LAHORE - KARACHI - ISLAMABAD

A sister publication of CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency

WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

Daily Islamabad POST

Monday, November 10, 2026

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 40



President Zardari greets leadership of Cambodia on Ind Day

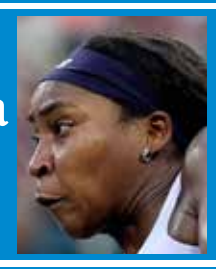
Detailed News On Page-08

PM views on Gaza relfect Pak stance



Detailed News On Page-04

Gauff bests Pegula, Noskova beats Kostyuk



Detailed News On Page-06

Trump: Iran war 'unlikely' to resume

Speaking in an interview with media, Trump expressed confidence that tensions had eased significantly following recent confrontations. However, he emphasized that the future course of relations would depend on Iran's willingness to reach a comprehensive agreement with the United States

CENTRELINE REPORT

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has said that renewed conflict with Iran is "highly unlikely," signaling optimism about the prospects for maintaining stability in the region. His remarks came ahead of a meeting with Qatar's prime minister, whose country has played an important role in diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran.

Speaking in an interview with media, Trump expressed confidence that tensions had eased significantly following recent confrontations. However, he emphasized that the future course of relations would depend on Iran's willingness to reach a comprehensive agreement with the United States. "It's highly unlikely," Trump said when asked about the possibility of fighting resuming. At the same time, he made clear that military action could still be considered if negotiations failed to produce results. "I would if necessary, but we hit them really hard. I hit them so hard. You don't know how hard I hit them," he added. The president's comments suggest that the US administration is focusing on diplomacy while keeping military options available as leverage. Trump indicated that the likelihood of renewed hostilities would depend on whether Iran agrees to what he described as a "very strong agreement." Qatar has emerged as a key mediator in

Continued on Page 06

Turkiye President says conveyed concerns to Trump

DNA

ANKARA: Turkiye does not want to see a new wave of attacks against Iran, President Tayyip Erdogan said, adding that he conveyed his concerns to US President Donald Trump in a recent phone call. "We emphasize at every opportunity that it is possible to resolve these issues through dialogue and diplomacy. Unfortunately, we see a negative shift once again. We are doing our utmost to prevent this," Erdogan told reporters on a return flight from Azerbaijan, according to a transcript shared by his office on Monday. Meanwhile, Senior Emirati official Anwar Gargash has warned that the region could face a prolonged period of uncertainty, saying a comprehensive political settlement between the United States and Iran to end the more than eight-month war appears to

Continued on Page 06



PARIS: Britain's Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noël Barrot, Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand, and Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, and (front row, L–R) Germany's Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul, EU High Representative and Vice-President for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas, and Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi during the G7 foreign ministers' summit. –DNA

Iqbal Day celebrated with fervour

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 149th birth anniversary of national poet Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal was celebrated across the country with national fervour. Known as the Poet of the East, Allama Iqbal was born in Sialkot on November 9, 1877. He inspired the Muslims of the Subcontinent through his philosophical poetry and political vision, laying the intellectual foundation for a separate homeland for Muslims.

His historic Allahabad Address in 1930 provided a clear political direction to the Muslims of the Subcontinent and strengthened their demand for a separate identity and homeland.

The government declared November 9 a public holiday across the country. All public and private offices, as well as educational institutions, will remain closed to mark the occasion.

Continued on Page 06

Security forces neutralise terrorists' hideouts in North Waziristan's Mir Ali: ISPR

Fitna al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Muzak village, on the southern outskirts of Mir Ali in North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, neutralising two terrorist hideouts, the military's media wing said on Monday.

During the operation, troops "sanitised" the hideouts belonging to the India-sponsored Fitna al-Khawarij, the military's media wing said. Fitna al Khawarij is a term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces recovered a huge cache of prepared improvised explosive devices (IEDs), explosive preparation material, weapons, and ammunition from hideouts, which were established inside mosques. The statement added that the terrorists had "deliberately established hideouts in Masajid to store explosive

Continued on Page 06

JUI-F's Deputy Chief taken into custody, says party

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Deputy Chief Qari Iftikhar has allegedly been taken into custody by unidentified individuals, the party's spokesperson said on Monday. JUI-F Spokesperson Aslam Ghauri said he and his colleagues were intercepted by men dressed in plain clothes near E-11 in Islamabad, adding that four to five individuals forced them into a vehicle. He said they also confiscated his mobile phone and other identification documents. "We were not told which institution these individuals belonged to or why we were being taken into custody," Ghauri

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Pakistan condemns targeting of Aramco building

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday condemned the Houthi attack on Saudi oil giant Aramco's corporate office in Riyadh, demanding that the rebel group "immediately and unconditionally" cease all attacks against Saudi Arabia, the Foreign Office (FO) said. On Sunday, an Aramco building in Riyadh was targeted in an "attempted attack", the Saudi energy ministry said, which damaged the skyscraper. The Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack. Aramco facilities and infrastructure have been repeatedly targeted by the rebels in Yemen in recent months, including tankers, refineries, storage areas and the company's headquarters as the Middle East conflict has expanded.

China building fire kills at least 14 people

BEIJING: A fire on Sunday at a high-rise building in Taiyuan, in the northern Chinese province of Shanxi, killed at least 14 people, the state-run Xinhua news agency said on Monday. A total of 25 people remain in the hospital, nine of them with serious injuries, state media said, citing authorities on Monday afternoon. The fire broke out in the building in downtown Taiyuan at 4:59pm local time (0859 GMT) on Sunday, state media said. Flames were put out roughly two hours later and authorities on Sunday said rescue operations concluded by 8:30pm with 38 people transported to the hospital. Five were confirmed dead by late Sunday night. The cause of the fire is under investigation, state media said.

Iran's 2-day Hormuz reopening proposal remains most rational option: Baqaei

Iran has made the offer to shorten the time to restart talks from an earlier seven-day proposal, which calls for Washington to first meet conditions including halting hostilities, lifting a blockade and waiving sanctions

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran defended a proposal on Monday to restart peace talks in as few as two days as the most reasonable offer on the table, after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called some of Iran's conditions "outrageous and ridiculous." "Is it unreasonable that Iran demands that US illegal sanctions and its naval blockade must be lifted before negotiations start and that the war should end on all fronts?" Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei told a weekly press conference in response to Rubio's remarks.

Iran has made the offer to shorten the time to restart talks from an earlier seven-day proposal, which calls for Washington to first meet conditions including halting hostilities, lifting a blockade and waiving sanctions. Baghaei also said US pressure on Iraq to close most of its borders with Iran should not affect bilateral ties with Baghdad, after Iraq's

Continued on Page 06

Mysterious illness claims 5 kids' lives in KP

DNA

ZAKA KHEL: Five children from the same family died while two others fell unconscious after being struck by a mysterious illness in Qaziano Kalay, an area of Bazaar Zakha Khel tehsil in Khyber tribal district. According to police, all seven children were being shifted to hospitals in Peshawar after losing consciousness. However, five of them died on the way, while the remaining two were admitted to Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC), where they are receiving medical treatment. The affected children belong to the family of a man identified as

Continued on Page 06

Water surges into Tarbela after rock collapse

All workers were safely evacuated, while the accumulated water at the Intake Pit was completely drained

DNA

HARIPUR: A rock mass collapse during excavation at the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project allowed water to enter a connecting tunnel and the under-construction powerhouse, disrupting construction activities. According to WAPDA, the incident occurred during excavation of the second bench of the Connecting Tunnel, when a weak rock formation collapsed, allowing water from the Intake Pit to flow into the tunnel and powerhouse area. All workers were safely evacuated, while the accumulated water at the Intake Pit was completely drained. Dewatering operations at the under-construction powerhouse have also begun. Senior WAPDA officers, the project engineer and the contractor are assessing the situation to determine the measures needed to address the incident and resume construction work. WAPDA said the incident

Continued on Page 06

16 killed, 13 injured in steel plant explosion in western Turkiye

DNA

ISTANBUL: At least 16 people were killed and 13 others injured, including two seriously, in an explosion at a steel plant in western Turkiye on Monday, Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. Speaking after a cabinet meeting at the Turkish presidential complex in Ankara, President Erdogan said judicial and administrative investigations had been launched to determine the cause of the explosion in Izmir's

Continued on Page 06



Islamabad POST
Tuesday, November 10 , 2026

Sheikh departs for Geneva to attend 30th WIC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for the Board of Investment (BOI), Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, has departed for Geneva to represent Pakistan at the prestigious 30th World Investment Conference (WIC 2026).

Organized by the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), the global summit is scheduled to take place from 10 to 12 November 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland, according to press release issue here Monday.

As an official speaker and representative of Pakistan, the Federal Minister will highlight the country's immense investment potential, ongoing economic reforms, and strategic incentives offered to international businesses.

During the three-day high-level conference, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh will also hold bilateral meetings with ministerial counterparts, global investment leaders, and senior corporate executives to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) into key sectors of Pakistan's economy.

Meanwhile, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh reiterated the government's firm resolve to sustain economic stabilization and improve the ease of doing business across the country.

He emphasized that Pakistan would actively project investment avenues in high-growth sectors, including Information Technology, renewable energy, agriculture, mineral exploration and industrial manufacturing. The minister noted that through streamlined one-window facilitation frameworks and ongoing regulatory reforms, Pakistan offered a secure, highly competitive and lucrative environment, inviting international enterprises to forge long-term partnerships in the nation's growth trajectory.—APP

PN assumes guard duties at mausoleum of Dr Allama Iqbal

Pakistan Navy Sta¬tion Commander laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum on behalf of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf as well as Officers, Sailors and Civilians of Pakistan Navy and offered Fateha



DNA

LAHORE: A Change of Guard Ceremony was held at the mausoleum of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal as the nation celebrated the 149th birth anniversary of Mufakkir-e-Pakistan, the visionary behind the ideology of an independent Muslim state in the subcontinent.

A smartly attired contingent of Pakistan Navy took over guard duties from Pakistan Rangers (Punjab). Pakistan Navy Sta¬tion Commander at Lahore, Com¬modore Misbah Ul Amin graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Pakistan Navy Sta¬tion Commander laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum on behalf of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf as well as Officers, Sailors and Civilians of Pakistan Navy and offered Fateha. The Chief Guest also recorded his remarks in the visitor's book, paying rich tribute to the great poet and philosopher.

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries, members of the media and a large number of the general public. Later, talking to newsmen, Ahsan Iqbal said that Allama Iqbal's philosophy is based on love for the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), which creates spiritual strength in the Ummah.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, he expressed hope that the nation will follow Allama Iqbal's teachings, which are relevant for generations to come.

Punjab CM for incorporating Iqbal's poetry into curriculum

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister(CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif has paid tribute to the vision and intellectual contributions of Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his birth anniversary,saying his philosophy of selfhood and awakening remained a guiding force for the younger generation.

In her special message on Iqbal Day,the CM said that Iqbal's intellectual contribution to the Pakistan Movement could never be forgotten.

Through his poetry,he awakened the Muslims of the subcontinent and instilled in them a sense of freedom and the spirit of a separate national identity.

She said Iqbal gave the nation a sense of direction while Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah led the caravan towards its destination. CM Maryam Nawaz said Iqbal's message of self-respect was one of his greatest contributions to the nation,adding that it was essential to familiarize the younger generation with his thoughts and philosophy. She stressed the need to make Iqbal's poetry a greater part of the educational curriculum so that students could understand his message of selfhood, awareness and dignity. The CM said Pakistan could become a moderate and welfare-oriented state by acting upon the teachings and philosophy of Allama Iqbal.—**APP**

Kundi opens South Airways' Peshawar-Lahore flights on Iqbal Day

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday inaugurated South Airways' new air service between Peshawar and Lahore on the occasion of Iqbal Day.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony as chief guest, the governor said that the launch of the new route marked another important milestone for the airline and would improve travel facilities for the people and business community. He said that South Airways had earlier launched flights between Peshawar and Quetta, while the new Peshawar-Lahore service was another welcome step towards expanding air connectivity. Faisal Karim Kundi said that road travel between Peshawar and Lahore took around six hours, but the new air service would save passengers valuable time and provide them with a more convenient travel option. He announced that South Airways would soon launch flights to Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan as part of efforts to expand air links and facilitate people across the region. The governor said that launching the Peshawar-Lahore service on Iqbal Day carried special significance, as Lahore was the city of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the Poet of the East. The province is moving forward under the vision of a changing, progressive and stronger Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he added. The governor assured the South Airways management of full cooperation and support from the provincial government in expanding its operations—**APP**

Pak-China Friendship Hospital free emergency services

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-China Friendship Hospital has expanded access to free healthcare for residents of the federal capital by making its emergency department operational round the clock, ensuring immediate medical assistance and life-saving treatment through dedicated medical teams.

Managed by the Indus Hospital and Health Network (IHHN), the revamped facility has deployed dedicated teams of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals to provide emergency care and life-saving treatment at any time of the day or night.

The hospital aims to improve access to quality healthcare by providing timely medical attention, particularly to patients requiring urgent treatment. Its round-the-clock emergency services are expected to facilitate residents of Islamabad and surrounding areas.

The facility has also been expanding its clinical capacity by introducing specialized medical and surgical services to address the growing healthcare needs of the population.

In a recent clinical milestone, the hospital successfully performed an Open Reduction and Internal Fixation (ORIF) ankle surgery under spinal anesthesia, marking progress in the provision of advanced surgical services.

Head of Campus Dr. Khizzer Pervaiz appreciated the contributions of Dr. Danish, the orthopedic and anesthesia teams and the hospital's support staff for their coordinated efforts in successfully completing the surgical procedure. The successful operation demonstrated the hospital's growing capacity to undertake specialized surgical procedures through professional expertise, teamwork and improved healthcare infrastructure.—**APP**

Seasonal illnesses increase antibiotic misuse risk

ISLAMABAD: Amid changing weather and a rise in seasonal illnesses, health experts have warned against the unnecessary use of antibiotics for fever, cold, cough and sore throat, cautioning that self-medication can accelerate drug resistance and make infections harder to treat. According to medical practitioners, many seasonal respiratory illnesses are caused by viruses, against which antibiotics are ineffective, while certain bacterial infections require antibiotic treatment only after proper medical assessment. Dr Maqsood Malik, a senior physician, said antibiotics are effective medicines against bacterial infections but cannot treat viral illnesses. "Taking antibiotics for every episode of fever, cough or sore throat is not only unnecessary but can also expose people to avoidable risks," he said. He advised people experiencing seasonal illnesses to seek medical advice rather than start antibiotics on their own. Dr Tauqeer Ahad, a general health practitioner, said antibiotic resistance was becoming a serious public health concern as bacteria continued to develop mechanisms to survive medicines designed to eliminate them. "When antibiotics are used unnecessarily or incorrectly, resistant bacteria can emerge and spread, making routine infections harder to treat," he added. Dr Naila Shamim, a medical specialist, stressed that patients should never demand antibiotics for common viral infections or take medicines left over from previous prescriptions. "Antibiotics should only be used when prescribed by a qualified doctor, and patients must follow the recommended dosage and duration of treatment," she said. The experts cautioned that taking antibiotics without medical advice could encourage bacteria to develop resistance, reducing the effectiveness of treatments and creating serious challenges for healthcare systems. They also advised patients not to stop a prescribed course or alter the dosage without consulting their doctor, as treatment decisions should be based.—APP

PIC hosts 1st cardiovascular research moot

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC-MTI) hosted the 1st International Cardiovascular Research Conference 2026, bringing together renowned cardiologists, researchers, academics and healthcare professionals from Pakistan, the United Kingdom, the US, Bangladesh, and other countries.

The conference was organised by the Research Department of PIC in collaboration with international research and academic institutions. The central theme focused on bridging gaps in cardiovascular research and rehabilitation in resource-limited settings. Distinguished international speakers included Professor Rod Taylor from the University of Glasgow, renowned Indian cardiologist Profe Prasad Shetty, prominent Pakistani-origin cardiac surgeon Professor Dr Asif Hasan, and former President of the American College of Cardiology, Dr William A. Zoghbi, alongside other national and international experts._**APP**



ISLAMABAD: Students present Guard of Honor to guests during a ceremony on Iqbal Day, mark the 149th birth anniversary of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal at Pakistan Sweet Homes.

Joint working group formed for industrial estate along Ring Road

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), led by Patron-in-Chief Sohail Altaf, met Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain to discuss the establishment of a new industrial estate along Rawalpindi Ring Road.

The delegation included RCCI President Nosherwan Khalil Khan and former President Asad Mashadi.

During the meeting, the formation of a joint working group comprising representatives of the Rawalpindi and Islamabad Chambers of Commerce and government officials was finalized. Members will include Sohail Altaf, Nosherwan Khalil Khan, Asad Mashadi, Islamabad Chamber President Muhammad Zakaria Akbar Khan, former President Khalid Javed, Chairman Hajveri Group Tauqeer Awan, Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Umar Masood, Chairman PAIDMC Shehzad Azam, and COO Ali Moazzam. The notification will be issued shortly.

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said the working group would accelerate the project, adding that the industrial estate would be developed on non-agricultural land in response to industrial demand and the needs of the business community. He said the project would generate employment and strengthen regional economic activity.

The minister highlighted the Chief Minister's Asaan Karobar Finance Scheme and the Punjab Government's PIVOT Program, stating that these initiatives would promote investment, industrial growth, and job creation.

The RCCI delegation welcomed Punjab's new industrial policy, describing it as business- and industry-friendly. It appreciated income tax exemptions in industrial zones and the provision of interest-free loans, while congratulating the provincial minister on these initiatives.

The delegation also praised Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's Asaan Karobar and PIVOT programs, noting their potential to attract investment, establish new factories, and create employment opportunities.

The RCCI representatives emphasized that industrialization is essential for Pakistan's economic development and stressed the urgent need to establish economic and industrial zones along Rawalpindi Ring Road, describing the initiative as a potential game-changer for investment, industrial expansion, and employment generation.



Gold prices surge by Rs3,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold witnessed a significant increase in the local market on Monday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola rising by Rs3,200 to settle at Rs432,336, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold increased by Rs2,744 to Rs370,658, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold rose by Rs2,516 to Rs339,782. In the international market, the price of gold increased by $32 to $4,098 per ounce, the association reported. Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola increased by Rs55 to Rs5,723, while the price of 10 grams of silver rose by Rs47 to Rs4,906.—**APP**



Islamabad POST
METROLITE
Tuesday, November 10 , 2026

IRS hosts Michael on Pak's place in Trump's policy

Michael Kugelman said the relationship had improved markedly since President Trump returned to office. He attributed this to President Trump's transactional approach, which set aside past differences; Pakistan's help in arresting an ISIS-K suspect in the 2021 Kabul airport attack; Pakistan's performance in the May 2025 conflict with India; Pakistan's commercial offers in critical minerals; and its geopolitical value in the Middle East, including its mediation between the United States and Iran

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) organised an expert talk titled "Factoring Pakistan into Trump's Transactional Foreign Policy" on Friday. Michael Kugelman, Senior Fellow for South Asia at the Atlantic Council, was the keynote speaker. The event was attended by members of the think tank community, diplomatic staff, media, government officials and universities. Riaz Khokhar, Research Officer at IRS, moderated the session.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, said Pakistan-US relations had entered a productive phase since the start of President Trump's second term. He cited Pakistan's arrest and handover of a high-value terrorist in March 2025, President Trump's role in defusing the May 2025 Pakistan-India conflict, the US designation of the BLA and its Majeed Brigade as terrorist organisations, regular top-level meetings and Pakistan's role as a peacemaker in the US-Iran conflict.

Ambassador Saleem said the United States was the largest market for Pakistani exports. Both sides wanted to strengthen the relationship through trade and investment, including in minerals and information technology. Given its close ties with Washington and Beijing, Pakistan could act as a bridge between the two.

Michael Kugelman said the relationship had improved markedly since President Trump returned to office. He attributed this to President Trump's transactional approach, which set aside past differences; Pakistan's help in arresting an ISIS-K suspect in the 2021 Kabul airport attack; Pakistan's performance in the May 2025 conflict with India; Pakistan's commercial offers in critical minerals; and its geopolitical value in the Middle East, including its mediation between the United States and Iran.

He said the tone of the relationship had changed from criticism to praise. He added that the substance of the relationship had yet to match the rhetoric. Early outcomes include MoUs on critical minerals, the first shipment of US crude oil to Pakistan and the lifting of a ban on US soybeans.

On the midterm elections, Mr Kugelman said Democratic control of Congress would have a limited effect on the relationship because the executive branch sets foreign policy. He noted bipartisan support on Capitol Hill for Pakistan's peace mediation and its growing role in the Middle East.

He recommended a formal US review of its Pakistan policy, the first since 2017, to build ties that could outlast changes in leadership. He identified trade, energy, counter-narcotics cooperation, the US International Development Finance Corporation and Track II dialogues as areas with potential. He said transactional relationships could deliver real results, and the trust gap between the two countries was narrowing.

Maj Gen (R) Dr Muhammad Samrez Salik, Professor of Practice at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), said Pakistan and the United States were closely linked by geography and history. Unlike in earlier geopolitical cycles, Pakistan now had to balance its ties with the United States and China, and it could help the two powers avoid the Thucydides trap. He said the two countries' interests converged on Iran and rare earth minerals.

Dr Musarat Amin, Associate Professor and Head of Department at JSPPL, NUST, said Pakistan should seek tangible economic gains from the relationship. She recommended that Pakistan build institutional links with the United States, engage both Republicans and Democrats, and expand people-to-people and educational ties.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Rizwan Naseer, Senior Research Fellow at IRS, said Pakistan-US cooperation was moving from aid to trade, particularly in mines and minerals. He said Pakistan's mediation between Iran and the United States had earned international recognition, and he expected the relationship to keep improving regardless of which party held the White House.



ISLAMABAD: Zahid Latif Khan Chairman REIT and Aftab Chaudhry had a productive meeting with H.E. Paulo Domingues, Ambassador of Portugal They discussed the upcoming visit of the Portuguese Foreign Minister and a business delegation to Pakistan, focused on exploring joint ventures and deeper cooperation between the capital markets of both countries. DNA

Call for transforming Iqbal's vision into action for educated Pak

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the 149th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Freedom Gate Prosperity (FGP) on Monday paid tribute to the great philosopher, poet and visionary whose message of self-belief, intellectual freedom, dignity and collective progress continues to inspire generations. The FGP believes that Allama Iqbal's philosophy is not merely a part of Pakistan's literary and political heritage but a powerful call to action for addressing the country's contemporary challenges, particularly in education, youth empowerment, economic opportunities, social justice and responsible citizenship. Muhammad Anwar, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Freedom Gate Prosperity, stated that Allama Iqbal dreamed of a society where individuals possess the confidence to think independently, the courage to challenge injustice and the determination to shape their own future. His philosophy of Khudi reminds us that real national progress begins when citizens are empowered through quality education, skills, opportunities and freedom of thought, he said. Honouring Iqbal requires more than commemorative speeches; it demands practical efforts to build a Pakistan where every young person, particularly women and those from disadvantaged communities, can realize their full potential." He emphasized that Pakistan's greatest strength lies in its young population. However, this potential can only be realized through meaningful reforms in education, investment in technical and vocational skills, entrepreneurship, digital inclusion.—**APP**

Reused barber blades pose hepatitis C risk

ISLAMABAD: Health experts have warned that the reuse of shaving blades and contaminated grooming instruments at barber shops can expose customers to hepatitis C. According to them, citizens should insist on fresh disposable blades and properly sterilized equipment to prevent potentially life-threatening infections. Pakistan faces a serious hepatitis burden, with hepatitis C among the major public health challenges. Medical experts say the disease often remains undetected for years because many infected people do not develop noticeable symptoms during its early stages. An ordinary visit to a barber shop for a haircut, shave, or beard trimming can become a serious health risk if old shaving blades, contaminated razors and improperly sterilized instruments are reused on multiple customers.

Even a minor cut during shaving can allow infected blood left on a previously used blade to enter another person's bloodstream, potentially transmitting hepatitis C and other bloodborne infections. Health expert Dr Laiq Khalid said hepatitis C was primarily transmitted through contact with infected blood, making the reuse of shaving blades and contaminated instruments a significant preventable health risk. He emphasized that customers should never allow barbers to use an old blade, regardless of whether it appeared clean or had been wiped with a piece of cloth.

He advised customers to insist on a new disposable blade and watch the barber open its packaging in front of them. He also stressed that barbers had an equal responsibility to follow hygiene standards to protect their customers.

Medical practitioner Dr Imran Tasawar said the danger was not confined to shaving blades alone, as contaminated razors, scissors, trimmers and other grooming instruments could also pose health risks if they came into contact with infected blood and were not properly disinfected.

He said barbers should maintain clean equipment, ensure proper sterilization of reusable instruments and immediately dispose of used blades in designated safety containers He also advised citizens against sharing personal grooming items, including razors, toothbrushes and nail cutters, even among family members, as these could become sources of infection if contaminated with infected blood. Explaining other major transmission routes, he said the use of unsterilized medical and dental instruments, unsafe injections and transfusion of unscreened blood could also spread hepatitis B and C. Medical Specialist Dr Fareed Khan said hepatitis C was particularly concerning because infected individuals could remain unaware of their condition for years, allowing the disease to progress silently. He explained that persistent fatigue, weakness, nausea, vomiting and jaundice could be warning signs of liver-related illness, although many patients might not experience symptoms until the disease had advanced.—**DNA**

Nov 11 deadline for NUMS' MBBS, BDS admissions

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) has announced that admissions to MBBS and BDS programmes for the academic session 2026-27 are closing soon, with candidates advised to complete their applications through the centralized admission portal before the prescribed deadlines.

According to the admission schedule, November 11, 2026, is the last date to submit applications with the regular fee, while candidates will be able to apply with a late fee until November 25.

Admissions are open for NUMS constituent and affiliated medical and dental colleges, and medical and dental institutions across the country.

These affiliated institutions of NUMS are offering admissions through the centralized admission system, allowing applicants to select their preferred colleges through the online portal.

Under the eligibility criteria for open merit seats, Pakistani citizens, including candidates from Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, dual nationals and overseas Pakistanis are eligible to apply. Applicants must have passed the NUMS MDCAT 2026, held on September 13, with a minimum of 55 percent marks for MBBS and 50 percent for BDS.—**APP**

Illegal healthcares sealed in Shah Allah Ditta, G-6

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has sealed several healthcare establishments operating illegally in Shah Allah Ditta and Sector G-6 during enforcement operations conducted to protect citizens from unqualified practitioners and substandard medical services. According to the IHRA on Monday, the sealing operations were carried out against unqualified individuals and illegal healthcare practices as part of its ongoing efforts to curb quackery and ensure compliance with prescribed healthcare standards. The Authority said that such enforcement measures were essential to safeguarding public health and preventing citizens from receiving treatment from unauthorized healthcare providers.

It reiterated its commitment to strengthening regulatory oversight, eliminating quackery and ensuring the provision of safe and quality healthcare services across Islamabad.—**APP**

Dr. Shabana assumes additional charge as ED NIRM

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Shabana Saleem, Director General Population at the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, has assumed the additional charge of Executive Director of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine (NIRM).

Following her assumption of the additional responsibility, Dr. Shabana Saleem held a meeting with the hospital administration to discuss key institutional matters and review administrative affairs.

The meeting focused on strengthening coordination among different departments, improving institutional management and ensuring the smooth delivery of healthcare and rehabilitation services.

The NIRM administration welcomed her appointment and expressed good wishes for her successful tenure, hoping that her leadership would contribute to further strengthening the institute's performance and service delivery.—**APP**

National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

Nov 01/Algeria National Day

Nov 04/Italy Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian Federation Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia National Day

Nov 11/Poland Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus National Day

Nov 18/Oman National Day

Nov 18/Morocco Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh Armed Forces Day

Nov 22/Lebanon Independence Day

Nov 25/Suriname National Day

Nov 28/Mauritania National Day

Nov 28/Albania Flags Day

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 POST
Tuesday, November 10 , 2026

Briefs

Passenger's attempt to travel to Türkiye foiled

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration at Islamabad International Airport foiled a passenger's attempt to travel to Türkiye on a suspected fraudulent NGO/COP31 visa obtained through an agent for Rs 1.15 million, uncovering an alleged plan to bribe immigration officials with Rs 150,000 to secure travel clearance.

FIA official told on Monday that the Islamabad Zone, the passenger was scheduled to travel to Türkiye on flight QR-615 but was offloaded after an immigration officer detected discrepancies in his travel documents and stated purpose of visit during routine immigration clearance.

The officer, using professional profiling techniques, identified inconsistencies in the passenger's documents and travel plans. The passenger failed to provide a satisfactory explanation for his intended visit to Türkiye and was referred for secondary profiling.

During further examination, a second-line immigration officer scrutinised the passenger's travel documents and mobile phones, revealing that he had allegedly obtained an NGO/COP31 visa through an agent after paying Rs 1.15 million.–**APP**

NCCIA conducts running test for female candidates

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) on Monday conducted a running test for female candidates at its Islamabad recruitment centre as part of the ongoing recruitment process, with special security arrangements and drone surveillance to ensure smooth conduct of the physical examination. According to an NCCIA official, female candidates participated in the running test to assess their physical fitness and endurance in accordance with the prescribed recruitment standards. He said the running test was conducted under proper supervision, with arrangements made to facilitate candidates and ensure the orderly completion of the examination. Special security and monitoring measures were put in place during the test, while drones and surveillance cameras were used to monitor candidates' movement and activities at the examination venue. Security personnel were also deployed at different locations to maintain order and ensure the safety of candidates throughout the recruitment exercise.–**APP**

WHO, Pakistan mobilize 200,000 trained workers for vaccination

ISLAMABAD :The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan and development partners, mobilized around 200,000 WHO-trained polio workers during the recently concluded nationwide vaccination campaign to protect nearly 24 million children against the crippling disease.

According to the WHO, its field teams worked alongside government authorities and partner organizations to coordinate vaccination activities, mobilize communities and ensure that children under five years of age received polio drops during the sub-national immunization campaign. The organization reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Pakistan's efforts to eradicate polio, stressing that eliminating the disease remained achievable through sustained vaccination, community engagement and coordinated public health interventions. The campaign was conducted simultaneously in Pakistan and Afghanistan to strengthen regional efforts against poliovirus transmission and protect children across both countries.–**APP**



Rawalpindi: Patron-in-Chief UBG S.M. Tanveer, UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari cutting cake during their visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry, along with the Chamber's Group Leader Malik Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, President Rana Khurram Mahmood, and other office-bearers.

Poetry of Iqbal inspiration for youth: President

"For me, fidelity to Iqbal's vision means building a Pakistan where no citizen's dignity is diminished by poverty, no child's future is limited by birth, and our nation stands among others with confidence and self-respect," he remarked

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari urged young people to use inspiration from Iqbal's poetry as a catalyst to boost the spirit of inquiry and develop critical faculties.

In a message on the occasion of 149th Iqbal Day (9 November 2026), he said, "On 149th birth anniversary of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, I pay tribute to our national poet, whose words awakened people to their dignity, their rights and their power to shape their own destiny. Iqbal gave intellectual direction to the aspirations of the Muslims of the Subcontinent. His poetry also spoke to a wider human struggle: the pursuit of freedom, equality and a life of self-respect."

"Iqbal envisioned a society in which wealth, privilege and inherited status would no longer determine a person's worth or opportunities. His poetry challenged exploitation, called for the awakening of the poor and upheld the dignity of labour. He placed ordinary people at the centre of humanity's future. His vision of an egalitarian society calls upon us to build a Pakistan where the worker receives a fair wage, the farmer enjoys the fruits of his labour, and every child can learn and advance, regardless of family circumstances, gender or faith," he added.

He said, "At the heart of this vision lies Khudi: the development of a confident, purposeful and responsible self. It grows through knowledge, effort, courage and strength of character. A person conscious of his or her own dignity must also respect the dignity of others. The same principle applies to nations. National self-respect demands the capacity to make independent decisions, develop our own strengths and engage with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect."

"For me, fidelity to Iqbal's vision means building a Pakistan where no citizen's dignity is diminished by poverty, no child's future is limited by birth, and our nation stands among others with confidence and self-respect," he remarked.

He said, "Iqbal's poetry also carried a powerful message of Asia's awakening. He urged its peoples to overcome subjugation, recover their confidence and become makers of their own future. As we look towards the dawn of an Asian century, his message acquires renewed significance. The promise of that century must reach beyond economic growth to embrace freedom from hunger, access to knowledge and opportunity, and respect for the sovereignty of nations. Pakistan must help realise this promise through education, scientific progress, regional cooperation and peace."

The President said, "The struggle for the empowerment of ordinary people has continued through our political history. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto gave voice to those denied influence and opportunity, affirming their right to participate in national life. We honour that democratic tradition by strengthening institutions, protecting equal citizenship and ensuring that development improves the lives of the many." "On this Iqbal Day, let us translate Khudi into confidence rooted in knowledge, national self-respect into hard work to transform Pakistan into a developed and strong nation, and the ideal of equality into justice in everyday life. This is how we can honour Iqbal and fulfil the promise of Pakistan," he concluded.–**DNA**

PM's views for Gaza reflect sentiments of Pakistani: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council and Coordinator of the National Paigham-e-Aman Committee Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's condemnation of Israeli aggression in Gaza and his directives to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take all possible measures for immediate humanitarian assistance reflected the sentiments of the Pakistani people, the Muslim world and all humanity. He said innocent children in Gaza, whose tents are being flooded by rain and who are suffering from extreme cold, hunger and helplessness, are a matter of grave concern for all humanity. At this time, the most urgent need is the immediate provision of secure tents and protection of affected families from cold and rain, he said.–**APP**

Pharmacy Council warns against unauthorized inspection teams

ISLAMABAD: The Pharmacy Council of Pakistan (PCP) has warned educational institutions against individuals impersonating its nominees and conducting unauthorized inspections, advising them to verify the credentials of inspection teams before extending any cooperation. In a public advisory issued here Monday, the Council said that it had received reports that certain individuals were posing as PCP representatives and conducting inspections of institutions falling under its regulatory jurisdiction. The Council clarified that no such individuals or inspection teams had been authorized to carry out inspections on its behalf. It emphasized that all institutions were formally notified in advance whenever an official inspection cycle was scheduled, adding that institutions should not entertain or cooperate with individuals.–**APP**

Pakistan-China open HVACR centre at NSU

ISLAMABAD: National Skills University (NSU) Islamabad inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for HVACR Technologies at its Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology here Monday, marking a significant step towards strengthening technical education, industry-oriented training, and Pakistan-China cooperation. The ceremony was held in collaboration with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) Pakistan, UNI Services International Pakistan, and Harbin Vocational University of Construction Technology, China. Engr. Qamar-ul-Islam Raja, Chairman NAVTTC, graced the occasion as the chief guest, alongside distinguished representatives of the Chinese Embassy, partner organizations, academia, and industry. Addressing the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor NSU Prof. Dr. Saud Altaf highlighted the importance of bridging the gap between education and industry through practical learning, innovation, and professional skills development. He emphasized the growing demand for qualified HVACR professionals in Pakistan and appreciated the contributions of NAVTTC, CSCEC Pakistan, Harbin Vocational University of Construction Technology, ITMC China, and UNI Services International Pakistan in establishing the Centre. Chairman NAVTTC, Engr. Qamar-ul-Islam Raja, underscored the importance of technical and vocational education in Pakistan's economic and industrial development. He highlighted the need to equip young people with market-relevant skills and emphasized the role of skilled professionals in supporting infrastructure development and CPEC-related projects. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Gondal, Chairperson, Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology, NSU, welcomed the distinguished guests and described the establishment of the Kaiwu Workshop as an important milestone in promoting hands-on learning, technology transfer, and international academic cooperation. A representative of China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) Pakistan also emphasized the importance of technical skills in supporting CPEC projects, highlighting the need for a competent workforce equipped with modern technical knowledge and industry-relevant expertise. The newly established Centre will provide practical training in HVACR installation, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting. It is expected to facilitate faculty development, technology exchange, industry engagement, internships, and improved employment opportunities for graduates. The initiative reflects the University's commitment to developing a skilled and globally competitive workforce through strong partnerships between government, academia and industry.–**DNA**

PCFH successfully removes large knee growth

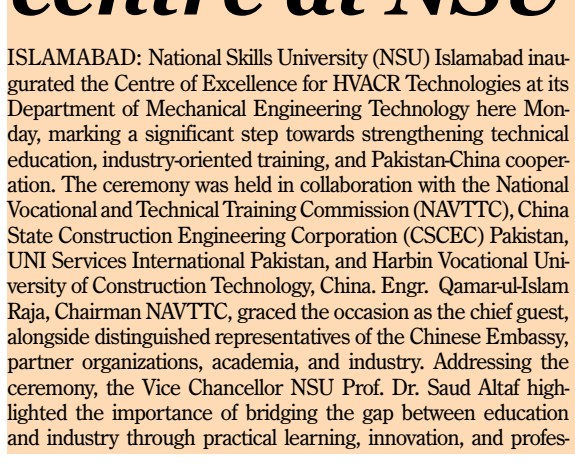
ISLAMABAD: The Pak-China Friendship Hospital (PCFH) has successfully performed a complex surgical procedure to remove a longstanding large growth from the left knee of a 64-year-old female patient, marking another achievement for the healthcare facility managed by the Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN). The surgery was led by Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Nadeem, who, along with a specialized surgical team, successfully carried out the excision of the growth. The procedure highlights the hospital's expanding capacity to provide specialized surgical services and manage complex medical cases through its upgraded healthcare facilities. The successful operation has been viewed as another step towards strengthening access to quality surgical care for residents of Islamabad and surrounding areas. The hospital, which operates under the management of IHHN, has been expanding its healthcare services, including specialized treatment and surgical facilities, to provide patients with improved medical care.–**APP**

CDA chief directs to accelerate sector E-12 uplift work

Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf said that encroachment on Government land will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He said that the completion of development work in new sectors is among the top priorities of the CDA administration

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Sohail Ashraf, visited Sector E-12 and carried out a detailed review of the development activities underway in Sector



E-12. While briefing Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf on the development activities in Sector E-12, relevant officers informed that after the retrieval of 1135 kanals of Government land in Sector E-12, which had been pending for four decades, full-scale work on the sector's development is underway and more than 60 percent of the development work has been completed so far.

Chairman CDA was apprised that, similarly, in sub-sector E-12/4, earthwork has been completed, while work on the base, sub-base and drainage is proceeding rapidly. He was informed that earthwork on the Service Road, Khayaban-e-Iqbal, has been completed, while earthwork on the South and East Service Roads has also been completed. While, work on the base and drainage is likewise proceeding rapidly.

During the briefing, Chairman CDA was informed that TST has been completed in 15 streets of Sector E-12/3, while work on earthwork and base work is rapidly continuing in the remaining streets.

Chairman CDA was further informed that TST has been completed in 25 streets of Sector E-12/2, while earthwork and base work are rapidly progressing in the remaining streets. Similarly, in Sector E-12/1, TST has been completed in 25 streets, while earthwork is underway in the remaining streets.

Chairman CDA directed that the remaining development work in Sector E-12 be completed on a priority basis. He said that all obstacles in the way of sector development are being removed in accordance with the law.

Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf said that encroachment on Government land will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He said that the completion of development work in new sectors is among the top priorities of the CDA administration.

Chairman CDA directed that immediate resolution of all obstacles in the way of development work be ensured. He directed that all available resources are being utilized for the early completion of Sector E-12. Chairman CDA said that sector development will not only provide better facilities to residents 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.



Daily Islamabad POST

Monday, November 10, 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: 63
Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960
Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

Who will reinvent education for the AI age?

Arnab Neil Sengupta

FOR generations, parents have offered their children some simple advice for a secure future: Study hard, obtain a good degree and land a well-paying job. The formula has survived technological revolutions, recessions and the rise and fall of industries. But with the emergence of artificial intelligence, the question that has arisen is whether this formula will suffice in an AI-driven economy. Nobody, not even AI, can say with confidence which occupations will shrink, flourish or emerge over the next decade. However, schools and universities cannot afford to wait until the picture becomes clear before asking themselves whether they are preparing young men and women for the real world that lies outside lecture halls and ivory towers. The World Economic Forum's 2025 employer survey estimated that 39 percent of workers' existing skills would change or become outdated by 2030. For the Middle East and North Africa, the figure was 46 percent. Although these numbers are not a precise forecast of AI's impact, they nevertheless deserve attention.

Prince Turki Al-Faisal, the former Saudi diplomat and intelligence chief, recently highlighted the dilemma facing Gulf economies: They will increasingly need AI and robotics to compensate for aging populations and future labor shortages, yet the same technologies could reduce opportunities for young graduates. Speaking at an event in Bahrain on Nov. 1, he called for closer links between technology, education and employment policies, alongside joint programs to retrain workers and prepare young people for future jobs.

For many institutions, the temptation may be to introduce an impressive-sounding AI course, purchase subscriptions to popular apps and declare themselves ready for the future. But as they know very well, simply adding a new subject to an old timetable is not enough to come up with answers to questions about what children should learn, how they should learn it and what a qualification should certify. At primary school, educational experts say, the priorities should remain reading, writing, mathematics and the ability to get along with others. Children also need to understand at a suitable age that a computer can sound authoritative yet prove incorrect. Learning to ask questions and cross-check answers needs to become part of their intellectual upbringing.

Universities must equip graduates with entrepreneurship skills so that they can create new kinds of jobs suited for the AI economy.

Egypt offers one example of how secondary schools are rethinking what students need to learn. "We have already begun teaching coding and artificial intelligence to this generation, especially first-year secondary students," Mohammed Abdel Latif, Egypt's minister of education and technical education, was quoted as telling a parliamentary committee earlier this year. In September, he reported that the ministry had completed work on 11 subjects for the second year of secondary school under the Egyptian Baccalaureate, including programming and AI. However, a pressing challenge for secondary schools is determining whether homework still reveals what a pupil knows. A perfect essay produced overnight may owe more to the software a pupil uses at home than to what they learned in class. In one high school math experiment cited by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's 2026 review of digital education, students who had used a general purpose chatbot did better in practice but scored lower than their peers on a test taken without it.

For universities, the task in hand is much broader in scope. Subject knowledge needs to be supplemented by the student's ability to recognize opportunities, assess risks, work with people and turn ideas into useful products or services. In the future, a graduate engineer who also understands customers and costs or a business graduate capable of questioning an AI-generated analysis will have more options at their disposal.

For Saudi Arabia and its Gulf Cooperation Council neighbors, what this means is giving the education system a new purpose and ambition. Universities must equip graduates with entrepreneurship skills so that they can build and lead organizations and create new kinds of jobs suited for the AI economy. And the ambition should extend beyond helping young people compete for vacancies that already exist.

Fortunately, there is no shortage of institutions from which to learn. Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah University of Science and Technology supports entrepreneurs through its Venture Studio and TAQADAM accelerator, connecting ideas with mentorship, business planning and funding. Such experience would be beneficial for entrepreneurship teaching across a wider range of universities and disciplines. In the UAE, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence has introduced undergraduate education combining AI with business, entrepreneurship and industry experience. Speaking in Abu Dhabi last month, Abdulrahman Al-Awar, the UAE's acting minister of higher education and scientific research, explained the ministry's university evaluation framework. "New technologies, including artificial intelligence, are creating new opportunities and changing the skills that the market needs," he was quoted as saying.

Beyond the Arab region, Singapore is integrating AI literacy across the education journey, while Sal Khan's Khan Academy has already launched its AI tutor, Khanmigo, and is testing ways to improve it. Both offer useful starting points for educators worldwide who are willing to test new methods and examine what students can subsequently do for themselves.

The hope is that the worst-case scenarios about the new economy are just that. The International Labour Organization estimates that one in four workers holds an occupation with some exposure to generative AI, but it considers changes to how people do their jobs more likely than outright job replacement. At one software company, an AI tool suggested replies to customer queries and support staff were given the leeway to use, edit or ignore them. A 2025 study by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford found that agents with access to the tool resolved 15 percent more queries per hour on average, with the biggest gains among less experienced staff.



US midterms and the emerging paradoxes

Eyad Abu Shakra

The Democrats now hold 28 governorships to the Republicans' 20, including most of the largest states – Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Georgia, alongside Texas, as well as their impregnable strongholds of California, New York and Illinois. A clear majority of Latino/Hispanic voters also turned against the Republicans this time, reversing the pattern of the presidential election two years ago. And a cohort of young Democratic leaders has emerged, some of them so-called radical progressives from ethnic and religious minorities, led by Georgia's new governor, Keisha Lance Bottoms, the first African American woman to govern the state

NOTHING lasts forever. Last week, the US held highly consequential midterm elections – part of the cycle of elections held every two years in which all members of the House of Representatives, a third of the Senate and a number of state governors are elected. Important as it is, the election remains an ordinary exercise of democracy and experience has taught us that every election has its circumstances and its heroes, just as it has its issues and its casualties.

In my estimation, President Donald Trump had not been expecting these results. Indeed, I would almost swear that many Democrats, politicians and supporters alike, did not dare take such an optimistic view of what their candidates actually achieved across the length and breadth of the country. The Democrats were not content with changing the balance of power in Congress by seizing the majority in both the House and the Senate; they also won striking victories among state governors, including surprising political and cultural breakthroughs.

In the House, at the time of writing, the Democrats had won a landslide: 252 of 435 seats, against 162 for the Republicans. There had been signs before polling day that they would take the House but the margin exceeded expectations. So did the Senate result, as Democrats now control 54 of 100 seats, against 44 for the Republicans, with the official results from Mississippi and Alaska still to come. The shift in Congress was mirrored in the governors' races, where the surprise was arguably bigger and more painful for the Republicans. They lost the governorship of Texas, their greatest stronghold of all and the apple of the right-wing trillionaire Elon Musk's eye.

In Texas, a state with a long history of hostility toward its neighbor, Mexico, the right-wing Republican Gov. Greg Abbott – one of the heroes of Trump's campaign and of the "Make America Great Again" movement against illegal immigration from Latin America – lost to his Democratic challenger, the Latina progressive Gina Hinojosa.

The Democrats won the popular vote by nearly 13 points, the largest margin for either party since 1976. Yet their real test begins now. Texas, the second most-populous state after California, also gave a national platform to James Talarico, who won one of its two Senate seats.

To appreciate what Hinojosa and Talarico achieved, consider that Musk had come to see Texas as a safe haven for the investments of the tech oligarchs who were fleeing California's taxes, as the last time a Democrat won a Texas Senate seat was in 1970. That year, Lloyd Bentsen, a future Cabinet minister, defeated George H.W. Bush, who nonetheless ultimately went on to win the presidency, as did his son George W. Bush, a former governor of the state. Trump's plan for a separation wall along the Mexican border has also suffered a painful setback: the Democrats now control all four border states – Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

As for the broader picture, which may or may not shape the 2028 presidential race, women had a large and influential showing. Among the winners was the physician Annie Andrews in South Carolina, who took the seat of the late Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, while Native American Democrats won a Senate seat in Minnesota and the governorship of New Mexico.

The Democrats now hold 28 governorships to the Republicans' 20, including most of the largest states – Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Georgia, alongside Texas, as well as their impregnable strongholds of California, New York and Illinois. A clear majority of Latino/Hispanic voters also turned against the Republicans this time, reversing the pattern of the presidential election two years ago. And a cohort of young Democratic leaders has emerged, some of them so-called radical progressives from ethnic and religious minorities, led by Georgia's new governor, Keisha Lance Bottoms, the first African American woman to govern the state.

Overall, the Democrats won the popular vote by nearly 13 points, the largest margin for either party since 1976. Yet some argue that their real test begins now.

In politics, where there are no certainties but plenty of paradoxes, the Democrats will soon face two real problems, both rooted in the divide between their young radicals and the old guard led by Chuck Schumer in the Senate and Hakeem Jeffries in the House.

The first is that Schumer and Jeffries are men of compromise and of lobbies, the pro-Israeli lobby foremost among them, which will make it easier for the Republicans to exploit their differences with the new generation.

The second is that Trump has chosen to stand up to this Democratic hurricane rather than bow before it, appointing Stephen Miller, the closest of his hard-line advisers, as White House chief of staff. The days ahead will bring a great deal, whether in peace or in war.

China vs. US: The Global Power Shift

Mansoor Nizamani

China's rise is the result of decades of economic planning and reform. After Deng Xiaoping introduced market-oriented reforms in 1978, China transformed from a relatively closed economy into one of the world's largest economic powers. Through large-scale manufacturing, industrial modernization, and export-led growth, China became a global production hub. Today, it is a leading producer of electronics, machinery, automobiles, solar panels, batteries, and other industrial goods. A major element of China's global strategy is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)...

SINCE the end of the Second World War, the United States has dominated global politics, economics, and military affairs. The US dollar became the foundation of international trade and finance, while institutions such as NATO and global financial organizations strengthened America's influence worldwide. However, the international order is changing. China has emerged as a major challenger through rapid economic growth, technological advancement, military modernization, and expanding diplomatic influence. The key question today is whether China is replacing the United States as the world's leading power or whether the future will be defined by a multipolar world in which influence is shared among several major nations.

China's rise is the result of decades of economic planning and reform. After Deng Xiaoping introduced market-oriented reforms in 1978, China transformed from a relatively closed economy into one of the world's largest economic powers. Through large-scale manufacturing, industrial modernization, and export-led growth, China became a global production hub. Today, it is a leading producer of electronics, machinery, automobiles, solar panels, batteries, and other industrial goods. A major element of China's global strategy is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), through which Beijing invests in ports, roads, railways, and energy projects across Asia, Africa, Europe, and other regions. These investments have increased China's economic influence and strengthened its connections with developing countries. As a result, China's global presence now extends far beyond trade and manufacturing.

Technology has become another critical area of competition between the United States and China. For decades, the United States led the world in scientific research, computing, internet technologies, and innovation. Today, however, China is making significant progress in artificial intelligence (AI), 5G networks, robotics, electric vehicles, drones, and space exploration. Chinese companies are increasingly competing in global technology markets, while the United States has imposed restrictions on advanced semiconductor exports to protect its technological edge.

This technological rivalry is about more than commercial success. It is closely linked to economic security, national defense, and future global leadership. The nation that gains an advantage in AI and advanced computing could shape future industries, governance systems, and economic development. In military terms, the United States remains the world's strongest military power. It maintains an extensive network of military bases, alliances, and defense agreements across Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific region. China, however, is rapidly modernizing its armed forces through investments in naval expansion, missile systems, air power, cyber capabilities, and defense technology. The South China Sea and Taiwan remain major points of tension between the two countries. China considers Taiwan part of its territory, while the United States supports Taiwan's defensive capabilities. Any conflict involving Taiwan could have serious consequences for regional stability and the global economy, making it one of the most sensitive issues in international politics.

China is also increasing its influence through diplomacy and international partnerships. Its growing role in BRICS, closer cooperation with Russia, and expanding relationships with countries in Africa, Latin America, Central Asia, and the Middle East reflect its broader global ambitions. China often presents itself as a champion of developing nations and advocates greater representation for emerging economies in global affairs. Meanwhile, the United States continues to maintain strong relationships with traditional allies, including European nations, Japan, South Korea, and others. Many countries today prefer to maintain productive ties with both Washington and Beijing rather than align completely with either side. This trend reflects the growing complexity of international relations in an increasingly multipolar world.

One of the strongest pillars of American power remains the US dollar. It continues to dominate international trade, finance, global lending, and foreign exchange reserves. Although China is promoting the use of the yuan in international transactions and some BRICS members support alternative financial arrangements, the dollar remains far ahead. This demonstrates that despite China's economic growth, the United States still holds a powerful position within the international financial system. Economic competition between the two countries has also intensified through trade disputes. The United States has imposed tariffs and restrictions on Chinese imports and advanced technologies, while China has responded with its own measures. Beijing's strength in manufacturing and rare earth minerals gives it significant leverage, while Washington seeks to maintain leadership in advanced technology sectors. These tensions affect global supply chains, production costs, and trade policies worldwide.

For Pakistan, the growing rivalry between China and the United States has particular significance. China is Pakistan's closest strategic and economic partner, especially through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which includes major investments in infrastructure, energy, and transportation. At the same time, the United States remains an important partner in trade, investment, education, and diplomacy. Given these realities, Pakistan must pursue a balanced foreign policy guided by national interests rather than excessive dependence on any single power. Maintaining constructive relations with both countries will help Pakistan maximize economic opportunities while protecting its strategic interests.

In conclusion, China's rise undoubtedly poses a serious challenge to America's longstanding dominance. However, it would be premature to conclude that US leadership has ended. The United States still enjoys significant advantages in military power, global alliances, scientific research, and the international financial system. At the same time, China continues to expand its influence through economic growth, industrial strength, technological innovation, and global infrastructure projects. The future international order will depend not only on the power of the United States and China but also on their policies, alliances, economic resilience, and the decisions of other nations. History shows that global power is never permanent. Ultimately, the most important issue is not which nation becomes dominant, but whether major powers can promote peace, cooperation, and shared development to create a more stable and prosperous world.

Islamabad POST
Monday, November 10, 2026

Briefs

Trump: Iran war 'unlikely' to resume

FROM PAGE 01

regional conflicts and has frequently facilitated discussions between rival parties in the Middle East. The upcoming meeting between Trump and the Qatari prime minister is expected to include discussions on regional security, diplomatic engagement with Iran, and broader efforts to reduce instability in the Gulf region. elations between the United States and Iran have experienced significant strains in recent years, with disagreements over security issues, regional influence, and nuclear-related concerns. Periodic military confrontations and diplomatic disputes have raised fears of a wider regional conflict, prompting international calls for dialogue and restraint. Trump's latest remarks may offer reassurance to global markets and US allies that Washington is currently seeking to avoid a new military confrontation. Nevertheless, his insistence on securing a strong agreement underscores the administration's determination to maintain pressure on Tehran. Analysts note that while tensions appear to have eased, underlying differences between the two countries remain unresolved. Future developments will likely depend on diplomatic negotiations, regional security conditions, and the willingness of both sides to engage constructively.

16 killed, 13 injured in steel plant...

FROM PAGE 01

Aliaga district and identify those responsible. "An investigation has been launched into the explosion, both judicially and administratively. The cause and circumstances of this tragic incident, which has deeply saddened our nation, as well as any negligence and those responsible, will be established," Erdogan said. Izmir Governor Suleyman Elban said the explosion occurred at around 11.46am local time (0846GMT) at the HABAS Iron and Steel Plant during furnace replacement work. Elban said a ceiling crane collapsed, causing materials to fall into an electric arc furnace and triggering an explosion after damaging a natural gas line. The governor initially reported 10 fatalities and 15 injuries, including four workers in serious condition. He said search and rescue operations were continuing, with four people believed to be trapped beneath the debris. According to Elban, approximately 200 workers were at the facility during the maintenance operation, compared with more than 300 during regular production shifts. No arrests had been made, and judicial and administrative investigations were underway.

Security forces neutralise...

FROM PAGE 01

materials and also were running torture cells there," observing that, "this reprehensible desecration of places of worship by Indian proxy Fitna Al Khwarij serves yet another clear evidence of their utter disregard of fundamental teachings of Islam." ISPR maintained that the terrorists, who it had said were facilitated by the Afghan Taliban, had no connection with Islam and their "perverted interpretation and misuse of our great religion is unacceptable and fully rejected by proud and righteous people of KP and Pakistan".

Iran's 2-day Hormuz reopening...

FROM PAGE 01

foreign minister said Washington was pushing for such a move. Baghaei dismissed a US military task force aimed at restricting Iran's land trade as a diversion following President Donald Trump's Republicans' losses in midterm elections.

Rashid Malik to Lead Pakistan's Tennis Challenge in Thailand

The Pakistani team comprises Waqar Nisar (Men's 70+), Rashid Malik (Men's 60+), Khurram Imtiaz (Men's 55+) and Furqan Uddin Khan (Men's 55+). All four players will compete in their respective singles and doubles categories, aiming to secure valuable international ranking points and bring further recognition to Pakistan



OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Former national tennis champion and Davis Cup player Rashid Ahmad Malik (Sitara-i-Imtiaz and Tamgha-i-Imtiaz) will spearhead a four-member Pakistan senior tennis contingent at two prestigious International Tennis Federation (ITF) Masters tournaments in Pattaya, Thailand, scheduled for November 14–26, 2026.

The Pakistani team comprises Waqar Nisar (Men's 70+), Rashid Malik (Men's 60+), Khurram Imtiaz (Men's 55+) and Furqan Uddin Khan (Men's 55+). All four players will compete in their respective singles and doubles categories, aiming to secure valuable international ranking points and bring further recognition to Pakistan.

The contingent will first participate in the ITF Masters MT700 Tournament at the Royal Cliff Hotel from November 14–20, followed by the MT400 event at Greta Club from November 21–26. The higher-grade MT700 championship is expected to attract players from approximately 25 leading tennis-playing nations, providing Pakistan's representatives with a strong international challenge. Waqar Nisar, one of the senior members of the contingent, said participation in these back-to-back tournaments would provide an excellent opportunity for Pakistani players to test their abilities against quality international opposition, improve their ITF rankings and strengthen Pakistan's presence on the global Masters tennis circuit.

Wajid Aziz Khan, Convenor Tennis at Lahore Gymkhana, highlighted the impressive international credentials of the four players, expressing confidence in their ability to deliver strong performances. He particularly praised Rashid Malik, who has extended his remarkable unbeaten run in Masters singles to 106 matches. Malik has also captured four singles titles in tournaments held in Thailand, Lahore and Oxford, England, besides securing a mixed doubles title in Thailand.

Waqar Nisar finished runner-up in the Men's 70+ singles category at two MT200 tournaments in Khao Lak, Thailand, in December 2025. Khurram Imtiaz demonstrated his strength by winning both the Men's 55+ singles and doubles titles in Thailand before adding the 55+ doubles crown in Lahore. Furqan Uddin Khan partnered Khurram to victory in the 55+ doubles category in Thailand and also finished runner-up in the singles consolation event.

Rashid Malik, Khurram Imtiaz and Furqan Uddin Khan expressed their gratitude to The Bank of Punjab, Lahore Gymkhana Club, JDW Group, Revive by Gatorade and Jamal Polymer Pvt Ltd for their generous sponsorship and continued support. They acknowledged that the sponsors' commitment to senior tennis had been instrumental in making their international participation possible and expressed hope for continued encouragement of senior athletes representing Pakistan abroad.

Lopez double earns Liga leaders Barca win at Atletico

MADRID: Fermin Lopez struck twice to help Barcelona come from behind to beat Atletico Madrid 2-1 on Sunday and move three points clear at the top of La Liga. The Spanish champions lead second place Real Madrid, who beat Valencia 3-0 on Saturday, by three points with Atletico third and a further two points off the pace.

Giuliano Simeone fired Atletico ahead in a high-octane start, before Lopez pulled Barca level shortly before the interval at the Metropolitano stadium.

The 23-year-old Spain international netted the winner after 66 minutes when Lamine Yamal slipped him in, helping Barca triumph despite not being at their best. Last season Atletico defeated Barcelona in the Champions League quarter-finals and also in the Copa del Rey, but the Catalans earned some measure of revenge here. "Coming off last season, when they beat us... we knew what they were going to offer – a very difficult game," Lopez told Movistar. "It got tricky for us in the first half with their goal, but I think we knew how to come back and we had a great match."

After criticism following defeats by Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid in recent weeks, Flick's side proved they can handle themselves in big matches. "We have the quality to win these matches... I totally believe in the team," Flick told reporters.

"In the second half especially we did a great job today, it's not easy to win here."

Atletico coach Diego Simeone said his team performed well despite the result. "I have nothing to complain about, we played the match we wanted to play," he told reporters.

"I'm leaving here knowing that we are a work in progress, that we still have things to improve, and that obviously we have players who still need to keep growing." Barca mount comeback The match started at a fast pace and both teams hit the woodwork in the opening stages. Alvarez, who tried and failed to force a move from Atletico to Barca in the summer, rounded goalkeeper Joan Garcia but could not finish off the chance as the defense blocked his route to goal.

From the resulting corner Atletico defender Marc Pubill headed against the crossbar with Garcia beaten. At the other end Pedri crashed a strike against the woodwork after being fed by Barca's teenage star Lamine Yamal. Atletico took the lead in the 10th minute, slicing Barca's defense open. Alvarez crossed for Giuliano Simeone to turn home from close range. Alvarez was denied by Garcia as Atletico looked for a second and Barca struggled to click into their top gears.

Despite their struggles they went in level at the break, with a goal out of nowhere.

Lopez's path to the box was blocked but the ball bounced loose to the midfielder and he quickly smashed a strike past Jan Oblak. Early in the second half Alvarez lobbed a good chance over the crossbar when running in on goal. "He's a great player, we love him... we need the best version of Julian Alvarez, without him we won't get to where we want to be," said Diego Simeone. – **APP**

Norris wins in Brazil as Mercedes take constructors' title

SAO PAULO: Mercedes secured their ninth Formula One constructors' world championship and completed a title double on Sunday in a Sao Paulo Grand Prix won by McLaren's Lando Norris from pole position for the second year in a row. The title was Mercedes' first constructors' crown since 2021 and came a week after 20-year-old Italian Kimi Antonelli became the youngest drivers' champion with four races to spare in Mexico City.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished second, racing from 21st on the grid due to engine penalties, in a race that started and ended in the rain, and teammate Isack Hadjar was third. George Russell was fourth for Mercedes and Antonelli fifth with the fastest lap. Mercedes had needed to score only three points more than Ferrari to clinch the title and the Italian team never threatened to prolong the fight on a treacherous track with Charles Leclerc seventh and Lewis Hamilton ninth in his 400th race.

"It was a very tough race, very, very tough," said Norris, the 2025 world champion, of his 14th career win and 50th podium as well as his team's first victory since August."A lot of challenges today with the conditions and going onto slicks in the wet is always tough, especially when you are pushing for the lead and trying to catch up a little bit," added the Briton, who lost out to Antonelli at the start. "The main thing today was I kept it cool and didn't make any mistakes and had the pace when I needed to. Nice to be back on the top step and what a place o do it as well." – **APP**

Inter beat Como to close in on Serie A leaders Lazio

ROME: Inter Milan claimed a statement 2-0 win over Como on Sunday to move just one point behind Serie A leaders Lazio, who were held to a 1-1 draw at Napoli. Francesco Pio Esposito and Marcus Thuram struck in the opening 20 minutes as Inter ended a six-match winning run from Como that included the biggest away win in Champions League history, Wednesday's 9-1 demolition of French side Lens.

Inter jumped back into second as a thrilling title race heats up, with two points separating Lazio from third-placed Roma. Cesc Fabregas' side were outclassed in defeat at San Siro, allowing AC Milan to leapfrog them into fourth on 24 points after Alphadjo Cisse and Christian Pulisic struck in a 2-1 win over Genoa. Inter made a fast start as they looked to put the memory of last weekend's Milan derby defeat behind them, Esposito tapping in an inviting Djed Spence cross after 12 minutes.

They soon made it two when a poor clearance dropped invitingly into Thuram's path in the box and the France international lashed a shot past Robert Sanchez.

Como mustered little in response in an uncharacteristically muted display as Federico Dimarco and Thuram threatened a third with efforts in the second half, before Nico Paz clipped the crossbar late on. Leaders Lazio dropped points for just the second time this season at struggling Napoli as Davide Frattesi's opener was canceled out by an Alfonso Pedraza own goal. Napoli were under pressure to deliver a result after defeats by Juventus and Porto saw the squad sent into a training retreat in a bid to revive their flagging form. But they could only claim a point against Gennaro Gattuso's unbeaten outfit, whose remarkable form continued as they remained 14 points ahead of 10th-placed Napoli. "We must keep going, everything's not lost even if we are behind in the standings," Napoli coach Massimiliano Allegri said. – **APP**

Gauff bests Pegula in thrilling clash, Noskova beats Kostyuk in WTA Finals

DNA



NEW YORK: Coco Gauff survived a tough test from Jessica Pegula 6-4 6-7(5) 6-2 on the first day of round-robin play at the WTA Finals on Sunday, as Czech Linda Noskova cruised past Marta Kostyuk 6-2 6-4 in Indian Wells.

Gauff beat Pegula just three months ago in Cincinnati and had the right formula again, as the 2024 winner showed superb versatility in a clash between the top two Americans in the season-ending championship. The frequent rivals were 5-5 in head-to-head before Sunday and appeared perfectly matched through a tight opening set, where Gauff got the break from the baseline on the fourth set point.

Pegula took back the momentum, winning the first three games of the second set before Gauff dug in her heels, trimming the lead to 3-5. Gauff saved three set points in the 10th game to level it, finding her best tennis from the baseline. Linda Noskova of Czechia comes to the net for a ball while playing Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine during day one of the FAGE WTA Finals Indian Wells, California, on November 08, 2026. (Getty Images via AFP)

Linda Noskova of Czechia comes to the net for a ball while playing Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine during day one of the FAGE WTA Finals Indian Wells, California, on November 08, 2026. (Getty Images via AFP) Gauff saved another two break points and shouted in celebration as she clinched the marathon, 10-minute 11th game. But Pegula saved match point in the 12th and found another gear in the tie-break, taking the set with a lethal shot down the line. Up a break in the third set, Gauff extended her lead to 5-2 when she ran up to the net and forced her opponent into an error. She capped a terrific show with a triumphant roar as Pegula sent one past the baseline on the third match point. The eighth-ranked Noskova is keen for another accolade after her breakthrough win at Wimbledon this year and she got off to a fine start in her WTA Finals debut, applying pressure from the baseline and at the net.

The pair traded early breaks before Noskova slammed her foot on the gas in the first set, where Kostyuk was unable to hold her serve until the seventh game.

The Ukrainian Kostyuk was a late addition to the competition after world number one Elena Rybakina pulled out sick, and she was never able to settle in against the Czech, who sent across 20 winners and sealed it with an unreturnable forehand strike to the back corner.

"I definitely wanted to give this week one last push of the season. It's a long year, we all are kind of drained and injured and all the things together, but it's one of the most important tournaments of the year," said Noskova, who reached the semifinals at Indian Wells earlier this year.

9 November: Flag Day of Azerbaijan

DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

EVERY nation has symbols that reflect its history, values, and identity. For the Republic of Azerbaijan, one of the most cherished national symbols is its flag. Each year on 9 November, Azerbaijan proudly celebrates National Flag Day, a special occasion dedicated to honoring the country's sovereignty, independence, and unity. This day reminds citizens of the sacrifices made throughout history and serves as a powerful expression of national pride.

The Azerbaijani national flag consists of three horizontal stripes: blue, red, and green, with a white crescent and an eight-pointed star in the center of the red stripe. Each color carries a significant meaning. The blue stripe represents the Turkic heritage of the Azerbaijani people, the red symbolizes progress, modernization, and the development of a democratic society, while the green reflects the nation's connection to Islamic civilization. The crescent and the eight-pointed star further emphasize Azerbaijan's cultural and historical identity.

The origins of the Azerbaijani flag date back to 1918, when the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic became the first democratic republic in the Muslim East. On 9 November 1918, the republic adopted the tricolor flag that remains the national flag today. Although Azerbaijan later became part of the Soviet Union and the flag was replaced, the tricolor remained a symbol of freedom and independence in the hearts of the Azerbaijani people.

Following the restoration of independence in 1991, Azerbaijan officially reinstated the tricolor flag as the national emblem of the state. In recognition of its importance, President Ilham Aliyev signed a decree in 2009 declaring 9 November as the Day of the National Flag of Azerbaijan. Since then, the day has been observed as an official public holiday across the country.

Flag Day celebrations are marked by patriotic events, ceremonies, educational programs, and cultural performances. Schools organize activities that teach students about the history and significance of the national flag. Public buildings, streets, and private homes are decorated with Azerbaijani flags, creating a festive and patriotic atmosphere. Citizens gather to express their respect for the nation's history, achievements, and aspirations for the future.

One of the most notable landmarks associated with the celebration is National Flag Square in Baku, which was established as a symbol of Azerbaijan's independence and statehood. The giant national flag displayed there stands as a source of pride for the Azerbaijani people and attracts visitors from around the world.

National Flag Day is more than a celebration of a national symbol. It represents the unity, resilience, and determination of the Azerbaijani people. The flag serves as a reminder of the country's struggle for independence, its cultural heritage, and its vision for continued progress. As Azerbaijan marks Flag Day each year, citizens renew their commitment to preserving the values represented by the blue, red, and green colors that proudly wave across the nation.

In conclusion, 9 November National Flag Day is a significant occasion that unites Azerbaijanis in honoring their country's history, identity, and independence. It is a day of pride, remembrance, and hope, celebrating the enduring spirit of the Azerbaijani nation and the flag that symbolizes its freedom and sovereignty.

Iqbal Day celebrated with fervour

FROM PAGE 01

Radio Pakistan broadcast special programmes highlighting Allama Iqbal's poetry, philosophy, intellectual contributions and message to the nation as part of the Iqbal Day celebrations.

Water surges into Tarbela...

FROM PAGE 01

caused no damage to the main tunnel, under-construction powerhouse, tailrace culvert or switchyard. It also confirmed that no worker was injured or killed. The 1,530MW project comprises three generating units, each with a capacity of 510MW, and is designed to enhance Pakistan's hydropower generation capacity.

Turkiye President says...

FROM PAGE 01

be difficult, reports Reuters. "We should ... prepare for a long period of uncertainty in which neither a decisive resolution nor stable regional order can be taken for granted ," Gargash said in an address to a geopolitical conference in Abu Dhabi. He added the consequences of the US war on Iran "may persist for a long time", requiring the UAE to invest in its "defensive capabilities, the maintenance of credible deterrence, and stronger international security partners".

Mysterious illness claims...

FROM PAGE 01

Shah Ji. All five deceased children were reportedly under five years of age and included three girls and two boys. Deputy Commissioner Khyber Shahid Ali said a special team of the district administration immediately shifted the affected children to Peshawar, where they were being provided with medical care. He said initial medical tests had returned clear results, but the actual cause of the illness remained unknown. The two surviving children would remain hospitalised for further medical examinations and close monitoring to determine the nature and cause of the mysterious condition. Medical experts at HMC are investigating the illness. On the deputy commissioner's instructions, Assistant Commissioner Landi Kotal Inam Wazir visited the hospital and reviewed the children's treatment, medical reports and facilities being provided to them. Hospital staff briefed him on the situation. He said the district administration was taking all necessary measures to ensure the best possible medical care for the affected children and determine the cause of the tragedy.

JUI-F's Deputy...

FROM PAGE 01

highlighted. Ghauri also stated that he and one of his colleagues were driven around the city for approximately an hour before being released. However, he alleged that the unidentified men took Qari Iftikhar away and did not provide any information about his whereabouts. Iftikhar serves as the deputy chief of JUI-F and is also in charge of the party's Islamabad office. There was no immediate official statement from the relevant authorities regarding the alleged incident. The arrest comes amid growing tensions between the government and the JUI-F following the imposition of governor's rule in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Following the imposition of the emergency and governor's rule, Fazl accused the government of backing out of negotiations with the PTI and the opposition despite initially agreeing to their demands. He categorically rejected the imposition of governor's rule or an emergency in K-P, saying that if an emergency had to be imposed, it should be imposed on the federal government, which he described as illegitimate.

Islamabad POST
Tuesday, November 10 , 2026

D-8 chief joins global leaders at TRT in Turkiye

Secretary-General Sohail Mahmood appreciated Malaysia's active role as a founding Member of the D-8 and its continued support for the Organization's objectives and institutional development

DNA



ISTANBUL: At the invitation of TRT World, the Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), H.E. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, participated in the 10th edition of the TRT World Forum, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, under the theme "A World Without a Center: Who Leads When the Rules Run Out?"

Marking a decade of international dialogue, the Forum was inaugurated by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdo an, President of the Republic of Türkiye, and brought together high-level political leaders, policymakers, diplomats, academics, media representatives, and experts from around the world. Separate sessions addressed a broad range of subjects – including the evolving international system; Türkiye's role as a multi-regional actor; conflicts in the Middle East and Europe; regional security dynamics and emerging security architectures; the geo-politics of connectivity; global economic headwinds and impacts of energy crisis; challenges and opportunities presented by emerging technologies; and the imperatives of renewed international cooperation. On the sidelines of the Forum, the Secretary-General had a high-level bilateral meeting with H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural and Regional Development of Malaysia. The meeting provided an opportunity to highlight Malaysia's long-standing contributions to the D-8 process and exchange views on further strengthening cooperation within the Organization. Secretary-General Sohail Mahmood appreciated Malaysia's active role as a founding Member of the D-8 and its continued support for the Organization's objectives and institutional development. He particularly stressed the importance of benefitting from Malaysia's economic strengths, experiences, and best practices in advancing the D-8 cooperation agenda. The discussions focused on enhancing intra-D-8 trade and investment, strengthening financial connectivity, addressing non-tariff barriers, and promoting greater private-sector engagement. Both sides also explored opportunities for practical cooperation in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), food security, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and rural development, with particular emphasis on entrepreneurship, skills development, and inclusive economic growth. H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Zahid Hamidi proposed further strengthening cooperation in the halal economy and trade, while also exploring opportunities for collaboration through the International Zakat Organisation (IZO) to promote poverty alleviation, socio-economic empowerment, and inclusive development.

The Secretary-General highlighted the importance of accelerating implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and translating the priorities of the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030 into tangible outcomes, especially the target of raising intra-D-8 trade to US$500 billion by 2030. He also emphasized the potential for closer economic linkages between the D-8 and ASEAN, building on Malaysia's strategic position and regional connectivity. Looking ahead, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood underscored the importance of sustained high-level engagement by Member States, the forthcoming 12th D-8 Summit in Indonesia, and the Organization's 30th anniversary in 2027, as important opportunities to advance collective priorities and strengthen the D-8's role and international profile. During the course of the 2-day Forum, the Secretary-General also had the opportunity to briefly interact with several participating dignitaries, including H.E. Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye; H.E. Mehmet Fatih Kac r, Minister of Industry and Technology of Türkiye; H.R.H. Prince Turki Al-Faisal Al Saud, Chairman of the Board of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies; H.E. Mohammed Idris Malagi, Minister of Information and National Orientation of Nigeria; and H.E. Dr. Grace Naledi Pandor, former Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa and Chair of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. These interactions provided valuable opportunities to broaden the D-8's international engagement and outreach.

Briefs

Syria, Jordan aim to boost relations and coop

DAMASCUS: Syria and Jordan held an expanded meeting of the Syrian-Jordanian Higher Coordination Council in Damascus on Monday, bringing together senior officials and ministerial delegations from both countries to discuss bilateral relations and cooperation across various sectors. The meeting, held as part of the council's third session, was co-chaired by Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani and Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, with ministerial and technical delegations from both sides taking part. The meeting was attended by Syrian Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Murhaf Abu Qasra, General Intelligence Service chief Maj. Gen. Abdul Qader Tahan and Chief of the General Staff Maj. Gen. Ali Al-Naasan. Discussions focused on reviewing areas of mutual interest across various sectors. The meeting followed preparatory talks held on Sunday between Syrian and Jordanian technical delegations in Damascus to review cooperation files ahead of the council's third session. On Oct. 22, Al-Shaibani and Safadi met in the Jordanian city of Aqaba to discuss preparations for the third session and review progress in implementing agreements reached during the council's second session, held in Amman last April. –**APP**

Syria denies sending troops to Yemen

DUBAI: The Syrian Arab Republic's foreign minister on Monday insisted that his country has no troops deployed in Yemen and was not planning on sending any, after Yemeni sources told AFP that Syrian soldiers were in Yemen.

"There is no deployment of troops to Yemen nor is there a plan for such deployment in the near future," Asaad Al-Shaibani said during a press conference.

Al-Shaibani was speaking alongside his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi in Damascus, where the two ministers held the third session of the Syrian-Jordanian Higher Coordination Council, Syria's state news agency SANA reported.

The talks were also attended by Syrian Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Murhaf Abu Qasra, the chiefs of staff and intelligence chiefs of both countries, and a number of military and security officials. Al-Shaibani described the strategic partnership with Jordan as "stronger than any obstacle." He said Damascus and Amman had close, high-level security coordination to control the border and pursue smuggling networks, adding that Jordan's security was an extension of Syria's security.–**APP**

World entering 'age of climate extremes': UN chief

ANTALYA: The world is entering a new reality where climate extremes are the norm, the United Nations chief Antonio Guterres warned Monday, urging leaders at the COP31 climate conference in Turkiye to "get serious."

"A supersized El Nino is colliding with a planet already superheated by manmade climate change," the UN secretary general said in a statement. "We have entered a new age of climate extremes." As leaders gathered in Antalya for the UN climate summit, Guterres called on them to "get serious by cutting emissions faster, accelerating a just transition from fossil fuels and delivering the finance and protection vulnerable countries need." His statement came as the UN's World Meteorological Organization released a report indicating that 2026 has continued a streak of exceptional global temperatures, melting ice and rising sea levels. Each of the past 12 years have been among the hottest 12 years on record, the agency said, with this year expected to be among the hottest ever.–**APP**

Lebanon awaits impact of US, Israeli elections on stalled talks

BEIRUT: Lebanese officials are waiting to see whether the political changes produced by elections in the US and Israel will improve the prospects of resuming direct negotiations between Lebanon and Israel. A planned eighth round of talks was suspended amid disagreements over the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, implementation of the US-brokered framework agreement reached in June and the mechanism that would verify compliance with its provisions. Although Israel's post-election political picture remains unresolved, the risk of a wider regional war appears to have receded as diplomatic efforts gain momentum. However, a source close to Hezbollah told Arab News that the results of the US midterm elections were likely to "reduce the chances of a new round of direct negotiations in the near future." The source said Hezbollah remained opposed to the direct talks and expected a decision on their future to be delayed until next year. International pressure on the Lebanese state to meet its commitments regarding Hezbollah's disarmament was continuing, the source added. A joint statement issued last week by the embassies of the US, UK, Australia, Canada and Japan took on added significance against the backdrop of a judicial investigation into a shipment of explosives linked to Hezbollah. The five embassies expressed diplomatic support for the Lebanese government and called on political parties and members of parliament to make an unequivocal public commitment to the positions of President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam. The statement reaffirmed support for Lebanese sovereignty, the state's exclusive control over weapons and its sole authority to decide matters of war and peace. The position leaves no room for Hezbollah to justify becoming involved in a potential regional confrontation without the state's approval. A Lebanese official described the current period as "a transitional phase" while Beirut waited for the formation and policy direction of Israel's next government. Lebanese authorities were also monitoring the course of US-Iranian negotiations and whether Hezbollah might intervene in support of Iran if another war broke out, the official told Arab News. "The Lebanese army is not authorized to enter people's homes and search them for weapons," the source said. "It carries out its duties when it receives reports concerning weapons." Salam told a ministerial meeting on Monday that "the priority at this stage is to protect Lebanon, preserve its security and stability, and prevent it from being dragged into another war.–**APP**

Hajj Expo opens with focus on pilgrims' facilities

ISLAMABAD: A four-day Hajj Expo was formally inaugurated at the Jeddah Superdome on Monday, with a focus on modernising services, adopting advanced technologies and ensuring comprehensive training for pilgrims. A Pakistani delegation, led by Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, is participating in the expo. The delegation included Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Abrar Ahmed Mirza and Joint Secretary (Hajj) Sayyed Abdul Waheed Shah, along with Acting Director General Pakistan Hajj Mission Arif Aslam Rao, Director(Hajj), Madinah Zahid Sohail and Deputy Director(Hajj) Azizullah Khan. A large number of representatives from private Hajj companies in Pakistan are also attending the event, said a press release issued here on Monday. During the expo, the Pakistani delegation is scheduled to sign agreements for the provision of various facilities and services to facilitate Pakistani pilgrims during the upcoming Hajj season. The exhibition is placing particular emphasis on innovation in service delivery, the use of technology and comprehensive training of pilgrims to enhance their overall Hajj experience.–**APP**

Pakistani, Japanese scholars exchange views on Iqbal's thought

TOKYO :An academic session exploring various aspects of the life, thought and philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, as well as his message for humanity, brought together distinguished scholars, researchers and literary figures from Pakistan and Japan, who shared their perspectives on his intellectual legacy. The session featured discussions on Iqbal's concept of humanity, the material and spiritual dimensions of the universe, human values, history and civilisation, and the contemporary relevance of his thought in the context of modern technology, said a news release. The speakers presented their views on a range of subjects. Professor Kataoka Hiroji (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) highlighted the humanistic dimensions of Allama Iqbal's concept of humanity and his philosophy of humanism. Professor Zia ul Hassan (Osaka University) discussed the relationship between Iqbal's thought and the material world. Professor Amir Khan (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) explored the concept of spirituality in Iqbal's poetry and philosophy. Professor Soyamane (Osaka University) spoke about the historical evolution of the Urdu language in Punjab, highlighting Iqbal's intellectual and literary background. Dr. Taqi Abedi (Canada) emphasised the significance of human values and moral principles in Iqbal's poetry. Professor Abdul Rauf (Director, Iqbal Academy) discussed the importance of Iqbal's life, thought and intellectual legacy in connection with the 150th anniversary of his birth. Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, H.E. Abdul Hameed, shared his views on the relationship between Iqbal's thought and Artificial Intelligence (AI), highlighting the contemporary relevance of Iqbal's philosophy in the modern age. Kenta Imagawa spoke on the intellectual perspectives of Iqbal in comparison with those of the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Professor Mamiya Kensaku (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) shed light on various aspects of Iqbal's scholarly and intellectual personality. Professor Khalid Sangrani shared his views on various dimensions of Iqbal's poetry. During the session, it was highlighted that Iqbal's message continues to inspire reflection across diverse academic and cultural traditions. His poetry and philosophy encourage individuals to pursue self-awareness, knowledge and action, moral excellence, and the constructive use of their abilities. Participants also emphasised the importance of further research on Iqbal's thought and strengthening academic and literary exchanges between Pakistan and Japan. On the occasion, the Ambassador of Pakistan appreciated the participation of Japanese and Pakistani scholars and their diverse perspectives on Allama Iqbal's thought. He observed that examining Iqbal's philosophy in connection with contemporary themes such as humanity, spirituality, history, human values and Artificial Intelligence demonstrated that his intellectual legacy continues to provide guidance and inspiration for new discussions and research. The academic session also carries special significance in the context of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan, which will be commemorated in 2027. Such initiatives contribute to further strengthening academic, literary and cultural ties between the two countries.–**DNA**

Each country to finance its share of Gulf railway project

KUWAIT: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states took a new step toward completing the railway interconnection project by signing the project's general agreement in Bahrain on Sunday. This comes as part of efforts to establish an integrated transport network linking the six nations and boosting the movement of passengers, goods, and commercial trade among them.Bahraini Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Dr. Sheikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa told Asharq Al-Awsat that each country will fund and execute the portion of the project located within its territory. Meanwhile, the costs, fees, and expenses associated with the shared interconnection components among member states will be determined collectively, he added. He explained that the agreement establishes a joint framework for the project's execution and operation, while defining the obligations of member states and their coordination mechanisms. He noted that the network, which extends some 2,117 kilometers, aims to transport 6 million passengers and 200 million tons of freight by 2030, with the figures projected to rise to more than 8 million passengers and 271 million tons of freight by 2045. The project spans from Kuwait, passing through Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE, all the way to Oman, with the goal of achieving full network operations by December 2030.

According to the minister, interconnection lines between adjacent countries can become operational as soon as their components are completed, without the need to wait for the entire Gulf network to be finalized. On private sector participation, Al Khalifa said that it remains one of the viable options for financing, executing, or operating certain components of the project, depending on the outcomes of economic and financial studies. He stressed that there is no unified public-private partnership model approved across the entire network.

There are currently no pre-existing agreements with specific international partners to finance or execute the project, he said. However, the expertise of global companies in the fields of design, engineering, technology, and operating systems could be utilized based on the project's needs and its various phases. _**APP**

KSrelief project to provide safe water to 200,000 Rohingya

DHAKA: More than 200,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar will have safe access to water and hygiene under a new program funded by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center. KSrelief, the Saudi Arabian aid agency, signed a cooperation agreement with the UN's International Organization for Migration in July to provide sustainable water and sanitation services across camps in the coastal Bangladeshi district, which has been a temporary home to most of the Rohingya who fled military violence in neighboring Myanmar. The implementation of the $2.5 million project began on Oct. 1 and will run for 12 months, during which the IOM will install and improve critical infrastructure, including solar-powered water networks, wastewater treatment systems and washing facilities.

"More than 200,000 Rohingya are expected to benefit from the project across seven camps in Cox's Bazar. The initiative will help improve access to safe water, cleaner sanitation facilities and better hygiene services, making everyday life safer and healthier for families living in the camps," Dr. Laura Tomm Bonde, IOM chief of mission in Bangladesh, told Arab News. "The project will help families access cleaner and safer facilities, maintain better hygiene practices and live in a healthier environment." Cox's Bazaar hosts about 1.3 million Rohingya Muslims, who, for decades, have left Myanmar to escape persecution, especially during a military crackdown in 2017.Their arrival has turned the eastern Bangladeshi district into the world's largest refugee settlement.–**APP**

Hope: The Reason to Live

Tanveer Hussain



HOPE is one of the greatest blessings bestowed upon humanity by nature. It is a powerful force that gives people the courage to live, struggle, and move forward even in the most difficult circumstances. When a person is surrounded by despair, when circumstances turn against them and no way forward seems visible, a ray of hope still remains somewhere in their heart. Perhaps it is this very hope that enables them to endure even the greatest trials of life.

When someone falls ill, they endure pain, suffering, and lengthy medical treatments in the hope that one day they will recover. A student, despite failing an examination, begins preparing for the next one, believing that another attempt might bring success. An unemployed young person continues submitting job applications, attending interviews, and searching for work, hoping that perhaps the next opportunity will change their life. A farmer sows seeds even in barren land because he hopes for rain and a good harvest. Even a passenger aboard a boat caught in a storm at sea keeps looking towards the distant horizon, hoping to catch sight of the shore.

A person struggling with poverty continues working hard in the hope that circumstances will eventually improve and their children will have a better life. A father sacrifices his own wishes and spends his hard-earned money on his children's education, hoping that they may overcome the hardships and deprivations he experienced. A person living abroad endures separation from family and the loneliness of exile in the hope that one day they will return to their homeland and live among their loved ones. These examples demonstrate that hope is not merely an idea; it is a force that keeps life moving forward.

One remarkable aspect of hope is that it does not abandon a person even when they stand between life and death. A person imprisoned behind bars spends their days hoping that their lawyer will find a legal way out or that the court will provide relief. Even a prisoner awaiting the death penalty continues to hope for salvation until the very last moment. They hope that perhaps their appeal will be accepted, their sentence suspended, or the victim's family persuaded to forgive them.

However, life sometimes brings tragedies so devastating that a person's worldly hopes begin to fade. A mother may lose her young son to murder; a father may have his entire life's savings taken away through fraud; an innocent person may spend years in prison on false charges; or a victim's plea for justice may fall powerless before wealth, influence, and authority. It is difficult to imagine the helplessness such circumstances create. At times, criminals succeed in destroying evidence, influencing witnesses, and exploiting their connections, making the pursuit of justice extremely difficult.

In such circumstances, one final hope remains for a person: the hope of justice on the Day of Judgment. This hope becomes a profound source of spiritual strength for the oppressed. They believe that if their cries have gone unheard in this world and the oppressor has escaped the reach of the law through position, wealth, or influence, there will come a day when they must answer for their actions. According to Islamic belief, Allah's court will be established on the Day of Judgment, where not even the slightest injustice will be done to anyone. The smallest good deed and the smallest wrongdoing will be brought to light. Neither position nor wealth, neither family prestige nor political or social influence will be of any help. Everyone who has violated the rights of others will have to account for their deeds.

This belief offers comfort to the oppressed and serves as a warning to the oppressor. In the courts of this world, facts can be concealed, witnesses can be bribed, and judicial decisions can be influenced. But in the court of God, no truth will remain hidden, and no one's rights will be denied.

However, hope for justice in the Hereafter does not mean abandoning the struggle for justice in this world. On the contrary, this belief encourages us to uphold justice, stand beside the oppressed, and speak the truth in the face of oppression. Providing justice is a fundamental responsibility of the state, the judiciary, and society. Silencing an oppressed person by telling them that they will receive justice in the Hereafter is nothing less than an attempt to escape our own responsibilities. In life, a person loses many things: sometimes health, sometimes wealth, sometimes relationships, and sometimes their dearest loved ones. At times, despite every possible effort, circumstances remain unchanged. Yet hope gives them the courage to rise again and continue their journey through life.

Perhaps the greatest strength of hope is that it does not abandon a person even at the lowest point of despair. It assures them that the cries of the oppressed and the injustices inflicted upon the innocent are never meaningless. A person may lose much in this world, but as long as the hope for justice remains alive in their heart, they are never completely defeated. Because hope is not merely a dream of a better future; it is also the belief that if justice is denied in this world, one day justice will surely be served.

CENTRELINE
Largest Diplomatic Magazine

Daily
Islamabad POST

DNA
DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

Briefs

Building fire kills 14 in China

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: A fire on Sunday at a high-rise building in Taiyuan, the capital of China's northern province of Shanxi, killed at least 14 people, the official Xinhua news agency said on Monday.
State media said 25 people were still in hospital, nine with serious injuries, citing authorities after the fire broke out on Sunday evening in the building on a busy downtown main road.
Smoke billowed over the 40-story structure as firefighters poised on cranes outside fought flames that spread upward from a lower annex, video images circulated online and verified by Reuters showed.
The fire appears to have started around the fourth floor of the annex before spreading to the eighth and ninth floors, which house a hotel, the state broadcaster said. The entire building is a mixed-use commercial and residential property with several hotels, short-term rental apartments, smaller venues as well as tutoring centers, the report said.
The fire was put out after about two hours and authorities said rescue operations wrapped up by 8:30 p.m. on Sunday night, with 38 people taken to hospital.
Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire in the northern manufacturing hub, state media added.

TV anchor killing: court grants remand of husband

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A local court on Monday granted police two-day physical remand of Ahsan, the husband of anchorperson Rabia Ahsan, who was shot dead at home in the Gulshanabad area a day earlier.
Rabia, who previously co-hosted a current affairs show alongside senior journalists Amir Mateen and Rauf Klasra, was found with a gunshot wound below her neck, City Police Officer (CPO) Hassan Sukhera told reporters on Sunday. Her husband was taken into custody following a complaint filed by her brother.
A first information report was registered at Saddar Beruni police station under Section 302 (premeditated murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and Section 2-A of the Punjab Arms Amendment Ordinance, 2015 on Sunday. On Monday, the suspect was presented before Area Magistrate Talat Waheed by police, who sought physical custody for further investigation.
After hearing the police request, the magistrate approved a two-day physical remand of the suspect, allowing investigators to interrogate him and pursue further investigation into the circumstances surrounding the anchorperson's death.

Punjab links smog to Diwali fireworks in India

Many areas in Delhi show a reading of more than 400 categorised as "severe", as per official data

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday linked the worsening smog across the province to large-scale fireworks during Diwali celebrations in India, as Lahore recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) score of 647.
In a post on X, she said that polluted winds entering through the eastern corridor from Indian cities contributed to the increase in the provincial capital's AQI.
Marriyum said that local pollution levels were being controlled through measures taken under the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.
She added that the government's preventive measures had also proved effective, preventing the AQI from exceeding forecast levels despite the air pollution associated with Diwali celebrations, as had happened in previous years.
The senior minister said that air quality was expected to improve over the next two to three hours due to changes in wind direction and speed, along with sunshine.
She added that all relevant departments were actively working in the field on the Punjab chief minister's instructions.
Marriyum advised elderly people and children to avoid unnecessary outdoor movement, urging residents to keep windows, ventilators and doors closed to prevent polluted air from entering their homes.
Children, elderly people, pregnant women and those suffering from heart, lung or respiratory diseases were advised to remain indoors until the AQI improved.
She also asked the public to temporarily suspend morning walks, jogging, cycling and other outdoor activities.
For those travelling by car, the senior minister recommended keeping windows closed and activating the air-conditioning system's recirculation mode.
She also advised residents against burning rubbish, leaves or other materials in and around their homes.
Air quality deteriorated in India's capital Delhi on Monday, after residents celebrating the Hindu festival of lights set off fireworks in violation of court orders.
Many areas in the city of 20 million showed a reading of more than 400, categorised as 'severe', official data showed.
India's Supreme Court said earlier this month that only certified low-polluting firecrackers would be allowed to be used during limited hours over the Diwali weekend.
Residents in Delhi and in Mumbai, the country's financial capital, said firecrackers were going off until late in the night.
Visuals from Reuters TV showed a layer of smog enveloping India Gate, a prominent spot in central Delhi, close to government offices and parliament. Delhi was the third-most polluted city in the world as of Monday morning, Swiss group IQAir's live ranking showed, with Lahore at the top. Delhi has seen poor air quality levels for more than a week, and imposed restrictions on Friday under a graded action plan, asking schools to conduct online classes, among other measures.

Oman, India joint exercises

The exercise, which continues until November 12, includes many theoretical and practical applications

NEW DELHI: The joint Omani-Indian naval exercise "Naseem Al Bahr 2026" began today, carried out by a number of ships from the Royal Navy of Oman and the Indian Navy, in the Al Batinah maritime area in the Sultanate of Oman.
The exercise, which continues until November 12, includes many theoretical and practical applications, the execution of a number of naval maneuvers and exercises, in addition to the exchange of experiences between the crews of the participating ships, according to the planned exercise schedule. – **APP**



LAHORE Federal Minister Raza Hayat Hiraj calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. – **DNA**

Stop arming Houthis, withdraw military experts, Yemen tells Iran

ADEN: Yemen's internationally recognized government on Monday demanded that Iran stop arming Houthi militias, withdraw its military experts and cease interfering in the country's internal affairs, accusing Tehran of prolonging the war and providing political and diplomatic cover for the group. In a statement posted on X early Monday, Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Affairs strongly condemned an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement accusing Saudi Arabia of violating Yemen's sovereignty and condemning airstrikes on civilian targets in the country.
The Aden-based ministry described Tehran's statement as an attempt to provide "political and media cover for the terrorist Houthi militias" and evade responsibility for prolonging the conflict and deepening the humanitarian suffering of Yemenis. It said Iranian intervention had evolved beyond financing, arming and training the Houthis to direct involvement in planning and managing their military operations. "The Ministry regards this pairing of military support on the ground with diplomatic cover in international forums as further evidence of the true nature of the Iranian role in undermining the Yemeni state and threatening the security of the region and its waterways," the statement said.
The ministry cited an announcement by Yemen's Interior Ministry that 21 foreign experts were working with the Houthis, including 14 from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and seven from Lebanon's Hezbollah. According to the statement, their responsibilities include command and control, operational management, ballistic missiles, drones, electronic warfare, military-component smuggling and coordination of maritime operations. – **APP**

Proposed creation of 12 provinces to be implemented after 2029 polls

Existing provincial govts and assemblies will continue functioning until the next general elections, say sources

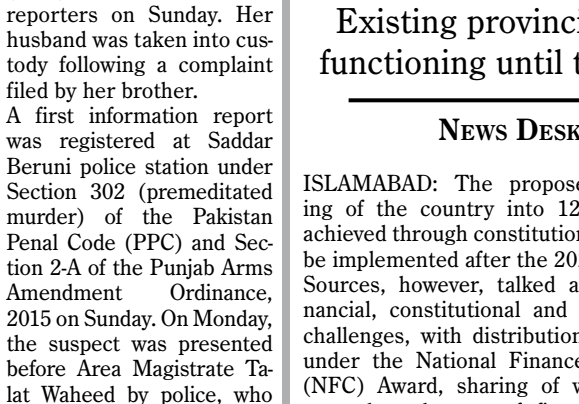
NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The proposed restructuring of the country into 12 provinces, if achieved through constitutional means, will be implemented after the 2029 elections,.
Sources, however, talked about some financial, constitutional and administrative challenges, with distribution of resources under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, sharing of water resources and settlement of financial liabilities emerging as the three most critical issues.
Although constitutional legislation for the proposed restructuring is under consideration for next year, the actual implementation of the new provincial structure is likely to take place only after the 2029 general elections, sources familiar with the discussions said. Under the proposal, Punjab could be divided into four provinces, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan into three each, while Sindh could be divided into two, taking the total number of provinces from the existing four to 12.
Sources said that even if the required constitutional amendments were passed next year, the existing provincial governments and assemblies would continue functioning until the next general elections. The proposed administrative restructuring would subsequently be implemented following the 2029 electoral exercise. However, the transition to 12 provinces would require agreement on several sensitive issues involving the financial and economic rights of the existing provinces and their proposed successor units.
The first major challenge would be the distribution of resources under the NFC Award. Currently, the provincial share of the federal divisible pool is distributed among four provinces under an established formula that takes into account factors including population, poverty and backwardness and revenue generation.
The creation of eight additional provinces would raise fundamental questions about how the existing provincial share would be redistributed among 12 units.

President Trump asked Netanyahu to move on Gaza peace plan

DUBAI: US President Trump wants Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to take steps to implement his Gaza peace plan during a phone call on Thursday, Axios has reported, quoting two sources with knowledge of the matter. Secretary of State Marco Rubio as well as Kushner and Trump envoy Steve Witkoff also participated in the call between the president and Netanyahu. A source with knowledge of the details described the call, which Netanyahu initiated, as constructive. It also addressed the war in Iran, Axios reported. The Gaza peace roadmap calls for Hamas' disarmament and the demilitarization of Gaza, as well as the handing of the enclave's governance to a new Palestinian technocratic government. It has been on hold for months because of the Israeli elections held on Oct. 27. The Trump administration did not want implementation of the plan to become a politically explosive issue during the Israeli election campaign, Axios reported, and now that Israeli elections are over the US president want to forge ahead with his Gaza plan regardless of who leads the new Israeli government. Israel and Hamas agreed about a year ago to the first phase of Trump's 20-point plan, which led to a ceasefire in the Gaza war and the release of the last 20 living hostages taken during the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks. – **APP**

President Asif Zardari congratulates Cambodia



DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has extended warm congratulations to King Norodom Sihamoni and the people of Cambodia on the occasion of the country's 73rd Independence Day. In a message marking the anniversary, the President conveyed his best wishes to the Cambodian leadership and citizens, highlighting the friendly and cordial relations that exist between Pakistan and Cambodia. He noted that the ties between the two countries are based on mutual trust, respect, and goodwill.
President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in diverse fields. He expressed confidence that increased engagement between the two countries would open new opportunities for collaboration and contribute to stronger diplomatic and economic ties.
The President emphasized the importance of expanding cooperation in areas of shared interest, saying that closer interaction between the two nations could help promote mutual prosperity and understanding. He also underscored the value of people-to-people and institutional contacts in fostering long-term partnerships.
Highlighting the economic dimension of bilateral relations, President Zardari called for stronger business-to-business linkages between Pakistan and Cambodia. He said greater interaction between the private sectors of both countries could help identify new avenues for trade, investment, and commercial cooperation. According to the President, enhanced economic engagement would not only strengthen bilateral relations but also create tangible opportunities for businesses and citizens in both countries.
He stressed that deeper commercial partnerships could contribute to sustainable growth and shared development. The President expressed optimism that Pakistan and Cambodia would continue to work together to further expand cooperation and deepen their friendship in the years ahead.
Cambodia celebrates its Independence Day annually to commemorate its freedom from French colonial rule. The occasion is marked with national ceremonies and events across the country, reflecting the significance of independence in Cambodia's history and national identity. President Zardari concluded his message by extending sincere wishes for the continued progress, prosperity, and well-being of the Cambodian people and reaffirming Pakistan's desire to strengthen its longstanding friendship with Cambodia.



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