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Canadian envoy for enhanced ties with Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-08

Kushner says Trump keeps 'options open



Detailed News On Page-08

Info minister opens mission control center



Detailed News On Page-03

PM Shehbaz says

Shenzhou-24 mission further cemented ties

The Prime Minister requested the Ambassador to convey his warm greetings and best wishes to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang. He paid rich tribute to the dynamic leadership and sagacious vision of President Xi Jinping, under which China has made remarkable strides in science, technology and space exploration



DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House today. The Prime Minister warmly congratulated the Ambassador and the leadership and people of China on the successful launch of the Shenzhou-24 mission from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre on November 25, carrying Pakistan's first astronaut, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, to the Tiangong Space Station. He highlighted that Pakistan was grateful to its brotherly country, China, for the opportunity to be part of this historic mission, through which a Pakistani has become the first foreign astronaut to visit China's space station.

The Prime Minister said that this was not merely the journey of an individual astronaut, but that of 240 million Pakistanis, embodying, in particular, the dreams and aspirations of the country's youth and scientific community.

He described the mission as living proof of the ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China, adding that the cooperation between the two countries had now truly reached the stars. The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to the relevant Chinese institutions for training both Pakistani astronauts and paid tribute to SUPARCO, academic institutions, scientists and the Armed Forces for their contributions to this historic achievement.

He said that today's achievement would inspire Pakistan's youth to aim for the Moon and beyond. The Prime Minister requested the Ambassador to convey his warm greetings and best wishes to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang. He paid rich tribute to the dynamic leadership and sagacious vision of President Xi Jinping, under which China has made remarkable strides in science, technology and space exploration and has opened its space programme to friendly countries for the benefit of humanity. He underlined that Pakistan remains unwavering in its commitment to work hand in hand with China for the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space.

The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations, including the activities organised to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year. The Prime Minister also handed over congratulatory letters addressed to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang to the Chinese Ambassador.

National Day of Romania



ISLAMABAD: The Chief guest Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development of Pakistan, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Ambassador of Romania Dr. Dan Stoenescu and others cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Romania. – DNA

IHC extends stay on Islamabad LG election

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday extended its stay on local government elections in the federal capital for another two weeks, seeking a detailed response from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) over the issue. Hearing a petition challenging the electoral process in Islamabad, IHC Justice Umair Majeed Malik questioned the ECP over the unresolved issue of constituency delimitation. "Have you not resolved the matter of delimitation?" Justice Malik asked during the hearing.

Continued on Page 06

Minister Salik says

Pakistan, Romania committed to expanding bilateral cooperation

Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Dan Stoenescu, highlighted the growing partnership between the two countries and outlined Romania's foreign policy priorities and expanding cooperation with Pakistan

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan highly values its longstanding friendship with Romania and is committed to further strengthening bilateral cooperation across diverse sectors, Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain said while addressing a reception held to celebrate the National Day of Romania in Islamabad.

Extending warm greetings to the government and people of Romania on their National Day, the minister said relations between Pakistan and Romania have been cemented with each passing day through mutual trust, understanding and cooperation. He reaffirmed that the Government of Pakistan, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is keen to expand engagement with Romania in trade, investment, education, culture and people-to-people exchanges. "Pakistan greatly values its ties with Romania. Our relations continue to grow stronger with each passing day, reflecting the shared commitment of both countries to deepen cooperation and friendship," he said. The event was attended by diplomats, government officials, members of the business community and representatives from civil society.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Holiday in Islamabad

Mahnoor Ansar

ISLAMABAD: A local holiday has been declared in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Rawalpindi for Nov 27 (Friday). A notification issued by the Islamabad deputy commissioner stated that Nov 27 "has been declared a local holiday within the revenue limits of ICT". It noted that all essential services would remain operational during the holiday, including the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad, the Capital Development Authority, the ICT administration, Islamabad police, the Islamabad Electric Supply Company, the Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited and hospitals. Separately, the Rawalpindi deputy commissioner shared a notification on X stating that a local holiday had been declared in the district for Nov 27.

Pakistan, Iran discuss ECO co-op

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, during which the two leaders discussed bilateral engagement at multilateral forums and exchanged views on regional developments. According to diplomatic sources, the discussion focused on cooperation within regional organizations, particularly the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). During the conversation, Foreign Minister Araghchi reaffirmed Iran's invitation to Pakistan to participate in the 18th ECO Summit, which is scheduled to take place in Tehran on December 3-4, 2026.

Security forces kill 12 India-backed terrorists in Balochistan: ISPR

Military's media wing says intelligence-based operations were carried out in Nushki, Sevi, Panjgur and Kech districts

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 12 India-backed Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists in multiple intelligence-based operations (IBOs) carried out in Balochistan's Nushki, Sevi, Panjgur and Kech districts, the military's media wing said on Thursday. In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that the terrorists were killed during operations between November 20 and 23.

The military's media wing said that security forces killed eight terrorists during an operation in Balochistan's Nushki district on November 20. "On 20th November, a terrorist hideout was targeted in Nushki district. After intense engagement, eight terrorists belonging to Indian backed Fitna al-Hindustan were neutralised. Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorists," the ISPR said.

In another intelligence-based operation on November 21, security forces in Sevi district intercepted the movement of terrorists and killed two Indian-backed militants. The ISPR said security forces targeted hideouts in two other engagements, on November 22 and 23 in

Continued on Page 06

President, PM reaffirm resolve to eliminate terrorism

Saifullah Ansar / DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have commended security forces for eliminating twelve Indian-backed terrorists of Fitna Al-Hindustan during successful operations in Balochistan. In a statement, the President said the continued successes of security forces in the war against terrorism reflect their commitment and sacrifices for the peace and stability of the country.

He said operations by security forces and law enforcement agencies would continue to completely eliminate foreign-backed terrorism from every part of Pakistan. In his statement, the Prime Minister said the successes of the security forces against Indian-backed

Continued on Page 06

French woman on trial for IS propaganda

News Desk

PARIS: A French woman accused of becoming a propagandist for the Daesh group in Syria told a Paris court on Thursday she was "ashamed" of her actions. Emilie Konig, a mother-of-five who is now facing up to 30 years imprisonment, is on UN and US blacklists of dangerous militants, accused of encouraging other women to join the militant group.

The case has been closely watched in France, which has been rocked by a series of militant attacks in recent years, including devastating Daesh shootings and suicide bombings in Paris in 2015 that killed 130 people.

Continued on Page 06

Bilawal Bhutto doubles down on political reset

The PPP chairman's remarks come amid a growing debate over a "system reset" in the country. In July, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stirred a political storm by calling for the creation of new administrative units, arguing that the current system of governance had "collapsed" and needed a "reset"

Staff Reprot



MULTAN: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Thursday doubled down on a "political reset" in Pakistan, asserting that politicians were responsible for "telling people the truth". He made the remarks while speaking at the Multan Press Club. "In my opinion, if we truly want this system to serve the public, if we truly want our country, our Pakistan, to be capable of facing every problem, whether they are economic hardships or foreign difficulties, then we will have to take

Continued on Page 06

Makkah pact nations to discuss Yemen in Islamabad meeting

Any threat to Saudi Arabia is a threat to Pakistan and Turkiye," says Khawaja Asif

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Makkah pact nations will discuss the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Houthi fighters in Yemen when officials from the mutual defence agreement meet in Islamabad, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said.

Asif told media that the "continuous turmoil south of Saudi Arabia will obviously be one agenda point in the meeting and it is very important", confirming that defence and foreign ministers from the Gulf kingdom, Turkiye and Pakistan would attend. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye signed the pact in August, with the three Muslim nations pledging to come to each other's aid in the event of an attack.

Saudi Arabia has faced repeated barrages by the Houthis in Yemen, with the group targeting cities, oil facilities and shipping since fighting in Yemen's civil war intensified in July. "Any threat to Saudi Arabia is a threat to Pakistan and Turkiye according to the pact, which is absolutely clear," Asif said on Wednesday, praising Riyadh's handling of the conflict with the Houthis, who hold swathes of territory in Yemen, including its capital Sanaa. He said the pact, which was formed during the expansion of the war in the Middle East following US-Israeli strikes on Iran in February, was still at a "nascent stage". "Initially we need to have frequent meetings to steer what is being formulated, in a way that in the next couple of months we have everything in place so that we can move forward," he added. He declined to comment on how the pact would react to a direct attack by Iran on Saudi Arabia, and identified Israel as a possible threat to other countries in the region. "The possibility of some conflict, or aggression from the Israeli side exists, so we need to close our ranks, the countries of this region," he said.

Pakistan brokered a June accord that led to a brief halt in fighting between the United States and Iran and set a roadmap for further agreement on reopening the crucial Strait of Hormuz and for negotiations on Tehran's nuclear programme. But the truce collapsed, with Washington and Tehran accusing each other of violating the agreement, prompting months of shuttle diplomacy to resuscitate the ceasefire, led principally by mediators Qatar and Pakistan. Asif said Pakistan had played "a very, very constructive role" between Washington and Tehran but the outcome of ongoing mediation was "still fragile" and peace was "not yet embedded in a way people were expecting".

Islamabad POST
Friday, November 27, 2026

Gilani condoles precious lives in Egypt

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani Thursday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives in a tragic traffic accident on the Ring Road in the Al-Warraq area of Giza, Egypt.

He extended heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families, stating that the people of Pakistan share their grief over this tragic incident.

The Chairman Senate prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured and expressed solidarity with the government and people of Egypt during this difficult time. He said that Pakistan and Egypt enjoy longstanding fraternal relations based on shared values, mutual respect and enduring friendship. He reaffirmed that the Parliament and people of Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with their Egyptian brothers and sisters in this hour of grief. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and strength for the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.–APP

Youth invited activist to lead university's alumni association

PESHAWAR: Vice Chancellor University of Haripur Professor Dr Sajid Rashid Ahmad has invited youth activist Hassan Nisar, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Metrix Pakistan, to take a leading role in the university's Alumni Association and assist in strengthening its media and institutional outreach initiatives.

The invitation was extended during a meeting between the vice chancellor and a delegation led by Nisar at the university campus. Nisar is an alumnus of the institution, having completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Haripur between 2018 and 2022.

The delegation comprised Ammad Ali, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of RankingGrow; Waqar Ali, PTV News correspondent in Haripur; and Yasim Nisar, Director of International Relations at Metrix Pakistan. Former Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani also attended the meeting. During the meeting, Professor Dr Sajid Rashid Ahmad acknowledged Nisar's work in youth development and technology-related initiatives. He invited him to contribute to the university's alumni engagement efforts and assist its media teams in developing communication strategies aimed at enhancing the institution's visibility at national and international levels. The vice chancellor also appreciated Ammad Ali's professional contributions and congratulated him on receiving national awards in recognition of his work. – **APP**

Court Notice

IN THE COURT OF SHAMA YASEEN JUDGE FAMILY COURT RAWALPINDI
Suit For Recovery of Maintenance Mst. Asmat Ellahi Versus Abu Hurera Changez Raja Notice to Abu Hurera Changez Raja son of Muhammad Changez Khan R/O Dera Raja Changez Khan, Chakri Road, Hayal Ranial, Rawalpindi. The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court personally, through counsel or attorney on 28-11-2026 at 9 am avoid ex-parte proceeding.

Ayaz for stronger legislation to protect women's rights

The event was convened under the leadership of WPC Secretary Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA, in collaboration with the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Thursday called for stronger legislative measures and effective implementation of existing laws to safeguard women's rights, ensure their protection and promote their leadership in political and public life.

Addressing as chief guest and delivering the keynote address at the launch of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), National Assembly of Pakistan's Gender Karavan-Wapa initiative, titled "Ghar Se Assembly Tak – Aurat Ki Qiyadat", at Parliament House, he urged parliamentarians to translate their commitments into tangible legislative action. The initiative was launched as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence. The event was convened under the leadership of WPC Secretary Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA, in collaboration with the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women. The ceremony featured the launch of the Parliamentary Expert Network (PEN), unveiling of the WPC Annual Report 2025–2026 and inauguration of the orange illumination of Parliament House as a symbol of solidarity with the campaign. In his address, Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the contributions of Dr. Shahida Rehmani, WPC Treasurer Ms. Shahida Begum, members of the Caucus, parliamentarians, development partners and National Assembly Secretariat officials towards advancing women's empowerment. Welcoming the establishment of PEN, he emphasised that specialised knowledge, research and evidence-based recommendations should guide parliamentary processes to strengthen legislation, introduce necessary amendments and ensure effective protection of women's rights, lives and dignity. The Speaker formally inaugurated the orange illumination of Parliament House, describing it as a reflection of Parliament's commitment to building a society where women can live free from violence, abuse, intimidation and discrimination. Referring to the tragic murder of Ms. Hina Javed, he called for collective efforts to ensure justice and accountability in cases of violence against women. Expressing concern over the growing challenges of cybercrime, misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, the Speaker stressed the need for coordinated action by Parliament, law enforcement agencies and regulatory authorities to address these emerging threats. He said the Parliamentary Expert Network would connect women parliamentarians with specialised research, legal and policy expertise, helping strengthen evidence-based legislation and parliamentary oversight. The Speaker also unveiled the WPC Annual Report 2025–2026, highlighting the Caucus's achievements, legislative contributions and institutional progress. Highlighting women's role in parliamentary affairs, Ayaz Sadiq acknowledged their significant contributions to legislative business, active participation during Question Hour and strong attendance in the National Assembly. He referred to the 60 reserved seats for women and 12 women elected on general seats in the National Assembly, while emphasising the importance of expanding women's leadership and representation in political parties and decision-making forums. He also highlighted initiatives aimed at promoting parliamentary awareness and youth engagement, including the affiliation of 25 universities offering Parliamentary Studies programmes. He further recalled institutional measures to facilitate women employees, including the establishment of a daycare centre.

In her welcome remarks, WPC Secretary Dr. Shahida Rehmani highlighted the journey of women's leadership from homes and communities to Parliament and other decision-making forums. She reaffirmed the Caucus's commitment to advancing women's political participation, gender-responsive legislation and meaningful representation, stressing the importance of connecting experienced women parliamentarians with emerging leaders to promote mentorship, exchange of experiences and greater participation in public and political life. Dr. Shahida Rehmani dedicated this year's 16 Days of Activism campaign to the memory of Ms. Hina Javed, who was recently murdered. She urged parliamentarians, civil society and the wider public to raise their voices for justice and accountability in her case and stand united against murder, rape, abuse and all forms of violence against women and girls. The event also featured an interactive dialogue bringing together women parliamentarians, young women leaders, experts and civil society representatives to discuss political participation, leadership, violence against women and pathways to justice. Participating parliamentarians included MNAs Ms. Tamkeen Akhtar Niazi, Ms. Ghazala Anjum, Ms. Huma Akhtar Chughtai, Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi, Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan, Ms. Sofia Saeed Shah and Ms. Saeeda Jamshed, along with Senators Rubina Qaim Khani and Khalida Ateeb and WPC Treasurer Ms. Shahida Begum.

UN Women Country Representative Jamshed Kazi and UNDP Deputy Country Representative Ms. Van Nguyen also addressed the participants, highlighting the importance of partnerships in creating greater opportunities for women's leadership and empowerment.

Ms. Nguyen shared the inspiring account of Sabeeha from Baltistan, whose efforts to facilitate girls' access to higher education have created new opportunities for young women in her community. The dialogue was moderated by National Assembly Special Secretary (SI) Syed Shamoon Hashmi and facilitated by UN Women Pakistan Deputy Country Representative Ms. Fahmida Iqbal Khan. On the occasion, UN Women Technical Expert Waqar-ul-Shams delivered a presentation introducing PEN, outlining its objectives and highlighting its role in supporting parliamentary work through specialised expertise and research. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by WPC Treasurer Ms. Shahida Begum, MNA, reaffirming the Caucus's commitment to strengthening parliamentary action, amplifying women's voices and promoting a safer, inclusive and equitable society for women and girls.–**DNA**

CPO reviews traffic management, public facilities

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Dr Sardar Ghiyas Gul visited the Traffic Headquarters Rawalpindi and reviewed various facilities and operational arrangements aimed at improving traffic management and public services.

Chief Traffic Officer Farhan Aslam and other senior officers received the CPO upon his arrival.

During the visit, the CPO inspected various branches of the Traffic Headquarters, including the licensing hall, media wing, FM radio channel and Motor Transport (MT) section.

Chief Traffic Officer Farhan Aslam briefed him on the facilities being provided to citizens and the overall performance of the traffic police. On the occasion, the CPO also pinned promotion badges on officers who had recently been promoted to the rank of inspector.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sardar Ghiyas Gul said ensuring smooth traffic flow across the city was a key responsibility of the police. He directed traffic officers to ensure uninterrupted traffic movement, particularly during peak hours, and take all possible measures to provide convenience to citizens and ensure safer roads. –**APP**

Culture, health ministers discuss cooperation in public welfare



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Culture and National Heritage Aurangzeb Khan Khichi met Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal here Thursday to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore avenues for strengthening cooperation between the two ministries. During the meeting, the ministers exchanged views on promoting collaboration in the health and culture sectors, particularly in areas related to public welfare, national development and the preservation of Pakistan's cultural heritage. Both ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening inter-ministerial cooperation and pursuing joint efforts aimed at promoting public welfare and supporting national development.–**DNA**

CJP reviews plans for Women Facilitation Centres in Punjab

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi, chaired a meeting at the Lahore Branch Registry of the Supreme Court of Pakistan to review plans for establishing Women Facilitation Centres in Punjab.

The meeting discussed the establishment of Women Facilitation Centres and Family Courts, initially in Faisalabad and Mianwali.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, Justice Aalia Neelum, and the Registrars of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Lahore High Court. The Punjab Communication & Works Department was represented by Raja Jahangir Anwar, Secretary, Ahmed Mudassir, Chief Architect, and Mazhar Mansoor, General Manager, SPU. Architect Raza Zahid, whose design was among the three winning entries in the national design competition, also attended. The Chief Justice said that establishing Women Facilitation Centres across Pakistan is a priority for the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan in 2026–27. The centres are intended to give women a single point of access to court-related information, legal guidance and support services. Locating the centres alongside Family Courts will help women obtain assistance close to where their cases are heard and reduce the need to visit multiple offices.

The proposed centres will include reception and guidance desks, dedicated waiting areas, hygienic washrooms, private consultation rooms, a dedicated mediation room, and a day-care centre for children accompanying court users. The centres will also provide access to legal advice and assistance, psychosocial support and referral services, and facilities for alternative dispute resolution. Accessible entrances, ramps and clear signage will assist women with disabilities. Where required, provision will also be made for suitable spaces for child visitation in family matters. The meeting noted that an All-Pakistan design competition had been conducted under the auspices of the Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP). The three winning designs were shared with all High Courts to guide implementation. The discussion on Faisalabad and Mianwali focused on adapting the designs to local site requirements while preserving the privacy, accessibility and range of services envisaged for the centres.–**APP**

Man held for circulating edited images of women

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad has arrested a man in Rawalpindi for allegedly circulating objectionable and digitally altered photographs of women through WhatsApp, subjecting them and their family to harassment and severe mental distress. According to NCCIA compiled by APP on Thursday, the suspect, identified as Abrar Shehzad, a resident of Dhamial, Rawalpindi, allegedly shared objectionable and edited photographs of women from the complainant's family with their relatives through WhatsApp.

Following receipt of the complaint, an NCCIA Islamabad team immediately launched an investigation, traced the suspect using advanced technology and arrested him during an operation in Dhamial, Rawalpindi.

Further investigation is underway, while the suspect's mobile phone and other digital devices are being subjected to technical analysis to obtain additional evidence. Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said a zero-tolerance policy would be pursued against those involved in harassing women and circulating their objectionable or digitally altered photographs.–**APP**

Over 900 Sikh pilgrims to attend 557th Parkash Purab celebrations

RAWALPINDI: More than 900 Sikh pilgrims have arrived in Hasan Abdal to participate in the celebrations marking the 557th Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

The pilgrims were warmly welcomed upon their arrival in Hasan Abdal and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made for the religious event.

More than 1,500 Punjab Police personnel have been deployed to ensure the security of Sikh pilgrims, while all necessary facilities are being provided to enable them to perform their religious rituals.

Talking to the media, the pilgrims appreciated the support extended by the Punjab government and district administration, expressing gratitude for the warm hospitality, love and excellent arrangements made for them in Pakistan. They also thanked the Punjab government for its cooperation and efforts to facilitate their visit.–**APP**

Digital expo to accelerate youth-led innovation

QUETTA:Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has announced the launch of Digital Balochistan Expo 2026, the province's first-ever digital exposition, scheduled to take place from December 21 to 24 at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) in Quetta. The four-day event is aimed at showcasing the government's digital reforms, highlighting the achievements of digitised public departments, and creating opportunities for young people to connect with national and international technology companies.

Speaking at a ceremony held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Bugti said the world is rapidly moving towards digitalisation, artificial intelligence and innovation-based economies, and stressed that Balochistan must adopt modern technologies to remain competitive. "The greatest asset of Balochistan is not its mineral wealth but its talented youth," the Chief Minister said. "We must equip our young people with modern skills and provide them with platforms that enable them to compete nationally and globally." The expo will feature presentations from all digitised government departments and provide a forum for young entrepreneurs, software developers, technology professionals and students from across the province to display their innovations, skills and business ideas. Sarfraz Bugti said the government wants to encourage young people to look beyond traditional government employment and explore opportunities in entrepreneurship, freelancing, digital services and emerging technologies. He noted that youth from remote districts, including Dera Bugti, Zhob, Turbat, Kharan, Awaran and other areas, can leverage digital platforms to achieve economic independence.–**DNA**

KP vaccinate over 2.28m girls against HPV

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health department has successfully concluded its Cervical Cancer Prevention (Human Papillomavirus HPV) Vaccination Campaign, conducted from 11 to 24 November 2026 across all districts of the province, marking a significant milestone in protecting adolescent girls and preventing cervical cancer.

According to a press release issued here on Wednesday, the campaign targeted girls aged 9–14 years, with a provincial vaccination target of 2,843,182.

By the conclusion of the campaign, 2,281,603 girls had been vaccinated, achieving 80.2% of the provincial target. This represents approximately 73% of the estimated eligible population of 3,127,500 girls, according to campaign monitoring data. In designated districts, 501,182 girls were vaccinated against a target of 743,745, achieving 67.4% coverage. The remaining districts collectively achieved 84.8% coverage, with 1,780,421 girls vaccinated.–**DNA**



PDMA Balochistan showcases climate resilience initiatives

QUETTA: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan marked a significant presence at the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as Director General and Relief Commissioner Jahanzaib Khan Ghorezai represented the province at the global climate summit being held in Antalya, Türkiye.

Director General Jahanzeb Khan Ghorezai highlights disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation strategies at Pakistan Pavilion, said a news release. Addressing an international audience at the Pakistan Pavilion, Jahanzaib Ghorezai delivered a presentation during a panel discussion titled "Building Climate-Resilient Frontlines: Institutionalizing Disaster Risk Reduction and Anticipatory Action in Balochistan." The session brought together country delegates, development and humanitarian organizations, climate experts, researchers, and policymakers from across the world. The presentation highlighted Balochistan's ongoing efforts to strengthen resilience against climate-related disasters through its integrated climate resilience and disaster preparedness programme, a comprehensive initiative designed to enhance preparedness, response capabilities, and community resilience in one of Pakistan's most climate-vulnerable regions. Speaking at the event, the PDMA delegation showcased several key components of the programme, including the modernization of emergency operations centres, which are aimed at improving coordination and response during emergencies and natural disasters. A major focus of the presentation was the development of multi-hazard early warning systems and the promotion of anticipatory action mechanisms, enabling authorities and communities to take preventive measures before disasters strike. Officials emphasized that proactive preparedness can significantly reduce the human and economic impacts of climate-induced emergencies. The presentation also highlighted efforts to strengthen Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) capacity, ensuring that emergency responders are equipped with the skills, training, and resources necessary to effectively manage disaster situations. Recognizing the critical role of local communities in disaster management, PDMA Balochistan shared its experience in supporting women-led village disaster management committees, a community-based approach that empowers women to play a leading role in preparedness, response, and resilience-building initiatives at the grassroots level. In addition, the programme's focus on water security, renewable solar energy solutions, and livelihood resilience was presented as a sustainable pathway to help vulnerable communities adapt to the growing impacts of climate change, including droughts, extreme weather events, and resource scarcity. The panel discussion also created opportunities for meaningful engagement with international partners, opening avenues for future collaboration and investment in climate resilience and disaster risk reduction initiatives across Balochistan.–**DNA**

Islamabad POST
METROLITE
Friday, November 27, 2026

Tarar opens Kahakshan Mission Control Center

The minister said the mission control center would remain operational for four days and provide updates on the experiments carried out by Pakistani astronaut in the space during his mission



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday inaugurated the Kahakshan Mission Control Center at the Pak-China Friendship Center, Islamabad, in the presence of government officials, families, influencers and media persons.

Kahakshan is a national science outreach initiative of the government, aimed at promoting public interest in the country's space programme. Welcoming the visitors, the minister said a space like environment has been created at the center, with a spaceship rocket installed outside the building and documentaries on space exploration and space science are being screened inside. The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has set up a pavilion providing updates on the experiments to be conducted in space by Pakistan's astronaut Zeeshan Ali, he added. He said visitors can also have a real-time experience of the space mission operations inside this center. A dome has been established where an animated film for children, depicting a firefly's journey to space, is being screened. A media center has also been set up. The minister said the mission control center would remain operational for four days and provide updates on the experiments carried out by Pakistani astronaut in the space during his mission.

"Today is a historic day, not only for Pakistan but also for Pak-China friendship," he said. In his message on the occasion, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif extended gratitude to President Xi Jinping and said Pak-China friendship had gone beyond the stars and now reached space. He encouraged the public to visit the Kahakshan center and gain first-hand experience of space missions and space science. Tarar said an agreement was signed between the head of SUPARCO and his counterpart from the Chinese space agency in the presence of the prime minister. Both astronauts, Zeeshan Ali and Dawood, who also received complete training for space mission, met the prime minister after the signing. "This is the peak of Pak-China friendship and partnership. We are proud not only of Zeeshan Ali but also of the Chinese astronauts," he said, adding that the prime minister and the president had both expressed their gratitude to President Xi Jinping. He expressed gratitude to SUPARCO, scientists and the armed forces, and said the space mission of the Pakistani astronaut was the result of the prayers of the people. "This is a historic occasion that will be remembered by every citizen. November 25, 2026 will be celebrated every year," he said. The minister also lauded Federal Secretary Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil and Principal Information Officer Raisa Adil for their contributions in setting up the center, where people can visit and get first-hand experience of space. He also extended an invitation to Chinese friends in Islamabad to visit the center. "Pak-China friendship has risen to new heights, beyond the skies and into space. It is a moment of great pride and happiness, and a historic day that will always be remembered in Pak-China friendship," he said. He said Pakistan would focus on its own progress regardless of what others think, adding that the achievement was the result of teamwork that had brought Pakistan a good name at the international level. The return of the astronaut from the space mission, he said, would offer new insights and lessons from the experiments and ultimately advance Pakistan's space programme.–**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

Nov 28/Mauritania
National Day

Nov 28/Albania
Flags Day



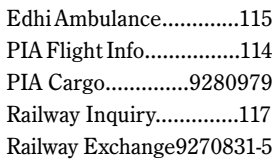
Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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



Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

HEC discuses health edu reforms

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) convened a National Stakeholder Consultation on Health Education Reform in Islamabad, bringing together medical university vice chancellors, accreditation councils and other stakeholders, in a spirit of joint dialogue to align governance and standards.

The consultation focused to strengthen stakeholder coordination and elevate health education research. Participants agreed that overlapping mandates, dual approvals, and conflicting notices have historically created institutional uncertainty, delayed student careers, driven health professionals abroad, and weakened healthcare delivery. Bringing leaders onto one collaborative platform sought to replace fragmented actions with shared accountability while linking research with policy, clinical training, and equity for women and under-resourced regions. Adopted at the close, the Islamabad Declaration reflects a shared commitment to respect statutory mandates, and formalize coordination via a joint committee.

In his inaugural speech, Executive Director HEC Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq underscored health education's national importance and the value of close collaboration among HEC, accreditation councils, universities and other stakeholders. He presented an overview of HEC's mandate and initiatives and the state of health education in Pakistan. The Executive Director emphasised the need to respect statutory mandates, strengthen institutional coordination, undertake consultations before regulatory decisions, avoid duplication and safeguard the interests of students and institutions through a coherent national framework.

Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Ms. Wajiha Qamar commended HEC for bringing key stakeholders together and called for a comprehensive, time-bound roadmap to close systemic gaps and align standards across health professions.

Underscoring the Government support, she emphasized student facilitation as a shared priority and encouraged institutions to pool their capacities and resources to move beyond fragmented approaches toward integrated operations and mutual support. Recognizing the international standing of Pakistani health professionals, she also highlighted harnessing Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies, modernizing teaching and clinical training, and upgrading facilities for students, faculty, and professionals through simulation laboratories to advance joint reform efforts.

Joining virtually, Chairman HEC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar emphasized the adoption of a student-centric approach in institutional policies and initiatives, calling for tangible measures to improve the overall performance of higher education institutions. Highlighting the importance of knowledge enrichment and skills development among graduates, he underscored the role of hospitals in providing graduates with opportunities for practical engagement.–**DNA**

Exports up 8.24% to Rs 3.19t in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: Exports in rupee term increased by 8.24 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Exports during July–October (2026-27) totaled Rs.3,193,157 million as against Rs.2,950,116 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 8.24%, according to PBS provisional data. Meanwhile, exports from Pakistan during October, 2026 amounted to Rs.829,472 million as against Rs.829,456 million in September, 2026 and Rs.800,551 million during October, 2025 showing an increase of 0.002% over September, 2026 and of 3.61% over October, 2025. Main commodities of exports during October, 2026 were knitwear (Rs.135,328 million), readymade garments (Rs.109,844 million), bed wear (Rs.78,395 million), cotton cloth (Rs.39,107 million), petroleum products, excluding top naphta (Rs.35,915 million), rice others (Rs.29,106 million), towels (Rs.27,588 million), cotton yarn (Rs.23,243 million), madeup articles, excluding towels and bedwear (Rs.22,453 million) and fish & fish preparations (Rs.18,653 million). On the other hand, imports during July–October, 2026 totaled Rs.7,314,938 million as against Rs.6,516,677 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 12.25%. Likewise, imports into Pakistan during October, 2026 amounted to Rs. 1,987,538 million as against Rs. 1,787,826 million in September, 2026 and Rs. 1,713,648 million during October, 2025 showing an increase of 11.17% over September, 2026 and of 15.98% over October, 2025.–**DNA**

Naqvi, Talal break ground for new convention & expo centre

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Thursday laid the foundation stone of a new Convention and Expo Centre and an upgradation project for the existing Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad. The project aims to establish a new convention facility alongside the renovation and upgradation of the existing Jinnah Convention Centre. During the ceremony, the Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) briefed the ministers on the key features and design of the project. According to the briefing, the new Convention Centre will have a width of 180 feet and will cover an area of 67,444 square feet. The facility will include a main convention hall, two Heads of State lounges and two VIP lounges. The project will also feature a dedicated media lounge, four executive offices and six lifts.

The planned facilities are part of the design of the new Convention Centre, which will be developed alongside the upgradation of the existing Jinnah Convention Centre. –**DNA**

MCI announces complete ban on cash transactions from Dec1st

ISLAMABAD: The Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) has announced a complete ban on cash transactions at all its offices from December 1, 2026, under the vision of the Prime Minister to make Islamabad a cashless city. According to an official notification issued by MCI Chief Officer Captain (Retd) Awais Afzal on November 25, all MCI offices, directorates, wings and branches will stop accepting cash payments from December 1. Under the new policy, all payments, including taxes, fees, rents, fines and licence fees, will be made exclusively through digital channels. Payments through pay orders, demand drafts and cheques will also not be accepted from the said date. The notification directs all MCI cash counters to be closed by November 30. All manual receipt books will be sealed and deposited with the concerned Accounts Office.–**APP**

CDA new rescue stations to boost 1122 services

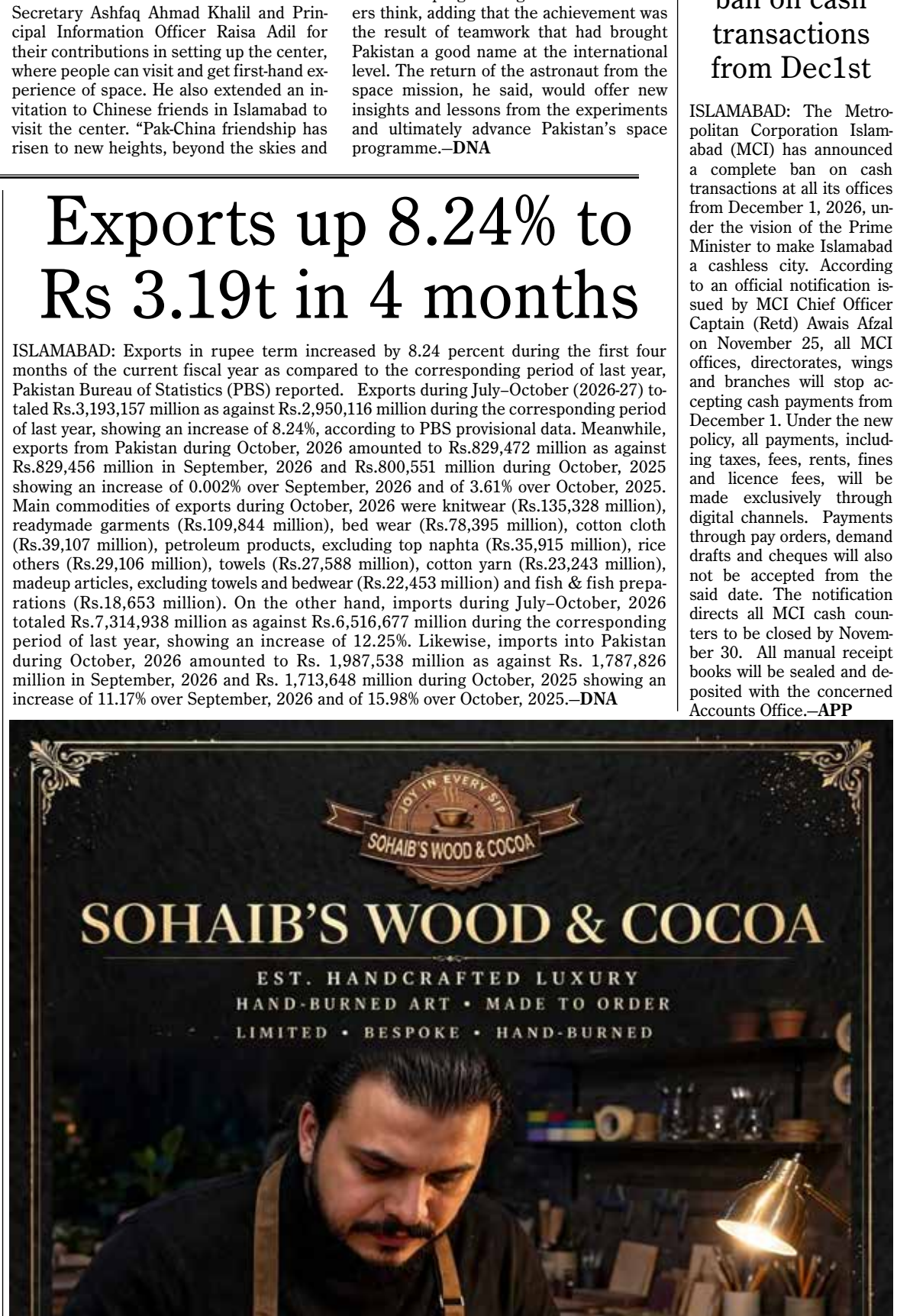
Chairman CDA further said that the protection of citizens life and property is our top priority and all resources will be utilised to improve the effectiveness of Capital Emergency Services in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) is expediting the construction of 4 new rescue stations in the Federal Capital Islamabad to further strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of Rescue 1122 services during emergency and crisis situations. The objective of the project is to ensure the provision of timely assistance to citizens during emergency situations and the protection of life and property.

According to details, overall, more than 30 percent of the work on the Rescue Stations has been completed so far. The 4 new rescue stations are being constructed in sectors G-11, I-9, I-14 and Humak Town Islamabad.

In Rescue Stations at Sector G-11 and Humak Town, the roof slab work of the buildings is ongoing. While in I-14, the construction of the boundary wall has been started. All Rescue Stations include modern design, a control room, a conference room, a parking area and designated sheds for rescue vehicles.

In line with the direction of Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Sohail Ashraf, work on the project is continuing round the clock (24/7). Chairman CDA said that all construction works should be completed within the stipulated time ensuring high quality. He said that the completion of the project will develop the emergency and rescue services system on modern lines and citizens will receive timely assistance. Chairman CDA further said that the protection of citizens life and property is our top priority and all resources will be utilised to improve the effectiveness of Capital Emergency Services in Islamabad .–**DNA**



Briefs

NCCIA institutional reforms discussed

ISLAMABAD: Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi held a meeting with Additional Inspector General (IG) Humayun Bashir Tarar and Umar Bashir, Community Protection Adviser at Adam Smith International (ASI). According to NCCIA details compiled on Wednesday, the meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest. Adam Smith International is an international development and advisory organisation that provides technical assistance to governments and public institutions in various areas, including institutional reforms, governance, rule of law and public safety. The organisation has been working in Pakistan since 2006, supporting initiatives related to institutional capacity building, crime prevention and international cooperation. Its areas of work also include combating organised crime, protecting children from online exploitation and strengthening cooperation among law enforcement agencies.—**DNA**

Crackdown on car, motorcycle theft gangs

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem on Thursday chaired an important meeting on crime prevention and directed police officers to intensify operations against active gangs involved in car and motorcycle theft and ensure the recovery of stolen property.
An official told APP on Thursday that the meeting was attended by SSP Organised Crime Unit (OCU) Hassam Bin Iqbal, SSP Investigation Zain Asim, zonal SPs, Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) and Station House Officers (SHOs) of Saddar Zone.
DIG Ali directed the officers to ensure the early completion of investigations into pending cases and take special measures to arrest criminals with previous criminal records and proclaimed offenders involved in serious crimes. He further directed the officers to make police patrolling more effective, proactive and result-oriented to prevent criminal activities and ensure the protection of citizens' lives and property.—**APP**

Ayaz lauds security forces for successful operation

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Thursday paid rich tribute to the security forces for conducting successful intelligence-based operations (IBOs) against terrorists in various districts of Balochistan. In a statement, the Speaker said that effective operations against terrorists in Balochistan reflected the country's unwavering commitment to national security. He said the timely actions by the security forces had successfully foiled the nefarious designs of the enemy, adding that their professional capabilities and operational expertise in the fight against terrorism were highly commendable.
Ayaz Sadiq said the sacrifices and services rendered by the security institutions for maintaining peace and stability in Balochistan were unforgettable. He emphasized that the complete elimination of Fitna al-Hindustan and terrorist elements operating with foreign patronage was imperative for national security. The Speaker reaffirmed that Pakistan would never compromise on its peace, security and sovereignty.
He said the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with the security forces in their efforts to eradicate the menace of terrorism and establish lasting peace across the country.—**APP**

Tarar for effective alternative dispute resolution system

DNA



ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed upon between the Ministry of Law and Justice's International Mediation and Arbitration Center (IMAC) and the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) to promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), training and research. The MoU was concluded in the presence of Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and provides for enhanced cooperation in joint training, research, expert exchange and international collaboration. The signing ceremony was held on Thursday at the Ministry of Law and Justice, Islamabad. The MoU was signed by Project Director IMAC Ms. Aisha Rasool on behalf of IMAC and Coordinator General COMSTECH Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary on behalf of COMSTECH.
Addressing the ceremony, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the effective and institutionalised promotion of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system was essential to reduce the burden of pending cases in Pakistan's courts and provide citizens relief from prolonged judicial proceedings. He observed that the conventional judicial system often involves multiple stages, resulting in considerable delays in the dispensation of justice, while alternative mechanisms such as mediation and conciliation could play an effective role in resolving disputes.
The Federal Minister stated that over the past one-and-a-half to two years, IMAC had trained hundreds of individuals in mediation and conciliation, including several internationally recognised and certified mediators and arbitrators. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar described cooperation with COMSTECH as significant, noting that such partnerships would help strengthen Pakistan's institutional linkages internationally and enhance its engagement within OIC circles. The Federal Minister also appreciated the performance of IMAC Project Director Ms. Aisha Rasool and her team, saying that they had, in a short period, established the institution as a prominent entity in Pakistan and internationally, organised international training programmes and played an important role in strengthening institutional linkages.
On the occasion, COMSTECH Coordinator General Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary appreciated cooperation with the Ministry of Law and Justice and IMAC and highlighted OIC-level initiatives relating to women's development, research and scientific capacity-building. He also referred to the possibilities and initiatives involving scholarships for women, research fellowships and research grants for women scientists.
IMAC Project Director Ms. Aisha Rasool thanked Federal Minister Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, stating that the Federal Minister's continued support and guidance had helped IMAC establish international partnerships and strengthen Pakistan's presence in the global field of Alternative Dispute Resolution.
Under the MoU, the two institutions will collaborate in joint national and international training programmes, seminars, conferences, certified training programmes, expert exchange, research, policy development, technical studies and publications. Other areas of cooperation include disputes arising at the intersection of law, science and technology, intellectual property rights, patents, industrial designs, transboundary water issues, carbon trading, law of the sea and institutional development.
Senior officials from the Ministry of Law and Justice, COMSTECH and IMAC, along with distinguished guests, attended the ceremony.

India holds air raid mock drills, blackouts in IIOJK amid growing militarization

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indian authorities conducted air raid mock drills and blackout exercises in different parts of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, in what observers say is part of New Delhi's ongoing militarization and war psychosis in the occupied territory. According to Kashmir Media Service, an air raid mock drill followed by a 10-minute blackout exercise was held in south Kashmir's Islamabad district on Thursday to assess emergency preparedness
According to a public notice issued by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, the Civil Defence air raid drill was to be held at 2 pm, while the blackout exercise was to take place from 6:30 pm to 6:40 pm.
The administration asked residents to switch off all lights and sources of illumination, including inverter and solar lights, torches, mobile phone lights and vehicle lights, immediately after the siren sounds at 6:30 pm. Residents were also advised to draw curtains or cover windows to prevent light from escaping during the exercise. The notice further advised people to make necessary arrangements for elderly persons, children and those with health concerns in advance to ensure they are not distressed by the sudden darkness.
The administration said the exercise aims to familiarize citizens with emergency response protocols during blackout or crisis situations and assess the preparedness of both the public and the administration. It clarified that the exercise is only a mock drill and not a real emergency, urging residents to remain calm and avoid panic. It also assured that emergency services and critical care facilities would remain functional throughout the exercise.
Meanwhile, a Civil Defence Mock Drill and Blackout Exercise was conducted at Akhnoor on November 25 at 5:00 pm, in close coordination with Civil Defence Akhnoor, SDM Office, Tehsildar Office, Local Police, Medical Department, Fire and Emergency Services and Municipal Corporation Akhnoor. SDRF personnel actively participated in the exercise and demonstrated their emergency response and rescue capabilities.
The exercise aimed to assess inter-departmental coordination, emergency preparedness and response mechanisms under simulated air raid and blackout conditions. Analysts say such drills, held under the garb of civil defence preparedness, are in fact meant to normalize a permanent war-like atmosphere in the occupied territory, keep the civilian population under psychological pressure, and justify the massive presence of Indian forces.
Instead of addressing the political aspirations of the Kashmiri people and moving towards a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions, New Delhi is increasingly turning the occupied territory into a garrison and preparing its population for war, which poses a grave threat to peace and stability in South Asia.

NA women's parliamentary caucus setup PEN

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's Women's Parliamentary Caucus has established a Parliamentary Expert Network (PEN) to strengthen the capacity of women parliamentarians and provide them access to research and technical expertise. The caucus also presented its Annual Report for 2025-26. The initiative was launched by National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq during a special ceremony titled "From Home to Assembly: Women's Leadership" at the Speaker's Banquet Hall. The event was part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign against gender-based violence, under the theme "Gender Caravan: Journey Towards Equality, From Every Home." Addressing the ceremony, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the network would connect women parliamentarians with research, knowledge and specialised expertise, helping promote evidence-based legislation and policymaking. Women's Parliamentary Caucus Secretary Dr. Shahida Rehmani emphasised the importance of strengthening women's representation and ensuring their voices and priorities are reflected in parliamentary decisions.Representatives of UN Women, UNDP and other stakeholders also highlighted the need to promote women's political participation, eliminate harassment and violence, and ensure their meaningful role in decision-making. The event also featured a dialogue between young women leaders and parliamentarians on translating community-level challenges into parliamentary priorities. The ceremony was dedicated to digital media professional Hina Javed, who was killed at her residence in Rawalpindi on August 20, 2026. On the occasion, the Parliament House was illuminated in orange to express solidarity with the global campaign against violence against women and girls.—**DNA**

Abbasi lauds security forces for eliminating 12 India-backed terrorists

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Thursday paid rich tribute to the security forces for eliminating 12 terrorists belonging to the India-backed Fitna al-Hindustan in a successful operation in Balochistan. In a statement, the minister said the successful operation against terrorists in Balochistan reflected the professional capabilities, courage and commitment of the security forces. He said the sacrifices rendered by the brave security forces to uproot the menace of terrorism were a source of pride for the entire nation. Hanif Abbasi said India would never succeed in its nefarious designs to spread unrest and destabilize Pakistan. He reaffirmed that the enemies of peace, stability and development in Balochistan would be defeated on every front. The minister categorically said that there would be no compromise on Pakistan's security and sovereignty, adding that the entire nation stood firmly alongside its armed forces and security institutions. He said the great sacrifices of martyrs and the bravery of those serving the country would always be remembered, while the fight against terrorism would continue until its complete eradication. The minister emphasized that any foreign-sponsored terrorism against Pakistan would be given a befitting response. Hanif Abbasi, on behalf of the entire nation, also commended the Pakistan Army and security forces for their successful operation against terrorists. —**DNA**

Al-Shifa Trust warns silent threat to sight needs urgent care

RAWALPINDI: Sudden vision loss without pain can signal a blocked retinal vein, and patients should see an eye specialist immediately, an Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital retina consultant has warned. Dr Abdul Hanan, assistant professor and consultant at the hospital's Retina Clinic, told reporters that retinal vein occlusion occurs when a vein carrying blood away from the retina becomes blocked. The retina is the light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye. A blockage disrupts circulation, causes fluid to accumulate and can damage the retina, leading to sudden and prolonged vision loss. He said uncontrolled diabetes and high blood pressure are among the major risk factors. Increasing age, cigarette smoking and glaucoma, a disease that damages the optic nerve, also raise the likelihood of the condition.
Dr Hanan said Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi, has Pakistan's largest retina department in terms of the number of retina specialists, outpatient department patients and surgeries performed. He warned that Pakistan urgently needs more retina specialists as diabetic retinopathy cases are increasing with the rising prevalence of diabetes. Alarmingly, children are also developing the condition at an increasing rate, highlighting the need for greater specialist capacity and early diagnosis. Retinal vein occlusion occurs in two forms. Central retinal vein occlusion affects the main retinal vein, while branch retinal vein occlusion affects a smaller branch. Unlike many eye conditions, it does not necessarily cause pain, which can lead patients to delay treatment, he said. Anyone experiencing sudden changes or loss of vision should undergo a detailed retinal examination to assess the extent of damage. Specialists then determine the appropriate treatment and chances of recovery, which vary from patient to patient.
Dr Hanan identified anti-VEGF injections and laser therapy as the main treatments. The injections reduce abnormal blood vessel growth and fluid leakage in the retina, while laser treatment helps manage certain complications.
Both treatments are available free of cost at the hospital, and its retina department provides them daily, he said. Al-Shifa Trust's performance figures show 119,694 outpatient visits, 16,467 surgeries and 37,513 laser and injection treatments between October 2025 and October 2026.
Delayed consultation can allow retinal damage to progress and may permanently reduce eyesight, affecting patients' ability to work and earn. For low-income families, free treatment also removes the financial burden of repeated injections. Dr Hanan stressed that keeping blood sugar and blood pressure under control can reduce the risk of retinal complications, particularly among older people.—**DAN**

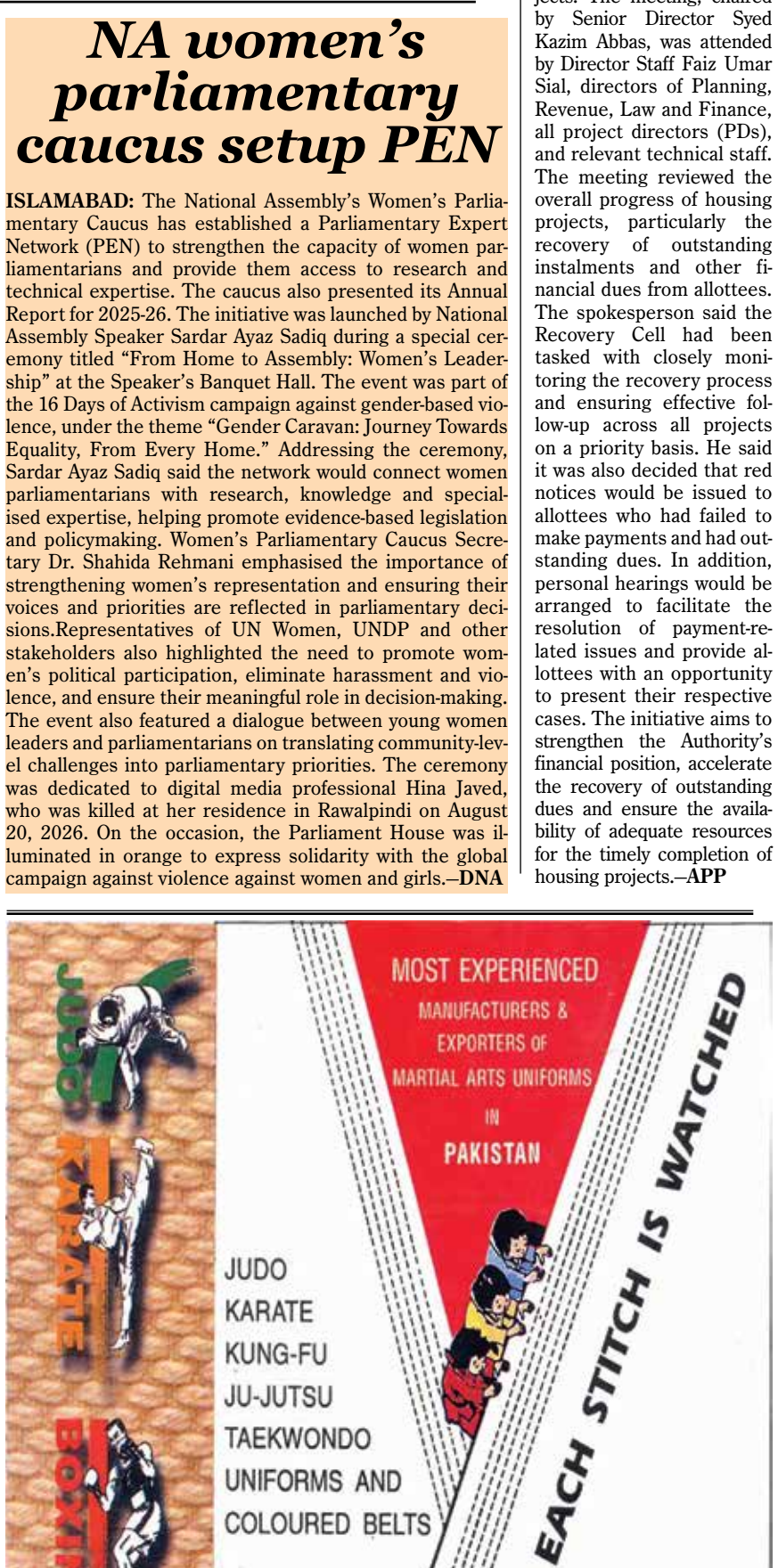
ICT admin announces closure of Trails 3 & 5 on Nov 27

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration has announced the closure of Hiking Trails 3 and 5 for the general public on November 27, 2026, from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm.
According to a notification issued by the Office of the District Magistrate, Islamabad, on November 25, the two hiking trails will remain closed throughout the specified period.
The notification, issued under No. 1(20)-HC(G)/2026, states that the closure will apply to the general public in the federal capital.
District Magistrate Irfan Nawaz Memon has directed the relevant authorities and departments to take necessary action to ensure compliance.

Red notices to issue notices to defaulter allottees

ISLAMABAD: Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) will soon issue red notices to allottees who have defaulted on payments of outstanding dues in its housing projects, an authority spokesperson said.
Talking to APP, the spokesperson said a high-level meeting had recently been held to expedite and strengthen the recovery of outstanding dues across all housing projects. The meeting, chaired by Senior Director Syed Kazim Abbas, was attended by Director Staff Faiz Umar Sial, directors of Planning, Revenue, Law and Finance, all project directors (PDs), and relevant technical staff.
The meeting reviewed the overall progress of housing projects, particularly the recovery of outstanding instalments and other financial dues from allottees.
The spokesperson said the Recovery Cell had been tasked with closely monitoring the recovery process and ensuring effective follow-up across all projects on a priority basis. He said it was also decided that red notices would be issued to allottees who had failed to make payments and had outstanding dues. In addition, personal hearings would be arranged to facilitate the resolution of payment-related issues and provide allottees with an opportunity to present their respective cases. The initiative aims to strengthen the Authority's financial position, accelerate the recovery of outstanding dues and ensure the availability of adequate resources for the timely completion of housing projects.—**APP**



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Austria's potential role as mediator in the Gulf and elsewhere

EARLIER this month, the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue and the Gulf Research Center organized a meeting in Vienna for officials from Austria and Gulf Cooperation Council countries, together with think-tank representatives, to discuss Gulf security. The track 1.5 meeting was part of Austria's efforts to regain its historical role as a neutral and effective international mediator. Ahead of beginning its 2027-2028 term as a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council in January, Austria has advocated peace mediation and diplomatic dialogue as central pillars of its foreign policy during its council membership. The country frames itself as an "honest broker" and venue for dialogue aimed at bridging divides in the currently highly polarized geopolitical environment.

The Bruno Kreisky Forum is named after the famed statesman who put modern Austria on the map as a neutral but effective international player, first as foreign minister (1959-1966) and then as the country's longest-serving chancellor (1970-1983). He successfully pursued a policy of "active neutrality" during the height of the Cold War, working with both Western and Soviet bloc countries while seeking cooperation with other nonaligned nations. In the Middle East, he was known for his strong support for Palestinian statehood and for cultivating a good relationship with Palestinian and other Arab leaders, as well as with the Palestine Liberation Organization, igniting a rancorous backlash from Israeli leaders, whom he did not hesitate to criticize when the need arose. He once referred to Menachem Begin, Israel's prime minister at the time, as a terrorist. The country frames itself as an 'honest broker' and venue for dialogue aimed at bridging divides In rebutting Israeli leaders' criticisms, Kreisky said he was "the only politician in Europe Golda Meir can't blackmail," recalling that he himself was Jewish and was persecuted by the Nazis. In addition, during his term as chancellor, Austria served as the primary transit country for hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel and the West.

Besides its history of active neutrality, Austria has, since March 2025, been led by a trilateral partnership between center-right, center-left and centrist-liberal parties. This requires carefully balancing the foreign policy priorities of the three parties and their constituents. Some of those priorities, such as their approach to immigration, do not seem consistent with Kreisky's legacy. Despite changing priorities for the country, mediation remains a core pillar of Austria's foreign policy and it is still recognized as a trusted actor and venue for dialogue. Through its mediation facility and track II diplomacy, it supports discreet engagement in a range of regional conflicts, while supporting broader UN mediation and conflict-prevention efforts. It has been involved in peacebuilding, seeking to strengthen the UN Peacebuilding Commission, while creating regional partnerships with an emphasis on conflict prevention and mediation.



Austria's membership in the UNSC come January will give it an opportunity to exercise these approaches more effectively and on a global scale. During discussions at the UN, Vienna has stressed that international peace and security are rooted in partnerships, dialogue and trust. As a small and militarily neutral country, it said it can contribute as a "bridge-builder" and honest broker working with "all countries on the basis of mutual respect."

These historical and current credentials make Austria a good candidate to support mediation efforts in the Middle East and Gulf conflicts. Vienna has stressed that international peace and security are rooted in partnerships, dialogue and trust In the Gulf, there is an urgent need for mediation, as US-Iran talks have reached an impasse and the threat of renewed war is looming. Austria could partner with local actors to get the talks back on track and add more structure to what has been a chaotic exchange between the two main antagonists, with insufficient regard for regional and international interests and the UN's role.

There are at least seven areas in the Gulf conflict in which Austria's mediation could help. First, at the UNSC, where Austria will soon have a seat, the GCC, led by Bahrain, another UNSC member, was able to rally support to pass Resolution 2817 in March, setting the principles governing the conflict, including protection of civilians and freedom of navigation. China and Russia abstained, allowing the resolution to pass, but have vetoed subsequent GCC efforts to make that resolution more operational. Their vetoes have made collective action under the UN umbrella more difficult. With the help of Austria at the council, perhaps agreement could be reached.

Second, Austria could support the regional mediation efforts led by Qatar, the Makkah Joint Defense Alliance countries and others.

Third, Vienna hosts the International Atomic Energy Agency and could thus play a greater role in empowering the agency's role in dealing with Iran's nuclear program.

Fourth, on restoring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, Oman has been working to secure an interim deal to reopen the waterway. But there is a deadlock, as Iran has insisted on linking this issue to its wider conflict with the US. The "Hormuz Coalition" of some 50 nations has also tried its hand but without success so far.

Fifth, since the war started, Saudi Arabia has worked to improve the resilience of international energy supply chains, in partnership with other regional players. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz and attacks on ships in the Gulf and the Red Sea have increased efforts to enhance connectivity within the region and intraregionally.

Sixth, there is an urgent need to deal with the global economic slowdown, which has resulted in part from the Gulf war, in particular to help developing countries deal with the slowdown's repercussions. – **Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg**

The Changing Meaning of Victory in Modern Warfare

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Military analysts describe this approach as strategic attrition. Instead of seeking a decisive military victory, a weaker power attempts to exhaust a stronger adversary through sustained pressure. The objective is to weaken the opponent's willingness to continue fighting, undermine domestic support for the conflict and create conditions in which negotiations become more attractive than further military action. Iran's military doctrine has developed around this reality. Its conventional military capabilities remain considerably inferior to those of the United States

FOR Iran, victory in a confrontation with the United States does not necessarily mean defeating the American military on the battlefield. It may simply mean surviving the conflict, preserving the existing political system and preventing Washington from achieving its strategic objectives. A ceasefire, an American military withdrawal, a reduction in sanctions pressure or the continuation of the Islamic Republic's political control could all be presented in Tehran as evidence of success, even after suffering substantial military and economic damage. This understanding of victory reflects a different approach to warfare, one in which endurance can matter more than battlefield dominance. Iran's strategy is built around the calculation that a prolonged confrontation could eventually become more costly for its opponents than for itself. Rather than attempting to match American military capabilities, Tehran seeks to increase the political, economic and security costs of continued confrontation.

Military analysts describe this approach as strategic attrition. Instead of seeking a decisive military victory, a weaker power attempts to exhaust a stronger adversary through sustained pressure. The objective is to weaken the opponent's willingness to continue fighting, undermine domestic support for the conflict and create conditions in which negotiations become more attractive than further military action. Iran's military doctrine has developed around this reality. Its conventional military capabilities remain considerably inferior to those of the United States. Washington possesses advanced air power, intelligence networks, naval forces and technological capabilities that Tehran cannot easily match. A direct conventional confrontation would therefore expose Iran to enormous risks. Tehran has consequently invested in missiles, drones, asymmetric warfare and regional partnerships. These instruments allow it to threaten military installations, disrupt maritime trade and create security challenges across a much wider geographical area. The purpose is not necessarily to destroy the military capabilities of its adversaries but to demonstrate that military superiority does not guarantee a politically acceptable outcome. The experience of previous American military engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan has also influenced Iranian strategic thinking. Those conflicts demonstrated that superior military technology does not automatically translate into lasting political success. A country may win individual battles while struggling to achieve its broader political objectives.

One of Iran's most important strategic calculations concerns the relationship between military confrontation and the global economy. The Strait of Hormuz, through which a substantial proportion of internationally traded oil passes, provides Tehran with considerable geographical leverage. Any serious disruption to shipping through this narrow waterway can affect international energy markets, increase transportation and insurance costs and create pressure on governments far beyond the Middle East. Iran understands that the consequences of a regional conflict would not remain confined to its borders. Reuters reported in March 2026 that Tehran was relying on military pressure and disruption to energy routes to increase the costs of confrontation for Washington and its regional partners. Its analysis highlighted the Iranian calculation that economic uncertainty and rising energy prices could eventually weaken international support for a prolonged conflict. This approach also explains why the economic consequences of a confrontation matter as much as its military outcome. Higher oil prices can create inflationary pressures, affect industrial production and increase the political difficulties faced by governments already dealing with domestic economic concerns. For the United States, a prolonged regional conflict could mean additional military expenditure, pressure on energy prices, uncertainty in international markets and growing domestic criticism. Iran's wager is that Washington may eventually conclude that the costs of continuing the confrontation outweigh its strategic benefits.

The United States faces a difficult question: how can it translate military superiority into a sustainable political outcome? Destroying military installations, weakening missile capabilities and damaging strategic infrastructure may reduce Iran's immediate military strength. However, these measures do not necessarily guarantee political submission or the collapse of the existing system. Iran's leadership has repeatedly demonstrated its willingness to absorb considerable economic pressure. Decades of sanctions have encouraged the development of alternative trade networks, domestic production arrangements and mechanisms for operating under international restrictions. Nevertheless, endurance should not be confused with immunity. Iran's economy faces serious structural weaknesses, inflation, currency depreciation and declining investment. Military confrontation further increases these difficulties. The burden of sanctions and war falls heavily on ordinary citizens, whose living standards may deteriorate even when the political leadership remains in control. A November 2026 Reuters assessment of the conflict highlights the danger of both sides believing that time is necessarily working in their favour. Continued confrontation may impose growing costs on Iran while also exposing the United States and its regional partners to economic and security pressures.

The preservation of the political system is another central element of Iran's calculations. For Tehran, the consequences of military defeat cannot be separated from the future of the Islamic Republic itself. A leadership that considers external pressure an existential threat may be prepared to accept economic hardship and military losses rather than make concessions that could undermine its political survival. This explains why regime continuity may be regarded as a measure of success even when the country suffers extensive damage. If the United States fails to achieve its principal political objectives, Iran may argue that it has denied its adversary a decisive victory. However, there is an important distinction between the survival of a government and the well-being of a nation. A political system may remain intact while the country's economy, infrastructure and social fabric suffer long-term damage. Describing such an outcome as victory would therefore require considerable qualification.

Strategic attrition is not without risks. Iran must maintain sufficient military capabilities to sustain pressure, preserve the cohesion of its political and security institutions and avoid an escalation that could overwhelm its capacity to respond. There is also the danger of miscalculation. Attacks on commercial shipping, energy facilities or regional military installations could provoke a much larger response. Countries that depend on secure energy supplies and open maritime routes may become increasingly unwilling to tolerate Iranian pressure. Even Tehran's economic partners could find prolonged instability damaging to their interests. Moreover, the assumption that the United States has less tolerance for a prolonged conflict than Iran remains a strategic wager rather than an established fact. American domestic politics, energy security and regional commitments will influence Washington's calculations, while Iran's own economic and social pressures may eventually restrict its ability to continue.

The confrontation between Iran and the United States illustrates an important principle of modern international politics: military superiority does not always determine the final political outcome of a war. Iran cannot realistically expect to defeat the United States in a conventional military contest. Its objective is instead to prevent Washington from achieving a decisive political victory, preserve the existing system and retain enough strategic leverage to negotiate from a position that does not amount to surrender. For Tehran, therefore, victory may mean not losing on the enemy's terms. A ceasefire, reduced military pressure, sanctions relief or the withdrawal of American forces could become political achievements if they allow the Iranian leadership to claim that its adversary failed to impose its preferred outcome. Yet survival alone cannot resolve Iran's economic problems or guarantee its long-term security. The ultimate test of this strategy will be whether the country can move beyond the immediate confrontation and secure a more stable political and economic future. In the final analysis, Iran's approach is less about winning a conventional war than about changing the calculation of those who wage it. It is a strategy built on endurance, economic pressure and political patience. Whether it succeeds will depend not simply on how much damage Iran can absorb, but on whether its adversaries eventually decide that continuing the conflict is no longer worth the cost.

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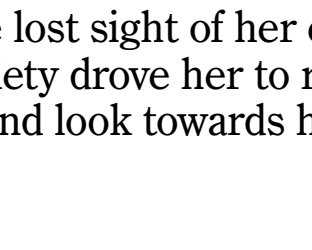
When a Mother Leaves, a World Falls Silent

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



This divine bond brings to mind the extraordinary devotion of Hazrat Hajra (peace be upon her), the mother of Prophet Ismail (peace be upon him). Left with her infant son in the barren valley of Makkah, she moved desperately between the hills of Safa and Marwa in search of water. Each time she lost sight of her child, anxiety drove her to return and look towards him

MOTHERHOOD is perhaps the most extraordinary expression of love in the universe, a sentiment without parallel and a blessing beyond comparison. It is a divine quality, placed by the Almighty in the very nature of a mother, enabling her to devote herself entirely to the care, happiness and well-being of her children. This instinct is not confined to human beings; it is equally visible among animals, birds and other living creatures. Even in their world, a mother's concern for her offspring is remarkable. One can only imagine, therefore, the immeasurable depth of this affection in human beings, whom Allah has honoured as Ashraf-ul-Makhluqat, the noblest of all creation.

A mother is a shelter against the storms of life, a refuge whose presence offers reassurance even when the world seems indifferent. Her embrace is a sanctuary in which a child finds comfort without asking for it. Sadly, that shelter is no longer mine. My mother has departed from this temporary world and returned to her Creator. The woman through whom I entered this world has now journeyed towards the eternal abode, leaving behind memories that time cannot diminish and a void that no human presence can fill.

A mother rejoices in her child's smallest achievements as though they were her own greatest triumphs. Conversely, even the slightest pain suffered by her child becomes a source of deep distress for her. She wishes to take upon herself every hardship that life places in the way of her offspring. I remember an incident from my childhood when I was suffering from severe pain in my ear one night. Every medicine and remedy seemed ineffective, and sleep was nowhere near. My mother gently drew my head towards her side, held me close and reassured me that I would soon feel better. Within moments, the pain seemed to disappear, and I fell asleep. Looking back, I often wonder what extraordinary power lay in that loving embrace. Perhaps it was not merely the comfort of her touch, but the assurance that someone loved me enough to share my suffering.

This divine bond brings to mind the extraordinary devotion of Hazrat Hajra (peace be upon her), the mother of Prophet Ismail (peace be upon him). Left with her infant son in the barren valley of Makkah, she moved desperately between the hills of Safa and Marwa in search of water. Each time she lost sight of her child, anxiety drove her to return and look towards him. Her determination and maternal devotion transformed a desolate valley into the setting of one of the most remarkable events in Islamic history. By Allah's command, the blessed spring of Zamzam emerged near the place where little Ismail was lying. Its water continues to flow to this day, sustaining millions of pilgrims and believers. So deeply significant was this mother's struggle that Allah preserved its memory as an essential rite of Hajj and Umrah. Every pilgrim who walks between Safa and Marwa retraces, in a sense, the steps of a mother whose love was expressed through faith, patience and extraordinary perseverance.

The importance of a mother's prayers and presence is also reflected in the account of Prophet Musa (peace be upon him). A mother is not merely the person who raises a child; she is often an unseen guardian whose prayers accompany that child through every stage of life. Her supplications become a source of protection, while her affection provides strength in moments of uncertainty. The departure of such a soul leaves a spiritual emptiness that even the passage of years cannot entirely overcome.

Perhaps this is why the loss of a mother is not simply the loss of a loved one; it is the departure of an entire world of tenderness, concern and unconditional affection. One may grow older, achieve professional distinction, earn recognition and acquire worldly comforts, yet in the heart of a mother, one remains the same child who once sought refuge in her lap. No position, honour or achievement can replace the simple joy of hearing her voice or receiving her prayers.

I have come to realise more deeply that a mother's worth cannot be measured while she is among us. Her ordinary gestures, repeated advice, anxious questions and countless acts of care often appear routine until the day they become memories. Only then does one understand how much of life's comfort was quietly sustained by her presence. I believe that the devotion, patience and sacrifices of a mother are among the greatest acts of service recognised by the Almighty. May Allah reward every mother for the sleepless nights, silent tears, countless sacrifices and prayers offered for her children. May He grant long, healthy and peaceful lives to all mothers who are still with us, and inspire their children to honour and serve them while they have the opportunity.

As for those mothers who have returned to their Creator, may Allah Almighty envelop them in His infinite mercy, forgive their shortcomings, illuminate their graves and elevate their ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous. I pray especially for my beloved mother, whose absence has left a silence in my life that words can scarcely describe. A mother's lap may be the first school of a child, but it remains the most cherished sanctuary of a lifetime. Even when that lap is no longer within reach, its warmth survives in the deepest chambers of the heart. A mother may depart from this world, but her love never truly leaves her child.

The Islamabad POST
Friday, November 27, 2026

Briefs

Security forces kill 12 India-backed terrorists...

FROM PAGE 01

Panjgur and Kech districts, killing two terrorists belonging to the Indian-backed Fitna al-Hindustan. The military vowed that a relentless counterterrorism campaign would continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terror activities, particularly in its Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan provinces, since 2021, when the Afghan Taliban came into power. According to a report by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), the two provinces remained the country's main hotspots for violence during the second quarter of 2026, with KP emerging as the worst-affected region. The report stated that KP and Balochistan together accounted for nearly 96% of all violence-related fatalities recorded during the quarter. Of the total deaths, more than 61% (475) were reported in KP, while Balochistan accounted for 34% (265). KP also recorded the highest number of violent incidents, with 151 cases, representing 57% of the nationwide total. Balochistan followed with 94 incidents, or 35%, underscoring the concentration of militant activity in the two provinces.

Pakistan, Romania committed...

FROM PAGE 01

Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Dan Stoenescu, highlighted the growing partnership between the two countries and outlined Romania's foreign policy priorities and expanding cooperation with Pakistan. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Stoenescu said Romania's National Day commemorates the historic Great Union of December 1, 1918, which laid the foundations of modern Romania. He noted that Romania remains firmly committed to the principles of freedom, democracy, solidarity and the rule of law. The ambassador highlighted Romania's role within the European Union and NATO and reiterated his country's support for international peace, stability and multilateral cooperation. He also underlined Romania's commitment to strengthening regional security and supporting Ukraine in achieving a just and lasting peace. Turning to bilateral relations, Ambassador Stoenescu described Pakistan as an important partner and recalled the longstanding friendship between the two countries since the establishment of diplomatic relations on October 15, 1964. He said Romania takes pride in its historical contribution to Pakistan's industrial development, particularly in the oil, cement and fertilizer sectors. He emphasized that economic diplomacy remains a key priority and pointed to recent initiatives aimed at boosting commercial engagement. These include the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Port of Constan a and Karachi Port Trust in March 2026, agreements between business chambers, and increased exchanges of trade delegations. The ambassador also highlighted growing collaboration in information technology, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital innovation, noting the success of the first Romania-Pakistan IT Forum that brought together more than 100 companies. In the defence sector, he referred to the four offshore patrol vessels built in Gala i for the Pakistan Navy as a successful example of bilateral cooperation and identified future opportunities in military education, training, medical cooperation and disaster response. Ambassador Stoenescu further praised the expanding people-to-people ties between the two countries. He noted the increasing number of Pakistani students and professionals in Romania and welcomed greater academic, scientific and cultural cooperation. Concluding his address, the envoy said Romania and Pakistan were entering a promising new chapter in their relationship after more than six decades of diplomatic ties.

Pakistan motorbike passenger becomes cricket sensation

"I have been playing cricket since childhood and have played several matches at this very ground," Khan, a government employee with the Public Health Engineering Department, explained

DNA

PESHAWAR: Returning home from work on the back of a friend's motorbike in KP's Mingora, Mehran Khan acted on pure instinct when a cricket ball sailed towards him and he nonchalantly took a one-handed catch that has won him instant global fame.
"I told my friend who was riding the motorcycle to lower his head. I stood up slightly on the moving motorcycle and caught it," the civil servant, an experienced amateur cricketer, told AFP. Words cannot describe how happy I was after taking that catch. It felt as though I had achieved something extraordinary," the 27-year-old added.
Khan and his friend were motoring past a match in the Swat Premier League in the city of Mingora when the ball arched towards them over the boundary on Tuesday.
Batsman Abrar Lala struck a looping six, sending the ball towards the road adjoining the cricket ground in picturesque Swat Valley, where Khan plucked it out of the air with one hand. "I have been playing cricket since childhood and have played several matches at this very ground," Khan, a government employee with the Public Health Engineering Department, explained.
"When the batsman hit the six, I instinctively wished I could catch the ball," he added. The moment has gone viral around the world and drawn the praise of cricketing greats. "Fame that some people do not achieve in years came to me through a video lasting just a few seconds," Khan said.
My life has changed completely. Now, whenever I go out, people recognise me and ask to take selfies with me.
"When I returned home that night my family gave me a wonderful welcome," he said. "Nobody had ever asked to take selfies with me like that before," he added. Khan, a batsman, fast bowler and accomplished fielder, said the footage was uploaded by a local TikTok user before going "massively viral". He said he was particularly proud to see the video shared by Australian fast bowler Brett Lee on his Facebook page.
"I could not contain my happiness. Just imagine, I am an ordinary cricket player and here is a legend like Brett Lee sharing my catch. He captioned it 'Unbelievable Catch,'" Khan said. The motorbike carrying Khan and his friend was still speeding past the ground when the match's commentator asked the police to stop the pair and bring them back. "I was already very excited, but when I entered the ground, the commentator announced that the man who had taken the catch outside the ground was now inside the ground. All the players and spectators erupted into applause," Khan said.
He explained that the tournament's organisers awarded him Rs10,000 ($36) for the catch. He thanked God for being "blessed with so much respect and recognition". Khan said that in some online comments, social media users have joked he made off with the ball. "But that is not true. I did not run away. I handed the ball over to the tournament organisers inside the ground," he said. Khan now hopes the league will return the ball to him as a souvenir of the extraordinary moment. Since becoming a father eight months ago, Khan feels he has been on a lucky streak that began with the arrival of his daughter. "Ever since she was born, I have continued to experience one stroke of good luck after another. Perhaps I managed to take this catch because of her," he said. When the ball was in my hands, I felt incredibly fortunate to have taken that catch. I am an ordinary man from the mountains, but one catch has made me not just special, but very special," he added.

Dubai Capitals see off Desert Vipers by 45 runs

DNA

DUBAI: The Dubai Capitals registered their first win of DP World ILT20 season five with an all-round performance, beating the Desert Vipers by 45 runs at the Dubai International Stadium on Wednesday.
Sam Billings' 43 off 31 balls and Rovman Powell's rapid 28 off 12 lifted the Capitals to 164/7, before the bowlers took over. Noor Ahmad's four for 20 and Mustafizur Rahman's two for 12 led the effort, with Dushmantha Chameera (2/27) and Hassan Khan (2/16) also taking two wickets each as the Vipers were bowled out for 119 in 17.5 overs.
Andries Gous' 27 off 30 was the Vipers' top score.
Put in to bat first, the Dubai Capitals suffered an early blow when Masood Gurbaz (2 off 2) was run out after a mix-up with Faf du Plessis (24 off 30) to leave them at 8/1. Max Holden (22 off 17) joined Du Plessis and steered the innings through the powerplay, with a stand of 37 runs in 34 balls.
The alliance did not last through the next phase of the innings. Vipers skipper Shadab Khan had Max Holden caught in the seventh. Soon after, Du Plessis was stumped off Nangeyalia Khan in search of his first boundary of the innings.
The Capitals were 61/3 in 9.4 overs when Sam Billings (43 off 31) and Marcus Stoinis (27 off 24) came together for a key stand of 59 runs in 40 balls. With boundaries hard to come by, Billings broke the shackles in the 16th to smash Shadab for a six and two fours. Just as the Capitals looked set for a big finish, Khuzaima Tanveer removed Stoinis to leave the score at 120/4 in 16.2 overs.
He then scalped Billings and Karim Janat (6 off 4) in the 19th over to emerge as the pick of the Vipers' attack and take over the White Belt (awarded to the best bowler) with eight wickets in three innings.
Powell (28 off 12) provided the finishing touch with a rapid-fire knock, smashing two fours and two sixes including 16 in the final over to catapult the Capitals to 164/7 in 20 overs.
In response, the Vipers lost Babar Azam (1 off 2) in the second over off Dushmantha Chameera's bowling to leave them at 2/1. Fakhar Zaman (12 off 11) and Gous added 35 before Zaman was caught off Mustafizur Rahman in the fifth over, making it 37/2. Ahmad then took charge, removing Joe Clarke (3 off 5) in the seventh and Gous (27 off 30) in the ninth over to leave the Vipers on 48/4.
Shimron Hetmyer (19 off 13) and Shadab (16 off 11) tried to rebuild with a 31-run stand, but Chameera ended it by having the Vipers skipper caught in the 12th over. Ahmad had Hetmyer stumped in the 13th, leaving the Vipers at 83/6.
Tom Curran (18 off 8) briefly raised hopes with two fours and a six, but he was caught off Ahmad for his fourth wicket in the 15th over to make it 102/7.
Hassan Khan then struck twice in the 17th with the wickets of Tanveer (9 off 7) and Nangeyalia Khan (6 off 12). Mustafizur returned to dismiss Mujeeb Ur Rahman (2 off 4) as the Vipers were bowled out for 119 in 17.5 overs. Player of the Match, the Dubai Capitals' Ahmad, said: "I'm very happy to contribute to the team. The wicket wasn't easy, but we put a good total on the board. "Hitting the right areas and lengths was a very simple plan, and I'm glad it worked. There was something on the pitch, a bit of hold, and the slow pace was crucial too, so I tried bowling slower today.
"All the grounds here, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah, feel like home. It's a very important win for us."
Meanwhile the Desert Vipers' skipper Shadab Khan commented: "It was definitely chaseable, but we gave away 10 to 15 runs too many in the last two overs, and that was costly.
"If we had taken our chances, we could have restricted them to 20 or 30 runs less. Early in the tournament, we have to work a lot on our fielding, because we've had lapses in all three games.
"We want to play as a fielding unit, and we have to be perfect. In these conditions, wickets in hand always helped, and the other team played beautifully and didn't give us a wicket.

Gordon double helps Barcelona cruise past Sabah

Karim Adeyemi and Gabriel Jesus also struck in the space of five second-half minutes for the Spanish giants, who are fourth in Europe's elite club competition while Azerbaijani minnows Sabah are 32nd

DNA

BAKU: Anthony Gordon scored twice as Barcelona cruised to a 4-1 victory at Sabah in the Champions League on Wednesday, maintaining Hansi Flick's side's push for a top-eight finish with their fourth victory from five league-phase matches. Karim Adeyemi and Gabriel Jesus also struck in the space of five second-half minutes for the Spanish giants, who are fourth in Europe's elite club competition while Azerbaijani minnows Sabah are 32nd. Barcelona had been frustrated for periods in the first half before Adeyemi, filling in on the right wing for the injured Lamine Yamal, delivered a cross that goalkeeper Stas Pokatilov could only palm to the edge of the six-yard box and Gordon tapped home from close range. Six minutes after the restart, Pokatilov parried a Jesus effort straight into Gordon's path and the England forward made no mistake. Adeyemi then scored himself in the 55th minute before Jesus added a fourth five minutes later as Barcelona's superior quality began to tell. Sabah briefly lifted the crowd at the Baku Olympic Stadium when Joy-Lance Mickels found the net after the hour mark. With goal difference potentially decisive in the race for direct qualification to the last 16, Barcelona continued to press until the final whistle without adding to their tally. Flick left Lamine out of the traveling squad due to an ankle injury.

French woman on trial for IS propaganda

FROM PAGE 01

Wearing a mustard jacket and appearing nervous, Konig, 41, apologized to her children, her mother and the "French nation." "I know the impact the jihadosphere may have had. I'm really ashamed," she said at the start of her four-day trial for joining the group. "People are judging me for things, but that person — I no longer feel that they're there," she said, arguing she had changed.
Konig, who hails from the Brittany city of Lorient, left two children behind in France to travel to Syria in 2012 to marry an Daesh member one year into the country's civil war, remaining there for 10 years. She lived under the so-called caliphate that Daesh proclaimed in 2014 across swathes of Syria and neighboring Iraq, appearing in the extremist group's propaganda videos. Kurdish-led forces fighting the militants detained her in late 2017, before France repatriated her from a detention camp in 2022. Three of her children, born in Syria in 2015 and 2017, have also returned to France. Prosecutors accuse her of acting as a "true icon" of the extremist group, who wielded considerable influence online, according to the charge sheet. Her lawyer Emmanuel Daoud said Konig initially "found in Daesh a sense of validation that she had never known" after being "assaulted, abused, beaten throughout her childhood and adolescence." But since returning to France she has become a "model prisoner," determined to become deradicalized, he added.

Two-time champion Sinner out of Australian Open after surgery

The 25-year-old Sinner was having a brilliant campaign before being stopped by his knee problem, with five Masters 1000 titles alongside his triumph at Wimbledon.

MELBOURNE: World number two Jannik Sinner was Thursday ruled out of the Australian Open in January as he recovers from right knee surgery. The Italian, who won the season-opening Grand Slam in 2024 and 2025, announced this week that he had gone under the knife at a clinic in Finland. He has not played a match since winning Wimbledon for the second time in July, with his appearance at Melbourne Park always in doubt. "We've been in regular touch with Jannik's team and they've confirmed he won't be joining us for the AO in January following his recent surgery," Tennis Australia chief Andrew Abdo said in a statement to AFP. "Jannik loves competing here in Melbourne and is looking forward to returning for AO 2028.
"We wish him all the very best with his recovery and look forward to seeing him back on court soon." Experts have speculated that Sinner's absence could last three months. That means the earliest he might be back in action would be during the American hard-court swing, at Indian Wells and the Miami Masters in February-March.
The 25-year-old Sinner was having a brilliant campaign before being stopped by his knee problem, with five Masters 1000 titles alongside his triumph at Wimbledon.
The Italian's 94 percent win record in 2026 was the best of his career. In his absence, Alexander Zverev has taken over as world number one. "Over the past few months, together with my team we've tried everything to treat my injury without surgery," the five-time major winner said in announcing the surgery on Tuesday. "After some very encouraging progress early on, my knee unfortunately didn't respond as we had all hoped, that's why today I underwent a minor surgery to improve the condition of my iliotibial band." Spanish star Carlos Alcaraz, who with Sinner has become the pre-eminent force in men's tennis, wished him well. "Tennis misses him. I miss him," the world number three, who has had his own injury battles, said on social media. Sinner won his first Grand Slam in 2024 by beating Daniil Medvedev in five sets at Melbourne Park, then retained his title a year later with victory over Zverev. – **DNA**

Qatar's Al-Attiyah wins Leg 3 as Morales retakes Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge lead

DNA

MADINAT ZAYED: Leg 3 — Ruler's Representative Court in Al-Dhafra Region carried the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge back inland on Wednesday. Leaving the Marathon Camp at Al-Sila, it headed south before turning towards Madinat Zayed on a 422km route that included a 300km timed special.
For car winner Nasser Al-Attiyah and motorcycle winner Tosha Schareina, there was much to savor on a day that proved far less kind to some of their rivals.
The return from the coast completed the two-day marathon section. After a night in tents without their service teams, competitors faced another long test on fast desert tracks where branching paths meant an accurate reading of the roadbook mattered as much as outright pace. The opening 100km put navigation to the test immediately as competitors crossed an extensive sabkha, or salt flat, along the border. Frequent changes of direction made it difficult to settle into a rhythm before the route opened out onto sandy tracks among the dunes.
After the first transfer section, the special resumed on faster sandy tracks, where another series of direction changes demanded close attention to the roadbook. A second transfer led into the final timed section, with fast, flowing tracks carrying competitors towards the finish and the bivouac at Madinat Zayed. The route also linked two distinct sides of Al-Dhafra. Near Al-Sila, the natural harbor at Ras Ghumais served as a stopping point for maritime travelers for centuries. Inland, Madinat Zayed, the region's administrative center, hosts the Al-Dhafra Festival, where camel breeders from across the Gulf gather for traditional competitions. Five-time Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge winner Al-Attiyah of Qatar claimed his first leg win of the 35th edition, leading through every time check on a dominant day for the Dacia squad.
Partnered by Belgian co-driver Fabian Lurquin, the Qatari beat team-mates Lucas Moraes and Pablo Moreno by 35 seconds, with title challengers Sebastien Loeb and Edouard Boulanger third at 1m 21s.
Having started the day fourth overall, some 1m 21s from the lead, Al-Attiyah climbed two places to move within six seconds of reigning world champion Moraes, who in turn returned to the top of the standings.
Overnight leaders Henk Lategan and Brett Cummings dropped to fourth, now 1m 40s behind Moraes and ahead of Toyota Gazoo Racing W2RC team-mates Seth Quintero and Andrew Short. Both Toyota crews were left puzzled by their lack of pace on a route that had felt relatively straightforward.
With just two days remaining in a long season, Quintero still leads the championship, but his margin is narrowing. Loeb's third place leaves the nine-time WRC champion 13 points behind Quintero, with a maximum of 40 points available from the remaining two legs. Al-Attiyah also remains in championship contention, just 17 points from the lead, although he acknowledged that team tactics may come into play over the remaining days and that he may be asked to support Loeb's attempt to deny Quintero the title.
Quintero described the situation afterwards as "one against three." For all his success in rallying, Loeb is still chasing the first World Rally Raid title of his career. "We'll either break it or win it tomorrow," Quintero said.
Mansour Al-Helei and Khalid Al-Kendi made it back-to-back SSV stage wins on Leg 3, completing the 300km special from Al Sila to Madinat Zayed in 2h 47m 46s. The Emirati R-X Sport crew finished tenth among the cars and won the class by 12m 19s from Mansour's father Yahya Al-Helei and co-driver Ali Alajmi, sealing another team one-two. Among the motorcycles, Leg 3 offered another reminder that the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge demands total concentration to the final kilometer. For much of the day, Luciano Benavides, Tosha Schareina and overall leader Michael Docherty traded times, while the leading contenders were already calculating what Thursday's Liwa dunes could mean for their starting positions. Approaching the 250km marker, however, Docherty made a critical navigation error that took him off course and cost the South African at least 10 minutes. At the finish, he was still berating himself for a "silly, silly mistake" that he believes has probably cost him the overall win.
Having started the day in control of the overall standings, Docherty fell to fifth, more than seven minutes behind new leader Adrien Van Beveren. He did at least retain the Rally2 class lead and the consolation that, on Thursday's penultimate leg, he can follow tracks left by riders ahead. Docherty's misfortune left Benavides on course for the stage victory, but with the Liwa dunes looming, winning the day was not necessarily the prize. The Argentine KTM rider deliberately slowed to avoid taking the stage. The logic was counterintuitive but entirely rational in rally raid: The stage winner would start first on Leg 4 and have to open the route through the dunes, leaving those behind with tracks to follow.
Honda's Tosha Schareina tried to do the same as Benavides but did not lose quite enough time. Instead, he won the stage and will have the task of opening the route for the others on Thursday Schareina remains in championship contention at the final event of the season, level on points with Benavides as they pursue series leader Daniel "Chucky" Sanders, who took a cautious approach after his minor crash on Leg 2.

President, PM reaffirm resolve to eliminate terrorism

FROM PAGE 01

terrorism are a matter of pride. He reaffirmed that foreign-sponsored terrorism would be rooted out completely. Shehbaz Sharif said the entire nation stands with its brave security forces in the war against terrorism. He said the sacrifices of the martyrs and ghazis would not go in vain. The Prime Minister said enemies of peace and development in Balochistan will be defeated at all costs.

Bilawal Bhutto doubles...

FROM PAGE 01

steps as soon as possible so we can establish unity, political stability, and restore trust in all institutions," Bilawal stated. The PPP chairman's remarks come amid a growing debate over a "system reset" in the country. In July, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stirred a political storm by calling for the creation of new administrative units, arguing that the current system of governance had "collapsed" and needed a "reset". On Nov 17, in a hard-hitting speech, Bilawal had asserted that the governance system had not collapsed, but was rather "made to collapse". In a similar vein, the Bhutto scion on Monday had called for restoring the supremacy of Parliament as well as trust in the judiciary and the electoral system.

IHC extends stay on Islamabad LG election

FROM PAGE 01

The judge also referred to complaints raised by petitioners, who maintained that they did not know which electoral wards they belonged to. The court also referred to the local government law enacted in 2015, observing that delimitation should be carried out in accordance with the law. In response, the ECP lawyer maintained that the delimitation process had been completed in accordance with the applicable law. Justice Malik referred to an October 14 order in which the ECP had stated that the delimitation process was complete. However, he asked the commission to satisfy the court that the process had been properly concluded. The IHC subsequently sought a detailed response from the ECP and adjourned the hearing for two weeks. The court suspended the local government election schedule in the federal capital on November 13, issuing a stay order against the ECP's notification dated October 21. The petition submitted by Amjad Ali had contended that new delimitation was carried out in 2024, following which the election schedule was announced. However, a new Local Government Ordinance was introduced in 2026. The petitioner's counsel contended that after the ordinance ceased to operate, the election schedule was issued without restoring the previous delimitation.

Ambassador of Oman calls on the Prime Minister

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, H.E. Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House today. During the meeting, the Prime Minister underscored the longstanding, brotherly relations between Pakistan and Oman, rooted in shared history, faith and culture. He expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade, investment, energy and defence.
The Prime Minister highlighted the positive momentum in bilateral relations and emphasized the importance of translating the existing potential into concrete outcomes through enhanced economic engagement and institutional cooperation. – **APP**

Islamabad POST
Friday, November 27, 2026

Briefs

PSX loses 60 points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) remained in the red on Thursday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index losing 60.56 points, a negative change of 0.03 percent, to close at 178,060.69 points against 178,121.25 points recorded in the previous trading session. The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 618.812 million shares, compared to 643.869 million shares traded in the previous session. The traded value of the ready market stood at Rs18.204 billion, down from Rs18.507 billion a day earlier.

Meanwhile, total market capitalisation increased slightly to Rs19.363 trillion from Rs19.361 trillion recorded in the previous session. Out of 501 companies that traded in the ready market, 209 posted gains, 257 suffered losses, while 35 remained unchanged, reflecting a negative trend in the market.

Pervez Ahmed Co. led the volume chart with 80.278 million shares, followed by WorldCall Telecom with 34.904 million shares and Zarea Limited (R) with 34.809 million shares.

Among the top gainers in the ready market, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited surged by Rs175.67 to close at Rs26,501.17, while The Thal Industries Corporation Limited advanced by Rs80.13 to settle at Rs1,084.19. On the losing side, Pakistan Services Limited declined by Rs68.47 to close at Rs1,143.68, while J.K. Spinning Mills Limited fell by Rs35.88 to Rs322.93. In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 371.419 million shares with a traded value of Rs17.736 billion, compared with 380.416 million shares worth Rs15.883 billion in the previous session. Of the 306 companies traded in the DFC market, 118 advanced, 182 declined, and 6 remained unchanged.–**APP**

Oil rises on supply concerns as Iran claims 9 strikes on ships

SINGAPORE: Crude oil prices rose in early Asian trade on Thursday, extending gains from the previous session on supply concerns after Yemen's Houthis said they had hit Saudi Arabia's largest oil refinery and at least two ships hit Iranian mines in the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude futures were 10 cents, or 0.1 percent, higher at $94.71 a barrel by 04:37 a.m. Saudi time. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 35 cents, or 0.4 percent, to $84.03 a barrel. There will be no settlement for WTI on Thursday due to the US Thanksgiving holiday. On Wednesday, Brent finished 3.5 percent higher while WTI climbed 2 percent after Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said they had attacked Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura oil refinery and Riyadh's financial district.

The refinery, Saudi Arabia's largest, is part of a complex that also serves as a major export terminal for Saudi crude, and analysts expect the latest Houthi attacks to increase the geopolitical risk premium.

At the same time, shipping has been disrupted through the Strait of Hormuz, where oil supply had been recovering to near pre-war levels.

An oil tanker hit a naval mine and caught fire in a "restricted zone" in the strait on Wednesday, the semi-official Fars news agency cited an Iranian Army statement as saying. That report came after state media said two oil tankers struck mines and exploded in the strait on Wednesday. "The broadening of the Middle East conflict threatens to halt the recovery in oil flows in recent weeks. Persian Gulf crude exports rose last week but remain on a declining trend," said ANZ analyst Daniel Hynes. OPEC+ ministers will hold a series of meetings on Nov. 29 to decide on their 2027 output policy, facing the challenge of balancing output with the UAE no longer in the group, and with Iraq and Kazakhstan pressing OPEC+ to raise its estimate of their oil production capacity.–**APP**

CDA moves to cashless and friendly service delivery

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Chaudhry Abdul Rauf said that a four-day timeline had been prescribed for residential No Demand Certificates (NDCs), while applications involving no legal or administrative complications had also been processed within a single day, including completion of property transfer formalities.



ISLAMABAD: Director One Window Operations, Capital Development Authority (CDA), Chaudhry Abdul Rauf, has said that CDA is moving towards a fully cashless system in Islamabad, with November 30 set as the target for completing the implementation process. He also informed that a new digital portal was being developed to facilitate online application submission, tracking of cases and timely communication of objections, while approximately 24 to 25 public services are being provided through the One Window Operation under designated processing timelines.

Speaking during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Chaudhry Abdul Rauf said that a four-day timeline had been prescribed for residential No Demand Certificates (NDCs), while applications involving no legal or administrative complications had also been processed within a single day, including completion of property transfer formalities. He assured that the prescribed timelines for all services would be shared with ICCI to enhance awareness among the business community and facilitate applicants. He added that the digital portal would enable applicants to monitor the status and progress of their applications, while SMS notifications and timely communication of objections were also being improved. Chaudhry Abdul Rauf further said that CDA was embracing modern technology to make public services more accessible, transparent and efficient. Efforts were underway to introduce an online facility allowing citizens to submit applications for various services from their homes and offices. He added that the Authority had introduced a cashless payment mechanism through electronic challans, replacing conventional payment procedures to ensure faster and more transparent transactions. He reaffirmed CDA's commitment to making the One Window Operation more efficient and citizen-friendly. Speaking on the occasion, ICCI President Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia emphasized the importance of close institutional coordination between ICCI and CDA to improve service delivery for the business community and residents of Islamabad. He said that effective liaison between the two institutions could help identify administrative bottlenecks, address public grievances and promote a more responsive civic service system. He assured that ICCI was ready to extend its fullest cooperation to CDA in achieving this shared objective.

ICCI Senior Vice President Mohammad Ashfaq Hussain Chatha said that Islamabad's growing population, expanding commercial activities and increasing urban requirements demanded a more efficient, responsive and citizen-friendly administrative structure. He observed that despite the establishment of the One Window facility, businesspeople continued to face delays in property transfers, issuance of NOCs and other administrative matters. He stressed that every service should have a clearly defined processing timeline, with applicants informed in advance about the expected completion period to ensure transparency and accountability. ICCI Vice President Mohammad Waqas Khan Swati said that timely communication with applicants was essential for making the One Window Operation genuinely effective. He emphasized that whenever an objection was raised against an application, the applicant should immediately be informed through SMS so that the required documents or deficiencies could be addressed without delay. He observed that applicants should not have to visit CDA offices repeatedly merely to discover the status of their cases or learn about objections. He also stressed the importance of making completed approvals and NOCs available online to minimize unnecessary visits and facilitate the business community. Former ICCI President Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, Executive Members Syed Imran Bukhari, Abrar ul Haq, Rana Istikhar and Israr Mishwani, Mohammad Noman former Senior Vice President Tariq Nusrat Wani and other members of the business community also participated in the interactive session. They discussed various issues concerning property transfers, NDCs, NOCs, application processing and the need for further digitalization of CDA services, emphasizing that stronger coordination between the Chamber and the Authority would contribute to more transparent, efficient and timely resolution of public and business-related issues.–DNA

Closing Bell: Saudi main index falls 0.63% to 9,914

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Tadawul All Share Index declined on Wednesday, losing 63.08 points, or 0.63 percent, to close at 9,913.98. The main market recorded trading turnover of SR2.55 billion ($679.4 million), with 151.7 million shares changing hands. A total of 88 stocks advanced, while 161 declined. The MSCI Tadawul 30 Index fell 7.72 points, or 0.57 percent, to finish at 1,347.60. Meanwhile, the parallel market Nomu gained 10.64 points, or 0.05 percent, to close at 21,335.64, with 30 stocks advancing and 27 declining.

Raoom Trading Co. and United International Holding Co. topped the gainers, each rising 10 percent to close at SR85.80 and SR21.01, respectively.Gulf General Cooperative Insurance Co. advanced 7.81 percent to SR3.59, while Sport Clubs Co. climbed 3.91 percent to SR8.78. Allied Cooperative Insurance Group gained 3.87 percent to finish at SR5.90. National Co. for Learning and Education led the decliners, falling 3.41 percent to SR104.70. Anaam International Holding Group dropped 3.26 percent to SR10.67, while Al Masar Al Shamil Education Co. declined 3.04 percent to SR21.04. Savola Group fell 2.98 percent to SR22.45, and Derayah Financial Co. slipped 2.83 percent to SR18.89. Dr. Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Services Group said an initial review indicated that it meets the criteria for inclusion under Saudi Arabia's proposed domestic minimum top-up tax law. The draft, published for public consultation by the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority, sets a minimum effective tax rate of 15 percent for multinational enterprise groups within its scope. Its proposed effective date is Jan. 1, 2027. The healthcare group expects the draft, in its current form, to have a financial impact, although its assessment has not been finalized. Zakat and other eligible deductions would count as covered tax when calculating its effective tax rate. The actual impact will depend on the final law and implementing regulations, the financial results of its Saudi entities, its structure and its effective tax rate for the relevant year. The company's share price closed 0.24 percent higher to reach SR205. Separately, United International Holding Co., also known as Tasheel, confirmed that no related parties were involved in its subsidiary's $588 million revolving securitization agreement.–**APP**

Pak-Maldives vow for stronger trade ties

DNA

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan visited the third day of FoodAg Pakistan 2026 at the Karachi Expo Centre, where he held a high-level bilateral meeting with the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation of the Republic of Maldives, Mr. Mohamed Saeed, and engaged with international delegates, exhibitors and Pakistan's Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) to explore new avenues for trade, investment and export promotion.

During his meeting with the Maldivian Minister, both sides discussed a broad framework of economic cooperation encompassing direct air connectivity, maritime links, bilateral trade, tourism, investment, healthcare and human resource development, said a release issued here on Thursday. The Maldivian delegation indicated that it was targeting "May 2027 for the launch of direct flights between Pakistan and the Maldives", subject to the completion of necessary arrangements. The Chief Executive of the Maldivian national airline also attended the meeting. Welcoming the proposed initiative, Jam Kamal Khan observed that direct flights, complemented by commercially viable shipping services, could significantly strengthen business exchanges, tourism and trade between the two countries. He emphasised that sustainable connectivity was essential for developing reliable supply chains and expanding bilateral economic engagement. Building upon the recent visit of the Maldivian President to Pakistan, the Federal Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to becoming a reliable, long-term economic partner of the Maldives.

He identified significant opportunities for Pakistani exports, particularly food and agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, textiles, leather, construction materials and other industrial goods, while emphasising the importance of meeting the quality standards and requirements of the Maldivian hospitality industry. The discussions also explored investment opportunities in the Maldives' growing tourism sector, particularly halal tourism and Shariah-compliant resort development. The Maldivian delegation invited Pakistani investors to explore opportunities under its tourism diversification strategy, highlighting more flexible investment arrangements for halal tourism within its island resort model. Both sides also discussed medical tourism, healthcare partnerships and the potential contribution of Pakistani doctors, nurses and healthcare institutions. Human resource development and vocational training emerged as important areas of cooperation. The Maldivian side highlighted its growing demand for skilled professionals in healthcare and hospitality and shared plans to introduce training hotels. Jam Kamal Khan proposed that Pakistani training institutions could develop specialised programmes aligned with the requirements of Maldivian hotels and resorts, creating employment opportunities for Pakistani skilled workers. The Federal Minister also highlighted the potential of developing commercially viable maritime and logistics networks connecting Pakistan with the Maldives and East African markets, including Tanzania.

He stressed that sufficient two-way cargo movement would be essential for sustaining regular shipping services. The role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating investment and business partnerships was also discussed. The proposed engagement with Pakistan International Airlines and relevant aviation stakeholders was highlighted in advancing direct air connectivity. During the meeting, souvenirs were exchanged between the two ministers as a gesture of friendship and goodwill. The Pakistani side also presented locally produced olive oil and salt, showcasing Pakistan's value-added agricultural and mineral products and their potential in international markets. The day's engagements reflected Pakistan's broader commitment to transforming its agricultural, industrial and human resource potential into sustainable economic partnerships and stronger international trade relations.

Finance Minister, UNDP discuss climate finance coop

The UNDP delegation included Deputy Resident Representative Ms. Van Nguyen; Assistant Resident Representatives Mr. Shiraz Ali Shah and Ms. Naghma-e-Tehniyat Jerral; and Programme Analyst Ms. Bushra Gul

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday met a delegation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), led by Resident Representative Samuel Rizk, to discuss Pakistan's development priorities, climate finance opportunities and enhanced cooperation with development partners. Senior Ministry of Finance officials also attended the meeting, according to a press release issued by finance ministry. The UNDP delegation highlighted Pakistan's progress in developing a pipeline of potential investments aligned with national development and climate priorities. The portfolio brings together projects from the SDG Investment Pipeline, Climate Prosperity Plans and other climate adaptation initiatives. It comprises a range of projects covering clean energy and infrastructure, climate resilience, water and food security, ecosystems, and circular economy initiatives.

The UNDP noted that the portfolio could serve as a starting point for identifying investment opportunities and mobilising resources. The discussion focused on prioritising technically sound, investment-ready projects capable of delivering tangible results within a shorter timeframe.

On the occasion, the Finance Minister underscored the importance of aligning the initiative with national priorities and concrete development outcomes. He emphasised that the next phase should focus on a carefully selected portfolio of projects with clear implementation pathways and the potential to demonstrate timely progress.

The Minister highlighted the importance of close coordination and stakeholder consultation to ensure that the initiative remains aligned with national priorities, drawing on relevant institutional expertise and mandates.

He observed that climate finance requires a coordinated approach to project development, financing and implementation. He emphasised the need to build on existing project pipelines, engage relevant stakeholders and identify opportunities to accelerate projects already under consideration by multilateral development partners.

The Minister also stressed the importance of making effective use of available financing opportunities, including concessional resources, climate funds and private-sector investment, while recognising the time required to mobilise international finance. He called for a focused and manageable set of priority projects.

The UNDP outlined its proposed support in refining the portfolio, undertaking a diagnostic assessment, facilitating project preparation and engaging with global climate financing mechanisms. The discussion also covered blended finance and public-private partnerships, particularly in areas such as renewable energy, waste management, recycling and climate-smart agriculture.

The meeting also considered lessons from recent climate-induced disasters and the importance of strengthening long-term resilience through institutional preparedness, disaster risk reduction and enhanced institutional capacity. The Finance Minister welcomed UNDP's continued engagement and reaffirmed the Ministry of Finance's readiness to support a coordinated and results-oriented approach. He emphasised that effective collaboration among government institutions and development partners would be essential to translate priorities into bankable projects and mobilise financing.

Both sides agreed to maintain close engagement, further refine the project portfolio and identify priority projects for focused follow-up. The Minister stressed the importance of maintaining momentum and ensuring practical and measurable progress in climate resilience and sustainable development. The UNDP delegation included Deputy Resident Representative Ms. Van Nguyen; Assistant Resident Representatives Mr. Shiraz Ali Shah and Ms. Naghma-e-Tehniyat Jerral; and Programme Analyst Ms. Bushra Gul.

Cutlery exports increases 12.68 % to US$21.120m

ISLAMABAD: The exports of cutlery witnessed an increase of 12.68 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year 2026-27, as against the exports of the corresponding months of last year. The cutlery exports from the country were recorded at US $21.120 million during July-October 2026-27 against the exports of US $18.743 million during July-October 2025-26, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, cutlery exports surged by 2.16 percent during the month under review as opposed to the same months last year. Cutlery exports in October 2026 were recorded at US$ 5.544 million against the exports of US$ 5.427 million in October 2025.

On a month-on-month basis, cutlery exports also increased by 4.69 per cent during October 2026, in contrast to the exports of US$5.296 million in September 2026, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the overall exports from the country increased by 8.52 per cent during the period under review as compared to the previous year, the data revealed. Exports during July-October were recorded at $11.336 billion against $10.446 billion during July-October last year..–**APP**

Seven killed in Mexico in shootout with gunmen

MEXICO CITY: Seven suspected gang members were killed in a shootout with the Mexican army in a turbulent region in the Latin American country, where criminal organizations are vying for control of drug trafficking routes, authorities said Thursday. The defense ministry said those killed were members of Cartel de Los Reyes, a faction of the larger Carteles Unidos organization that the United States has classified as a foreign terrorist group. Ten people were arrested and more than 30 weapons seized, the ministry said in a statement. Army personnel were "attacked with firearms" by alleged members of the criminal organization while patrolling a rural area on the border between the states of Michoacan and Jalisco, according to the ministry. The suspected leader of Cartel de Los Reyes was killed in September by Mexican soldiers, a month after his predecessor was arrested. Michoacan is a leading exporter of avocados and a producer of limes. But authorities say farmers face constant extortion by organized crime groups. Several criminal organizations, including the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) and La Familia Michoacana, operate in the state, vying for control of drug trafficking routes.–**APP**

Lebanon marks World Olive Tree Day

BEIRUT: Lebanon marked World Olive Tree Day on Thursday as Israeli attacks and restrictions on access to farmland disrupted a fourth harvest season for growers in the south. A national assessment warned that more than a million people across the country were facing acute food insecurity. Lebanon's Agriculture Minister Nizar Hani planted an olive tree in the garden of the presidential palace to mark the occasion, which UNESCO established in 2019. "The olive tree is a cornerstone of our national identity and a source of income for families, farmers and artisans from northern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley to the south and the mountains," Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun said. "It is a symbol of peace and hope." Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri planted an olive tree at his official residence in Ain Al-Tineh. He accused Israeli forces of uprooting thousands of centuries-old olive trees in occupied border areas, calling it a violation of international humanitarian law that amounted to "a war crime." The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimated that 814 hectares of olive groves burned in the South and Nabatieh governorates between October 2023 and November 2024.–**APP**

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Briefs

Iraq jails 11 for oil smuggling

DUBAI: An Iraqi court on Thursday sentenced 11 people to 15 years in prison each for smuggling oil to neighboring countries, convicting them under the country's anti-terrorism law, according to a ruling from the Supreme Judicial Council. The Central Criminal Court in Baghdad issued the unanimous ruling, which will count the time the defendants spent in custody since September. The court did not name the countries involved.

The ruling can be appealed and is subject to mandatory review by the Court of Cassation. Parties harmed by the smuggling may also seek compensation through the civil courts once the verdict is final. Prime Minister Ali Al-Zaidi said on Thursday that his government was taking strict measures to prevent oil smuggling across the country. Speaking at a meeting with European ambassadors, he said there would be "no backtracking" on the fight against corruption.

Zaidi said managing Iraq's oil wealth was the responsibility of federal authorities under the constitution, and that securing the borders was the job of federal forces and the army, a responsibility he said had been confirmed by court rulings.

He also said his government was committed to the rights of Iraq's Kurdish community and to meeting its needs, and that "there are no weapons outside the framework of the constitution and the law." Iraq's Integrity Commission also said two field teams had begun investigating oil-related cases. – **APP**

Guards say two oil tankers hit

DUBAI: Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Thursday that two tankers had exploded and caught fire after hitting sea mines north of Oman's Khasab port while attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz through an unauthorised route.

One of the vessels was a supertanker carrying more than 2 million barrels of crude oil, the Guards said in a statement carried by the semi-official Tasnim news agency. Iran has long said that vessels cannot safely transit the Strait of Hormuz without coordinating with Tehran, citing the threat of sea mines among other risks. Maritime security agencies, however have frequently reported incidents involving ships in the region as strikes by unknown projectiles, although they tend to cover fewer incidents than the number reported by the Guards and do not always align.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations agency reported an explosion caused by an unknown projectile near a tanker about 50 nautical miles west of Dubai on Thursday. Revolutionary Guards spokesman Hossein Mohebbi said the force was using heavy firepower to keep the strait closed to put pressure on the US economy and defend Iran, according to state media on Thursday. – **APP**

Pakistan, Canada vow to expand cooperation

Canadian High Commissioner calls on Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar



Saifullah Ansar

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan Dr. Tarik Ali Khan called on Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar at his office on Thursday. The meeting discussed bilateral relations, trade, investment, law and justice, cultural cooperation, film production and human rights between Pakistan and Canada.

Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Minister said that Pakistan was keen to further strengthen bilateral relations and advance cooperation in new areas of mutual interest. He underscored the need to further enhance cooperation between Pakistan and Canada in the fields of law and justice and human rights.

The meeting also reviewed ongoing trade negotiations between Pakistan and Canada. The Canadian High Commissioner noted positive progress in the negotiations, stating that approximately 65–70% of the matters had reached consensus, while the remaining issues required flexibility and further consultation from both sides.

The Federal Minister also highlighted the Ministry of Law and Justice's mediation and arbitration initiatives and discussed cooperation in the fields of law and justice, training programmes and exchange of experiences. Both sides discussed prospects for cultural cooperation, film production and joint ventures.

The meeting also reviewed possibilities for cooperation in human rights, minority rights and women's rights. The Canadian High Commissioner appreciated the Federal Minister's constitutional and legal efforts in the fields of law and justice and human rights and expressed commitment to further strengthening bilateral collaboration. Both sides agreed to further expand bilateral relations and explore new avenues of cooperation between Pakistan and Canada.

Colombian jailed for 20 years

MOSCOW: A court in Ukraine's Moscow-annexed Donetsk region has jailed a Colombian for 20 years, saying he was a mercenary fighting for Kyiv, Russia said on Thursday.

The Russian Prosecutor General's Office said the court "has handed down a verdict in the criminal case against 33-year-old Colombian national Cristian Morales Mendoza," adding he was "a mercenary in an armed conflict".

Both Moscow and Kyiv have recruited thousands of foreigners in their armies since Russia launched its offensive in Ukraine nearly five years ago. Last month, the South American country's foreign ministry reported that over 250 Colombians have died and almost 1,000 have disappeared while fighting in the war.

In Ukraine, 162 Colombians had died and 666 had disappeared, while on the Russian side, 94 had perished and 297 were missing, the ministry said. The United Nations estimates that at least 10,000 Colombian mercenaries are fighting abroad, lured by often false promises of high salaries and security, and in many cases battling under inhumane conditions. At least 7,000 of them have joined the Russia-Ukraine war, government data published in May showed. – **APP**

PIA restores UK flight operation

Mehtab Pirzada

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said on Thursday that it had restored normal flight operations to and from the United Kingdom, a day after two flights were cancelled by wet-lease partner Norse Atlantic as passengers prepared to board.

Norse Atlantic abruptly suspended operations on Wednesday, saying its financial situation was "critical" and it needed new financing to meet short-term liquidity needs and continue operating. In a press release on Thursday, PIA said: "Flight operations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom have been restored following yesterday's cancellations by our wet-lease partner." The airline said its teams assisted all passengers in both London and Manchester and that passengers affected.

Kushner says Trump keeps 'all options on table' over Iran, confirms Iran talks

Saudi Arabia's western Red Sea coast hosts strategically important energy infrastructure, including the Yanbu oil terminal, a major crude export facility connected to the kingdom's East-West pipeline

Web Desk

US President Donald Trump is keeping the possibility of further military action against Iran open, envoy Jared Kushner has said, confirming that he has met Iranian representatives several times.

Speaking on the MD Meets podcast with Mathias Dopfner, Kushner was asked whether Washington could launch further strikes against Iran. "President Trump always keeps all his options on the table," he said, according to Al Jazeera.

Kushner said Trump was "very focused" on Iran and had assembled a team to deal with the crisis. He also said he had worked under Vice President JD Vance on the conflict. Asked whether European countries were doing enough to support Washington's approach to Iran, Kushner criticised their response. "The Europeans ask a lot of America," he said, adding that he had not been impressed by Europe's response to the situation. Kushner also disclosed that he had held talks with Iranian representatives on more than one occasion.

"We met with the Iranians a couple times," he said. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's air defences intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels towards the kingdom's western region, the Saudi-led coalition said. Coalition spokesperson Major General Turki al-Maliki announced the interception in a statement posted on social media, describing the projectile as a missile launched by the Houthi militia. The coalition did not immediately disclose the missile's intended target or provide details about possible casualties or damage.

Saudi Arabia's western Red Sea coast hosts strategically important energy infrastructure, including the Yanbu oil terminal, a major crude export facility connected to the kingdom's East-West pipeline. The region is also home to key industrial and maritime facilities.

Major economies balk at new US tariffs over 'unfair' trade

BEIJING: Major economies from China to the European Union hit out at proposed US tariffs after Washington concluded its months-long probe into alleged excess production, potentially opening a new phase in trade tensions with both allies and foes alike.

The new tolls, which follow an investigation launched days after the Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's previous duties, range up to 20 per cent and face a period of public comment before taking effect, at the earliest in January.

The levies target some of the United States' largest trading partners, with China, the EU, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam in the crosshairs.

A senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, noted that the proposals sought to take existing trade deals into account. China is among those facing a 20 per cent tariff, but US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the levies were within the bounds of existing trade negotiations with Beijing. "China understands that we're going to have some level of tariffs. This falls within that understanding," he told US broadcaster CNBC, adding that Washington was offering China exemptions on around $30 billion of goods.

Beijing hit out at the proposed tariffs on Thursday, warning that it could take "necessary measures to firmly defend its legitimate rights and interests." Chinese commerce ministry spokesman He Yadong told a regular briefing that citing "overcapacity" – mass production at a loss to flood overseas markets and undercut local rivals – as a reason to impose tariffs was a "pretext for protectionism." He urged Washington "to correct its erroneous practices and return to the right track of resolving issues through dialogue and consultation." – **APP**

Japan, China trade accusations

Relations between Tokyo and Beijing are at historic lows after Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi suggested last year that Japan could intervene militarily in the event that China attacked Taiwan

TOKYA: Japan and China accused each other's ships on Thursday of intruding into waters near disputed islands that each claims as their territory and have caused diplomatic tensions for decades.

The incident occurred near uninhabited islands claimed as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China, which sit between Taiwan and Okinawa. Japan's coast guard said that it had repeatedly warned two Chinese ships to leave the area after the vessels approached a Japanese fishing boat.

The two Chinese vessels entered the area at around 7:42 am Thursday (2242 GMT Wednesday) and were "trying to approach a Japanese fishing boat," Japan's coast guard said in a statement. "Such activities by Chinese coast guard vessels constitute a violation of international law, and our patrol vessels are repeatedly issuing demands for the vessels to leave Japan's territorial sea," it said.

The Japanese coast guard told AFP that this is the fifth time this year a Chinese vessel had approached a Japanese fishing boat in the area. The Chinese government reiterated its claim over the islands and accused Japan of violating its sovereignty.

"China has already lodged serious representations with Japan," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said.

"Chinese coast guard vessels took necessary control measures against the relevant vessels in accordance with the law," he said. The latest incident comes after ships from Japan's and China's coast guards faced off near disputed islands in July, with each side claiming they drove out the other's vessels that had intruded into their territorial waters. Relations between Tokyo and Beijing are at historic lows after Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi suggested last year that Japan could intervene militarily in the event that China attacked Taiwan.

A furious China, which views the democratic island as part of its territory, retaliated with trade restrictions and warned its citizens not to travel to Japan. Chinese President Xi Jinping snubbed Takaichi at a regional meeting in Shenzhen last week, which marked the Japanese premier's first trip to China since she took office. – **APP**

Sindh suspends SBCA chief, other officials over 'negligence'

Provincial govt notifies Bilal Memon as Local Government Secretary, replacing Waseem Shamshad

DNA

KARACHI: A day after the deadly building collapse near Baloch Colony, the Sindh government on Thursday ordered the suspension of Sindh Building Control Authority Director General Waseem Shamshad as well as the East deputy commissioner, SSP East and other SBCA officials over alleged negligence. The decisions were taken during a high-level meeting chaired by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah at the Chief Minister's House to review the matters related to the incident, according to a statement issued by the CM's spokesperson.

At least three people died, and another 14 were injured on Wednesday after a six-storey building under construction collapsed in Karachi's Admin Society near Baloch Colony, while rescue teams continue searching the rubble for possibly trapped people. Officials at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) said 14 injured people had been brought to the hospital, nine of whom were discharged after receiving treatment. The SBCA said that the building was constructed on a 600-square-yard plot and commercial construction was allegedly carried out on a residential plot.

Chairing the meeting today, the provincial chief executive expressed anger over the building collapse and said he would not tolerate any incident resulting in loss of life or harm to people. Following a briefing on the incident and consultations with Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah, the chief minister had also recommended that the federal government immediately suspend Local Government Secretary Shamshad and conduct an inquiry against him.

The chief minister further ordered the suspension of East Deputy Commissioner Nasrullah Abbasi and East Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Zubair Sheikh, citing negligence. He also directed the suspension of 16 relevant SBCA officials and ordered an inquiry to identify those responsible. The chief minister said disciplinary action should be taken against any concerned authority employee found involved in the incident.

Murad also directed the immediate arrest of the building's owner and builder. He instructed the chief secretary to include the building's architect and engineer in the investigation. Shamshad was also removed as the Local Government Secretary, with Bilal Memon appointed as his successor. Separately, Abid Saleem has been appointed director general of the SBCA, replacing Shamshad.



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