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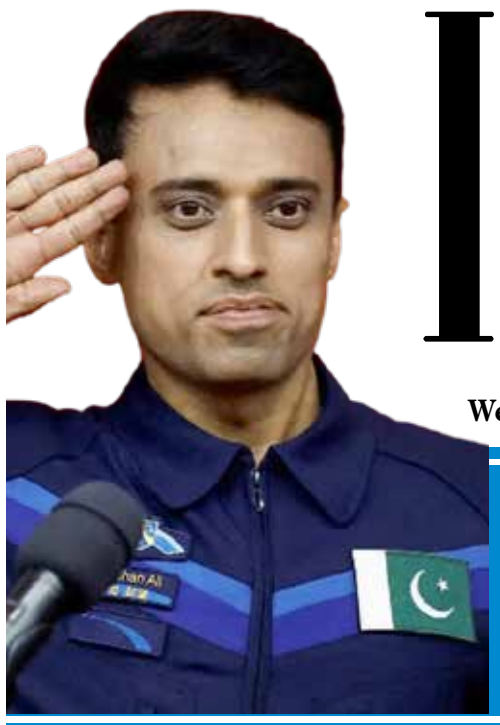

Zeeshan Ali to be 'first' Pakistani astronaut in space

Detailed News On Page-08

Punjab put on road to progress: CM



Detailed News On Page-08

Aurangzeb hopes for new investments



Detailed News On Page-02

Naqvi-Sana tussle

PM Intervenes to defuse cabinet members tensions

The appeal comes as coalition partners have engaged in a war of words over the past few days over a proposed referendum, with a member of the federal cabinet going public with his grouse against a colleague

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Amid rising political tensions, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday took notice of provocative statements by the federal cabinet members against each other and directed them to resolve their differences through consultation. The appeal comes as coalition partners have engaged in a war of words over the past few days over a proposed referendum, with a member of the federal cabinet going public with his grouse against a colleague. On Monday, PML-N Senator Rana Sanaullah said the Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi "complicated" the matter of creating new provinces by making an "irrelevant speech at an irrelevant forum".

In his remarks, Sanaullah stood by his criticism of the interior minister's choice to start the debate on provinces while addressing the Pakistan Economic Summit in Islamabad in July. Naqvi had whipped up a political storm by calling for creating new administrative units in the country to "reset" the current "system" of governance. Following recent remarks by his predecessor, Naqvi, without naming Sanaullah, warned, "The day I comment on this minister, he will not be able to show his face." In a statement issued by the PM Office on Tuesday, the prime minister took notice of recent statements by ministers and said the federal government's entire focus was on public welfare projects.

"The government is continuing its journey from economic stability towards sustainable economic growth," the prime minister said. The prime minister said the federal government has always promoted the politics of development and progress. "On this occasion, I direct all federal cabinet ministers to refrain from making political statements against one another,"

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PM assures KP governor of full cooperation

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday assured KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi of all possible cooperation on behalf of the federal government for the complete eradication of terrorism, durable peace and the welfare of the public in the province. The premier made these remarks as he met with Kundi in Islamabad on Tuesday, according to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). During the meeting, he said that the sacrifices of the security forces and KP police in the war against terrorism in the province would not go in vain.

The federal government would continue to "fully support the implementation of the decisions taken at the apex committee meeting to completely eliminate terrorism", he was quoted as saying. He reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to providing full support for the development of KP and the welfare of its people, saying that all possible resources would be mobilised to provide them with healthcare, education and other basic

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the delegation from Azerbaijan. Among others Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar and Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan are also seen in the picture. – DNA

Azerbaijan delegation in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Azerbaijani delegation led by Chairman of State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations. A four-member delegation led by Mr. Ulvi Mehdiyev, Chairman of the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations (SAPSSI) under the President of Azerbaijan, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad today.

The Prime Minister, while underscoring the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, conveyed his best wishes to the President of Azerbaijan and expressed gratitude for Azerbaijan's valuable support in the establishment of the Asaan Khidmat Centre in Islamabad. The Prime Minister described the Asaan Khidmat Centre as a landmark initiative and a great public service facility, terming it a game changer in the provision of multiple public services to citizens under one roof.

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Interior Minister says

Red lines must not be crossed in the name of freedom of speech

He alleged that only 47 per cent of the complaints made by the Counter Terrorism Department were acted upon by social media platforms

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday asserted that freedom of speech should not become a shield for those who cross "red lines". He made the remarks while addressing a seminar organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). At the outset of his speech, the minister said that there were four "red lines" for the state: terrorism, hate speech, incitement to violence and sexual exploitation of children.

"On these four points, there is no compromise. Pakistan has paid for terrorism in blood. As interior minister, I have attended the funerals of martyrs. And very often, the hate that killed them began on a mobile phone," he said. He alleged that only 47 per cent of the complaints made by the Counter Terrorism Department were acted upon by social media platforms. "This is not about technology, this is about people. We are not saying that free speech must be curtailed [...]

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Azam for balance between freedom of expression, access to info

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar has emphasized the need to maintain a constitutional balance between freedom of expression and access to information. He was addressing an international seminar on "Social Media Platforms and the Post-Truth Era," organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Islamabad today. Azam Nazeer Tarar also stressed the need of maintaining the protection of citizens' privacy, honour, reputation and dignity, describing it imperative need of the digital era. He said rapid technological transformation has enabled

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Briefs

Pak slams attack on Riyadh

DNA

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan Strongly Condemns Terrorist Attack Carried Out by Houthi Militia on a Tower in Riyadh's Financial Center Pakistan strongly condemns the terrorist attack carried out today by the Houthi militia on a tower in Riyadh's Financial Center, which resulted in injuries to Saudi nationals and foreign residents.

Pakistan expresses deep sympathies with those injured and their families and wishes them swift and full recovery. It commends the Saudi authorities for their prompt response and the steps taken to protect lives and property. Pakistan denounces such cowardly attacks, which endanger civilians and civilian infrastructure, heighten regional tensions and undermine efforts to restore peace and stability. Pakistan stands in full solidarity with Saudi Arabia in the face of these attacks. The Kingdom has every right to defend its territory and protect its citizens and residents.

Governor KP calls on President

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari held a meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi. During the meeting, the Governor briefed the President on the situation following October 11, with a particular focus on the prevailing security conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The discussion also covered matters related to law and order and the overall security environment in the province.

JUI-F moves LHC against 'house arrest' of Maulana Fazl

JUI-F says police stopped Fazl from leaving home to address lawyers at LHC Bar Association

MONITORING DESK

LAHORE: A petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday seeking the recovery of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman after police allegedly restricted his movement and stationed personnel outside his residence in Lahore's Chuhng area.

The plea was filed by JUI-F worker and lawyer Advocate Abrar Hussain, who named the Punjab police chief, Lahore deputy commissioner and other officials as respondents.

In a statement, the JUI-F said that Fazl arrived in Lahore on Monday night and was due to address a lawyers' session on Tuesday at the invitation of the LHC Bar Association, but the Punjab Police have stopped him from leaving his residence. Police, meanwhile, said personnel have been deployed outside Fazl's residence in Lahore's Chuhng area and that the JUI-F chief had been asked to limit his movement. In the plea, the petitioner contended that police cordoned off Fazl's residence and restricted

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PTI moves court for live broadcast of case

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) has filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), seeking live broadcast of the appeal proceedings in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case involving party founder Imran Khan.

Imran and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were convicted and sentenced in January 2025 in the corruption case. An accountability court found them guilty of receiving billions of rupees and hundreds of kanals of land from a real estate firm in exchange for legalising Rs50bn that had been identified and returned to Pakistan by the UK during the previous PTI government.

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UK sanctions Houthis and 4 top officials

"The Houthis' renewed aggression targeting our partners and innocent civilians is unacceptable and they must be held to account," Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said

NEWS DESK

DUBAI: Britain on Tuesday imposed sanctions on Yemen's Houthi militia and four of its senior officials, including two accused of overseeing torture and sexual violence against detainees. The UK government said the measures followed the Igroup's decision to resume conflict inside Yemen and across the region, including increased attacks on Saudi Arabia's civilian infrastructure that have caused a number of deaths.

"The Houthis' renewed aggression targeting our partners and innocent civilians is unacceptable and they must be held to account," Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said. The group was placed under an asset freeze over activity threatening Yemen's peace and stability, including attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and missile and drone attacks on regional partners. The four officials face asset freezes and travel bans. They include Abdulkarim Al-Houthi, the Houthi interior minister since 2019, whose ministry runs detention facilities where the UK said detainees had been subjected to electric shocks, beatings and sexual violence.

Senior Houthi prosecutor Sarim Al-Din Muffadal was also sanctioned. The UK said he was reasonably suspected of having carried out, or knowingly allowed, sexual violence including rape, and torture of women detainees. The other two are Abdul Hakim Al-Khaiwani, head of the Houthi Security and Intelligence Service, and Mohammed Moufleh, a Houthi-appointed judge. The UK said the renewed fighting had displaced hundreds of thousands of Yemenis, and that the Houthis must end their attacks and allow unimpeded humanitarian access.



Kundi terms freedom of expression as the foundation of democracy

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday described freedom of expression as the foundation of democracy, stressing that it must not be used to justify terrorism, violence, hatred or misleading propaganda.

Speaking at an international seminar on Social Media Platforms (SMPs) and the Post-Truth Era, organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), he said false information could now reach millions of people within seconds, complete with a face, a voice, and apparently convincing evidence, and that distinguishing truth from falsehood has become increasingly difficult.

He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had made immense sacrifices in the war against terrorism, adding that violence was often preceded by the spread of hatred, extremism and misleading narratives. Social media had become an important tool for spreading such propaganda, particularly among young people, he added.

The governor said every citizen had the right to question and criticise the government, but freedom of expression should not become a justification for promoting violence or hatred.

He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should be presented as a destination for peace, tourism, trade and technology rather than as a region associated with terrorism. He said building a positive image takes years, while a single piece of fake news can damage it quickly, and that tourists and investors increasingly form opinions through digital platforms.

Kundi said social media platforms operated globally but their impact was felt locally, stressing that citizens facing online harassment, threats, fraud and defamation needed effective complaint mechanisms and timely access to justice.

He said the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016, amended in 2025, should be implemented fairly and transparently, and that the challenge cannot be met by a single restriction but requires joint efforts by the government, platforms, the media, researchers and civil society. In his concluding remarks, SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri emphasized on four points. First, global operations must come with local accountability. Social media companies derive commercial benefits from their users in Pakistan. Pakistani citizens should have access to the same quality of protection, responsiveness and grievance redress that these companies provide in other jurisdictions such the EU.–**DNA**



GUJRAT: President Gujrat Chamber Malik Mazhar, Vice President Sufran Mazhar, Farrukh Mehmood Butt and Members of promoters' association Gujrat presenting a shield to High Commissioner of Malaysia Dato Azhar bin Mazlan, during his recent visit to Gujrat Chamber of Commerce and Industry. DNA

Ruling against Infrastructure Development Cess held

KARACHI: The Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SMAP) has welcomed the Constitutional Court's November 19, 2026 ruling declaring the Infrastructure Development Cess (IDC) imposed on imports, exports and inter-provincial movement of goods in Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa unconstitutional to the extent determined by the court. SMAP Chairman Ismail Suttar described the judgment as a victory for the industry's long-held position, arguing that manufacturers and businesses were already burdened by toll taxes and a range of levies imposed on commercial transport. Suttar noted that the court had reaffirmed an important constitutional principle that the legal validity of a levy is determined not by its stated purpose but by the constitutional basis on which it is imposed. The SMAP chairperson also welcomed the court's directive barring authorities from recovering demands, surcharges or penalties related to the invalidated portion of the cess.–**APP**

Lowari Tunnel key to regional connectivity, tourism: Aleem

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Tuesday directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to expedite renovation, maintenance and rehabilitation work at Lowari Tunnel, as well as ongoing development work on NHA's N-45 highway in Chitral. He said highways in the northern areas, particularly Lowari Tunnel, serves as a gateway to China, Afghanistan and other countries while an improved road network in Chitral would significantly promote tourism from across the country, said a press release. The minister issued these directions during his one day visit to Chitral, where he chaired meetings with senior NHA officials and reviewed the progress of ongoing development projects. He also inspected the N-45 highway and various construction sites, directing the authorities to ensure their timely completion. Expressing concern over delays in the Mastuj, Shandur and Chitral–Kalash Road Projects, he directed the authorities to ensure the provision of the best possible travelling facilities to the people of Chitral. He emphasized that the public should be able to see and experience that NHA is working to facilitate them and improve infrastructure. He said that making the difficult and challenging routes of the northern areas more accessible was essential for the country's economy and regional development. Aleem Khan stated that N-45 was a vital highway for the development and prosperity of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He stressed the need to improve the pace and quality of ongoing work on the 309-kilometre-long national highway connecting Nowshera with Chitral. During his visit, local elders brought public complaints regarding NHA to the attention of the minister. Taking serious notice, Abdul Aleem Khan directed the concerned authorities to provide immediate relief and resolve public grievances on priority basis. He assured the local representatives that he would personally supervise efforts to address transportation issues and road-related concerns in Chitral. Abdul Aleem Khan said that he was visiting ongoing development projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan to ensure better travelling facilities for the people. On the occasion, former Member of the National Assembly Shahzada Iftikhar Uddin and local elders warmly welcomed the minister and presented him with a traditional Chitrali cap and gown. The Federal Secretary for Communications, Chairman NHA and local officials also gave a detailed briefing on ongoing projects, their progress and related challenges. Meanwhile, before arriving in Chitral, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan visited Lowari Tunnel where he conducted a detailed review of ongoing NHA development and construction work and inspected the interior and exterior sections of the Tunnel. He issued necessary instructions to the concerned officials on the spot. Expressing concern over past traffic accidents at Lowari Tunnel, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan directed that effective, modern and sustainable measures be taken to prevent accidents, with particular emphasis on improving traffic management during snowfall. He instructed NHA to ensure the provision of Ambulance, Rescue and CCTV facilities at the Lawari Tunnel, along with arrangements for generators to maintain adequate lighting inside. Abdul Aleem Khan directed the authorities to complete the construction work at Lowari Tunnel as soon as possible, emphasizing that no compromise would be made on the quality and durability of the work. He further instructed that rest areas, cafeterias and other facilities be developed alongside the Tunnel to facilitate tourists.–**DNA**

Over 13m passengers use Islamabad's public transport

ISLAMABAD: More than 13 million passengers used Islamabad's metro and electric feeder bus services over the past three months, with daily ridership exceeding 150,000. The authority operates 210 buses on 21 routes across the federal capital, offering passengers an affordable fare of Rs50 per journey.

According to figures released by the CDA on Tuesday, the Orange Line service carried more than 1.068 million passengers during the three-month period, while the Blue Line recorded over 1.071 million passengers.

The electric vehicle (EV) feeder bus service accounted for the largest share of ridership, transporting more than 6.091 million passengers through 160 buses operating on various routes across the city.

The CDA said its Command and Control Centre and Depot at Zero Point were fully operational to improve monitoring and coverage of the public transport network. The authority added that the system was being monitored round the clock through a digital dashboard, while 36 charging units at its new electric bus depot were also operational.

CDA Chairman Sohail Ashraf said the authority was utilising all available resources to provide reliable, affordable and accessible public transport facilities to residents of the capital.–**APP**

FPCCI meeting on import and export trade held

ISLAMABAD : The 4th meeting of FPCCI Central Standing Committee on "Import and Export Trade" was held at the FPCCI Capital Office in Islamabad to discuss trade development, youth entrepreneurship, and export promotion. The session was convened by Committee Convener Mr. Tahir Rasheed Bhutta. The session was graced by Dr. Rubina Awan, Focal Person to the Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Program, Mr. Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman / Incharge, FPCCI Capital Office, Sai Chang, CEO of B-Green Heroes (South Korea); and Abiola Etobitel, a Clarity Consultant. The meeting was attended by Deputy Conveners Mr. Syed Zulfeqar Haider and Ms. Samia Rashid, Zainab Ihsan alongside committee members Mr. Rukhsar Ahmad Askari, Mr. Mutafaf Wahhaj, Mr. Farrukh Ilyas, Mr. Usama Ilyas, Mr. Zubair Ahmad, Mr. Ali Hassan, Abdul Kabir Hassan, Muzammil Zaman, Fateh Sher Cheema, Zeeshan Aslam, Ms. Hina Zulfiqar, Ms. Ayesha Afzal, Ms. Sumaira Naveed, Rabia Tabassum, and other prominent representatives of the business community. In his keynote address, Mr. Tahir Rasheed Bhutta emphasized that sustainable economic progress cannot be achieved through government policies alone, calling for a robust partnership between the public and private sectors. "The government must facilitate, institutions must support, industries must invest, and our youth must innovate," he stated. He envisioned a Pakistan where a young entrepreneur from Gujrat, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, or any other city can establish an enterprise and successfully export Pakistani products globally—ensuring the country's youth are recognized internationally not only for their talent, but also for their products, services, innovation, and business leadership.



Highlighting key avenues for collaboration, Mr. Bhutta proposed the following initiatives: Establishing a Youth Export Facilitation and Entrepreneurship Desk in collaboration with FPCCI. Organizing specialized export training and capacity-building programmes for young entrepreneurs. Connecting eligible youth-led businesses with relevant financing and business support schemes. Facilitating participation in international trade exhibitions and business delegations. Developing a national network of young exporters and entrepreneurs through Chambers of Commerce.–**DNA**

Int'l financing thru $ 500m miga-backed trade finance facility



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a virtual meeting with the senior leadership of a consortium of international banks and representatives of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), a member of the World Bank Group, regarding a USD 500 million trade finance facility backed by MIGA. Following a competitive selection process and receipt of bids from nine international financial institutions, the Finance Division, Government of Pakistan, has selected the following banks as financing partners for the facility: The one-year facility, renewable on a rolling 1+1+1 basis, will support the financing of essential imports and trade-related expenditures. The transaction marks the Government of Pakistan's first-ever credit enhancement transaction with MIGA under its Trade Finance programme, while also representing the first-ever participation of Commerzbank and J.P. Morgan in commercial lending to the Government of Pakistan. The banks were selected on the basis of the most competitive financing terms offered to the Government of Pakistan. The strong response and participation from international financial institutions reflect growing confidence in Pakistan's improving economic outlook and progress towards sustainable growth. The Government appreciates the interest shown by all participating institutions and is grateful for their time, effort and engagement throughout the process. The transaction marks an important step towards mobilising private international capital through multilateral risk-mitigation instruments, diversifying external financing sources and exploring innovative financing structures, while maintaining prudent debt management and fiscal responsibility. The Ministry of Finance and Revenue looks forward to building strong and lasting relationships with all three global institutions: Commerzbank, J.P. Morgan and Standard Chartered Bank. The Government of Pakistan will work closely with MIGA and the selected banks to advance the transaction towards its timely execution.

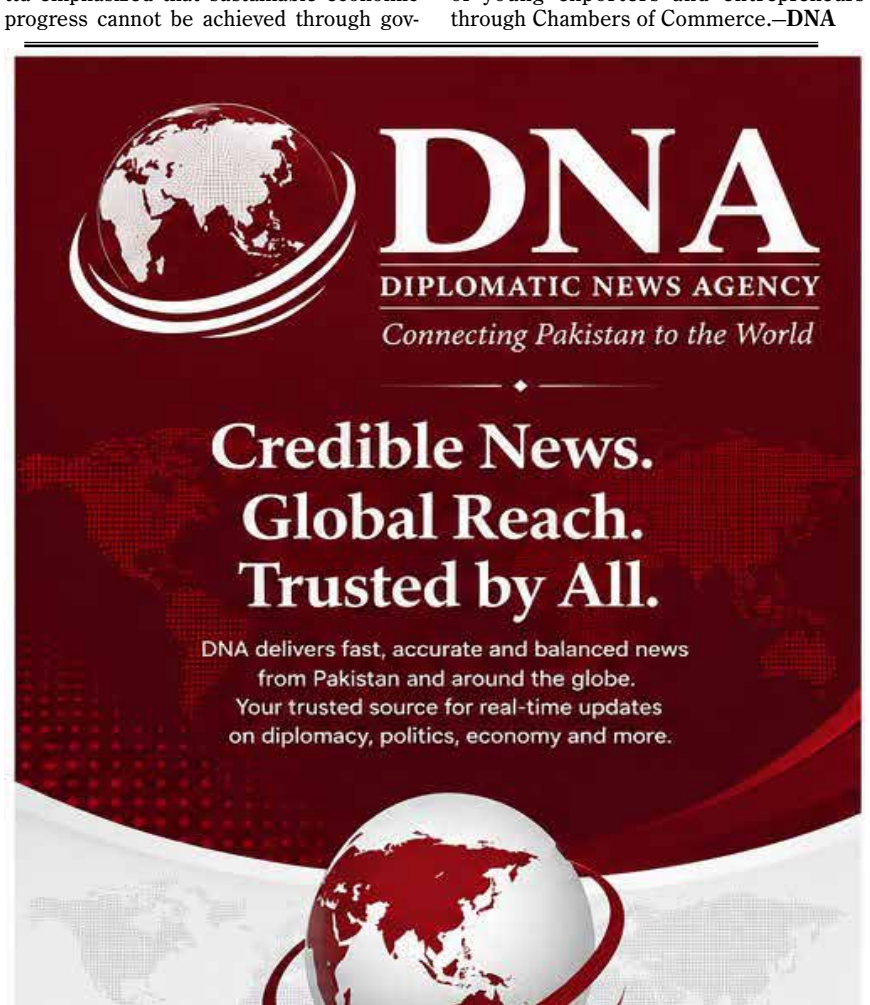
Call for coordination with social media to tackle online threats

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday called for improved coordination with social media platforms and specialised regulatory institutions to address online threats, harassment and security-related complaints.

Addressing a session titled "When Virality Outruns Truth: Disinformation, Public Trust and Post-Truth Era" at an international seminar on Social Media Platforms (SMPs) and the Post-Truth Era, organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), she said national security, terrorism and threats to human life were the government's top priorities when addressing complaints against social media platforms.

She said gender-related issues, particularly online harassment and targeted campaigns against public figures, also required serious attention and proper contextualisation to ensure effective responses from the platforms.

The minister pointed out that differences between local laws and platforms' community guidelines often created challenges in addressing harmful online content. She added that complaints needed to cite relevant legal provisions and provide sufficient local context, as submitting a large number of complaints without proper explanations could reduce the likelihood of an appropriate response.–**DNA**



Islamabad POST
METROLITE
Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Portugal invites Pakistani investors in key sectors

ICCI-Portugal embassy explore new avenues for trade, investment and technology partnerships



ISLAMABAD: Portuguese Ambassador Paulo Domingues has invited Pakistani businesses to explore investment and commercial opportunities in Portugal, emphasising that the two countries should translate their longstanding friendship into stronger trade, joint ventures and reciprocal investment. Addressing the Pakistan-Portugal Business Forum at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), here on Tuesday he said the existing economic relationship had considerable room for growth and stressed that Portuguese companies were interested in developing meaningful partnerships with Pakistani counterparts.

Highlighting Portugal's strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, Africa and the Atlantic, the Ambassador said the country offered Pakistani enterprises access to European markets, modern infrastructure, a competitive business environment and skilled human resources. He said the visiting Portuguese delegation represented diverse sectors, including aerospace, aeronautical maintenance, defence technologies, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, construction, water efficiency, food and beverages, tourism, healthcare, electric mobility and professional services. Emphasising the importance of joint ventures, technology transfer, local distribution and industrial cooperation, he said, "We have not come here simply to sell Portuguese products. We have come here to explore partnerships." He also welcomed stronger institutional engagement with Pakistan's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and Board of Investment, reaffirming the Portuguese Embassy's readiness to facilitate business connections.

Earlier, ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia proposed developing a Pakistan-Portugal Vision 2030, a business-led roadmap focused on expanding bilateral trade, attracting investment, promoting joint ventures and strengthening industrial cooperation. He said the recent high-level engagements during the official visit of Portugal's Foreign Minister, H.E. Paulo Rangel, had provided fresh momentum to bilateral relations, and called for translating diplomatic goodwill into concrete commercial partnerships. He appreciated the Portuguese Ambassador's efforts in bringing the business communities closer and welcomed AICEP and the participating Portuguese companies and organisations.

Citing bilateral trade of approximately US$225 million in 2024, including nearly US$201 million in Pakistani exports, the ICCI President said the existing trade volume represented only a fraction of the available potential. He appreciated Portugal's support for Pakistan's GSP Plus status in the European Union and identified textiles, leather, surgical and sports goods, agriculture, information technology and engineering as promising sectors for cooperation. Highlighting Pakistan's market of approximately 260 million people, with nearly 64 percent of its population below 35, he said the country's young workforce, entrepreneurial potential and expanding technology sector offered attractive prospects for Portuguese enterprises.

The ICCI President particularly invited Portuguese companies to explore Pakistan's construction and housing sector, including prefabricated housing, green architecture, sustainable building materials and modern urban development. Citing annual housing demand of approximately 700,000 units against an estimated supply of 250,000, he said the gap offered substantial opportunities for collaboration between Portuguese companies and Pakistani developers. He also encouraged businesses to explore supply-chain opportunities associated with the 2030 FIFA World Cup, which Portugal will co-host with Spain and Morocco.

AICEP- (Trade and Investment Agency of Portugal) Vice President Bruno Paes Moreira presented Portugal as an attractive investment destination, highlighting its political stability, strong institutions, transparent regulatory framework, skilled workforce, modern infrastructure and international business orientation. He said Portugal had developed a dynamic innovation ecosystem comprising approximately 5,000 startups, technology centres, research institutions and accelerators, with growing capabilities in artificial intelligence, fintech, cybersecurity, software development, digital health and advanced engineering. He also highlighted Portugal's renewable energy expertise, noting that more than three-quarters of its electricity generation came from renewable sources, including wind, hydropower and solar energy.

Identifying promising areas for bilateral cooperation, Bruno Paes Moreira highlighted textiles and technical textiles, information technology, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, water management, agribusiness, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, infrastructure, logistics, engineering, aerospace and defence technologies. He said Pakistan's manufacturing capabilities and growing pool of IT professionals could complement Portugal's industrial expertise and innovation ecosystem. Referring to opportunities for Pakistani companies to use Portugal as a platform for accessing European markets, he reaffirmed AICEP's commitment to supporting Pakistani investors interested in Portugal and Portuguese companies seeking opportunities in Pakistan.

Later the B2B networking session between the businessmen of the two sides was successfully held to explore the avenues of trade and investment.–**DNA**

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

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National Day

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Flags Day



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Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Shaza stresses need for stronger cybersecurity

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Nov 24 (DNA):Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Tuesday said that cybersecurity challenges were rising rapidly, making it essential to strengthen the country's digital security infrastructure and raise public awareness.

Addressing the Opening Ceremony of PAK-CRYPT – International Symposium on Cybersecurity 2026 ("Advancing Cybersecurity Innovation, Research and Skills Development") at Air University, Islamabad, she said that every aspect of modern life was now connected with cybersecurity.

She said that the government had invested billions of rupees in the National Cyber Security Academy and National Cyber Security Centre and introduced policies to strengthen the country's cybersecurity framework. She expressed the hope that the Higher Education Commission (HEC) would establish similar cybersecurity operations centres in other universities.

The minister said that the government had passed the Digital Nation Pakistan Act and established the relevant authority, while work was underway on digital governance under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. She said that out of Rs3.7 billion in government payments made over the past few months, 92 per cent had been processed digitally. She added that the government was also working on establishing a national data registry.

Shaza Fatima said that the government was moving towards digital transformation under the prime minister's Digital Nation Pakistan vision. "The government is now operating through e-office, and government operations have become digital," she said.

She said that developments in cybersecurity across the world over the past month had raised serious concerns and highlighted the need for stronger protection.

The minister said that while technology was advancing rapidly, malicious actors were also becoming more sophisticated. She stressed that modern technology was essential not only for economic growth but also for sustainable development. She said that Pakistan had made significant progress in cybersecurity and was now among the leading countries in this field. Referring to the country's achievements during Marka-e-Haq, she said that the success on the cybersecurity front had boosted national confidence. The minister said that the government would implement an Information Security Framework across all institutions to strengthen protection against cyber threats. She warned that cyberattacks and online fraud were affecting a large number of people. She said that artificial intelligence was increasingly being used for voice and video cloning, creating new challenges for digital security. She emphasized the need to develop effective strategies to counter AI-powered cyberattacks and promote public awareness to protect citizens from cyber threats.

PHA launches educational wall-art initiative, beautification drive

RAWALPINDI: The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi has launched an educational wall-art initiative alongside a beautification drive at major intersections, city entrances and key institutional locations across the city. Under the initiative, teams are planting colorful flowers and developing green belts at major squares and city entrances to improve the city's appearance and provide a pleasant environment for citizens and visitors. PHA has also started painting walls along government offices and educational institutions with thematic artwork carrying educational messages and promoting civic awareness among students and commuters. Monitoring teams are regularly visiting project sites to ensure the quality of artwork and maintain newly developed floral displays along major roads.–**DNA**

Int'l qirat competition to strengthen spiritual, cultural ties

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf on Tuesday said that the International Qirat Competition is not merely a contest, but a reflection of the collective commitment of Muslims to the Holy Quran. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Second International Qirat Competition 2026, the minister said hosting the international event was an honour for Pakistan and would strengthen spiritual and cultural ties among brotherly Islamic countries.

He said that along with recitation of the Holy Quran, its understanding and practical implementation must also be promoted, as the Holy Quran provides complete guidance for individual and collective life. The minister said Pakistan considered the promotion of Quranic and Sunnah teachings its national responsibility.

Highlighting legislative measures to prevent printing and publication errors in the Holy Quran, he said important legislation had been enacted in this regard.

Parliament had approved the Amendment Act 2024 to the Holy Quran Printing and Recording Act, 1973, while a standardised version had been prescribed to ensure uniformity in the printing and publication of the Holy Quran across the country. He said efforts to safeguard the sanctity and textual accuracy of the Holy Quran would continue. Sardar Muhammad Yousaf said Pakistan would play an effective role at the international level in promoting Quranic education, memorisation and the art of Qirat. He added that talented Huffaz and Qaris were being encouraged through national-level memorisation and Qirat competitions. Referring to other initiatives, the minister described the holding of the 50th International Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) Conference as another important historical milestone He said promoting the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah as a means of national character-building and social reform was the government's vision. Work was also underway on a digital library and digitisation to preserve the intellectual heritage of the Holy Quran and Seerat.–**DNA**

Kayani emphasizes devolution of power

DNA

ISLAMABAD:Minister of State for Finance and Railways, Bilal Azhar Kayani, on Monday emphasized the need for devolution of power and resources to bring public services closer to the people and ensure effective resolution of their problems. Speaking to a private television channel, he said that the country's growing population had made it increasingly difficult to address public issues under the existing governance structure.

He stressed that the creation of smaller provinces would promote development of that specific region, improve administrative efficiency and help address the challenges faced by local.

Kayani described the establishment of new provinces as an important issue directly linked to public welfare and service delivery. He said that this issue should produce tangible results.

Responding to a question, he also highlighted that the creation of new provinces would follow the constitutional and legal framework, with consensus among relevant stakeholders being essential to moving the process forward.

IRSA releases 89,100 cusecs water

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 89,100 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 45,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1475.86 feet, which was 73.86 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 21,600 cusecs and 42,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1176.85 feet, which was 126.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 6,900 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu, and Sukkur was recorded as 46,600, 49,600, 36,700, and 13,100 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 9,500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, and 2,200 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

Dr Tariq felicitates Sikh community on Guru Nanak's birth anniversary

ISLAMABAD :Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Tuesday extended heartfelt congratulations to the Sikh community in Pakistan and around the world on the birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak. In his message, the minister said Baba Guru Nanak's teachings conveyed a universal message of peace, love, equality, tolerance, and service to humanity. He said these teachings remained a guiding light for building a peaceful and harmonious society. Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said Pakistan was the custodian of the sacred land of Baba Guru Nanak and of the historical and religious heritage of the Sikh community. He described Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur as shining examples of interfaith harmony and religious tolerance. The minister extended a warm welcome to all Sikh pilgrims visiting Pakistan. –**APP**



Korea vows full support for Pakistan Taekwondo

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Han Sung-ho said that the Republic of Korea would extend all possible assistance to the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF) to help the sport reach new heights. “Taekwondo is growing rapidly in Pakistan, and I am delighted to see the passion and enthusiasm of Pakistani athletes.



Ansar Bhatti

ISLAMABAD:The 19th Korean Ambassador Combaxx National Taekwondo Championships 2026 officially got underway at the Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad, with a colourful opening ceremony showcasing cultural performances, sporting enthusiasm and the growing friendship between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, Han Sung-ho, graced the opening ceremony as the chief guest, reaffirming Korea’s commitment to supporting the development of Taekwondo in Pakistan and strengthening bilateral sports cooperation. The championship, running until November 28, has brought together talented athletes from across the country, representing all four provinces, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the Army, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Navy, Higher Education Commission and Police. Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Han Sung-ho said that the Republic of Korea would extend all possible assistance to the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF) to help the sport reach new heights. “Taekwondo is growing rapidly in Pakistan, and I am delighted to see the passion and enthusiasm of Pakistani athletes. Korea stands ready to extend every possible support to the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation for the further promotion and development of this sport,” the Ambassador said. He added that the national championship provided an excellent platform for young athletes to demonstrate their talent, skills and competitive abilities. “I hope every participating athlete will give their best, learn from this experience and create wonderful memories. Sporting events like this not only promote physical fitness and discipline but also build friendship, confidence and mutual understanding among nations,” he remarked. Meanwhile, President Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF), Col Nabeel Ahmad Rana, welcomed the Ambassador and appreciated the Korean government’s continued support for the promotion of Taekwondo in Pakistan, adding that the federation was committed to providing equal opportunities and a strong competitive platform to talented athletes from every corner of the country.

“Our vision is to identify, develop and promote talent at every level. We want to ensure that every deserving athlete gets an opportunity to showcase their abilities and progress towards national and international competitions,” he said..

“We are determined to raise the standard of Taekwondo in Pakistan. Our focus is on grassroots development, better training opportunities, international exposure and creating a pathway for our athletes to compete and win at the highest level,” the PTF President stated.

In a significant gesture to promote the sport, Ambassador Han Sung-ho also donated Taekwondo equipment to participating units during the opening ceremony, reflecting Korea’s practical commitment to supporting Pakistani athletes and strengthening the sport’s infrastructure.

The ceremony was attended by CEO Combaxx Sports Umar Saeed, President Pakistan Football Federation Syed Mohsen Gilani, Secretary Pakistan Kabaddi Federation Rana Muhammad Sarwar and Pakistan Sports Board Deputy Director General Muhammad Saeed, along with sports officials, coaches, athletes and representatives of participating departments.

Briefs

Pakistan, Türkiye for enhancing academic linkages

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Ms. Wajiha Qamar underscored the importance of strengthening educational cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye through institutional partnerships, academic exchanges and joint research initiatives.

She expressed these views during a meeting with Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan. Irfan Neziroglu, who called on her at the Ministry along with Education Counsellor Mr. Mehmet Toyran and a high-level delegation from Yasar University, Izmir, Türkiye.

The delegation comprised Prof. Dr. Aylin Güney, Vice Rector (International Relations); Prof. Dr. Yigit Kazançoglu, Vice Rector (Business); and Mr. M. Hasan Atasoy from the International Office.

During the meeting, matters pertaining to bilateral educational cooperation, student and faculty exchange programmes, joint research and institutional linkages between Pakistani and Turkish universities were discussed.

The minister of state highlighted the historic and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Türkiye and emphasized the need to translate these longstanding ties into meaningful and sustainable educational partnerships. She reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to promoting international academic collaboration and creating greater educational and professional development opportunities for Pakistani youth. –**APP**

Sherry condemns killing of two minor girls

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Vice President, Senator Sherry Rehman has strongly condemned the brutal killing of two minor girls allegedly by their father and injuring his wife in Muzaffargarh.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, Sherry Rehman said that killing innocent daughters merely because they were not sons was an inhuman and intolerable act. She said the mindset that considered daughters a burden posed a serious threat to society, stressing that discrimination between sons and daughters must be eliminated.–**APP**

Gilani congratulates Field Marshal on Malaysian honour

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani Tuesday extended heartfelt congratulations to the Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, on his induction as the 21st member of the prestigious Hall of Fame of Malaysia’s Armed Forces Staff College (MTAT), terming it a moment of immense pride for the entire nation.

The Chairman Senate said the distinguished international recognition was a testament to the Field Marshal’s exemplary leadership, strategic vision and commitment to national service. It also reflected the professional excellence of Pakistan’s Armed Forces and their contributions to regional and international peace and security. “International recognition of Pakistan’s military leadership not only brings honour to the nation but also reinforces Pakistan’s standing as a respected and responsible member of the international community,” the Chairman Senate said.

Welcoming the reaffirmation of defence and security cooperation during the Field Marshal’s visit to Malaysia, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said the longstanding friendship between the two brotherly countries, rooted in mutual trust, respect and shared aspirations, provided a strong foundation for deeper strategic and institutional cooperation. The Chairman Senate paid tribute to Pakistan’s Armed Forces for their unwavering commitment to safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity and expressed confidence that the prestigious honour would further strengthen Pakistan’s international stature and its enduring partnership with Malaysia. –**APP**

SC declares Auqaf takeover of private shrine land illegal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has declared illegal and without lawful authority the Punjab Auqaf Department’s takeover of privately owned land measuring 5 kanals and 3 marlas in Hafizabad, ruling that the construction of a shrine over a grave and visits by devotees do not automatically convert private property into waqf property. The court directed the Chief Administrator of Auqaf Punjab to restore the administration, control and possession of the land and structures to its owner, Muhammad Hussain, within 30 days of receiving the judgment. It also ordered the revenue authorities to correct the relevant land record, if any changes had been made pursuant to the takeover notification. A two-member bench comprising Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Naeem Akhter Afghan dismissed an appeal filed by the Chief Administrator of Auqaf Punjab against a Lahore High Court judgment dated November 21, 2008, which had declared the takeover notification illegal.In its judgment, authored by Justice Shahid Waheed, the court observed that a shrine built on privately owned land, even if visited by the public and receiving offerings, does not become waqf property unless the owner has permanently dedicated it for a religious, charitable or pious purpose. The court explained that under Section 2(e) of the Punjab Waqf Properties Ordinance, 1979, permanent dedication is an essential requirement for establishing waqf property. It clarified that the absence of a written deed does not defeat a waqf claim, as dedication may also be established through oral declaration or conduct. However, the intention to dedicate and relinquishment of ownership must be proved. The judgment noted that the respondent had purchased the land through a registered sale deed in 1988 and buried a family member, Syed Shabir Hussain Shah, there in 1993 with permission, subsequently constructing a shrine over the grave. The court observed that the evidence established neither permanent dedication nor religious use from time immemorial, as required under the law. It further held that allowing devotees to visit and make offerings did not transfer ownership of the land. It held that the existence of waqf property was a prerequisite for exercising takeover powers and that the Chief Administrator could not acquire jurisdiction merely by declaring private land as waqf property.–**DNA**

Al Sadat Group, Kuickpay partner to digitise booking, instalment payments

ISLAMABAD: Al Sadat Group has signed a partnership with Kuickpay Technologies to digitise booking and instalment payments for its projects, Lakeshore City and Seventeen Villas. Mr. Syed Sadat Hussain Shah, Chairman, Al Sadat Group, and Mr. Omer Afzal, Director Business Development, Kuickpay Technologies, signed the agreement at a ceremony in Islamabad.Customers can now pay their dues through mobile banking, internet banking and Kuickpay’s network of more than 300,000 payment points across Pakistan. Each payment is confirmed in real time and reconciled automatically, so customers no longer need to send receipts or screenshots. Lakeshore City is already live on Kuickpay. Digital payments for Seventeen Villas will begin on 25 November. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Syed Sadat Hussain Shah said, “Buying a home is one of the biggest commitments a family makes, and paying for it should be simple, safe and transparent. With Kuickpay, our customers can pay from anywhere, in Pakistan or abroad, and receive confirmation instantly.” Mr. Omer Afzal said, “We are pleased to bring digital collections to Pakistan’s real estate sector and to give Al Sadat Group’s customers a faster, more secure way to pay.” Seventeen Villas is an approved gated community of 3.5 to 5.5 Marla villas beyond Thalian Interchange (M-2), next to the Rawalpindi Ring Road, with bank financing and instalment plans. Lakeshore City is a lakeside development near Khanpur Dam.–**DNA**

Ayaz for enhancing pak-BD parlimntary ties

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday warmly welcomed Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, upon his arrival in Pakistan along with a high-level parliamentary delegation. The visit is being undertaken at the special invitation of Ayaz Sadiq, said a news release.

The visit marks a historic milestone in parliamentary diplomacy between Pakistan and Bangladesh, as it is the first-ever visit to Pakistan by a Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament.

The visit is expected to open new avenues of parliamentary cooperation and further strengthen the longstanding bonds of friendship between the two brotherly countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Ayaz Sadiq said that the arrival of the Bangladesh parliamentary delegation marked a new beginning in parliamentary relations between the two countries.

He warmly welcomed the Speaker and members of the delegation, expressing his pleasure at hosting them in Pakistan.

Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan and Bangladesh share deep-rooted historical and cultural ties, which provide a strong foundation for enhanced bilateral cooperation.

The Speaker emphasized that strengthening parliamentary linkages would play a vital role in further consolidating bilateral relations. He said that exchanges of parliamentary delegations and regular high-level interactions would provide valuable opportunities for both sides to benefit from each other’s parliamentary experiences and promote mutual understanding and cooperation. Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram expressed his gratitude to Ayaz Sadiq for the warm and gracious welcome.

He said that visiting Pakistan was both a pleasure and an honour for him and that his arrival had revived fond memories of the past.

He underscored the importance of parliamentary engagement in bringing the two brotherly nations closer and expressed his desire to promote closer cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries through exchanges of delegations and high-level interactions.

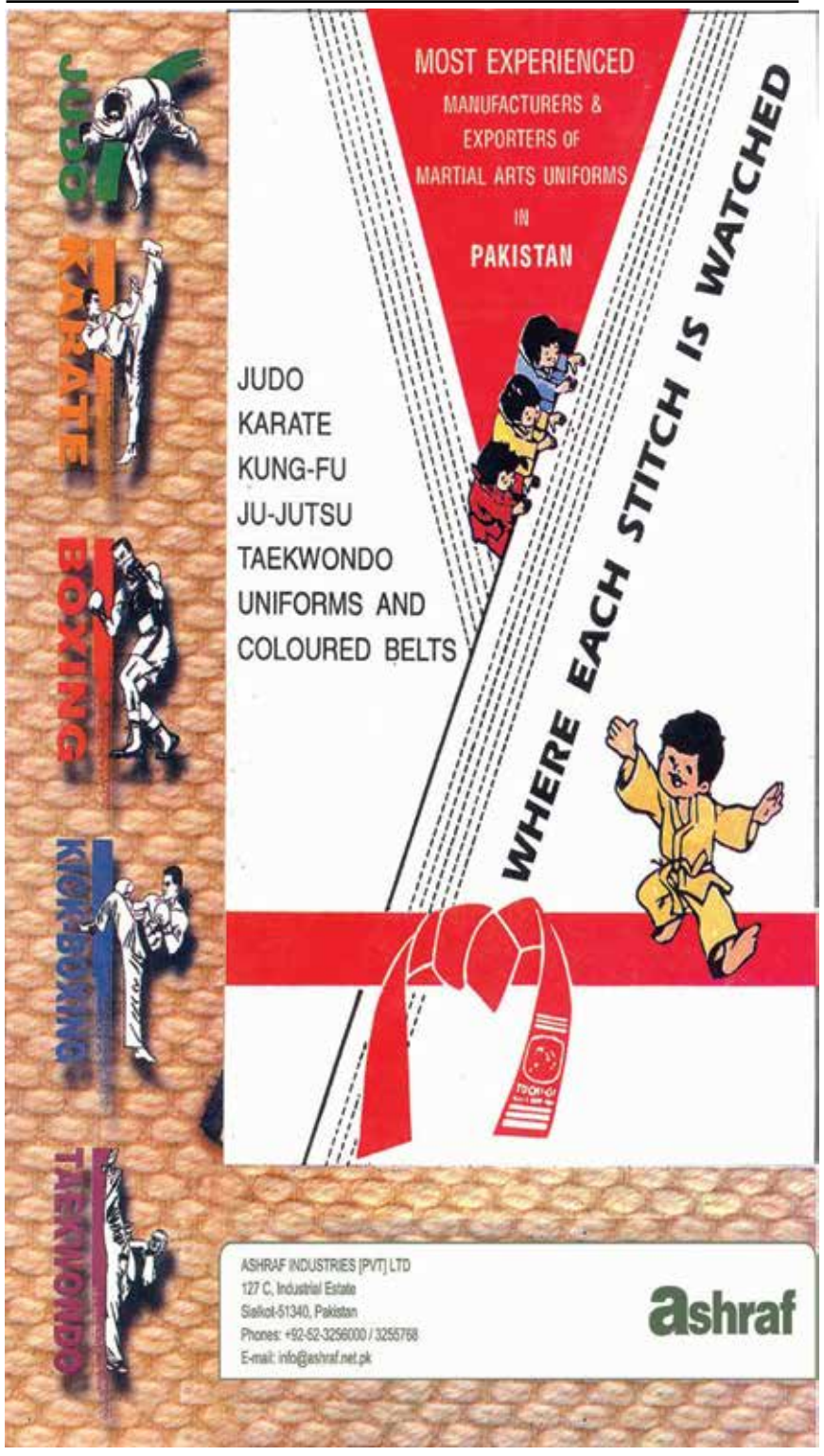
Convener of the Pakistan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group, Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Somroo was also present on the occasion. The delegation is headed by Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, Bir Bikram, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament. –**DNA**



ISLAMABAD: Swedish Ambassador to Pakistan Alexandra Berg von Linde called on Minister of State and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media Fahd Haroon

O3 Live, HCIE advances ICT talent excellence

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Technologies Pakistan hosted O3 Live & HCIE Rocks 2026, bringing together senior industry leaders, distinguished representatives of the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, certified ICT professionals, service partners, and ecosystem stakeholders to celebrate technical excellence, strengthen industry collaboration, and advance the development of Pakistan’s ICT talent. The event highlighted Huawei’s continued commitment to building a skilled, innovative, digitally empowered, and globally competitive ICT ecosystem in Pakistan. It also provided a platform to recognize the achievements of Huawei’s service partners and technical professionals while reinforcing the importance of collaboration, capability development, and service excellence in the rapidly evolving intelligent era. In his keynote address, Ahmed Bilal Masud, CEO, AI & Cloud Business, highlighted the growing importance of emerging technologies and the opportunities presented by the intelligent era. He underscored the need to strengthen technical expertise, accelerate digital enablement, and prepare the partner ecosystem to support Pakistan’s evolving digital landscape. The event was also addressed by Alex Yang, Managing Director, Enterprise Business, who welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation for the partners’ continued trust and support. He highlighted Huawei’s commitment to strengthening the “Partner + Huawei” transparent cooperation framework throughout 2026. Through multiple rounds of business alignment, Huawei and its partners developed joint plans covering business objectives, project opportunities, resource allocation, and capability building. These collective efforts contributed to remarkable progress across the NA, Commercial, and Distribution markets. Delivering the strategic address. Victor Lin, VP D&S (EBG), Regional Support Center, highlighted Huawei’s broader strategic priorities for strengthening its partner ecosystem, advancing service excellence, and fostering sustainable collaboration. He reaffirmed the importance of continuous investment in partner capabilities and the development of a future-ready ICT workforce. The event concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Eric Yuan, VP Delivery & Service, who acknowledged the contributions of Huawei’s partners and professionals and reiterated the company’s commitment to strengthening collaboration, developing technical talent, and delivering consistent service excellence A major highlight of the event was the recognition of Pakistani ICT professionals and service partners for their outstanding achievements at Huawei’s 2026 Global Post-Sales Partner Competition. Pakistan secured five international medals, comprising three Silver and two Bronze, making it the only country from the Middle East region to win medals in the post-sales category.–**DNA**



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Fate to TAPI in limbo

MUCH-delayed Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan - India (TAPI) gas pipeline project fate is still in limbo with no progress made. The $10 billion, 1,800-kilometer pipeline was once hailed as a major energy corridor linking Central Asia with South Asia. For more than two decades, TAPI was projected as a game-changer that could provide Pakistan with up to 1.3 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, easing the country's chronic energy shortages. Yet, despite repeated rounds of discussions, political statements, and official assurances, the project never progressed beyond paper. Pakistan's reported decision to step away from TAPI came after years of frustration over delays, impractical conditions, and strategic concerns. The Islamabad Post, in its September 6 edition, had highlighted in detail the structural and political weaknesses that made the project unworkable from the very beginning.

From the outset, TAPI was marred by geopolitical contradictions. Pakistan's energy security concerns were at odds with India's participation in the project. Officials in Islamabad had long maintained that the pipeline could never deliver net benefits to Pakistan as long as India was part of it. Instead, Islamabad would risk being locked into an arrangement where transit revenues and strategic leverage could tilt in India's favor. "India's inclusion made the project politically toxic for Pakistan," noted one senior energy analyst. "It was unrealistic to expect Islamabad to tie its energy future to a pipeline that relied on cooperation with its arch-rival." This newspaper has consistently argued that Pakistan's energy security must not be contingent on arrangements that strengthen India's strategic hand. The government's latest decision vindicates that position.

Another major irritant was Turkmenistan's insistence on keeping India as a permanent part of the project. Islamabad reportedly urged Ashgabat to reconsider the configuration, at least until bilateral relations between Pakistan and India improved. But Turkmen officials consistently refused to de-link India from TAPI, even when it became clear that New Delhi had lost much of its initial enthusiasm for the project. According to sources, Turkmenistan's rigid approach "annoyed" Pakistan and contributed directly to Islamabad's withdrawal decision. The Turkmen side appeared more interested in projecting TAPI as a regional initiative with four stakeholders, rather than pragmatically rethinking its composition to suit the ground realities. Equally frustrating for Pakistan was Turkmenistan's half-hearted engagement with the project. While Ashgabat frequently reaffirmed its commitment in official statements, its practical efforts to push the project forward were minimal. Officials in Islamabad say Turkmenistan failed to pursue the case effectively with Pakistani authorities. Critical negotiations on tariffs, security guarantees, and payment mechanisms were repeatedly delayed or left unresolved. This lack of seriousness further eroded confidence in the project.



Adding to the problem were persistent communication issues between Turkmenistan's diplomatic staff in Islamabad and Pakistani counterparts. Officials describe a "disconnect" that slowed decision-making and made coordination difficult. In an initiative as complex as TAPI, such lapses proved fatal. Even beyond India's involvement and Turkmenistan's lack of interest, serious feasibility concerns dogged the project. The pipeline's proposed route through Afghanistan was always vulnerable to instability, insurgency, and political uncertainty. The idea of securing nearly 800 kilometers of pipeline in Afghan territory was never realistic. Financially too, the project raised questions. The cost estimates of around $10 billion were widely seen as optimistic. Financing such a large cross-border infrastructure project required strong guarantees and investor confidence, both of which were absent.

For Pakistan, the ultimate realization was that the costs of pursuing TAPI far outweighed the potential benefits. Energy experts argue that even if the pipeline had materialized, Pakistan risked paying more for gas than alternative sources, especially with global energy markets shifting towards LNG and renewable options.

With TAPI off the table, Pakistan is expected to focus on more realistic and flexible energy options. These may include expanding LNG infrastructure, strengthening ties with Qatar and other LNG suppliers, reviving talks on the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline, and accelerating investment in renewable energy.

While the collapse of TAPI is a setback in terms of lost time, officials argue it also clears the way for more practical solutions. By officially withdrawing, Pakistan can reallocate its limited resources and political attention to projects that are economically viable and strategically secure. While TAPI will remain a "dream project" in regional energy diplomacy, for Pakistan, it has always been a non-starter. Islamabad is signaling a shift towards energy strategies rooted in reality rather than rhetoric.

Trump's Corporate Veto and the Fragility of the US Economy

Qamar Bashir



Perhaps the most alarming revelation, however, was the vulnerability of the entire American financial market to the departure of a single corporate executive. Nvidia's collapse reverberated across semiconductor manufacturers, technology corporations, financial institutions and numerous other sectors. The Nasdaq, S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average experienced considerable turbulence as investors reassessed valuations and their exposure to artificial intelligence. The leadership crisis of one corporation contributed to the erosion of hundreds of billions...

FOR decades, the United States has projected its corporate sector as a model of independence, transparency, institutional integrity and professional governance. Independent boards of directors, insulated from political interference, were considered the custodians of shareholders' interests. Government interference in corporate decision-making was generally associated with developing countries, where political establishments often manipulate corporate institutions to serve their political, financial and personal interests. The dramatic ouster and subsequent reinstatement of Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang have seriously undermined this carefully cultivated American distinction. The eleven-day corporate drama exposed not only the vulnerability of American corporate governance to presidential intervention but also the extraordinary fragility of the world's largest economy, the dangerous concentration of its financial wealth, and the potential for politically connected individuals to exploit privileged information for financial enrichment.

On November 12, 2026, Jensen Huang, the co-founder and architect of Nvidia's extraordinary technological and commercial success, resigned following revelations concerning extramarital relationships, including one with Alice Huang, who was suspected of having connections with Chinese intelligence. The allegations assumed particular significance because Nvidia manufactures advanced semiconductor technology central to America's artificial intelligence capabilities, economic competitiveness and national security. Nvidia's board initially demonstrated remarkable resolve. Its chairman, Harvey Jones, publicly indicated on November 17 that Huang would not be brought back. The board appeared determined to protect institutional integrity, enforce corporate accountability and withstand external pressure. Colette Kress, Nvidia's longtime chief financial officer, assumed interim leadership. The impression conveyed to shareholders was that no individual, irrespective of his wealth, technological brilliance or corporate stature, was indispensable. However, this demonstration of corporate independence proved remarkably short-lived. President Donald Trump intervened personally, reportedly participating by telephone in the board's deliberations and persuading directors to reinstate Huang. Vice President JD Vance, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick were also involved in the administration's efforts. On November 23, the same board unanimously reversed its earlier decision. Nvidia explicitly acknowledged receiving assurances from senior levels of the United States government concerning the national security implications of Huang's reinstatement. Trump publicly celebrated his intervention, declaring that his involvement had been instrumental in securing Huang's return. The episode raises a fundamental question: how independent are American corporate boards when the president can persuade them to reverse consequential decisions within days? More disturbing are the financial dimensions of this extraordinary episode. Nvidia shares, which had previously traded around $235, plunged to approximately $125.53 amid the leadership crisis and broader market turbulence. Following Huang's reinstatement, the stock surged by approximately 31 percent in a single trading session, restoring nearly $1 trillion in market capitalization. Such extraordinary fluctuations created enormous opportunities for speculative trading, particularly for individuals possessing advance knowledge of the impending corporate decisions.

According to Newsweek's examination of Trump's financial disclosures, the president purchased up to $380,000 worth of Nvidia shares in September, weeks before Huang's resignation. The White House maintains that independent financial institutions manage his investments and that neither Trump nor his family directs individual transactions. Nevertheless, the president's financial exposure to a corporation whose leadership he personally helped restore presents a serious question of conflict of interest.

Equally significant were reports that Nvidia board director Mark Stevens had sold approximately 4.2 million shares worth $1 billion before the scandal erupted, reportedly without a predetermined trading plan. The timing warrants regulatory examination. Whether politically connected individuals, corporate insiders or their associates accumulated substantial Nvidia holdings before the reinstatement announcement must also become the subject of an independent investigation. The allegations of insider trading and market manipulation cannot be established without examining transaction records, beneficial ownership, communications and the timing of purchases and sales. However, the magnitude of potential financial gains makes such an investigation imperative. An investor purchasing $100 million worth of Nvidia shares immediately before a 31 percent rally could theoretically generate $31 million in paper profits in a single trading session.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton characterized the controversy as encompassing national security, corruption, insider trading and market manipulation, describing it as "Supergate." Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer accused Trump of prioritizing personal financial interests and wealthy associates over national security. Republican Senator John Cornyn also questioned the basis of the administration's national security assurances, demonstrating that concerns extend beyond partisan political divisions.

Perhaps the most alarming revelation, however, was the vulnerability of the entire American financial market to the departure of a single corporate executive. Nvidia's collapse reverberated across semiconductor manufacturers, technology corporations, financial institutions and numerous other sectors. The Nasdaq, S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average experienced considerable turbulence as investors reassessed valuations and their exposure to artificial intelligence. The leadership crisis of one corporation contributed to the erosion of hundreds of billions of dollars in wealth across the wider market. Nvidia's competitors, rather than benefiting uniformly from its difficulties, were also exposed to declining investor confidence in the semiconductor and artificial intelligence industries. The contagion demonstrated the extraordinary interconnectedness of American equity markets and their dependence on a handful of technology giants. What kind of economic resilience does the United States possess if the departure of one individual can bring its financial markets under such enormous pressure? What would happen if two or three executives of comparable technological and financial significance were simultaneously removed? Could the American economy withstand multiple leadership crises without suffering a devastating contraction in market wealth?

The American stock market has increasingly become concentrated around a relatively small number of corporations. Their valuations influence retirement accounts, pension funds, institutional investments and household wealth. This concentration has transformed individual corporate leadership crises into potentially systemic financial threats. The situation also exposes a dangerous contradiction in America's economic philosophy. Washington frequently lectures other countries about corporate independence, institutional transparency, political interference and market manipulation. Yet its own president has openly intervened in the leadership arrangements of one of the world's most valuable corporations while maintaining a disclosed financial interest in its shares. Meanwhile, investigations concerning alleged Chinese intelligence activities, semiconductor diversion and export-control compliance remain unfinished. Nvidia's independent investigative committee is continuing its work, while congressional appearances have been scheduled for December. Presidential assurances have therefore preceded the completion of important institutional inquiries.

Congress and the Securities and Exchange Commission must independently examine the circumstances surrounding Huang's departure and reinstatement, all significant share transactions during the relevant period, potential conflicts of interest and the extent of presidential intervention. Corporate accountability cannot be subordinated to market capitalization, political expediency or the financial interests of influential individuals. The Nvidia saga has stripped away much of the mythology surrounding American corporate independence and financial resilience. An economy celebrated as the strongest in human history has demonstrated an alarming dependence on individual personalities, concentrated corporate wealth and presidential intervention. When the departure of one executive can shake global markets and his politically facilitated return can restore nearly a trillion dollars overnight, the episode is not merely a corporate scandal. It is a profound indictment of the structural fragility, institutional vulnerability and financial concentration of American capitalism itself.

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Magnolia's Foreign Policy Lesson for Pakistan

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The lesson is that diplomatic diversification cannot succeed without economic diversification. A country may establish strategic partnerships with ten different states, but if its exports, energy supplies, transport routes and financial stability depend on one or two neighbours, its freedom of action will remain restricted

THE intensifying competition among major powers has created difficult choices for smaller countries. As the United States and China compete for economic, technological and strategic influence, while Russia seeks to maintain its regional position, states with limited economic and military capabilities face growing pressure to adjust their foreign policies. Some are compelled to choose sides, while others attempt to maintain relations with competing powers without surrendering their independence. Mongolia offers an instructive example of how a small state can navigate such circumstances. Located between Russia and China, two major powers with considerable political, economic and military influence, Mongolia has little geographical room to manoeuvre. Its position is particularly challenging because its economy depends heavily on trade with its neighbours, while its security and sovereignty remain closely connected to the regional balance of power.

Yet Mongolia has pursued a foreign policy that seeks to avoid excessive dependence on either neighbour. Its experience demonstrates that geographical constraints do not necessarily eliminate diplomatic choices, provided a country understands its limitations and uses the available opportunities carefully. Mongolia's approach is not based on confrontation with its neighbours. Rather, it combines practical cooperation with China and Russia, diplomatic engagement with other international partners, and participation in multilateral institutions. This policy has become widely associated with the country's strategic balancing and its Third Neighbour Policy.

The Third Neighbour Policy emerged following Mongolia's democratic transition in 1990. After decades of close dependence on the Soviet Union, the country sought to establish relations with Western democracies and other Asian powers. The objective was not to replace one dominant partner with another, but to widen its diplomatic options. The United States, Japan, South Korea, India and European countries became important partners. Mongolia also developed closer relations with international organisations and participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations. These engagements helped the country establish an international identity beyond its immediate neighbourhood. Its strategic partnerships with Russia, Japan, China, India and the United States reflect an effort to maintain a broad diplomatic network rather than depend on a single external power.

One of Mongolia's most important diplomatic achievements has been its ability to maintain relations with both China and Russia despite their growing strategic cooperation. Beijing is Mongolia's largest trading partner, while Moscow remains a major source of energy supplies.

Their geographical proximity makes economic engagement unavoidable. Any serious deterioration in relations with either neighbour could create significant economic difficulties. The figures illustrate the scale of this dependence. According to a September 2026 assessment by the US Congressional Research Service, China accounted for approximately 89 per cent of Mongolia's exports in 2025, while Russia supplied more than 94 per cent of its petroleum imports. These figures reveal the limits of diplomatic independence when economic relationships remain heavily concentrated.

The lesson is that diplomatic diversification cannot succeed without economic diversification. A country may establish strategic partnerships with ten different states, but if its exports, energy supplies, transport routes and financial stability depend on one or two neighbours, its freedom of action will remain restricted. Mongolia has also used multilateral diplomacy to strengthen its international position. Its declaration of nuclear-weapon-free status in 1992 was an important step towards establishing an independent security identity. It has also maintained a policy of non-alignment and avoided joining military alliances that could unnecessarily complicate relations with its neighbours. For a country with limited military capabilities, international recognition, diplomatic engagement and participation in multilateral institutions can provide additional protection. These instruments cannot replace military strength, but they can increase the political costs of violating another country's sovereignty.

There are important lessons here for Pakistan as well. Pakistan's geographical position, security concerns and economic relationships have repeatedly placed it at the centre of competing international interests. Its relations with China, the United States, Russia, the Gulf countries and Central Asian states require careful management. The challenge is not to abandon established partnerships but to ensure that no single relationship becomes so dominant that it limits the country's foreign policy choices. Pakistan's engagement with China through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, its historical security relationship with the United States, its developing ties with Russia and its economic connections with the Gulf illustrate the complexity of its external environment. However, maintaining multiple relationships requires more than diplomatic visits and political declarations. It demands economic strength, institutional continuity, political stability and a foreign policy based on clearly defined national interests.

Mongolia also demonstrates that strategic autonomy should not be confused with neutrality on every international issue. Small states cannot avoid taking positions indefinitely. They must distinguish between matters involving fundamental national interests and disputes in which direct involvement would bring unnecessary costs. This requires diplomatic consistency, political maturity and a realistic understanding of the balance of power. Ultimately, Mongolia's experience reveals that small states are not necessarily condemned to become instruments of great-power competition. Their influence may be limited, but they can still exercise meaningful diplomatic choice through economic diversification, multilateral engagement and carefully managed relationships.

The most important lesson is that sovereignty is not secured simply by maintaining friendly relations with powerful countries. It depends on the ability to make independent decisions when external pressure becomes difficult to resist. For Mongolia, this remains an ongoing challenge. For other small and medium-sized states, including Pakistan, it offers a valuable lesson in the difficult art of surviving between powerful neighbours without surrendering national independence.

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Briefs

PM Intervenes to defuse cabinet...

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the prime minister added. "Matters among federal cabinet members should be resolved through mutual understanding and consensus," the prime minister said. He said statements by federal ministers against one another create a negative impression and divert attention from the politics of development and progress. PM Shehbaz said the federal cabinet ministers were performing well and should remain focused solely on public service, development and progress. He said representatives of provincial governments should also refrain from such statements and promote constructive dialogue. "Statements against one another must cease completely. It is our collective responsibility to play an effective role in ensuring political stability," the prime minister said.

JUI-F moves LHC against...

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his movement, effectively placing him under house arrest. The petitioner maintained that the JUI-F chief was scheduled to attend an all-parties conference (APC) organised by the Lahore High Court Bar Association. He requested the court to order Fazl's recovery and also sought an immediate hearing of the petition. Meanwhile, JUI-F Senator Kamran Murtaza has condemned the "restrictions imposed by police". "Maulana Fazl is the head of a major political party in the country. Preventing him from leaving his residence runs against fundamental civil liberties and democratic traditions," he said. "Political differences aside, there is no justification for obstructing the free movement of any leader," he added. Tensions between Fazl and the federal government have increased since mid-October, particularly after he criticised the Centre's decision to impose governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The seasoned politician also accused the Centre of failing to honour its commitments despite his efforts to mediate between the PML-N and PTI-led KP government. Last week, police and Federal Constabulary (FC) personnel assigned to provide security to Fazl and his family were withdrawn from their residences in Islamabad and Dera Ismail Khan.

PTI moves court for live broadcast...

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The petition was filed on Tuesday through Barristers Salman Safdar, Salman Akram Raja and other lawyers. It argues that the case is a matter of national importance and that live broadcasting of Imran's appeal proceedings is essential to ensure transparency, uphold justice and maintain public confidence in the judicial system. Live coverage would allow the public to witness the proceedings firsthand and dispel speculation and misinformation, the petition states. It adds that justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done. The petition invokes Article 19-A of the Constitution, which guarantees citizens the right to access information on matters of public importance. It also cites the live broadcast of the Zulfikar Ali Bhutto reference and proceedings in the Pervez Musharraf case before the Supreme Court. It notes that the IHC has previously issued directions for the live broadcast of proceedings in significant cases. The petition also raises concerns about Imran's alleged solitary confinement in prison, the denial of adequate medical facilities and restrictions on meetings with his family members and legal representatives. It expresses concern over what it describes as prison authorities' negligence regarding his medical condition, including blood pressure and treatment.

Mountain Twin Fighters Manisha and Maliha honoured

The Mountain Twin Fighters dedicated their victories to Pakistan and the Pakistan Army, reaffirming their deep sense of patriotism and commitment to bringing further honour to the nation

OUR CORRESPONDENT



ISLAMABAD: A special ceremony was held at the National University of Technology (NUTECH), Islamabad, to honour national MMA heroes Manisha Ali and Maliha Ali, collectively known as the Mountain Twin Fighters, for their outstanding international achievements, unwavering determination, resilience, and contributions towards empowering women in sports.

The ceremony was attended by Rector NUTECH Lieutenant General (Retd.) Moazzam Ejaz, CEO ACTIVIT and Director National Hospital DHA Lahore Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed, ACTIVIT Brand Ambassador Moazzam Khan Klair, Dr. Nabeel Ahmed, Amjad Khab and other distinguished guests.

During the ceremony, the Mountain Twin Fighters were honoured for their outstanding achievements in representing Pakistan internationally. Manisha Ali secured a gold medal and became World Champion at the IMMAF Angola Opens, while Maliha Ali secured a bronze medal at the IMMAF World Championships in Georgia. Their remarkable accomplishments were celebrated as inspiring examples for the younger generation, particularly aspiring female athletes. Addressing the ceremony, Manisha Ali reaffirmed her commitment to bringing further glory to Pakistan on the international stage and encouraged more women to pursue sports. The Ali sisters expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed for his unwavering commitment and continued support through ACTIVIT's 360° Support Programme, acknowledging its instrumental role in making their national and international victories possible. They also extended their appreciation to Pakistan MMA Federation (PAKMMAF) President Omar Ahmed and the federation for their invaluable mentorship, guidance, and support throughout their sporting journey.

The Mountain Twin Fighters dedicated their victories to Pakistan and the Pakistan Army, reaffirming their deep sense of patriotism and commitment to bringing further honour to the nation. Speaking on the occasion, they attributed their success to the unwavering support and sacrifices of their family, particularly the cherished dream of their martyred brother to see his sisters raise Pakistan's flag high on the international stage. They expressed their determination to carry forward his legacy by continuing to represent Pakistan with pride, courage, and excellence.

Pakistan, China to develop maritime training institute in Gwadar

GWADAR: Pakistan is seeking to develop specialised maritime and engineering education in Gwadar through a partnership with Chinese institutions, with a new technical institute planned to train local youth for work in port and maritime industries.

The proposed Pakistan Overseas Engineering and Technology Institute will focus on training professionals in marine engineering, navigation, shipping technology and port operations, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said that training should match maritime industry needs.

He was speaking at a preboard meeting of the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), which reviewed development projects and initiatives aimed at strengthening technical education and human resource capacity in the port city.

GPA Chairman Noorul Haq Baloch informed the meeting that GPA, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCTVI), University of Gwadar and China's Qingdao Harbour Vocational and Technical College had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish the proposed institute. The agreement provides a five-year cooperation framework covering 2026-2030, under which the partner institutions will collaborate on academic programmes, curriculum development, professional training, faculty development, joint research and practical learning.

The proposed curriculum will cover navigation technology, marine engineering, maritime safety, ship technology and port machinery, with an emphasis on preparing students for the technical demands of modern ports and shipping operations. – **APP**



AB de Villiers makes new claim about Australian ball-tampering

DNA

FORMER South African batsman AB de Villiers has alleged Australia engaged in ball-tampering from the first match of their 2018 "Sandpapergate" tour of South Africa. De Villiers alleged in a post on his YouTube channel that the ball-tampering, which culminated in Cameron Bancroft being caught using sandpaper in the third Test in Cape Town, actually began in the first Test in Durban.

He also said the Australian bowlers, who have denied any involvement, must have known what was going on.

A fierce debate about the eight-year-old events was triggered in Australia this month when Usman Khawaja claimed the whole team knew about the plot to alter the flight of the ball. Bancroft, who was banned along with captain Steve Smith and David Warner after the incident, said in a recent article that sandpaper was first used in the second Test in Port Elizabeth. But De Villiers said: "It started in Durban, by the way, not in PE. I'm very happy for people to quote me on that.

"I see everyone is sort of admitting that in Port Elizabeth it also happened. I can very much tell you Durban was no different, in the first Test. Go look at the footage. Absolutely no doubt in my mind." He added: "We lost that first Test match in Durban with the ball reversing at a very, very interesting time. Way too early for anyone to reverse a ball at Kingsmead. Trust me, I've played a lot of cricket there." De Villiers added: "So whatever they did there, whether it was sandpaper or (a) nail, I don't care. The fact of the matter is they were caught and everyone knew. Just stand up and say 'we were wrong'. A lot is at stake now because they lied.

Nightmare second half in Uzbekistan sees Al-Hilal escape with point

DNA

ALKHOBAR: The reunion of Al-Hilal's front three in the AFC Champions League Elite — following the completion of Crysencio Summerville's three-match continental ban — ended on a sour note on Monday, as Neftchi Fergana fought back to hold Simone Inzaghi's side to a 2-2 draw.

Summerville, who was suspended after a clash with Al-Gharafa's staff on Matchday 1, returned to ACL Elite action and started alongside Ollie Watkins and Gabriel Martinelli up front — a change from Inzaghi's usual second-string sides in the competition this season.

Al-Hilal's quality was enough to give the Blues a 2-0 lead at halftime. Even with Neftchi threatening the visitors' goal on more than one occasion, it was a mistake from Ibrokhimkhalil Yuldoshev that broke the deadlock.

In the 21st minute, the left-back passed toward goalkeeper Botirali Ergashev across goal, only for Watkins to pounce, guide the ball past the keeper and into the open net.

A moment of improvisation from Watkins made it two seven minutes later. With his back to the defense, he toe-poked the ball into space with his back to goal for Martinelli running in behind him, and the Brazilian finished coolly.

China, Pakistan release Qingdao initiative on marine geoscience cooperation

They discussed key scientific issues and chart a path for deeper cooperation, according to China Economic Net (CEN)

QINGDAO: The First Seminar on Marine Geology, Resources and Environment in Offshore Pakistan was held in Qingdao on November 21-22, bringing together more than 40 experts and scholars from Chinese institutions and eight Pakistani visiting scholars l They discussed key scientific issues and chart a path for deeper cooperation, according to China Economic Net (CEN). The event was organized by the Qingdao Institute of Marine Geology under the China Geological Survey.

Discussions centered on oil and gas resources and gas hydrates in offshore Pakistan and adjacent areas, tectonic evolution, and coastal resources, environment and geological hazards, with 19 academic presentations covering offshore oil and gas exploration, gas hydrate accumulation models and numerical simulation, regional tectonic evolution and mineralization, coastal resource and environmental hazard risk assessment, and satellite remote sensing for marine environmental monitoring. During the seminar, participants released the "Qingdao Initiative on China-Pakistan Marine Geoscience Cooperation," calling for deeper joint research in marine geoscience, accelerated development of marine science and technology innovation platforms.

It aimed to strengthen training of young researchers, support for marine resource development and ecological protection, and joint efforts to build a new framework for marine cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

The seminar builds on years of collaboration between the Qingdao Institute of Marine Geology and Pakistani partners. The institute has deepened Sino-Pakistani cooperation in marine oil and gas geological surveys and assessments in the Indian Ocean, producing research results and advancing joint marine geological surveys, oil and gas resource cooperation and capacity building for Pakistani technical personnel. Such cooperation is covered in the China-Pakistan Joint Statement and the Action Plan to Foster an Even Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era (2025–2029). – **APP**



Babar Azam shines in DP World ILT20 debut, powering Desert Vipers to first win of Season 5

Tanveer joined the wicket-takers in the 16th over with the wicket of Mohammad Nabi (3 off 8). He claimed his second wicket in the 18th over, and his third in the final over, to ensure that the Warriorz were bowled out for 166

DNA

SHARJAH: Defending champions Desert Vipers registered their first win of DP World ILT20 Season 5, beating Sharjah Warriorz by six wickets at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday. Making his DP World ILT20 debut, Babar Azam anchored the chase of 167 with an impressive 86 off 51 balls — including a league record of 13 fours — as the Vipers got over the line in 17.3 overs.

Paul Walter's 75 off 43 had given the Warriorz a strong platform, but Shadab Khan (3/18) and Khuzaima Tanveer (3/31) led a disciplined bowling effort to bowl them out for 166. Babar's 86 and a crucial stand with Joe Clarke (35 off 27) then set the Vipers on the path to victory — and their seventh consecutive win over the Warriorz.

The Vipers made a fast start, but Junaid Siddique broke the deadlock in the fourth over, with the wicket of Fakhar Zaman (15 off 10). Waqar Salamkheil struck with his very first ball of the match to bowl Andries Gous (13 off 5) in the seventh over, leaving the Vipers on 70/2 as they looked for a way back into the game. Babar completed his 50 off just 31 balls in the 10th over. He and Clarke then put on 82 runs for the third wicket, taking the Vipers close to the target.

Adam Milne struck twice in the 16th over with the scalps of Clarke and then Babar. But it was too late for the Warriorz as Shimron Hetmyer (4*) and skipper Shadab Khan (8* off 5) saw the Vipers home with 15 balls to spare. Earlier, Tom Curran gave the Vipers an early breakthrough in the third over, dismissing Tim Seifert (17 off 9) to leave the Warriorz on 34/1. Walter then took charge, reaching his 50 off 30 balls with a six off Mujeeb Ur Rahman in the 10th over. He and James Vince added 68 runs in 48 balls before Shadab broke the stand in the 11th over, with Vince (23 off 22) caught by Hetmyer.

Shadab struck again in the 13th over, bowling Brandon McMullen (2 off 6) to leave the Warriorz on 122/3. Two balls later he got skipper Sikandar Raza (0 off 2) as well, as the Vipers took control of the innings. Naseem Shah then dismissed the dangerous Walter in the 14th over, making it 128/5.

Tanveer joined the wicket-takers in the 16th over with the wicket of Mohammad Nabi (3 off 8). He claimed his second wicket in the 18th over, and his third in the final over, to ensure that the Warriorz were bowled out for 166. Player of the Match Azam said: "It's my first match and the team's first win. We planned the first six overs, played cricketing shots and stayed positive, and then we built partnerships and the innings. The way our fast bowlers pulled things back was fantastic."

Warriorz skipper Sikandar Raza said: "We lost momentum in the first half and couldn't get it back. Our top three were nice to watch, but one spell from Shadab changed the game. The middle order hasn't fired in this game or the last, so we're missing runs from the middle and lower order. We thought we'd get the momentum back with the ball, but they had such a brilliant start that by the time we did, it was too late.

PM assures KP governor of full...

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facilities, according to the PMO. The premier directed that special attention be given to improving social development indicators in KP, including healthcare and education.

Red lines must not be crossed...

FROM PAGE 01

journalists must report, citizens must question, dissent must be heard, including against the government, but freedom of speech can never become a shield for those who cross these red lines," he said. He went on to say that Pakistan had "limited manpower", resources and technology. Giving the example of Punjab, he said that the province had a population of 140 million against a strength of 61 people in the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA). "And these 61 people include drivers, clerks and officers. We cannot do this alone. That is why we have established a Social Media Protection Regulatory Authority," he said.

Azerbaijan delegation in Pakistan

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The Prime Minister appreciated Azerbaijan's vital support in establishing the centre and conducting third-party audits to further improve public service delivery. He appreciated the recent fact-based third-party audit, observing that its findings would help further improve public service delivery and enable government to meet the expectations of citizens. He directed that all areas identified in the report requiring further improvement should be addressed on priority. The Prime Minister directed the establishment of an Asaan Khidmat Authority, which would be responsible for ensuring standardised service delivery across all Asaan Khidmat Centres to be established throughout the country. He also directed the relevant authorities to collaborate with provincial governments for the establishment of Asaan Khidmat Centres across Pakistan. The Prime Minister stated that the broader objective of the Asaan Khidmat initiative was to build a digitally enabled society, economy and governance system, while strengthening technology-driven public service delivery. Both sides agreed to establish a Joint Working Group to ensure continuous engagement, coordination and cooperation for further strengthening and expanding the initiative.

Azam for balance between...

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false or fake news to spread within seconds and its consequences cannot be undone once disseminated. Referring to the Constitution of Pakistan, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar noted that Articles 4, 9 and 14 guarantee the inviolable protection of life, liberty, honour, reputation and dignity to every individual on Pakistani soil, whereas Articles 19 and 19-A subject the rights of expression and information to reasonable legal restrictions to safeguard personal privacy, national security and institutional integrity. He apprised the participants that Pakistan revamped its regulatory framework following eighteen months of extensive deliberations and consultations with journalists, experts and global tech representatives, including Meta and Asia Internet Coalition. He informed the participants that Pakistan also established the Social Media Regulatory Authority and reformed the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) by harmonizing international standards with Pakistan's unique security and societal challenges. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar underscored that international law upholds the primacy of domestic legislation, adding that social media platforms cannot absolve themselves of responsibility.

Islamabad POST
Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Briefs

PSX stays bullish, gains over 1,068 points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bullish trend on Tuesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index gaining 1,068.42 points, a positive change of 0.60 percent, to close at 178,542.28 points against 177,473.86 points recorded in the previous trading session.
The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 644.770 million shares, compared to 551.451 million shares traded in the previous session. The traded value of the ready market stood at Rs23.066 billion, up from Rs22.500 billion a day earlier. Meanwhile, total market capitalisation increased to Rs19.385 trillion from Rs19.254 trillion recorded in the previous session.
Out of 498 companies that traded in the ready market, 281 posted gains, 195 suffered losses, while 22 remained unchanged.
WorldCall Telecom led the volume chart with 77.200 million shares, followed by TPL REIT Fund I with 41.429 million shares and TPL Properties with 31.620 million shares.
Among the top gainers in the ready market, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation surged by Rs47.44 to close at Rs672.01, while Sapphire Textile Mills Limited advanced by Rs25.86 to settle at Rs1,550.37.
On the losing side, PIA Holding Company LimitedB declined by Rs280.00 to close at Rs14,000.51, while Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited fell by Rs271.50 to Rs26,247.50.
In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 572.741 million shares with a traded value of Rs21.682 billion, compared with 528.280 million shares worth Rs14.682 billion in the previous session.
Of the 306 companies traded in the DFC market, 218 advanced, 86 declined, and two remained unchanged.–**APP**

Gold prices surge by Rs1,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices increased in the local market on Tuesday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola rising by Rs 1,300 to settle at Rs 385,436, 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 Rs1,115 to Rs330,449, while the price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold rose by Rs1,022 to Rs 302,922. In the international market, gold prices increased by US$ 13 to US$ 3,629 per ounce, the association reported. Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola decreased by Rs 49 to Rs 4,687, while the price of 10 grams of silver declined by Rs 41 to Rs 4,018.
International silver prices also decreased by US$ 0.48 to US$ 42.09 per ounce, the association added.–**APP**

Rupee gains 03 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD :Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 03 paisa against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 276.47, down from the previous day's close of Rs 276.50.
According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the dollar's open-market buying and selling rates were Rs 277.30 and Rs 280.00, respectively.
The Euro decreased by Rs 1.87 to close at Rs 301.82, down from Rs 303.69 the previous day, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.73, while the British Pound came down by Rs 2.09 to Rs 360.83 from Rs 362.92 the previous day. The exchange rate of the Emirate Dirham remained stagnant at Rs 75.27 and the Saudi Riyal declined by 01 paisa to close Rs 73.67.–**APP**

Jam invites investors to explore Agri-Food potential

DNA



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, emphasizing the country's potential as a major player in the global agri-food market, invited international investors and business communities to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's agriculture and food sectors, particularly in processing, packaging, branding and livestock.
The Federal Commerce Minister was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the fourth edition of International Food and Agro Exhibition (FoodAg) Pakistan 2026, organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) at Sindh Governor House late Monday night.
The ceremony was attended by Sindh Governor Syed Muhammad Nihal Hashmi, Coordinator to PM for Industry and Commerce Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan, members of parliament, foreign diplomats and business delegates as well as leadership of REAP, FPCCI, KCCI, LCCI and other trade and industrial associations and chambers.
The Federal Commerce Minister, at the occasion, welcomed international delegates and visitors and conveyed the special regards of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Highlighting Pakistan's rich agricultural heritage, the federal minister observed that the region had sustained agricultural production for nearly 4,000 years, owing to the Indus River and the ancient Indus Civilization.
He noted that the global agricultural landscape was continuously evolving, with changing market dynamics, emerging ideas and new requirements shaping international trade. He emphasized the importance of incorporating global experiences, suggestions and innovations into Pakistan's trade exhibitions. Jam Kamal highlighted that FoodAg provides an important platform for connecting international buyers with Pakistani producers, particularly small-scale businesses that otherwise face difficulties in accessing international markets. He stressed that smaller businesses, including those operating in smaller cities, should have the same opportunities to connect with international buyers as businesses in major commercial centres. Emphasizing the growing importance of sustainability and regulatory compliance in international trade, he noted that global buyers increasingly require detailed information about every stage of production, while new laws and regulations were becoming essential considerations for exporters. He underscored the need for Pakistani producers to adapt to these changing requirements to remain competitive in international markets. The Federal Minister also identified emerging opportunities in olive oil, aquaculture, pink salt and meat processing, while highlighting Pakistan's competitive advantage in the global halal food market as a Muslim-majority country. He observed that halal food requirements were expanding across international markets, including countries such as Hong Kong. He further highlighted Pakistan's role in facilitating regulatory requirements for around ten countries through the presence of relevant regulatory bodies. Underscoring the importance of value addition, the Minister stressed that Pakistan must enhance the value of its agricultural products before exporting them. He invited international investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan's agricultural economy, particularly in processing, packaging and livestock. Referring to changing global market conditions over the past eight months, he emphasized the need for greater international collaboration and partnerships. Highlighting Pakistan's geographical and climatic advantages, including its four seasons, diverse landscapes and connectivity with Central Asia, the Minister expressed hope for stronger cooperation with international partners and investors, saying that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was ready to assist the investors in the identified sectors. Earlier, Governor Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi, addressing the gathering as Guest of Honour, appreciated the efforts of TDAP and the Federal Minister for Commerce in bringing international buyers and stakeholders together in Karachi. He described the initiative as a shared vision to provide an international platform for Pakistan's agricultural and food products. He observed that Pakistan was an agricultural country renowned for the quality of its agricultural produce, while its cuisine was equally recognized for its vibrant and diverse food culture.
Welcoming international delegates and participants, Chief Executive TDAP Faiz Ahmed Chadhar said that FoodAg 2026 provided an opportunity for Pakistani food exporters and growers to connect directly with international buyers. He noted that exporters had traditionally travelled to international destinations, including the UAE and Germany, to meet prospective buyers, an approach that often remained beyond the financial reach of smaller businesses. He said TDAP had facilitated these connections by bringing international buyers to Pakistan.
He said that 826 potential buyers belonging to 75 countries from all the continents were participating in the FoodAg 2026 that besides vivid and diverse display of food and agriculture products and technologies was also hosting business to business networking meeting and informative sessions on various sub sectors of food and agriculture sector.

Gulf capital, Chinese tech offer new investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can tap new investment opportunities by leveraging growing interest from Gulf investors and the international expansion of Chinese companies through a combination of Gulf capital and Chinese technological expertise, senior officials of Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) said. Speaking at a media roundtable here on Tuesday, Vera Zhan, Executive Director, China Corridor, Middle East and Pakistan, Standard Chartered, said the bank was well positioned to connect Gulf investors with Chinese technology and supply chain providers to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan. She said investment projects, particularly in sectors such as minerals and mining, had distinct challenges and requirements, necessitating tailored financing solutions. Zhan noted that Chinese companies were increasingly looking towards emerging markets to diversify their supply chains amid global geopolitical uncertainty, creating opportunities for Pakistan to attract investment and strengthen its industrial base. Jeff Dapeng Wang, Regional General Manager, North and City General Manager, Beijing, and Head, North China Corporates, Standard Chartered, said Chinese investment opportunities in Pakistan extended beyond the automotive sector, with consumer goods and healthcare also offering significant potential. He said Chinese companies were seeking to establish complete supply chains in overseas markets, which could generate local employment and bring industrial and technological expertise to Pakistan. Wang stressed that Chinese investors were keen to understand Pakistan's long-term economic agenda and priority sectors, adding that a clear policy direction for the next five years could help attract foreign direct investment (FDI). Adil Salahuddin, CEO and Head of Coverage, Standard Chartered Pakistan, said the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offered opportunities to move beyond government-to-government infrastructure projects towards business-to-business partnerships and export-oriented manufacturing. He said increasing Pakistan's share in China's import market from the existing 0.1 percent to one percent could raise its exports to China from approximately $2.7 billion to $27 billion, potentially nearly doubling the country's overall exports.–**DNA**

SECP lifts RCDP lending suspension

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has lifted the temporary restriction on fresh lending by the Rural Community Development Programme (RCDP) and directed the company to address weaknesses in its loan recovery practices and complaint handling. The company has been directed to submit a compliance report within 60 days, said a news release here on Tuesday. The commission withdrew the restriction following an on-site inspection, which found no evidence linking RCDP or its employees to the reported suicide in Farooqabad, Sheikhupura district. The SECP took notice of the incident after police registered an FIR on October 30. The FIR alleged that the man's death was linked to efforts by RCDP staff to recover a loan taken by his wife. The commission ordered an on-site inspection on November 1 and temporarily suspended fresh loan disbursements by RCDP on November 2, pending the outcome of the inspection. The family had withdrawn the allegations in written statements to police and in affidavits before a magistrate. The magistrate discharged the RCDP employees, and police closed the case. The SECP's inspection identified deficiencies in RCDP's internal controls over loan recovery and complaint handling.The company lacked an approved loan recovery policy and adequate mechanisms for monitoring and documenting recovery activities.–**DNA**

Senegal counts growing toll from boat people departures

NGOR, Senegal: Mamadou Diallo is among countless friends and relatives of the growing number of young Senegalese paying with their lives for trying to reach Spanish territory in makeshift boats on a treacherous route across the Atlantic. A friend of Diallo was among dozens of mainly young men who left Ngor, a fishing village near the capital, Dakar, on November 9 in a pirogue, a narrow, shallow-draught boat commonly used by desperate would-be migrants. The overloaded boat set out to join the surge in numbers from west Africa heading for Spain's Canary islands — the first step toward a job in Europe. The pirogue disappeared. "We have had no news about him," said a disconsolate Diallo of his friend. Thousands of people from across west Africa have died on similarly weighed-down boats ill-suited for the Atlantic's giant waves, as they head for the Canaries to escape conflict, repression and harsh economic realities in their own countries. The number of departures has grown in recent months from Senegal, which is embroiled in economic crisis, and neighboring Gambia. Authorities in El Hierro, one of the Canary islands, have declared a state of emergency over the arrival of several thousand migrants. The Atlantic death toll regularly grows, although no one has a firm figure. At least 43 bodies were found after another boat capsized on November 6 off Thieppe in northwest Senegal. Ten bodies were recovered after a pirogue hit rocks and sank at Yenne near Dakar, according to village officials. Authorities have not confirmed the toll. At least 30 young men, mainly fishermen, from Ngor were on the boat that disappeared on November 9, a resident from the suburban town said. "There were also mechanics and at least one was a shopkeeper," the resident told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. A Ngor shopkeeper said that two sons of one of his customers were on the boat. "She is devastated," he said. A picture of the boat features on WhatsApp messages sent around group chats in Ngor, all desperately seeking news of its fate. Relatives of the missing desperately scour social media platforms where migrants regularly put up videos of their arrival at the Spanish islands.–**DNA**

Iran carries out flogging of singer and her team

DUBAI: An Iranian singer and four members of her production team have each received 74 lashes after being sentenced for "offending public decency by producing and publishing obscene and immoral content online," an Iranian news website said on Monday. Parastoo Ahmadi and the four others were also handed two-year bans on artistic and musical activities and travel, the Emtedad website quoted lawyer Mostafa Nili as saying. The case followed the release of a video on YouTube in December 2024 showing Ahmadi performing without the mandatory hijab alongside male musicians in Qom, south of the capital Tehran, Norway-based human rights group Hengaw said. Western governments and human rights groups have criticized flogging as torture and a violation of international law. Iran rejects accusations over its human rights record, saying Western countries should focus on their own human rights problems. Iranian authorities did not immediately respond to a request for comment by Reuters. Rules requiring women to wear the hijab were a flashpoint during protests in 2022 after the death in custody of Kurdish Iranian woman Mahsa Amini, who was arrested for allegedly violating the dress code.–**APP**

CDNS realizes Rs 700b in first five months

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has realized Rs700 billion between July 1 and November 23, achieving its target for the period and positioning itself to pursue an ambitious resource mobilisation target of Rs1.53 trillion for the fiscal year 2026-27. The strong performance reflects sustained investor interest in government-backed savings schemes and the institution's efforts to strengthen domestic savings, broaden its investor base and provide accessible investment opportunities to citizens, official sources said. The annual mobilisation target forms part of the government's broader strategy to channel household savings into formal investment avenues while offering secure options for individuals seeking financial stability and long-term planning. CDNS is also focusing on improving operational efficiency, enhancing service delivery and expanding access to its savings products through improved digital services. A key area of focus is the expansion of Shariah-compliant investment opportunities to attract investors seeking financial products aligned with Islamic principles. The institution has been gradually strengthening its presence in the Islamic finance segment by diversifying its investment offerings.
For fiscal year 2025-26, CDNS had set a mobilisation target of Rs60 billion for Islamic savings instruments. Earlier, during fiscal year 2024-25, it had fixed an overall mobilisation target of Rs1.65 trillion, including Rs170 billion from Islamic investment products. The institution has demonstrated a strong mobilisation record in previous years. During fiscal year 2023-24, CDNS surpassed its target of Rs1.7 trillion by mobilising Rs1.742 trillion. It also achieved its Rs1.6 trillion target in fiscal year 2022-23. In fiscal year 2021-22, the institution initially set a target of Rs1.3 trillion, which was later revised upward to Rs1.4 trillion amid favourable market conditions and improved resource mobilisation. Officials attributed the institution's performance to institutional reforms, better customer services and initiatives aimed at making National Savings schemes more accessible and attractive to investors. With Rs700 billion already mobilised during the first five months of FY27, CDNS is now working towards achieving its annual target of Rs1.53 trillion. Expanding the investor base, introducing diversified savings products, promoting Islamic investment options and accelerating digital transformation are expected to remain key priorities as the institution seeks to maintain its growth momentum.–**DNA**

Five women killed each hour by relatives in 2025: UN

More than 47,000 women and girls, or around five per hour, were killed by relatives around the world in 2025, a figure broadly unchanged from previous years, according to a UN report published Tuesday.
The number of women and girls killed by an intimate partner or a family member has fluctuated between 45,000 and 51,000 over the past several years, according to estimates by UN Women and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Of the 78,000 women and girls who were victims of intentional homicide last year, around 60 percent were killed by an intimate partner or family member, the report said ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
The estimated 47,000 victims represent 129 women and girls killed every day. The figure was calculated using an analysis of statistics from 122 countries and territories.
While women accounted for 19 percent of homicide victims worldwide in 2025, 60 percent of them were killed in the private sphere. By contrast, 11 percent of male homicide victims were killed in such circumstances.
The UN stressed the "urgency of ensuring that the prevention of domestic violence addresses intimate relationships, as well as relationships in wider family structures."
No region was completely safe but Africa once again recorded the highest number of women and girls killed by intimate partners or family members, at 22,100.
Asia followed with 15,100 victims, ahead of the Americas with 7,400, Europe with 2,100 and Oceania with 300.
The report also noted that while homicide rates have fallen globally, rates of femicide have declined more slowly, particularly in the Americas and Europe.
This suggests, according to the UN, "that these crimes are deeply rooted in social norms and gender stereotypes," adding that it points to barriers in accessing the justice system.
Femicide refers to the gender-related killing of women and girls. Beyond murders committed by intimate partners or family members, the term can also encompass certain killings linked to organized crime, forced labor or human trafficking.
However, data on femicides committed outside the private sphere remain very limited, the report said, making it impossible to measure the scale of the phenomenon at regional or global level.–**DNA**

Israeli airstrike kills senior Hamas security official in Gaza

GAZA: An Israeli airstrike killed Naeem Abu Nahel, the director of Hamas' internal security apparatus in Gaza, in western Gaza City on Tuesday, Hamas sources said. The Israeli military and the Shin Bet domestic security service said in a joint statement they had struck a senior Hamas member, without identifying him, adding that further details would be provided later. Israeli airstrikes also killed six people including a teenager in Gaza on Tuesday, the civil defence agency in the strip told AFP.
Israel's military said it had carried out at least one airstrike in Gaza Tuesday, and was looking into reports of another. Mahmoud Bassal, the spokesman for Gaza's civil defence agency, told AFP that three people including a 17-year-old were killed in an Israeli airstrike near Gaza City. Bassal said that another three people were killed in a separate airstrike on a police station in the Al-Mawasi area in southern Gaza. Gaza's police force, which operates under Hamas, said that two policemen aged 23 and 33 were among those killed, and condemned the incident as "part of an ongoing campaign targeting the police apparatus" in the Palestinian territory.
Israel's military said it "struck terrorists in the area" of the police station.
Israel and Hamas regularly accuse each other of violating the ceasefire that came into effect in October 2025, after two years of war triggered by the Palestinian movement's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.–**APP**

Iraq auctions Boeing 747 once used by Saddam Hussein

Iraq has put up for auction a Boeing 747 once used by former leader Saddam Hussein, with an estimated value of $900,000, according to a statement by its national carrier. The aircraft has been parked in Tunisia since 1991, when Iraq moved several of its planes abroad to protect them from potential airstrikes by US-led coalition forces following its invasion of Kuwait. It is one of two planes being sold by state-owned Iraqi Airways, which has offered no guarantees about their condition. Built in the United States in 1982, the jet dates to a period when Saddam's war with Iran brought Iraqi and US interests into closer alignment.–**APP**

Greece's data center boom angers locals near Athens

CHRISTOUPOLI: As the sun sets in the semi-rural community of Spata near Athens, a group of pupils stretch on the sports pitch of Pierce College, one of Greece's top international schools.
The quiet setting will be very different in a few months' time, when a large data center will start going up opposite the school grounds. Two more data centers are already under construction in the broader area, putting the whole district on edge.
"We are not against technological development. What we ask is that it be done in harmony with our lives and property. Not in an anarchic way just because (data centers) are in vogue," Spata local Yiorgos Minardos told AFP in a meeting with other residents.
Minardos's home in the small nearby community of Christoupoli is less than 200 meters from another, 150-million-euro ($165-million) data center under construction on behalf of Greece's Public Power Corporation (PPC), the main electricity provider, and Dubai real estate developer Damac. Once covered in olive groves and vineyards, the broader Spata area, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of the capital, has already seen rapid development since the Athens airport relocated there in 2001.–**APP**

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Briefs

Two schools of eminence being established: Maryam

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that two Schools of Eminence are being established in every tehsil of the province to provide quality education to students. She was addressing a ceremony in Rawalpindi today, where laptops were distributed and the scholarships were awarded to the students.

The Chief Minister said these air-conditioned schools would be equipped with modern facilities, including computer and science labs. She also announced that the process of distributing one hundred thousand e-bikes among students would begin next week. Highlighting the provincial government's achievements,Maryam Nawaz Sharif said the provincial government is considering an initiative to convert thousands of tonnes of waste into energy following the success of Suthra Punjab project.

Imran wants PTI to expand opposition alliance

MONITORING REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The PTI's core committee has been informed that incarcerated party founder Imran Khan wanted it to expand its "political alliance" and extend outreach to Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and other opposition parties.

Imran's instructions were conveyed to the committee during an overnight meeting that began on Monday and during which lawyer Latif Khosa briefed the members on his meeting with Imran and his spouse, Bushra Bibi, at the Adiala jail earlier this month. Khosa, along with another of Imran's lawyers, Salman Safdar, was allowed to meet Imran and Bushra Bibi on Nov 11. The meeting, which was said to have lasted three hours, included discussions on Imran's health, cases against him and the possible 28th constitutional amendment, the lawyers had said.

Zeeshan Ali to be 'first' Pakistani astronaut in space

According to the CMSA, the Pakistani astronaut will serve as a payload specialist during the mission and return aboard the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft, which docked with the Tiangong space station in May

DNA

KARACHI: Zeeshan Ali was named a crew member of China's Shenzhou-24 space mission on Tuesday, which is scheduled to launch on November 25, with Ali set to become the first Pakistani to undertake an orbital space mission.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, who is in China, referred to Ali on X as "Pakistan's first astronaut". Ali will also be the first foreign national to board Beijing's Tiangong space station, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced.

"Pakistani astronaut Mohammad Zeeshan Ali is the first foreign national to visit Tiangong," CMSA Spokesperson Zhang Jingbo said during a press conference.

He added that the Long March-2F rocket that will carry the crew into space will soon be filled with propellant. "The crew is in good condition and the space station is functioning normally, meeting all requirements for the mission," said Zhang. According to the CMSA, the Pakistani astronaut will serve as a payload specialist during the mission and return aboard the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft, which docked with the Tiangong space station in May.

China's astronaut Tang Hongbo will command the mission, with Wu Yi serving as the mission pilot and Ali taking on the role of payload specialist, according to the CMSA.



The crewed spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 8:18am (Beijing Time and 5:18am Pakistan Time) on Wednesday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. Ali is expected to spend around a week in space, conducting various experiments alongside the Chinese crew. CMSA said that during the mission, the crew will conduct around 90 experiments.

The Chinese space agency said the mission's objectives included conducting an orbital rotation with the crew of the earlier Shenzhou-23 mission, carrying out routine operations and maintenance of the Chinese space station, and continuing space science research, including experiments involving space payloads. The crew currently aboard the Tiangong space station is headed by 40-year-old Zhu Yangzhu, Lai Ka-ying and Zhang Zhiyuan, also 40. Lai is Hong Kong's first astronaut and the only woman currently aboard the space station. After the new crew reaches the space station, Ali will return to Earth alongside Lai and Zhang. Zhu will remain on board to complete China's first full-year stay in space – a key test of endurance critical for future lunar and potentially deep-space ambitions.

Zhu will be accompanied for the next six-month Tiangong rotation by 51-year-old space veteran Hongbo and Yi, in his late thirties and making his first voyage to space. 'We have already made history' Speaking at a press briefing in Jiayuguan, Ali said he was "deeply grateful" to the Chinese government for helping "us realise our dream of going into space". He said he arrived at the Astronaut Centre of China a few months ago, carrying with him the hopes of 250 million Pakistani people.

Hasina to return to Bangladesh on Dec 16

NEW DELHI: Ousted Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina plans to return home from more than two years of exile in India on December 16, the anniversary of the end of her country's 1971 liberation war with Pakistan, her spokesperson told Reuters on Tuesday. It is the first time Hasina has set a specific date for her return, potentially raising political and legal tensions in a country where her party is banned and where violence has risen since she sought a new passport and other documents earlier this month.

In addition to seeking the paperwork, canceled months after she fled to Delhi following a deadly uprising against her, Hasina has urged the Bangladeshi government to arrange her return on flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines. "Since Sheikh Hasina was flown to India on a Bangladesh aircraft on August 5th, 2024, she now calls upon the government to arrange for her air transport from Delhi back to Dhaka". – **APP**

Zelensky says intelligence shows Russia planning new strikes on Ukraine

Zelensky expressed satisfaction at support he said he noted at a meeting on Monday of NATO's parliamentary assembly, adding that this showed that Ukraine merited a place in the alliance

MOSCOW: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Monday that intelligence showed Russia planned new strikes on Ukraine, and he urged the United States and other countries to take note as supplies of air defense systems depended on their decisions.

Russian forces have been subjecting Kyiv and other cities to virtually continuous air attacks since September. An attack on a central district of the capital on Monday injured five, while a strike on a town in the surrounding region killed 11 on Sunday.

"Our intelligence has information about preparations by the Russians for new strikes," Zelensky said in his nightly video address, without giving a time frame for any new attacks. Zelensky has long called for increased supplies of air defense weapons and said on Monday that ensuring a ready supply meant denying Moscow the opportunity of "showing contempt for diplomacy and human life."

"It is important that such signals are also heeded in the United States and in other countries whose decisions affect the supply of ballistic-missile defense systems to protect our cities and infrastructure," he said. Zelensky expressed satisfaction at support he said he noted at a meeting on Monday of NATO's parliamentary assembly, adding that this showed that Ukraine merited a place in the alliance. "The key point is that there is an understanding that Ukraine fully deserves a place in NATO and that Ukraine is not only capable of joining the Alliance but can genuinely strengthen NATO," he said.

"We are already in effect part of NATO – through the way we cooperate and through the values and political principles that unite us." Russia has consistently rejected any notion of Ukraine joining the Alliance and restated its position last week after the resumption of three-way talks with Ukraine and the United States of resolving the 4-1/2-year-old conflict.

Zelensky said earlier this month that US negotiators had floated the idea of Ukraine's potential withdrawal from its eastern region of Donbas in exchange for joining NATO. French President Emmanuel Macron said last week after a meeting of countries supporting Ukraine: "I think we must reopen the question of Ukraine's membership to NATO." – **APP**

JAAC not a rights movement, says Talal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry has categorically stated that outlawed Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir is absolutely not a rights' movement. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said outlawed Joint Awami Action Committee is fanning chaos in Azad Kashmir and is being funded by India. The Minister of State for Interior said the government accepted thirty-seven out of thirty-eight demands of the banned Action Committee and it will never allow any group or outfit to make the State hostage. Talal Chaudhry said three more miscreants have been arrested in an intelligence-based operation, conducted on the basis of credible information and evidences.

Donald Trump pauses planned detonation of degraded explosives

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Monday paused the US Army's planned detonation of degraded and unstable explosive material amid fears the blast could cause lead contamination in nearby areas. The destruction of 68 drums of lead azide at an ammunition plant in the midwestern state of Iowa was originally scheduled to take place last Friday but was postponed after an outcry over the plan. "I feel the proper course is to get rid of this longterm problem," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform. However, he said he would leave the decision up to an appeals court weighing a challenge to the plan and to the state's incoming governor. Trump said he ordered the US military not to go forward with the detonation until "the Eighth Circuit agrees that we can go forward, and am further making this decision fully subject to the incoming Governor Elect, Rob Sand, agreeing to the operation." The president said the US military believes the barrels are at risk of detonating by themselves, and that the blast would "be a controlled one rather than a large, spontaneous explosion." An advisory notice released last week provided details on the planned detonation, saying the barrels were to be destroyed by explosives experts "inside earth-covered magazines made of concrete, and surrounded with Hesco barriers full of sand which are approximately two stories high." – **APP**



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting of the SCO Follow-up Committee, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. – DNA

Five women killed each hour by relatives in 2025: UN

The UN stressed the "urgency of ensuring that prevention of domestic violence addresses intimate relationships, as well as relationships in wider family structures"

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: More than 47,000 women and girls, or around five per hour, were killed by relatives around the world in 2025, a figure broadly unchanged from previous years, according to a UN report published Tuesday.

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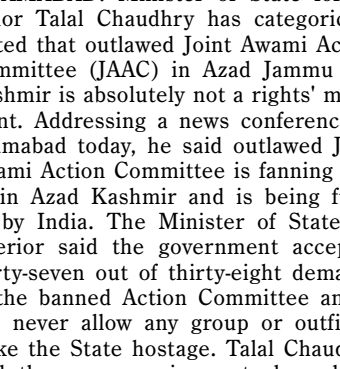

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