drops in three selected districts of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). In Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), around 192,000 children were vaccinated in two selected districts during the first four days of the campaign. The NEOC warned that the threat of poliovirus persisted across the country and stressed that polio was an incurable disease, with vaccination remaining the only effective way to protect children against lifelong disability. It urged parents and caregivers to extend full cooperation to frontline vaccination teams and ensure that every child below five years of age received polio drops during the ongoing campaign. Parents were also advised to complete their children's routine immunisation schedules on time to provide them with comprehensive protection against vaccine-preventable diseases.–**APP**

Clean water prevents waterborne diseases

ISLAMABAD: District Health Officer (DHO) Islamabad Dr Syeda Rashida Batool has emphasized the importance of access to safe drinking water in preventing waterborne diseases and protecting public health. She expressed these views while attending a seminar titled "Safe Water, Save Lives" organized by the Health Services Academy (HSA), followed by the inauguration of a reverse osmosis (RO) water filtration plant established in collaboration with Muslim Hands. Dr Rashida appreciated the joint initiative of HSA and Muslim Hands, describing access to clean drinking water as essential for preventing waterborne illnesses and improving community health. She said the DHO Islamabad would continue to support collaborative initiatives aimed at promoting public health and ensuring a healthier environment for residents of the federal capital. The initiative highlights the importance of partnerships between public-sector institutions and development organisations in improving access to safe drinking water.–**APP**

Sustainable financing for tobacco control explored

ISLAMABAD: The Health Services Academy (HSA) has organized a multi-stakeholder consultative forum to explore sustainable financing options for controlling tobacco and new nicotine products in Pakistan. The forum brought together representatives from government institutions, academia, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to discuss financing mechanisms and collaborative strategies for strengthening tobacco control. Participants included representatives of the Human Development Foundation, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Planning Commission of Pakistan and Tobacco Control Cell of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination. The discussions focused on identifying sustainable funding mechanisms and strengthening cooperation among relevant sectors to support effective tobacco control policies and address the growing challenges associated with new nicotine products. The forum highlighted the importance of multi-sectoral engagement, evidence-based policymaking and long-term financial resources in advancing public health priorities.–**APP**

Daily Islamabad POST

Saturday, November 07, 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: 62
Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960
Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

When the Ballot Box Challenges Presidential Power

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

THE American midterm elections have delivered a message that extends far beyond the boundaries of domestic politics. They have demonstrated that while the people possess the power to place a president in the White House, they also retain the authority to challenge his policies, restrain his ambitions and reject the direction in which he seeks to lead the country. Democracy is not a licence granted to those in power to govern without restraint; it is a continuing relationship between the electorate and its elected representatives, sustained by public confidence and accountability.

The results of November 3 have dealt a significant political setback to President Donald Trump and the Republican Party, with Democrats securing control of both chambers of Congress. The outcome represents a formidable challenge to an administration that had enjoyed considerable freedom in pursuing its legislative and political agenda. It also illustrates that the American electorate does not necessarily endorse every presidential decision simply because it has elected the individual occupying the Oval Office. For years, American administrations have frequently presented their domestic and international policies as expressions of national will. Yet the distinction between the authority of a government and the consent of its people is fundamental. A president may possess constitutional powers, command enormous military resources and exercise considerable influence over international affairs, but none of these attributes guarantees public approval. The ballot box remains an instrument through which citizens can remind their leaders that political authority ultimately derives from them.

The election results have raised serious questions about the direction of American foreign policy, particularly its reliance on military pressure, confrontation and the projection of power abroad. Trump's posture towards Iran, the possibility of military escalation and the wider consequences of confrontation in the Middle East have contributed to anxieties about the human and economic costs of another conflict. At a time when global energy markets remain vulnerable to geopolitical instability, the consequences of military adventurism would not be confined to the countries directly involved. Rising oil prices, economic uncertainty and disruptions to international trade would affect ordinary Americans as well as populations across the developing world. The American people have reason to question whether an increasingly confrontational foreign policy serves their national interests. The pursuit of peace is not a sign of weakness, nor does diplomatic engagement necessarily imply compromise on matters of national security. A powerful country demonstrates its maturity not merely through its capacity to wage war but through its ability to prevent one.



The question of Palestine has also exposed a profound moral contradiction in American foreign policy. Washington's largely unconditional support for Israel, despite the immense suffering inflicted upon the people of Gaza, has generated deep disquiet internationally. Images of devastated neighbourhoods, displaced families and innocent children have challenged the credibility of American claims to champion democracy, human rights and international justice. A policy that appears selective in its application of humanitarian principles inevitably weakens the moral standing of the country pursuing it.

His achievement should be viewed not simply through the prism of religious identity but as an expression of democratic inclusion. American society is diverse, and its political institutions must reflect that diversity. The electoral participation and success of Muslim and Black Americans demonstrate that public office cannot legitimately be treated as the exclusive preserve of any particular religious, racial or cultural group. The attention surrounding El-Sayed's family, including his scarf-wearing wife, also carries a broader social significance. A woman's choice to observe her faith through her appearance should not become a source of political prejudice or public discrimination. The strength of a democratic society lies in its ability to accommodate differences without demanding that citizens abandon their cultural or religious identities to earn acceptance.

The elections have also challenged the assumption that political influence can be purchased through personal wealth, campaign expenditure or access to powerful institutions. Financial resources may strengthen a campaign, but they cannot indefinitely substitute for public confidence. The voter is not merely a spectator in the political arena; the voter is its ultimate judge.

The transfer of congressional control to the Democrats is particularly consequential. A president whose party no longer commands either chamber of Congress must confront a more demanding legislative environment. Congressional scrutiny, investigations and resistance to executive initiatives may significantly restrict the administration's freedom of action. Decisions concerning foreign military engagements, public expenditure and domestic governance will face renewed political examination. Nevertheless, it would be premature to interpret the results as a complete rejection of every aspect of Trump's presidency or as evidence that every American voter shares an identical position on Iran, Israel, immigration or economic policy. Elections are shaped by several concerns, including inflation, employment, healthcare, taxation and public confidence in government. Their collective message, however, is unmistakable: presidential authority is not beyond democratic accountability. For the international community, the American midterm elections offer an important reminder that even the world's most powerful democracy is subject to the will of its citizens. No president can assume that military strength, political rhetoric or economic influence will secure permanent public allegiance. The people may tolerate disagreements, but they retain the right to withdraw their confidence when they believe their leaders have departed from their expectations. Ultimately, the greatest strength of American democracy is not the power of its presidency, the size of its military or the influence of its economy. It is the continuing ability of its citizens to challenge authority through peaceful and constitutional means. The message from the ballot box is therefore clear: power may win an election, but only responsible leadership can sustain public trust. A government that disregards the aspirations of its people may retain office for a time, but it cannot indefinitely command their moral and political confidence.

Iran's Triple Triumph Against Trump and Netanyahu

Qamar Bashir



The political reckoning arrived with the November 2026 midterm elections. Democrats captured both chambers of Congress in a sweeping rejection of Republican governance. Public frustration over the cost of living, presidential conduct and the unpopular Iran war contributed to the electoral reversal. The conflict had become an electoral burden rather than the triumphant demonstration of American strength its architects had anticipated. Trump now faces the prospect of a hostile Congress armed with investigative and subpoena powers. Democratic lawmakers have signaled scrutiny of his family's ...

HISTORY has delivered a devastating irony to Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu. The two leaders who unleashed a war intended to destroy Iran's military capabilities, strangle its economy and ultimately dismantle its political system now confront the consequences of their own strategic miscalculation.

Iran, despite enduring overwhelming military pressure, punishing economic sanctions and relentless international isolation, remains standing. Meanwhile, Trump has lost Republican control of both chambers of Congress, and Netanyahu is struggling to assemble a parliamentary majority. What began as a campaign to determine who would govern Tehran has become a political nightmare threatening the authority of those who sought its destruction. Iran's extraordinary achievement is not merely that it survived the military and economic onslaught, but that its resistance helped transform the war into a political liability for its adversaries within their own countries. The confrontation exposed the dangerous distinction between military superiority and strategic success. American and Israeli forces possessed extraordinary technological advantages, sophisticated intelligence networks, advanced aircraft and formidable missile-defense systems. Yet none of these advantages guaranteed the political outcome their leaders anticipated. Iran absorbed devastating attacks while preserving its governing institutions, retaining retaliatory capabilities and refusing to accept externally imposed political surrender.

Iranian missiles and drones repeatedly challenged Israel's defenses, disrupted economic activity and forced civilians into shelters. The psychological consequences were substantial. A country accustomed to projecting overwhelming military superiority discovered that technological sophistication could not guarantee immunity from sustained retaliation. American military installations throughout the region also faced threats, demonstrating the vulnerability of forward-deployed forces and the countries hosting them.

The enormous expense of missile-defense interceptors, military deployments, ammunition replenishment and prolonged operations further exposed the imbalance between the cost of attack and defense. Relatively inexpensive Iranian drones and projectiles could compel adversaries to deploy sophisticated defensive systems costing vastly more. The confrontation therefore became not merely a contest of firepower but an exhausting struggle over resources, endurance and political determination.

Ultimately, the decisive question was whether the military campaign achieved its central objectives. Iran's political system survived. Its missile capabilities were not eliminated. Its nuclear ambitions were not conclusively extinguished, and its regional influence was not permanently dismantled. The economic confrontation produced an equally remarkable reversal. For decades, Washington had attempted to compel Iranian submission through primary and secondary sanctions, financial restrictions, trade barriers and diplomatic isolation. Yet the anticipated political collapse never materialized. Despite economic hardship and internal dissatisfaction, Iran's governing institutions endured. External military pressure also strengthened nationalist resistance among sections of the population, demonstrating that economic punishment does not necessarily translate into political capitulation.

Meanwhile, the conflict unleashed economic consequences far beyond Iran's borders. Disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz threatened global energy supplies, pushed up transportation costs and intensified inflationary pressures. American consumers confronted rising gasoline prices and household expenses, while Israeli businesses struggled with wartime disruption, security expenditures and interrupted commercial activity. European economies and regional countries that hosted American military facilities or supported the campaign also encountered the consequences of energy insecurity, disrupted shipping and higher operating costs. The economic pain that Washington intended to concentrate on Tehran spread through the international economy, reaching the households and industries of countries aligned with the United States.

For Trump, this economic backlash carried particularly damaging political consequences. He had promised American voters prosperity, affordable living and an end to costly foreign entanglements. Instead, the Iran confrontation became associated with rising prices, expanding military expenditures and another prolonged Middle Eastern conflict. Every additional dollar spent on warfare invited uncomfortable questions about neglected domestic priorities.

The political reckoning arrived with the November 2026 midterm elections. Democrats captured both chambers of Congress in a sweeping rejection of Republican governance. Public frustration over the cost of living, presidential conduct and the unpopular Iran war contributed to the electoral reversal. The conflict had become an electoral burden rather than the triumphant demonstration of American strength its architects had anticipated.

Trump now faces the prospect of a hostile Congress armed with investigative and subpoena powers. Democratic lawmakers have signaled scrutiny of his family's business dealings, potential conflicts of interest, immigration enforcement, Justice Department conduct, federal contracts and alleged administrative corruption. The political implications are profound. A president who previously enjoyed congressional support must now contend with lawmakers capable of obstructing his legislative priorities, investigating his administration and demanding accountability. He retains substantial executive authority, but his freedom to govern without sustained congressional resistance has been sharply curtailed.

Netanyahu faces an equally uncomfortable predicament. Israel's October 27 election left his political bloc with only 53 seats in the 120-member Knesset, eight short of a governing majority. His opponents secured 48 seats, while Arab-led parties won 19, making coalition negotiations decisive for his political survival.

His predicament is compounded by longstanding corruption proceedings, controversy surrounding intelligence failures before October 7, demands for an independent inquiry and accusations that security institutions have been politicized. The Iran confrontation has added another contentious chapter to a political career built upon promises of exceptional national-security leadership.

Even if Netanyahu succeeds in assembling another coalition, he could face a fragile parliamentary arrangement, intensified opposition and persistent demands for accountability. The leader who promised to eliminate Iran's strategic threat now confronts uncertainty over his own political future. The significance of these developments extends beyond Trump and Netanyahu. They expose a fundamental limitation of coercive power: military dominance cannot guarantee political obedience, economic sanctions cannot automatically overthrow governments, and foreign adventures cannot indefinitely escape domestic accountability. A determined adversary may achieve strategic success simply by surviving long enough for the costs of aggression to overwhelm the political calculations of its attackers.

In the final reckoning, Iran has transformed a war intended to destroy its military power, cripple its economy and overthrow its government into a historic strategic humiliation for its architects. Tehran frustrated the central military objectives jointly pursued by Washington and Tel Aviv, endured the crushing weight of primary and secondary sanctions, and imposed enormous economic costs on American and Israeli populations, European allies and regional countries that supported or facilitated the confrontation.

But the most devastating reversal has unfolded on the political front. The Iranian government that Trump and Netanyahu sought to remove remains intact, while Netanyahu struggles to retain the premiership and Trump, deprived of congressional majorities, faces the prospect of becoming a politically toothless tiger. Iran survived their missiles, outlasted their sanctions and witnessed the political backlash engulf their governments. The ultimate irony is both profound and merciless: Trump and Netanyahu went to war to change the government in Tehran, only to discover that their war had helped destabilize their own political fortunes. The regime they sought to overthrow remains standing; the political authority they hoped to strengthen through victory is now fighting for survival.

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

AMAN Exercises: Pakistan's Quiet Anchor in Turbulent Seas

Naufil Shahrukh

AMAN was never designed as a wartime alliance or a counter-coalition. Its purpose has always been more practical and more modest: to bring ships, aircraft, special operations teams, and observers from different political systems into the same professional space. Harbour-phase seminars, cultural exchanges, and sports competitions sit alongside sea-phase drills in anti-piracy, counter-terrorism, search and rescue, and ive-fire coordination. The point is interoperability and mutual familiarity

IN the restless waters of the Arabian Sea, where the pulse of global trade beats hardest, the Pakistan Navy has for nearly two decades hosted a gathering that few outside maritime circles fully appreciate. The AMAN exercises, meaning "peace" in Urdu and carried under the simple banner "Together for Peace," began in 2007 as a modest multinational effort. What started with twenty-eight countries has grown into one of the region's most consistent platforms for naval cooperation. The ninth edition in February 2025 drew participation from more than sixty nations. The tenth, scheduled for early 2027, will mark two full decades of this work.

That timing matters more than ever. The Strait of Hormuz, the narrow passage through which roughly a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas normally flows, has become a theatre of sustained friction. Iranian responses to American and Israeli military actions have produced mine threats, claims of tanker fires, renewed assertions of control over shipping lanes, and reciprocal strikes. Commercial traffic has thinned. Insurance costs have risen. Navies that once treated the Gulf approaches as routine now treat them as contested. In such an atmosphere the value of habits of cooperation, built patiently over years rather than invented in a crisis, becomes clear.

AMAN was never designed as a wartime alliance or a counter-coalition. Its purpose has always been more practical and more modest: to bring ships, aircraft, special operations teams, and observers from different political systems into the same professional space. Harbour-phase seminars, cultural exchanges, and sports competitions sit alongside sea-phase drills in anti-piracy, counter-terrorism, search and rescue, and live-fire coordination. The point is interoperability and mutual familiarity. When navies have already practised operating together, the friction of an emergency is lower and the risk of miscalculation is reduced.

Pakistan's geography makes this role natural. The country's coastline sits astride the approaches to the Gulf and the western reaches of the Indian Ocean. Nearly all of Pakistan's trade by volume and the entirety of its energy imports move by sea. Maritime security is not an abstract strategic interest; it is an economic necessity. By hosting AMAN, the Pakistan Navy has turned that geography into a diplomatic asset. Nations that rarely share a table elsewhere find themselves planning serials, exchanging signals, and conducting formation steaming under a Pakistani flag. China, the United States, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Türkiye, and a range of African and Southeast Asian partners have all appeared at different editions. The exercise does not erase rivalries, but it creates repeated, structured contact that softens the edges of those rivalries.

The current Hormuz crisis illustrates why such contact is worth preserving. When one side closes or threatens a choke point and another answers with blockades or kinetic strikes, the space for calm communication shrinks. Commercial shipping becomes collateral. Coastal states that depend on energy flows or transit fees feel the secondary effects. In that environment a navy that has already practised joint boarding operations, shared common operating pictures, and established working relationships with counterparts from multiple capitals is better placed to contribute to de-escalation or, at minimum, to protect its own sea lines of communication. AMAN builds exactly those relationships in peacetime so they exist when they are most needed.

Critics sometimes dismiss multinational exercises as expensive pageantry. The record of AMAN suggests otherwise. Participation has expanded steadily even through periods of regional tension. The addition of the AMAN Dialogue in recent editions has widened the conversation beyond operational tactics to include broader questions of maritime governance, blue-economy development, and the management of non-traditional threats such as illegal fishing, narcotics trafficking, and environmental degradation. These are the everyday problems that persist long after headline confrontations fade. A platform that addresses both the high-end and the low-end of the maritime spectrum retains relevance across political cycles.

There is also a quieter form of soft power at work. For a country frequently portrayed through the narrow lens of land-centric security challenges, AMAN presents a different image: a professional navy capable of organising complex multinational activity, a host that can accommodate diverse guests without demanding ideological alignment, and a regional actor that prefers cooperative security to exclusive blocs. In an Indian Ocean already crowded with competing visions of order, that posture has value.

Looking ahead to the twentieth anniversary edition, the strategic environment will almost certainly remain unsettled. The Hormuz corridor will continue to test the resilience of energy markets and the discipline of naval forces. Rivalries among major powers will not disappear. What can be shaped is the density of practical cooperation available when friction rises. AMAN does not solve the underlying political disputes that produce blockades and retaliatory strikes. It does, however, keep open channels of professional communication and shared operational language among the very forces that would otherwise meet only in moments of crisis. Pakistan's investment in this platform has been steady rather than spectacular. That steadiness is its strength. In a region where trust is scarce and miscalculation is costly, the patient accumulation of joint experience is not a luxury. It is a form of insurance. The AMAN exercises remind us that peace at sea is not merely the absence of war; it is the presence of working relationships that make war less likely and crisis management more possible. In the shadow of Hormuz, that reminder is timely.

Islamabad POST
Saturday, November 07, 2026

Briefs

Reports about Imran Khan's...

FROM PAGE 01

subsequently distanced himself from the reports, saying he was not the source of the information circulating about the former premier's health. The lawyer said his responsibilities were strictly legal and that he was not acting as anyone's messenger. Following the meeting, Safdar said he had been allowed to meet Imran after seven months and Bushra Bibi after 11 months.

Bilawal urges govt to engage...

FROM PAGE 01

"If we fight the PTI, Maulana [Fazlur Rehman], terrorists, India and Afghanistan, we will remain occupied with this work. When will we focus on economic development?" he asked. The PPP chairman urged the federal government to engage all stakeholders instead of picking fights with everyone, stressing that political differences should be set aside to address economic challenges. Turning to electoral reforms, Bilawal said the PTI should participate in the committee formed to discuss changes to the electoral process. He urged opposition leaders in the National Assembly and Senate to ensure the PTI's representation in the committee unconditionally, saying they had been given full authority by PTI founder Imran Khan to make the decision. Bilawal said the PPP had approached opposition leaders and requested them to nominate representatives for the committee. He noted that the opposition had repeatedly maintained that Khan should first be released or allowed to meet party leaders before engaging in other matters.

Qatar's emir, Trump discuss...

FROM PAGE 01

war on February 28, Tehran has sought to limit traffic through the strategic waterway, which normally carries about one-fifth of global oil consumption. The United States has in response imposed a blockade on Iranian ports and escorted tankers through the strait. US Central Command said last month that it had helped Gulf countries export 1.5 billion barrels of oil via Hormuz since the summer and has recently said that all mines have been cleared from the waterway. Meanwhile, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan condemned an attempt by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi group to target Saudi Arabia's Madina region with a ballistic missile, reaffirming full solidarity with Riyadh. The Saudi-led coalition said its air defenses intercepted and destroyed the missile while also downing a Houthi drone over the kingdom's Eastern Province.

PM calls for promotion of cashless...

FROM PAGE 01

for establishing a 100 percent digital payment system across the country. He also gave directions to immediately address the problems faced by consumers in the digital payment system and ensure availability of internet and easy access to technology across Pakistan. The Prime Minister instructed to continue the government-backed initiative to promote digital transactions between consumers and merchants through the Raast QR Code system. He said the Raast QR Code payment system is contributing towards achieving the government's vision of a cashless economy. The Prime Minister also called for an effective media campaign to encourage electricity and gas consumers to pay their utility bills through QR codes printed on the bills. He directed all ministries and government departments to ensure full implementation of the cashless economy plan.

Maliha Ali takes bronze at MMA worlds bout

Maliha had a run of her own. She beat another Russian in the same division on Tuesday, two-time European champion Veronika Drozdova, by split decision, then reached the semi-final with a unanimous decision over Mexico's Andrea Gabriela Guzman Salazar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Maliha Ali fought with a fractured toe, a severely bruised eyelid and a partially dislocated jaw. She fought anyway. When Omar Ahmed, president of the Pakistan MMA Federation, asked if she could compete, her response was simple. "Sir, we fight from the heart," she said. "These hands and feet are just not that important." That courage carried her to the semi-final. It couldn't carry her past the judges. Maliha's run at the IMMAF World Championships in Tbilisi, Georgia, ended in a bronze medal and a dispute on Thursday, with the Pakistan MMA Federation filing a formal appeal over her split-decision loss to Russia's Polina Baldina in the featherweight (65.8kg) semi-final.

Baldina, 23, is a former world champion in a different MMA federation, having won a world title in Khanty-Mansiysk in 2024, and had won three bouts en route to the final.

Maliha had a run of her own. She beat another Russian in the same division on Tuesday, two-time European champion Veronika Drozdova, by split decision, then reached the semi-final with a unanimous decision over Mexico's Andrea Gabriela Guzman Salazar. When the final bell rang against Baldina, Maliha stood with her arms raised, believing she had done enough. The fight was close. No round was won clearly by either fighter. The second could have gone to Baldina. The first and third were tight, with Maliha landing the cleaner shots in the third. The scorecards told a different story. One judge scored the bout 30-27 for Baldina, giving Maliha no rounds. Another scored it 29-28 for Maliha. The third scored it 29-28 for Baldina. Three judges, three different scorecards, and the decision went to the Russian.



"It was a clear win. We were literally robbed," Omar told Dawn. The federation has submitted a formal letter to the Head of the IMMAF Refereeing and Judging Commission, requesting a round-by-round breakdown of the scoring, an explanation for the disparate scorecards, and a face-to-face technical review of both fights.

Omar highlighted a deeper issue. In the letter, he noted that Pakistan lost a semi-final by split decision at last year's championships as well. "When different explanations are provided for similar judging situations, it becomes difficult for national federations to establish a consistent understanding of the standards against which their athletes are being assessed," the letter stated.

Omar went further, alleging that ex-Soviet states favour each other in judging and dominate the refereeing space. He said Russia brought two fighters per weight class and a multi-million dollar budget through national sponsors, while Pakistan had zero officials on the panel.

South Africa's shock win over Australia has far-reaching consequences

DNA

AFTER last week's column, it was not my intention to comment further on the Test series between South Africa and Australia. However, the implications of South Africa's victory in the third and final Test that ended on Oct. 31 are so far reaching it is necessary to analyze them. First, it raises serious questions about the future composition of Australia's team. Second, it changes the dynamics of the World Test Championship. Third, it reveals the extent to which South Africa's resilience has been built in recent years.

The match was another classic contest of fluctuating fortunes. Australia chose to bowl first, a decision questioned by commentators at the time, on the basis that the pitch was expected to take spin as the match progressed. The decision looked even worse as South Africa progressed to 158 before losing a wicket and to 203 before losing a second. Four wickets then fell for the addition of only 30 runs before Ryan Rickelton and Marco Jansen compiled a century partnership. Mitchell Starc dismissed them both, along with the remaining batters, to claim six wickets for 72 runs, South Africa ending with 329.

Australia's reply was buoyed by a fifth wicket partnership of 185 runs between Alex Carey and Josh Inglis, after which the innings fell away to 429 all out shortly after lunch on the third day. Simon Harmer spun his way to four wickets. By the end of the day, South Africa had reached 140 for four wickets, a mere 40 runs ahead with Australia looking favorites to win.

When South Africa's fifth wicket fell before lunch on the fourth day on 181 runs, Wiann Mulder joined Rickelton. My first sight of Mulder was in the WTC final at Lords in June 2025; he batted at number three, scoring six runs from 44 deliveries, and looked ill at ease. My second sighting was in Zimbabwe, where he scored an unbeaten 367. He is also an effective medium-fast bowler. Gradually, he and Rickelton wrestled the initiative away from Australia in a partnership of 154 runs. Both scored centuries, Mulder being last out at the end of the day as South Africa reached 387 to set Australia 288 runs to win on the fifth and final day. The game appeared to be heading for a grandstand finish to round off an enthralling series.

This notion was quickly destroyed by South Africa's quick bowler, Kagiso Rabada, who claimed two wickets in his first over and three in a five over spell that left Australia reeling at 22 for three. The first innings centurions, Carey and Inglis, were out to ruinous shot selections. When Harmer bowled Cameron Green for 27, the score was 62 for eight. A 45-run partnership between Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon, who top-scored with 33, meant that Australia avoided being bowled out for under 100 in consecutive Tests; the last time that happened was in 1936-37. Harmer, who has played only 17 Tests in 11 years, claimed six wickets in Australia's abject reply of 111. The Australians did not want to face him, frozen into declining singles to avoid that fate, at one stage playing out 12 straight maiden overs.

Members of the Australian media, including ex-players, have been voluble in their criticisms of selectors and players, calling for widespread changes. Pat Cummins, the captain, fronted up in his post-match interview, admitting that "maybe it's a change of personnel in some instances." He was emotional in saying that for some of the team it was their last chance of winning in South Africa. The bowling core is entering the final stage of glorious careers, whilst the batting has displayed a brittleness uncharacteristic of Australian teams. There is likely to be resistance amongst the team's management for wholesale change, but the need for transition is acknowledged. Tough series lie ahead at home against New Zealand and away to India, followed by an Ashes series in England in June/July 2027.

Prior to that series the WTC final will be played at The Oval, London, starting on June 9 between the top two placed teams out of nine. Whether Australia will qualify for it remains to be seen. After the two recent defeats, the team is now in third place, behind South Africa in second and New Zealand in first. WTC positions are calculated on a points percentage system in which the points won by a team are divided by the number of points contested, multiplied by 100. Twelve points are awarded for a win, six for a tie and four for a draw.

Friendly between Jordan and Indonesia's national football teams cancelled amid security concerns

DNA

SYDNEY: The Jordanian Football Association has decided to cancel the friendly match of the national team against its Indonesian guest scheduled for next week at the request of the Indonesian Football Association, while confirming that the friendly match with the Australian national team scheduled in the capital Amman will take place as previously scheduled despite the security situation in the Middle East. The Jordanian Association announced late yesterday, Thursday, the cancelation of the match scheduled for next Friday against the Indonesian national team, indicating that the Indonesian Association apologized for not holding the match.

A responsible official in the Indonesian Football Association told Reuters today, Friday, "We decided to cancel the match primarily for security reasons." He added, "We know that the situation in the Middle East is not good at the moment, so we took into account the concerns that this might affect the psychological state of the players and the team. Based on that, I communicated with the coach and the president of the Indonesian Football Association to inform them that we need to have the courage to take a stand."

The official confirmed that the Indonesian Association may seek to arrange another match during the international break in November, but this seems unlikely due to the limited time available. Originally, the friendly matches were scheduled to help the three teams prepare for the Asian Cup, but the tournament was postponed last Tuesday until December of next year, following attacks by the Iranian-allied Houthi group on the host country, Saudi Arabia. In contrast, the Jordanian Association stated in its announcement that the friendly match between the national team and its Australian counterpart on the evening of Tuesday, November 17, at the Amman International Stadium will take place as scheduled without any changes. The Sydney Morning Herald reported today, Friday, that the Australian Football Association decided to delay the announcement of the squad for the matches against Jordan and Qatar, as some players do not wish to travel to Amman.

Bournemouth stay perfect in Europa League as Milan lose again

DNA

PARIS: Bournemouth extended their perfect Europa League record on Thursday as they came from behind to win 3-1 at 10-man Sparta Prague, while Ruben Amorim's AC Milan suffered a third defeat in four matches. Gambian Ebrima Singhateh ran from his own half to score a fine individual goal as Sparta took the lead in the Czech Republic after Bournemouth midfielder Lewis Cook hit the post with a first-half penalty. Sparta had Tobias Guddal sent off before half-time and Bournemouth equalized through Tyler Adams on 57 minutes.

Evanilson steered the Cherries ahead nine minutes from time and Rayan bagged a late third as Bournemouth's substitutes sent the European newcomers top of the table with a fourth successive victory. Marco Rose's side have won each of their past seven matches in all competitions ahead of a Premier League trip to Ipswich this weekend. Milan lost 2-0 at home to Ferencvaros as the Hungarians kept pace with Bournemouth, maintaining their 100 percent record in Europe.

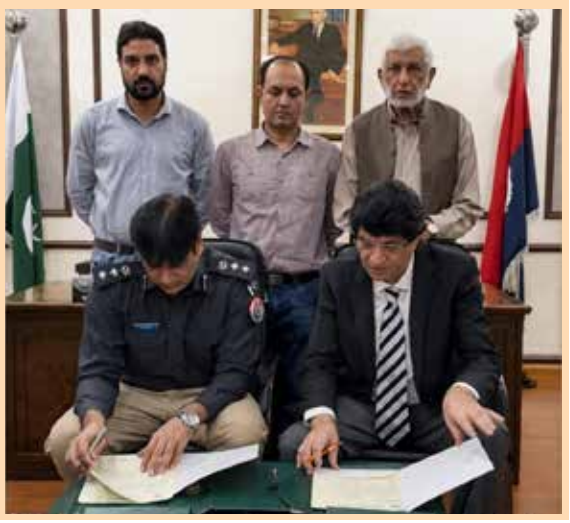
Rawal Foundation, Central Jail sign MoU for free medical treatment

RAWALPINDI: The Rawal Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central Jail Rawalpindi to provide free medical treatment to jail employees and their children. The agreement was signed at a ceremony by Rawal Foundation Chairman Khaqan Waheed Khawaja and Senior Superintendent of Central Jail Rawalpindi Sajid Baig.

Speaking on the occasion, Sajid Baig welcomed the initiative, describing it as a positive step towards improving healthcare facilities for government employees and their families.

He appreciated the Foundation's commitment to providing free medical care to jail staff and their children.

Rawal Foundation Chairman Khaqan Waheed Khawaja said the organisation was committed to facilitating free medical treatment for jail employees. He added that the Foundation also regularly organises free medical camps in different areas of Azad Kashmir as part of its humanitarian and healthcare initiatives. Khawaja further announced that a free medical camp would be organised in the staff colony of Adiala Jail towards the end of the current month to provide medical assistance to employees and their families. – **APP**



I can do more' — 52 points and 24 rebounds not enough for Wembanyama

DNA

TORONTO: Fifty-two points. Twenty-four rebounds. Eight blocked shots. A historic performance that helped the San Antonio Spurs secure their sixth consecutive NBA victory. Yet Victor Wembanyama was thinking about the shots he missed.

The 22-year-old French superstar had just delivered a career-best performance in Wednesday's dramatic 112-111 victory over the Dallas Mavericks, becoming the first Spurs player to record at least 50 points and 20 rebounds in a single game.

Despite shooting 16-of-28 from the field and 19-of-23 from the free-throw line, Wembanyama converted just one of his eight three-point attempts, a modest 12.5 percent from beyond the arc. "I can do more," he told reporters afterward. "I can do more if my shots were falling. This was the worst 3-point shooting of my career."

His response offered a glimpse into the mindset of one of basketball's most gifted young players. While the numbers told the story of an extraordinary performance, Wembanyama's attention was fixed on the one area of his game that had fallen short.

His reaction raises an interesting question about the mindset required to reach the very top of professional sport: When does an extraordinary achievement become merely another measure of what remains possible? For Wembanyama, the pursuit of something greater has already been shaped by disappointment. At the Paris 2024 Olympics, he was visibly devastated after France lost 98-87 to Team USA in the men's basketball gold medal game.

Having scored 26 points in the final, Wembanyama walked across the court in tears and buried his face in a towel. An Olympic silver medal, achieved on home soil, offered little immediate consolation.

But his response to that disappointment was striking. "I'm learning, and I'm worried for the opponents in a couple of years," Wembanyama said after the Olympic final. Asked whether he meant NBA or FIBA opponents, he replied with a single word: "Everywhere." It was a bold declaration from a young player who appeared to view defeat not as an endpoint, but as part of his development. Two years later, Wembanyama helped carry the Spurs to the 2026 NBA Finals, their first appearance since 2014. Named Western Conference Finals MVP after San Antonio defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder in seven games, he had taken another significant step toward the championship he wanted.

The Spurs ultimately lost the Finals 4-1 to the New York Knicks, but their transformation from a rebuilding franchise into championship contenders demonstrated the growing influence of their French superstar. His personal expectations were equally clear in a recent interview with CBS's 60 Minutes. Discussing the NBA Most Valuable Player award, Wembanyama acknowledged that he had not deserved the honor the previous season before adding, with a laugh: "I should win it this year, though."

Such confidence comes with expectations, but Wembanyama is increasingly producing performances to justify them.

Against Dallas, he became only the second player since the NBA began officially recording blocked shots in 1973-74 to register at least 50 points, 20 rebounds and five blocks in a game. He had already collected 29 points, 15 rebounds and five blocks by halftime, helping San Antonio build a 68-51 lead. When the Mavericks fought back in the second half, Wembanyama remained central to the contest, eventually converting the decisive free throw with 24 seconds remaining. The victory improved the Spurs' record to 6-2, offering another indication of their ambitions following last season's run to the Finals. For all his extraordinary talent, Wembanyama is discovering a lesson familiar to some of basketball's greatest players: The road to a championship rarely follows a straight line.

Michael Jordan spent years trying to overcome the Detroit Pistons, who eliminated his Chicago Bulls from three consecutive playoff seasons before he finally broke through in 1991 and won his first championship. LeBron James endured two NBA Finals defeats, first with Cleveland in 2007 and then with Miami in 2011, before claiming his maiden title in 2012.

Kobe Bryant faced a different challenge. After winning three championships alongside Shaquille O'Neal, he was determined to prove he could lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a title without his former teammate. His first NBA Finals appearance without O'Neal ended in defeat to the Boston Celtics in 2008, but he responded by winning consecutive championships in 2009 and 2010, the latter against those same Celtics

Their journeys were different, but each demonstrated that individual brilliance alone does not guarantee the ultimate prize. Championships require patience, adaptation and the ability to respond when expectations are not met.

The French star, nicknamed "The Alien," has already experienced his share of painful defeats, from the Olympic final in Paris to last season's NBA Finals. Whether he can turn those setbacks into an NBA championship or Olympic gold medal remains to be seen. For now, his reaction to a historic performance says plenty about his ambitions. Fifty-two points were not enough to satisfy him..

Kh Asif smells change in Punjab

FROM PAGE 01

the Centre to secure his political future". He alleged during the ARY News' programme that Salik's allegations "are part of setting the stage for some post-period". "This statement was given selectively against Punjab. Corruption is prevalent everywhere in Pakistan. [...] I have tweeted about it many times," he added. Asif continued: "There is an attempt to create an alternative arrangement – to discredit incumbent people so that a fresh team can be presented. Whoever is behind this, that is what I was signalling to. Please do not ask me anything more than this; I can share my personal assessment." He also alluded to "some wealthy people", describing them as "carpetbaggers" who had been active in this regard for the past six to eight months in anticipation of a "political crisis". Asked whether the "alternative arrangement" was specific to Punjab or was applicable nationwide, Asif said: "No, no. Some people are positioning themselves behind it; it is not something that is happening across the country." "These people believe that the incumbent elsewhere may also become a party to the plan, but explaining it would be premature. [...] This is my assessment for now; in the long run, the plan could be dropped as well."

Turkish parliament ratifies Makkah...

FROM PAGE 01

country and that its main goal is to prevent conflicts rather than escalate them. The agreement's first article says the parties shall use "all necessary means" to eliminate threats to one another's territorial integrity, sovereignty or internationally recognised borders, according to a text seen by Reuters. "In the event one of the parties is subjected to an armed attack or military aggression by another country or group of countries, the parties shall immediately provide assistance to the party under attack, utilising the full range of mutual assistance measures available to them," Article 2 of the agreement says. The provision, similar to Nato's Article 5, refers to Article 51 of the UN Charter, which covers the individual or collective right of states to self-defence against armed attack. The three countries will determine the scope and nature of support after objectively assessing the assistance required and will cooperate within their available resources, including military capabilities, the same article says.

'Makkah Defence Alliance...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan would continue its efforts to facilitate dialogue in the conflict involving Iran and the United States. He said Islamabad had brought the two parties under one roof despite their having remained out of contact for decades and supports a peaceful resolution through dialogue and diplomacy, adding that Pakistan, Qatar and other countries were actively contributing to mediation efforts. Elaborating further, he said Israel had played the role of a spoiler in the conflict. Criticising Israel's expansionist policies, he said peace in the region was not in Israel's interest and that its expansionist ambitions were among the major causes of the current regional crisis. These ambitions were not limited to Iran, he said, adding that Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and other countries in the region were also affected by Israel's expansionist designs. When asked about the recent midterm elections in the US, the FO spokesperson said elections were an internal matter of that country and reiterated that Pakistan maintained close relations with Washington. Democrats seized control of the US Congress earlier this week, capturing the Senate and House of Representatives in a stunning, nationwide rejection of Donald Trump set to put the brakes on the final two years of his presidency.

Islamabad POST
Saturday November 07 , 2026

Briefs

Foreign reserves rise to $ 26.86b

KARACHI: The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan surged to US$ 26,864.5 million as of October 30, while State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reserves further rose to US$ 21,561.2 million.

"During the week ended on 30-Oct-2026, SBP's FX reserves increased by US$ 39 million to US$ 21,561.2 million", the central bank Thursday reported in its weekly statement on the position of liquid foreign reserves. Meanwhile, the foreign reserves held by commercial banks during the period under review also increased by $ 71 million to $ 5,303.3 million, the breakup of forex reserves showed. Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves in the previous week ended on October 23, 2026, stood $ 26,754.2 million. Among them the State Bank of Pakistan held foreign exchange reserves of $ 21,521.7 million while commercial banks held the other $ 5,232.5 million.–**APP**

Middle East power push straining gas turbine supply

ABU DHABI: Gas turbines are now some of the hardest machines to buy in the energy world, and the countries that ordered first are the ones getting them.

"The gas turbine industry and market is very constrained at the moment," Hussein Shoukry, managing director for the Middle East and Africa at Siemens Energy, told Arab News on the sidelines of ADIPEC in Abu Dhabi. The squeeze is regional as much as global. Shoukry said the Middle East's electrification push means "we're going to have to increase capacity by 50 percent over the next five years." Saudi Arabia moved first. Shoukry said the Ministry of Energy, guided by the minister's vision, locked in much of Siemens Energy's turbine capacity early. He said the UAE, Oman and others in the region have since followed the same playbook. "What's important is that customers come to us early," he said.

Data centers are competing for the same machines, but Shoukry played down their weight. He put artificial intellgence's share of global capacity at about 1 percent. The other 99 percent, he said, keeps industry running and homes cool. "We definitely don't want to lose focus on our utility customers who are providing critical infrastructure for society," he said.–**APP**

Iraq's budget deficit surges 346%

RIYADH: Iraq's budget deficit surged 346 percent year on year to 36.26 trillion Iraqi dinars ($23.9 billion) in the first nine months of 2026, as a steep decline in oil revenues deepened pressure on public finances. Government expenditure reached 89.08 trillion dinars through September, against total revenues of 52.82 trillion dinars, according to data from the Iraqi Ministry of Finance. Revenues covered just 59.3 percent of spending. Spending pressures weigh on Iraq's fiscal outlook Oil revenues fell 50.8 percent from a year earlier, underscoring the risks facing an economy heavily dependent on crude exports. The deterioration comes as disruptions to oil production and shipments linked to the conflict in the Middle East add to pressure on the country's fiscal position. The World Bank's October 2026 Macro Poverty Outlook projects Iraq's economy will contract by 12.4 percent this year, citing the impact of the conflict on oil production and exports. Iraq's fiscal position was already vulnerable before the conflict, reflecting its heavy reliance on oil revenues and rising public expenditure. The International Monetary Fund said in its 2025 Article IV consultation that the oil price required to balance the budget had risen to around $84 per barrel in 2024, from $54 in 2020. It had projected a fiscal deficit equivalent to 9.2 percent of gross domestic product in 2026, before the latest disruption to oil exports. The data also showed that current expenditure amounted to 85.68 trillion dinars, or 96.2 percent of total spending.–**APP**

Azerbaijan envoy for boosting trade ties with Pakistan

Mazhar Hussain Thathal iterated the Ambassador on Pakistan's industrial, commercial and export potential, highlighting key sectors where Pakistan and Azerbaijan could expand cooperation



DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Irfan Davudov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, held a meeting with Mr. Mazhar Hussain Thathal, Chairman and CEO of Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan, at the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by Mr. Samir Ahmadi, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Azerbaijan; Mr. Liaqat Ali Thathal, Director International Trade and Relationships, Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan; and representatives of the business community from Sialkot, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Lahore. The discussions focused on exploring new avenues for bilateral trade, investment opportunities, business-to-business cooperation and strengthening commercial linkages between the business communities of both countries.

During the meeting, Ambassador H.E. Mr. Irfan Davudov appreciated the interest and efforts of the Pakistani business community in promoting economic relations with Azerbaijan. He welcomed initiatives aimed at enhancing bilateral commercial engagement and developing stronger connections between businesses in the two countries.

Mazhar Hussain Thathal iterated the Ambassador on Pakistan's industrial, commercial and export potential, highlighting key sectors where Pakistan and Azerbaijan could expand cooperation. He also discussed the role of Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan in facilitating international trade, connecting businesses and promoting business delegations and commercial partnerships.

Mr. Liaqat Ali Thathal further highlighted potential trade sectors and emphasized the importance of regular business exchanges, direct engagement between companies, and stronger institutional cooperation to increase bilateral trade volumes and establish sustainable business partnerships.

The meeting concluded with a shared emphasis on strengthening Pakistan - Azerbaijan economic relations, encouraging private-sector collaboration and exploring practical opportunities for trade and investment between the two brotherly countries.

Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating business-to-business engagement and promoting stronger trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Pak Pavilion opened at Sharjah

ABU DHABI: Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Shafqat Ali Khan on Thursday inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the 45th Sharjah International Book Fair, highlighting the country's literary heritage and diverse publishing industry. The book fair, being held from November 4 to 15 at Expo Centre Sharjah, features a wide range of Pakistani publications in Urdu and English, including poetry, novels, children's literature, educational and research materials, and books on history and culture. Representatives of leading Pakistani publishing houses attended the inauguration, including Gagan Shahid, Director of Book Corner Jhelum; Daniyal Salam, Director of Ferozsons (Pvt.) Ltd.; and Sarmad Khan, Co-founder of Urdu Books World. During his visit, the ambassador toured stalls of Pakistani publishers, including Qudrat Ullah Company, Zia Ul Quran Publications and Paramount Books. He thanked the organisers of the Pakistan Pavilion and appreciated Sharjah's role as a centre of culture, knowledge and education, observing that the international book fair had become an important part of the emirate's cultural identity. The ambassador encouraged residents across the UAE, particularly members of the Pakistani community in Sharjah, to visit the fair and maintain their interest in books and reading. He reaffirmed that the Government of Pakistan and the Embassy would continue to provide all possible support to strengthen Pakistan's participation in future editions of the event. On the occasion, Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan also met Ahmed bin Rakkad Al Ameri, Chief Executive Officer of the Sharjah Book Authority, and discussed ways to strengthen literary and cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Sharjah. The ambassador appreciated Sharjah's achievements in promoting culture and knowledge, emphasising their role in fostering understanding and bringing people together. Ahmed bin Rakkad Al Ameri stressed the importance of expanding cooperation in these fields and highlighted the need to enhance the availability of books, particularly Urdu publications, for the Pakistani community in Sharjah. The ambassador also visited the stall of the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Foundation, where its Director, Sheikh Ayman Hamdi Al-Akbari, briefed him on the foundation's efforts to preserve Islamic scholarly heritage and make original texts accessible to wider audiences.–**APP**

Sri Lanka unions protest bills expanding police powers

COLOMBO: Trade unions and political activists rallied in Sri Lanka's capital on Friday against anti-terrorism and anti-crime bills, saying they would give sweeping powers to law enforcement authorities and could lead to abuses. The bills – the protection of the state from terrorism and prevention of organized crimes – were submitted to Parliament, which has scheduled a debate and vote in the coming weeks. Human Rights Watch said that the proposed counterterrorism law is too broad in scope and provide inadequate judicial oversight, sweeping powers of search and arrest for the armed forces, and executive authority to curtail freedom of speech and movement. The bill seeks to replace legislation that critics say has enabled arbitrary detention and the torture of detainees for decades in Sri Lanka. Government spokesman Nalinda Jayatissa on Tuesday rejected the allegations by rights activists and said that the proposed laws would not harm trade unions or media freedoms. "These are clearly draconian laws," trade union activist Saman Rathnapriya said, adding that "anyone can be turned into a terrorist by these laws." He said the government had no right to bring such oppressive laws because "they have protested against such laws when they were in the opposition." President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's National People's Power alliance came to power in 2024, pledging to abolish "all oppressive laws." Dissanayake's victory in the presidential election that year was seen as a rejection of the political old guard that was blamed for an unprecedented economic crisis following decades of mismanagement and corruption. Rathnapriya said the government has failed to revive the economy. "Fearing that people might revolt against them, the government is now attempting to bring in tough laws in a bid to suppress any future public protests," he said, adding that protests would continue if the bills were not withdrawn.

Pak wins three honours at Int'l Space Games

At the closing and awards ceremony, Team Pakistan received the awards for 'Best Mission Control Centre (MCC) Team', 'Best Flight Engineer' and 'Outstanding Overall Coordination', marking a significant achievement for the country's young space professionals and students. The International Space Games brought together participants from eight countries to compete in a simulated space-mission environment, featuring intensive 48-hour habitat expeditions. The teams undertook engineering assignments, mission-control operations, scientific activities and simulated emergency scenarios to test their technical expertise, decision-making abilities and teamwork. Pakistan was represented by an 11-member delegation comprising habitat crew members, mission-control personnel, consulting experts and professional jury members. The habitat crew included Ayesha Jamil, Fakhar Arooj, Alishba Tanveer, Maheera Fatima and Hafiz Muhammad Abdullah, while Syeda Maryam Murtaza and Humail Amir Nawaz represented the Mission Control Centre. Mohammad Daniyal Hasnain and Talha Zubair served as consulting experts, while Dr. Rehan Mahmood and Engr. Maheen Zulfiqar participated as professional jury members. Dr. Rehan Mahmood, Director of the Space Systems and Technology Research Lab (SSTRL) at IST, served as the National Coordinator and Head of the Pakistan delegation. The awards reflected the technical excellence, dedication, teamwork and coordination demonstrated by the Pakistani delegation throughout the competition. The delegation's participation followed months of preparation and technical training, culminating in the challenging habitat expedition and the international awards ceremony. The Institute of Space Technology congratulated the award recipients and all members of Team Pakistan on their achievements and appreciated the organisers, host institutions.–**APP**

Call for support SMEs for strengthen intra-OIC trade

ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has called for stronger economic solidarity, improved access to trade financing and coordinated efforts to enhance intra-OIC trade while addressing the closing session of the 42nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, while speaking on behalf of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Addressing the high-level gathering chaired by Vice-President of the Republic of Türkiye, Cevdet Yilmaz, and the Commerce Minister emphasized those growing geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, financial vulnerabilities and increasing protectionism had made economic cooperation and collective action among Islamic countries more important than ever, said a release issued here on Friday. Speaking on behalf of OIC member states, Jam Kamal Khan expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Türkiye for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements. He also acknowledged the contributions of the COMCEC Coordination Office and OIC institutions towards the successful conduct of the session. The Minister said that OIC countries possessed significant economic potential, geographical advantages, human resources and natural endowments that could be transformed into shared prosperity through stronger partnerships and coordinated policies. He observed that while OIC member states had made considerable progress in sustainable development, technological advancement and economic prosperity over the decades, emerging global challenges required them to work together and develop practical solutions suited to their circumstances. Highlighting the outcomes of the session, Jam Kamal Khan said the deliberations had identified important areas for collective action, including intra-OIC trade, transport connectivity, sustainable tourism, agricultural productivity, food security, poverty alleviation and digital transformation.

Referring to the session's priority theme, "Developing Effective Trade Financing Tools for Increasing Exports in the OIC Member Countries," the Minister stressed that affordable, diversified and sustainable trade financing was essential for improving export competitiveness, expanding international trade and accelerating economic growth. He pointed out that exporters, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), continued to face difficulties in accessing suitable financing due to fragmented regulatory frameworks, high collateral requirements, transaction costs and lengthy administrative procedures. To address these challenges, the Commerce Minister outlined five priority areas requiring closer cooperation among OIC member states.He emphasized the need to strengthen and harmonize national legal, regulatory and supervisory frameworks to facilitate cross-border transactions and improve access to trade financing.

He also called for diversification of trade financing instruments, stronger export credit guarantee mechanisms and innovative financial arrangements tailored to the requirements of exporters, particularly MSMEs and technology-driven enterprises.

Highlighting the potential of Islamic finance, Jam Kamal Khan urged member states to promote Shariah-compliant trade financing through enhanced institutional capacity, risk-sharing arrangements, Islamic export credit insurance and closer cooperation among Islamic financial institutions. The Minister further stressed the importance of accelerating digital transformation in trade and financial processes through the integration of customs and banking systems, electronic trade documentation and single-window platforms. He said these measures could significantly reduce transaction costs, simplify procedures and improve the efficiency of cross-border trade. Jam Kamal Khan also underscored the importance of improving access to financing for MSMEs, particularly women- and youth-led enterprises, through targeted financing facilities, credit guarantees, financial literacy programmes, technical assistance and stronger market linkages.

He maintained that implementing these measures in accordance with the national legal and regulatory frameworks of member states could substantially strengthen export capacity and promote intra-OIC trade.

The Minister called upon COMCEC to continue supporting member states in translating policy recommendations into practical and measurable outcomes through its project support mechanisms, analytical work and institutional cooperation.Emphasizing the broader economic cooperation agenda, Jam Kamal Khan described the private sector as a central partner in promoting investment, innovation, industrial development and employment. He encouraged greater interaction among business communities across OIC countries to unlock new opportunities for trade, investment and joint economic initiatives. On agriculture and food security, the Minister called for enhanced cooperation in agricultural research, technology transfer, resilient food systems and investment in sustainable agricultural value chains to address emerging challenges and strengthen long-term food security.Addressing the situation in Palestine on behalf of OIC member states, Jam Kamal Khan reaffirmed unwavering support for the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination. He expressed grave concern over continued Israeli aggression and the immense humanitarian suffering in Gaza, as well as actions undermining the historical and legal status of Jerusalem, violations of the sanctity of Muslim and Christian holy sites and the expansion of illegal settlements.–**DNA**

Leader of Kenyan doomsday cult sentenced to 200 years

MOMBASA, Kenya: The leader of a Kenyan doomsday cult linked to the deaths of more than 400 people was sentenced on Friday to 200 years in prison for the murders of 191 people.

The High Court in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa issued the sentence for Pastor Paul Mackenzie. He was convicted of murdering 190 children and one adult after he ordered his followers to starve themselves to death in order to meet Jesus.

Justice Diana Kavedza said that Mackenzie, leader of the Good News International Church, bore the "primary criminal culpability" for relocating his followers to a remote location and ordering them to fast to death.

Mackenzie was charged with the murders alongside 28 of his followers, including guards who enforced his fasting directives and gravediggers who helped conceal the mass graves. All denied the charges, except for one person who confessed and pleaded for leniency.

On Oct. 19, the court found all 29 of the accused guilty of the murder of 191 people.

In 2023, more than 400 bodies were exhumed from shallow graves on the 800-acre (320-hectare) Chakama Ranch in coastal Kilifi County, where Mackenzie's followers lived in mud huts, away from the scrutiny of local communities and authorities. More than 60 bodies were positively identified and reburied by their relatives, while many others remain unidentified and unclaimed. During the sentencing, Kavedza said that 183 victims died of starvation, defined as a complete lack of food, and the other eight were classified as murder by direct homicide. Kavedza said the killings were "cold and calculated" and dismissed claims by some of the accused that the loss of their own children altered the fact that they had participated in the killings of many other children. The justice said that the perpetrators didn't show remorse and declared they were ready to fast to death as well. During the sentencing, Mackenzie often smiled and chatted with his assistant pastor, Smart Mwakalama, who was sentenced to 160 years in prison. The prosecution had argued for the death penalty for Mackenzie and life imprisonment for his accomplices. Mackenzie is also facing terrorism, child abuse and torture charges in two other courts.–**APP**

KSrelief aid reaches over 75,000 earthquake survivors

JAKARTA: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center and Indonesia's alms agency have delivered tens of thousands of individual health kits and food parcels to more than 75,000 survivors of the deadly earthquake that hit eastern Indonesia earlier this year. The magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck off the coast of Flores island in East Nusa Tenggara province in mid-August killed at least 156 people and injured more than 1,600 others, making it the country's deadliest quake since 2022, when hundreds of people were killed in West Java. More than 28,000 people are still displaced across 10 regencies and cities in Flores, latest official data showed, after more than 119,000 homes were damaged by the August quake.

Baznas, a government agency responsible for zakat and other Islamic social funds in Indonesia, said 15,000 food parcels and another 15,000 individual health kits worth 18 billion rupiah, or nearly $1 million, have been delivered to communities in the affected areas to help fulfill their basic needs. KSrelief's assistance was "very important to boost the recovery process of the affected communities" in East Nusa Tenggara Timur, the agency said in a statement on Friday. "This humanitarian commitment is carried through even though KSrelief representatives had to overcome various obstacles and seek alternative flight routes due to the difficult situation within Saudi Arabia and the closure of the Riyadh airport," Baznas added.–**APP**

CENTRELINE
Largest Diplomatic Magazine

Daily
Islamabad POST

DNA
DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2026 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

Pakistan-Tajikistan joint military exercise concludes



The exercise focused on sharing counterterrorism experiences, refining operational drills and procedures, and enhancing combat skills through mutual learning and the exchange of best practices

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Exercise Dosti-III, the third edition of the bilateral Counter Terrorism exercise between the Pakistan Army and the Tajikistan Army, concluded at the Special Operations School, Cherat. The exercise had commenced on 26 October 2026. The exercise focused on sharing counterterrorism experiences, refining operational drills and procedures, and enhancing combat skills through mutual learning and the exchange of best practices.

The concluding ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan, along with senior military officials from both countries. During the ceremony, participating troops showcased various tactical skills and operational capabilities acquired during the exercise. The ambassador also interacted with the participants and was photographed with officers and soldiers from both sides to commemorate the successful completion of the exercise. The exercise reflects the longstanding military cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan and reaffirms the resolve of both countries to further strengthen bilateral defence ties.

Briefs

Saudi Arabia denies report about Houthis demands

News Desk

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has denied a report by the US-based Wall Street Journal (WSJ) that Yemen's Houthis had demanded $51 billion from kingdom in return for a "negotiated halt" to the ongoing hostilities between the two sides. A report by the Journal claimed on Thursday that the kingdom had approached the Houthis "to see what it would take to arrive at a negotiated halt to the hostilities", and the group demanded $51bn in return. The report, citing unnamed sources, further claimed that the Houthis would want to be "officially recognised ... as the rulers of Yemen".

But Saudi Deputy Minister for Public Diplomacy Ambassador Rayed Krimly "categorically" denied the claims about "demands made by this militia". "All of this is pure fabrication by the writers or their alleged sources," he said in a post on X. The Saudi official further stated that "these militias turned against the Yemeni government, caused famine among the Yemeni people, and dragged Yemen into conflicts and agendas that do not serve Yemen and its people".

"They attacked commercial vessels in the Red Sea waterways, civilian and economic targets, and rejected all peace efforts. We also remind the writers that Yemen has a recognised government," he said.

NADRA official shot dead in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: An assistant director of the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) was shot dead by unidentified gunmen near the authority's office in Peshawar's Hayatabad area on Friday morning, police said.

The official was identified as Fahad Khan, nephew of MNA Noor Alam Khan. According to city police spokesperson Alam Khan, he was shot in an area behind the Nadra office, within the jurisdiction of Hayatabad police station.

Police reached the scene after being informed of the incident and recovered eight spent .30-bore pistol casings, spokesperson Khan said. The victim's body was shifted to a hospital for a post-mortem examination, he added.

The police spokesperson added that an investigation was under way to determine the circumstances surrounding the killing and identify the perpetrators.

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed "deep sorrow and regret" over the official's demise. He also extended condolences and sympathy to the victim's family. – **APP**

Malaysia ex-PM Najib Razak set for house arrest

KUALA LUMPUR: Jailed former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's fine has been paid as part of the terms of a royal pardon, his political party said on Friday, paving the way for his transfer to house arrest. Najib, prime minister from 2009 to 2018, was found guilty of corruption in relation to the embezzlement of billions of dollars tied to 1Malaysia Development Berhad, a state investment fund he co-founded while in power. He has consistently denied wrongdoing.

Malaysia's king agreed in September to allow jailed Najib to serve the remainder of his sentence under house arrest, in a second royal pardon over his conviction. It was not immediately clear when the transfer to Najib's home would take place and an aide to the former premier did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Under the terms of the pardon, Najib was required to pay a 50 million ringgit ($12.32 million) fine, which his political party. – **APP**

Imaan Mazari, husband move IHC against ATC sentences

Lawyer couple also pleads with court to suspend their sentences, release them on bail pending decision on appeals

ISLAMABAD: Lawyer and human rights activist Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, on Friday filed appeals in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against their convictions in the security breach case.

The couple has also filed separate applications seeking the suspension of their sentences awarded by an anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi. Advocates Faisal Siddiqui, Riasat Ali Azad and Zainab Janjua filed the appeals on behalf of Mazari and Chattha, arguing that the trial court had failed to fulfil the requirements of a fair trial.

The appeals have cited various judicial precedents concerning the lack of a fair trial. They further argued that the jail trial, conducted in violation of Article 10, was carried out like a secret trial. The appeals have pleaded with the IHC to set aside the anti-terrorism court's verdict, which sentenced both Mazari and Chattha to 10 years in prison and imposed fines. The couple has also requested the court to suspend their sentences and release them on bail pending a decision on their appeals.

The appeals against their convictions have been assigned case numbers by the IHC.

An ATC in the garrison town on October 29 sentenced Mazari and Chattha to 10 years' imprisonment and imposed fines of Rs100,000 each under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997, in the security breach case.

The case, registered at Aabpara Police Station, stems from allegations that the lawyer couple posed a security risk by interfering in state affairs during the visit of an international cricket team in October 2024.

According to the court's order, Mazari and Chattha were sentenced to an additional two years' imprisonment and fined Rs50,000 under Section 353. They were also handed another one-year prison term and an additional Rs50,000 fine under Section 186. However, the court granted the couple the benefit of Section 382. The court ruled that all sentences awarded to the lawyer couple would run concurrently, meaning they would serve a total of 10 years in prison.

Brazil's Lula to join other world leaders at ASEAN summit

DNA

MANILA: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will attend the ASEAN summit in Manila later this month, joining other world leaders, including US President Donald Trump, the hosts said Friday.

"President Lula will attend the Summit" as a guest of the summit chair, Dominic Imperial, the Philippine foreign department's spokesman for ASEAN issues, told reporters. Trump, Lula, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney are among world leaders confirmed to fly to Manila for the November 15-18 summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and related meetings. Lula, 81, pulled off a shock election win last month against Flavio Bolsonaro in a vote later described by Trump as a "disgrace." Bolsonaro fled to the United States last week to start a self-imposed exile after the vote count.

ASEAN's so-called East Asian dialogue partners — China, Japan, and South Korea — will also be represented at the Manila gathering, though Beijing has not named its official representative. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is also expected to take part, the host nation has said.

Turkiye arrests former minister on corruption charge



ANKARA: Authorities in Turkiye have arrested a former minister and deputy chair of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan 's ruling party over her alleged involvement in a share-price manipulation scandal involving several investment funds.

Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya resigned as the deputy chair of the ruling Justice and Development Party in September, shortly after allegations emerged that she had sold shares worth tens of millions of dollars just before regulators decided to liquidate the investment funds over alleged manipulation. Kaya, who served as family and social affairs minister from 2016 to 2018, was taken into custody late on Thursday pending a possible trial on charges of membership in a criminal organization and violating Turkiye's Capital Markets Law, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Her husband was released on condition that he regularly report to police, following a second round of questioning for the couple. Turkiye's main opposition party has accused Kaya of receiving 2.17 billion liras ($43 million) after reportedly investing 163 million liras ($3 million) in one of the funds.

The couple have denied any wrongdoing but have transferred some of the profits to an account designated by the banking regulators, according to media reports.

More than 430 people are under investigation over suspected market manipulation and insider trading, including 112 who have been arrested as part of the scandal, Justice Minister Akin Gurlek said this week. – **APP**

Israel's president pledges to pick candidate on Sunday to form govt

67 of parliament's 120 elected lawmakers endorsed Eisenkot, while 46 endorsed Netanyahu

JERUSALEM: Benjamin Netanyahu's main rival secured nods on Thursday from a majority of lawmakers to try to form a government, but Israel's president said it was still unclear who could break the election deadlock as he pledged to nominate a candidate on Sunday. Israel's October 27 national ballot ended with no clear winner. Neither Prime Minister Netanyahu nor Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief, secured a clear path to a majority in parliament.

That has set up a tough task for President Isaac Herzog, whose mostly ceremonial role comes with the post-election responsibility of picking a candidate he believes has the best chance to form a coalition in a deeply divided country. Herzog held marathon talks with elected factions on Wednesday and Thursday, during which 67 of parliament's 120 elected lawmakers endorsed Eisenkot, while 46 endorsed Netanyahu. In televised remarks at the end of the talks, Herzog said that while the "results of the consultations may appear clear", there were "mutual vetoes between the blocs and within the blocs themselves" that make it difficult to say who has the best shot to form a government.

Herzog said he would make a pick on Sunday, and that he would hold "personal talks with some of the party leaders" over the Israeli weekend, which runs Friday-Saturday. Once nominated by Herzog, the candidate will have 28 days to try to forge a government, with a possible 14-day extension. Netanyahu will remain prime minister in a caretaker government until a new coalition is formed, or through another election which must be held if no candidate succeeds. Netanyahu's Likud won the most seats of any single party with 27 in the 120-seat Knesset, but Netanyahu's wider religious-nationalist coalition garnered only 53 in total. That was still better than Eisenkot's anti-Netanyahu coalition spanning four centre-left to right-wing Jewish-led parties, which won just 48 seats despite pre-election polls pointing to a close race.

Beijing says opposes US 'sabotage' of Cuba-China relations

BEIJING: Beijing condemned on Friday new US sanctions against Cuba which it said sought to "sabotage" Chinese relations with the island. The new wave of sanctions announced by the State Department on Thursday targets Cuba's oil and electronic sectors. It also includes, for the first time, two Chinese companies accused of supplying the island's military with electronics and other security equipment.

China's foreign ministry vehemently opposed the move, calling the sanctions illegal and an example of "long-arm jurisdiction."

"China firmly opposes US interference in and sabotage of China–Cuba cooperation," ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a news briefing.Business news updates He warned that Beijing would take "all necessary measures" to safeguard its businesses.

Since January, Washington has launched devastating new sanctions and an oil blockade against Cuba, crippling its economy and leading to widespread blackouts and shortages of necessities. –**APP**

Egyptian army officers killed

CAIRO: Two Egyptian army officers, including a senior border guard officer, were killed during a military operation targeting illegal gold mining along Egypt's southern border with Sudan, Colonel Gharib Abdel-Hafez, the official spokesperson for the Egyptian Armed Forces, announced on Thursday.

According to Colonel Abdel-Hafez, the military campaign to combat unauthorized gold mining began in the Eastern Desert in June.

The first three phases of the operation have concluded, and the fourth phase is scheduled to commence on Saturday. The stated objective, according to the Egyptian Armed Forces, is to enhance state control over Egyptian territory and safeguard national resources. Colonel Abdel-Hafez did not specify the timing of the officers' deaths.

The Egyptian Armed Forces reported that 151 Egyptians and 540 foreign nationals have been detained since the campaign began. – **APP**