

Independent

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Quetta

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Bill for 27th Constitutional Amendment tabled in Senate after federal cabinet's approval

Federal govt decides to provide legal protection to military leadership through 27th amendment

ISLAMABAD (INP): The bill for the 27th Constitutional Amendment was tabled before the Senate on Saturday and referred to the standing committees on law and justice, shortly after its draft was approved by the federal cabinet.

As soon as a delayed Senate session began at around 1:15pm, Law Min-

ister Azam Nazeer Tarar who had earlier in the day briefed the media on some features of the proposed legislation requested the suspension of the question hour and other house business so he could brief lawmakers on the amendment.

The law minister then moved the bill before the upper house, with Senate

Chairman Yousuf Raza Gillani referring it to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice for review and consideration.

"The bill as introduced in the House stands referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice for review and consideration. In line with past parliamentary practice and consider-

ing the significance of the proposed constitutional amendments as well as the need for broader deliberations on the subject, the Standing Committee on Law and Justice is directed to invite the chairman and members of the Standing Committee on Law and

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BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with President of Türkiye H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan; Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir is also present.

PM reiterates Pakistan's desire for peace; says no one can challenge sovereignty

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Saturday, reiterated that indeed, Pakistan, just like their Azerbaijani and Turkish brothers, "seeks peace, but let there be no doubt - no one can ever be allowed to challenge our sovereignty, or undermine our territorial integrity".

Addressing at Azerbaijan's Victory Day parade, the prime minister said that Pakistan, Türkiye and Azerbaijan were like three brothers and their hearts beat together. They were now standing shoulder to shoulder, celebrating the momentous occasion.

"What a proud and scintillating sight it is to witness, our valiant armed forces, marching beside

their Azerbaijani and Turkish brothers, as the skies come alive with the roar of the JF-17 Thunder jets, a resounding symbol of our enduring friendship, which has, Alhamdulillah, grown from strength to strength over the years," he added.

He recalled that the Azerbaijani and Turkish military contingents had proudly marched alongside, the Pakistani Armed Forces in Islamabad, amid tremendous applause, on the 14th of August this year, when they celebrated Maarka-e-Haq to commemorate their historic victory in the four-day war with India.

The prime minister said that their hearts swelled with pride over the Azerbaijani celebrations.

Today, he said that as he witnessed their radiant faces and shining eyes, those cherished childhood memories were being refreshed.

He also recited a verse of national poet Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal - a guiding light of their freedom struggle, adding that these timeless words reminded them that freedom was not won by force alone, but it was unwavering belief and commitment that breathed life into such heroic struggles.

The prime minister said five years ago, the courageous sons of Azerbaijan, under the bold and visionary leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, rose to respond to the call of history.



"The world witnessed in awe as Azerbaijan's brave armed forces liberated their ancestral lands of majestic Karabakh.

Throughout this entire struggle for liberation, Pakistan stood like a rock with its brotherly country Azerbaijan," he added.

The prime minister

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BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting from Baku through video link.

Pak-Afghan Istanbul talks end without progress, no next round planned: Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): The talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Istanbul have collapsed, with the Pakistani delegation returning home, confirmed Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

The third round of talks, hosted in Istanbul, ended in a deadlock after Afghan interlocutors refused to sign written guarantees sought by Pakistan.

Speaking after the delegation's return, Khawaja Asif said the talks are over and there is no schedule for another round. He described Pakistan's empty-handed return as evidence that even mediators have lost faith in the Afghan side's willingness to deliver.

He thanked Turkey and Qatar for their sincere mediation and for supporting Pakistan's position.

Asif said Afghan representatives insisted their assurances be accepted verbally, which Pakistan could not accept.

"Final agreements in international negotiations are recorded in writing," he said, adding that while the Afghan delegation agreed with Pakistan's stance during discussions, it refused to put commitments down on paper.

The defence minister warned that Pakistan will respond if attacks originate from Afghan soil, but stressed that if no action emanates from Afghanistan, the ceasefire remains in place.

NEPRA notifies 48-paisa cut in power tariff

KARACHI (INP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Saturday issued a notification for 48 paisa per unit cut in electricity prices under the fuel price adjustment for September for consumers across the country, including Karachi, except those who are lifeline.

According to the notification, consumers will get a relief in their bills in November.

The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) had requested for reducing the electricity prices by 37 paisa per unit.

Three dead in Khyber grenade blast

KHYBER (INP): Three people lost their lives and one seriously wounded when a grenade exploded in their house in the Khyber District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday.

Soon after the incident, police reached the site and started an investigation to determine whether the grenade was in their possession or was thrown from outside. Sources said that all the dead persons were involved in an old rivalry. Earlier on November 3, 2025, three terrorists were killed in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Movement of a group of khwarij, opposite general area Esham, North Waziristan District, who were trying to infiltrate through the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Info minister says Pak troops, JF-17 fighter jets to feature in Azerbaijan's Victory Day Parade

ISLAMABAD (INP): Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Saturday said that Pakistani troops and JF-17 Thunder fighter jets would appear in Azerbaijan's Victory Day parade scheduled.

Since 2020, Victory Day has been observed in Azerbaijan on November 8 to commemorate its victory in the 44-day-long Karabakh Liberation War against Armenia.

"Long live Pakistan-Azerbaijan friendship. Pakistani troops and JF-17

Thunder fighter jets will be appearing in Azerbaijan's victory parade today, commemorating the liberation of Karabakh," he said.

The minister made the comments while responding to a post on social media platform X by Pakistan's embassy in Baku. The embassy had posted about Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who embarked on a visit to the country a day earlier to attend Victory Day celebra-

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18th Constitutional amendment would benefit everyone, if existing flaws are corrected, believes Governor

Mandokhail says transferring higher education to provinces without first improving capacity caused significant problems; maintains all public sector universities now deprived of unified national curriculum

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the 18th Amendment is a positive development in Pakistan's constitutional history, but like every amendment, it also has some shortcomings.

He stated that if the existing flaws are corrected, it would benefit everyone.

For example, he said

that transferring higher education to the provinces without first improving their capacity has caused significant problems. All public sector universities are now deprived of a unified national curriculum, resulting in a serious lack of uniformity in educational policies and standards across the four provinces.

Due to the reduction in the federal education bud-

get, funding for higher education institutions has declined, forcing university teachers in Balochistan—for the first time—to protest for their salaries. This issue, he noted, began after education was devolved to the provinces.

He added that a shortage of research funding has negatively impacted new

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PTI boycotts joint committee proceedings on 'pre-decided' 27th Amendment

ISLAMABAD (UNA): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday refused to take part in the process for the tabling and passage of the 27th Constitutional Amendment, calling it a "pre-decided" exercise.

The party's opposition to the proposed amendment comes shortly after Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Senate, which was referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice.

Speaking to the media outside Parliament House, where he was flanked by opposition leaders, PTI's Senator Ali Zafar said that

government members handed them a draft comprising 50 amendments.

"These amendments are being made secretly," he said, adding that opposition members were asked to present their stance in the standing committee.

"We have not even read a single word of it—how could we appear before the committee?" asked Senator Zafar.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led federal government has proposed abolishing the "Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee" (CJCSC) position and introducing a new title, "Chief of Defence Forces" in the proposed amendment.

Security forces nab terrorist from Chaman, facilitator from Karachi

CHAMAN (INP): Security forces arrested a terrorist and his facilitator during an intelligence-based operation in Balochistan city of Chaman and Karachi.

Sources said that the arrested terrorist admitted his involvement in placing an IED device in Roghani Sector.

Sources further revealed that the security forces arrested the terrorist's facilitator from Karachi after obtaining information from him.

Security forces continued anti-terrorism operations across the province without any delay.

On Friday, commander of a banned terrorist organization was killed in a joint operation of police and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in KP city of Karachi.

According to police, the terrorist was killed after an hours-long firefight in Emberi Kala area of Karachi.

However, three police personnel were injured in the encounter, who were shifted to the hospital.

Opposition alliance announces nationwide protest movement against 27th Amendment

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Tehreek-e-Talafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP), a multi-party opposition alliance, has announced a nation-

wide protest movement against the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment, hours after the government tabled it in the upper house of Parliament.

"Democratic institutions have been paralysed within Pakistan... the nation must step up against the [proposed] 27th

Amendment," Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) chief Allama Raja Nasir Abbas said in a statement.



Abbas stated that the government was giving "even more power" to the "powerful" through the proposed constitutional tweaks.

Apart from MWM, the alliance also includes the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

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BA Speaker hails International Speakers Conference as landmark for parliamentary cooperation

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan Assembly Speaker, Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai, has hailed the upcoming International Speakers Conference in Islamabad as a historic milestone for Pakistan's parliamentary system.

In a statement issued here, he noted that this is the first time such a global parliamentary gathering is being hosted in Pakistan, marking a new chapter in

democratic dialogue and cooperation.

Welcoming distinguished speakers and delegates from around the world, Speaker Achakzai emphasized that the conference presents a unique opportunity to foster inter-parliamentary cooperation, strengthen dialogue among democratic institutions and explore solutions to shared

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QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Health Dawood Khan Khilji being briefed about complaint cell during his visit to DG health Office. Special Health Secretary Shehak Baloch is also present.

Women’s World Cup 2029 to have ten teams; talks on for cricket in 2032 Olympics

DUBAI (INP): “Keen to build on the success” of the recently concluded Women’s World Cup, the ICC has agreed to expand the next edition of the tournament (2029) to ten teams. The ICC had announced the expansion of the women’s game on International Women’s Day back in 2021, and a recent release reaffirmed the board’s “commitment to the growth of women’s cricket” after the success of the 2025 edition.

Since 2000, only eight teams have featured in the main tournament of the Women’s ODI World Cup. As compared to the 31 matches in the recent World Cup, the 2029 edition will have 10 teams playing 48 games.

The Women’s T20 World Cup next year will

also be expanded to 12 teams, up from the 10 that featured last year in the UAE. “Nearly 300,000 fans watched the event in stadia breaking the record for tournament attendance for any women’s Cricket event,” the ICC release said. “The tournament also witnessed viewership growth and new records being set for on-screen audiences across the world with nearly 500 million viewers in India.”

The ICC board also ratified the appointment of a number of members of the ICC Women’s Cricket Committee, namely Ashley De Silva, Mithali Raj, Amol Muzumdar, Ben Sawyer, Charlotte Edwards, and Sala Stella Siale-Vaea.

The Board also revealed that the Olympics event in Los Angeles in

2028 will have 28 games in total, across both the men’s and women’s competitions. The six teams in each competition will comprise the top-ranked side from each of the five regions (Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania), including the hosts USA. The sixth team will be identified through a qualifier, for which details are not currently known. The events, as reported earlier, will begin on July 12 and be played at the purpose-built Fairgrounds Stadium, around 50km outside of Los Angeles.

Before then, cricket will also feature in multi-sport games at the Asian Games in 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, the African Games in Cairo, Egypt, in 2027 as well as the PanAm Games in Lima, Peru.



FAISALABAD: A view of the last ODI match of the three-match series between Pakistan and South Africa teams at Iqbal Stadium.

Hamza, Abubakar grabs doubles title of ITF World Jr Tennis C’ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan’s Hamza Roman and Abubakar Talha bagged the doubles title of the ITF Pakistan National Foods World Junior Tennis Championship J-60 2025 here at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Saturday. The boys’ Singles final will be played between Pakistan’s Hamza Roman and Mikael Ali Baig on Sunday at 12pm.

A large number of junior tennis players from around the world, including China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lithuania, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Nepal and the host nation, Pakistan, are participating in the tournament.

In the Boys’ Doubles Final, Hamza and Abubakar defeated Mikael Ali Baig (PAK) and Kristijonas (LTU) in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, to win the ITF Pakistan J-60 Doubles Title.

PM reiterates..

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Occupied, Jammu and Kashmir.

This year, he said, the entire world witnessed how the great people and resolute leadership of Azerbaijan and Türkiye stood firmly with Pakistan, during the four-day war with India in May this year.

“Under the dynamic and fearless command of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Pakistan’s highly professional Armed Forces delivered a bloody nose to our enemy with a precise and highly effective military punch that stunned the enemy into shock and disbelief. Our ever vigilant air force hawks ably commanded by Air-Chief Marshal Zaheer Baber Sidhu, shot down seven highly sophisticated enemy aircrafts with lightning speed in defence of the motherland,” he added. Today, he said as they celebrated the past, they also looked to the future, with great hopes and aspirations. It was heartening to see the return of displaced families to their homes in Karabakh, he said and appreciated President Aliyev’s personal strong commitment to the welfare and progress of the people of Azerbaijan.

The astounding speed of reconstruction in Shusha (the jewel of Karabakh), Khankendi, Fuzuli, Lachin and all across the liberated territories of Karabakh, was absolutely phenomenal, he opined.

The prime minister also lauded the most successful models of development in present day Türkiye, whose architect was none other than President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and expressed his sincere

admiration for his visionary leadership that has transformed Türkiye, into a modern, progressive, strategic and economic power.

The prime minister said “True victory lies not on the battlefield alone but in building bridges of peace and understanding.”

The prime minister appreciated Azerbaijan President’s efforts for peace and development through his skillful diplomacy.

He also acknowledged and appreciated US President Donald J. Trump for his exemplary leadership that culminated in the success of these peace efforts.

“It was President Trump’s, bold and decisive leadership, that brought about, the ceasefire, between Pakistan and India, restoring peace in South Asia - averting a major war and saving millions of people,” he reiterated.

The prime minister said that their common resolve for peace, has most recently been tested, in the case of Afghanistan and expressed gratitude to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as well as to Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, for their invaluable contribution, in facilitating the peace efforts between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

“This is a true reflection of the strong and time-tested, fraternal ties between our countries, that stand together through thick and thin,” he opined.

The prime minister prayed for the Azeri martyred souls and for the grant of strength to the three brotherly countries to continue marching resolutely towards a promising future of progress and prosperity.

Iqbal’s..

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are built not through dreams, but through knowledge, character, and determination,” he remarked.

He further stated that Iqbal’s message is timeless and universal, inspiring every generation to believe in its potential and remain steadfast in action. “If we truly embrace Iqbal’s philosophy of selfhood, no power on earth can stop our progress,” he asserted.

Addressing the youth, the Chief Minister said that Iqbal regarded the youth as the architects of the nation and urged them to pursue knowledge, courage, and national service with passion. “It is time to transform Iqbal’s message from speeches and books into real-life practice,” Bugti emphasized.

BA Speaker..

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governance challenges.

He described the event as an ideal platform for exchanging ideas, experiences, and policy recommendations, which will contribute to better governance and enhanced transparency across participating nations.

The Speaker affirmed Balochistan’s full support for collective efforts aimed at improving public welfare and institutional accountability. He expressed pride in the Balochistan Assembly’s active participation in this international initiative, alongside the National Assembly, Senate, and other provincial legislatures. Concluding his remarks, Speaker Achakzai extended a heartfelt welcome to all international guests, expressing hope that the conference would serve as a landmark event in strengthening global parliamentary relations and reinforcing Pakistan’s commitment to democratic values.

Opposition..

Continued from page 1

(PTI), Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) and Sunni Itehad Council (SIC). PkMAP Chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai said that the nationwide movement would begin from tomorrow (Sunday) night. “From tomorrow night, our slogan will be ‘Long live democracy, down with dictatorship.’ Our third slogan will call for the release of [political] prisoners,” he said. Through this movement, the alliance will show that the will of the people of Pakistan will be the final decision, he added.

Emphasising the Constitution’s importance for both the state and its citizens, Achakzai said the TIAP would ensure that it remains supreme.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being seen off by the First Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Yagub Abdulla Oglu Eyyubev at Haider Aliyev International Airport.

De Kock becomes second fastest in the world to reach 7,000 ODI runs during Faisalabad match

FAISALABAD (APP): South African opening batsman Quinton de Kock has become the second fastest player in the world to score 7,000 runs in One Day International (ODI) cricket by achieving milestone during the third and final ODI of the Pakistan-South Africa series held in Faisalabad.

De Kock reached this remarkable feat while scoring a composed 53 runs in the match, bringing his total to over 7,000 ODI runs in just 157 matches and 157 innings which is a testament to his consistency and brilliance at the top of the order.

His record places him only behind fellow South African Hashim Amla, who had reached the same milestone in 153 matches and 150 innings, maintaining South Africa’s dominance in producing world-class batting talent.

The left-handed wicketkeeper-batsman, known for his explosive starts and elegant stroke play, has so far amassed 22 centuries and 33 half-centuries in his ODI career.

His highest individual score stands at an impressive 178 runs, reflecting his ability to anchor and accelerate innings across formats.

Cricket experts have hailed de Kock’s achievement as a significant addition to South Africa’s cricketing legacy, noting that his performance in Faisalabad demonstrated his maturity and trademark aggression.

His latest milestone adds another chapter to an illustrious career that continues to inspire young cricketers worldwide.

With de Kock joining Hashim Amla in the elite list, South Africa has further cemented its place among nations producing the most consistent top-order performers in modern ODI cricket.

Buggy race and stock category competitions continue at Jeep Rally

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Thal Jeep Rally in southern Punjab’s Thal Desert continued on Saturday with thrilling buggy races and stock category competitions underway.

According to a private news channel, the buggy race, organized for the second consecutive year, featured three skilled drivers competing on a challenging 50-kilometre track.

Stock category contests are also in progress, with vehicles already positioned on the track.

Last year’s champion, Naseem Khan, said the race track had been extended this year to make the competition even more exciting.

He added that buggies are particularly suited for hilly and sandy regions, and last year’s event received overwhelming appreciation from spectators.

The Thal Jeep Rally aims to promote local culture, traditional sports, and tourism in the region.



Jeeps compete in 10th Thal Desert Jeep Rally in Muzaffargarh and Layyah Districts near Multan.

Bill for 27th Constitutional..

Continued from page 1

Justice of the National Assembly to participate in its proceedings and share input on the bill,” he said.

He said that both committees may hold joint meetings for a detailed review and consideration and the report would be presented before the House.

During the session, PTI’s Ali Zafar said that debating the constitutional amendment was not appropriate when the leader of the opposition’s seat remained vacant. He said that the government and its allied parties appeared to be in a hurry to pass the bill.

“I would suggest that instead of sending it to the committee, let this Senate be treated as a committee as a whole,” he said, suggesting the bill be debated by all individuals. He further said that the opposition had received the draft today and had also not yet read a word of it.

“We cannot debate something we have not read,” he said.

Meanwhile, the law minister said that the bill had 49 clauses. “Let me clarify that there are three main areas and two ancillary. It will address five subject areas,” he said.

He highlighted that one of the things agreed in the Charter of Democracy signed in 2006 was the formation of a federal constitutional court which would have superior court judges from all provinces and hear constitutional matters while regular courts would

continue to hear all other matters.

“During consultations on the 26th Constitutional Amendment, some of our friends suggested to refrain from making such a huge change and to experiment by making constitutional benches,” he said.

The minister said that constitutional benches had been made but judges spent most of their time listening to such matters and other cases during the rest of the time.

“The fact of the matter is that five to six per cent of cases take 40pc of the court’s time and the rest of the cases remain as is,” he said.

He further stated that some argued that constitutional benches were a “court within a court” and also raised other objections.

“After detailed consultations with all political forces ... We said that the wish and demand of a Federal Constitutional Court should be brought into the Parliament which we have done through this bill,” he said.

He said that another issue concerned the process for the transfer of high court judges. This was addressed in the 1973 Constitution, which empowered the president to make the transfer on the advice of the premier in consultation. He said that the transfer could be made for two years without the judge’s consent but longer periods would require it.

“In the 18th Amendment, the two-year condition was removed and it was stated that the judge’s

consent would be sought. In the 26th Amendment, the condition remained the same but concerns were raised about the interference of the executive,” he said.

He further said that it was proposed that the bit about the premier’s advice for the transfer of judges be removed and handed over to the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP).

“It also has safeguards that a judge more senior than the chief justice will not be sent so that there is no dispute about that,” he said, adding that it was up to the JCP whether or not it wanted to seek the judge’s consent.

AJK President says: Allama Iqbal towering figure of subcontinent

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Allama Iqbal was a towering figure of the subcontinent whose legacy will forever remain a source of pride for the Muslim Ummah. “Besides being a great poet, Dr. Allama Iqbal was a distinguished jurist, philosopher and a visionary political thinker”, the President said, adding that Iqbal’s universal message of unity aims to inspire Muslims to rise as a strong, cohesive force capable of resisting all forms of political, economic, and social imperialism.

In his message on the birth anniversary of the Poet of the East, Hazrat Allama Iqbal, President Chaudhry said that Allama

Iqbal awakened Muslims across the world through his poetry urging them to respond with vigor and confidence to the challenges of modern life. “Dr. Iqbal particularly drew the world’s attention to the pain and suffering of the Kashmiri people and highlighted their plight through his poetry”, he said , adding that Iqbal not only lamented their oppression but also symbolically expressed solidarity with their struggle for freedom and dignity. The President emphasized that it was only through unity, mutual understanding, and collective effort that Muslims can regain their lost glory and stature. He said that Iqbal’s teachings call for hard work, self-reliance, and steadfastness, and warn against dependence on others.

Ambassador Hashmi inaugurates Int’l Culture Day at PECB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Khalil Hashmi has inaugurated the International Culture Day at the Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB), and toured the cultural stalls.

The event showcased rich cultural heritage through traditional music, art, and cuisine from Pakistan, China, and over 50 other countries.

Principal Mrs. Shazia Amjad welcomed the guests and commended the students and staff for their efforts in making the event a success.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Hashmi emphasized PECB’s historic role as Beijing’s first international school and its enduring contribution to fostering cross-cultural understanding and academic excellence.

He highlighted how the institution continues to build bridges in international friendship, particularly strengthening Pakistan-China relations and promoting global harmony.

Pakistan, Cambridge..

Continued from page 1

technology transfer pathways.

Focus on clean energy materials, aerospace composites, healthcare technologies, digital innovation, and advanced manufacturing.

Commitment to launch the first exchange cohort, industry-backed demonstrators, and a structured patent pipeline within 100 days, marking a leap toward an innovation-driven, globally competitive Pakistan.

Simultaneously, another MoU was signed between Cambridge Enterprise Ltd, UK, an affiliate of Cambridge University, and the Pakistan Institute for Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, aimed at strengthening Pakistan’s innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The partnerships reflect Pakistan’s push to enhance research, innovation, and technology commerce

cialization while fostering international collaboration in frontier scientific disciplines.

Pakistan’s partnerships with institutions like the University of Cambridge and Cambridge Enterprise Ltd come at a critical time, as the country grapples with stagnation in research, innovation, and high-value industry.

Nadeem Javaid, Vice Chancellor of PIDE, has highlighted that Pakistan risks being caught in the “Middle-Income Trap,” where growth stalls despite rising costs and ambition outpacing capacity.

Initiatives such as joint research programs, faculty exchanges, and technology transfer pathways aim to break this cycle by building human capital, fostering innovation, and linking academia with industry crucial steps toward transforming Pakistan’s knowledge economy and creating a globally competitive, innovation-driven future.

Pak troops, JF-17..

Continued from page 1

tions, and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev attending a joint dinner.

A day earlier, Pakistan and Azerbaijan had reiterated their resolve to further cement their cooperation in the fields of trade and investments, energy, connectivity and defence. The two sides made the pledge during a meeting between PM Shehbaz and Azerbaijan President Aliyev in Baku.

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir was also present during the meeting. “The two leaders reviewed the whole range of bilateral relationship and agreed to further strengthen their multi-layered coop-

eration in the fields of trade and investments, energy, connectivity and defence,” says a press release issued by the Prime Minister’s Office. The prime minister also extended an invitation to the president of Azerbaijan to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience, which the latter accepted.

In a late-night post on X, Shehbaz had stated that he was looking forward to the “grand parade”. Talking about his meeting with President Aliyev, he said the two “reviewed the deep-rooted and fraternal ties between our two countries and agreed to further expand cooperation in trade, energy, connectivity, and defence”.

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Dr. Rubaba Khan Bleidi: Allama Iqbal's philosophy remains a guiding light for youth

Independent Report
QUETTA: Dr. Rababa Khan Bleidi, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan on Women's Development, said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal was a great leader and philosopher who awakened the nation through his poetry and writings.

In a special message on the occasion of Allama Iqbal's birth anniversary, Dr. Bleidi highlighted that Iqbal's concept of

selfhood (Khudi) continues to inspire youth, urging them to build self-confidence and maintain dignity. She emphasized that Iqbal also stressed the education and empowerment of women, viewing them as essential contributors to nation-building.

"In the modern era, it is our duty to realize Iqbal's vision of Pakistan, enabling every individual, particularly women, to fully utilize their potential," she added.



LORALAI: DIG Police Junaid Ahmed Sheikh and others officers inaugurate Inter-District Science Exhibition.

Monthly review meeting of PHI Washuk emphasizes online attendance and DHIS-II data quality

Independent Report
WASHUK: The monthly review meeting of the Pakistan Health Initiative (PHI) Washuk was held at the DSU Office Basimah under the chairmanship of District Support Manager, Mushtaq Ahmed Baloch. The meeting was attended by Deputy District Health Officer Washuk Dr. Inayatullah Isa Zai, District Surveillance Officer WHO Washuk Dr. Shehzad Isa Zai, DSV EPI Jaleel Ahmed Isa Zai, PHI M&E Officer Athar Jamali, Third-Party Monitor Ubaid Isa Zai, along with the complete medical and paramedical staff.

During the session, various health-related issues were discussed, and assurances were given for

addressing multiple agenda items and challenges. Special focus was placed on ensuring online attendance at BHUs and reviewing the monthly DHIS-II progress reports. Attendees were instructed to maintain high standards of DHIS-II data quality and ensure timely reporting in the district health sector.

Addressing the meeting, DSM PHI Washuk Mushtaq Ahmed Baloch said that basic healthcare facilities are being made accessible to people in rural areas at their doorstep.

The provision of medicines and other essential services is continuously monitored. BHU staff were instructed not only to ensure their attendance but also to submit

daily OPD and DHIS-II reports through relevant apps. Staff facing any difficulties were advised to seek guidance from the DSU Washuk office. He also warned that non-compliance with PHI Head Office directives could result in departmental action, including suspension of salaries.

Deputy District Health Officer Dr. Inayatullah Isa Zai highlighted that from November 17 to 29, a measles-rubella vaccination campaign will be conducted. Children aged six months to five years must receive the vaccine, and BHU staff are tasked to raise awareness among parents to ensure their children are protected from these serious diseases.



QUETTA: Central President Habib Khan addressing the One-Day Provincial Council session of Pakistan Para Medical Staff Association.

LUAWMS announces admission test for 2025 session on November 15

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences (LUAWMS), Uthal, has announced that the admission test for the 2025 academic session will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 11:00 AM.

The test will take place at LUAWMS Uthal

and General Musa College, Quetta.

All candidates are required to bring their original CNIC, roll number slip, and a challan of Rs. 3,000.

Applicants for DVM, Agriculture, and Civil Engineering programs are advised to download their roll number slips from the NTS website.

Mosquito spray campaign launched in Sibi

QUETTA (APP): A mosquito spray campaign has been formally launched on the demand of the public and due to the abundance of mosquitoes in Sibi district on Friday.

The campaign was inaugurated by Vice Chairman Municipal Committee Sardarzada Mir Dinar Khan Domki by pressing a button.

Deputy Commissioner Sibi Major (Retd) Ilyas Kabzai, Chairman Municipal Committee Sardar Muhammad Khan Khajak, Assistant Commissioner Sibi Mansoor Ali Shah and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.



Local government department oversees construction of new sewerage lines in Hub, Pakistan.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Mir Laiqat Lehri, President Quetta Division Khair Muhammad Tareen, Zubair Bareach and others addressing the party workers of PB-43 regarding local bodies elections.

One-day Measles awareness and vaccination seminar

Independent Report
KOHLU: A one-day seminar was organized at the District Health Officer's office on measles prevention and vaccination. Attended by Assistant Commissioner Kabir Mazari, health officials, workers, and local residents, the seminar highlighted the importance of timely vaccination.

CM Bugti to successfully complete five-year term based on performance & public service: Al Madad Jatak

Independent Report
QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA), Ali Madad Jatak has said that owing to his outstanding performance and public service, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti would successfully complete his five-year term.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, Ali Madad Jatak praised the Chief Minister's excellent performance, saying that the current Chief Minister has won

hearts of the people of the province by introducing revolutionary measures in the fields of health and education.

He stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister, has for the first time launched comprehensive projects that directly benefit the general public.

In particular, the scholarship program for talented students enabling them to gain admission to prestigious educational institutions abroad is a clear example of the Chief

Minister's commitment to education and his forward-looking vision.

Ali Madad Jatak added that the Chief Minister has proven, through his practical performance, public-friendly approach, and tireless efforts, that he is the true servant of the province.

Under his leadership, the pace of development projects has accelerated, and visible improvements in governance can be seen.

He further said that,

based on his excellent performance and dedication to public service, the Chief Minister would complete his full five-year term. His role in strengthening the party and enhancing public engagement is unforgettable.

Ali Madad Jatak concluded by saying that in the history of Balochistan, no previous Chief Minister has devoted as much time, attention, and effort to the people of the province as the current Chief Minister has. Under his leadership,

Balochistan is on the path of progress, stability, and prosperity.

He further said that no previous chief minister has devoted as much time, energy, and attention to the welfare of the people as Sarfraz Bugti.

"He is the only Chief Minister who has courageously stood firm against the enemies of Pakistan and Balochistan, leading the province towards stability, development, and prosperity," Jatak emphasized.

Historic irrigation success: Keerthar canal fully irrigates command area in Naseerabad

Independent Report
NASEERABAD: The Irrigation Department of Naseerabad achieved a major milestone as the Keerthar Canal successfully irrigated its entire command area for the first time. Superintendent Engineer, Ghulam Sarwar Bangalzai, said during

a canal visit that all developmental projects will be completed on time and according to standards to boost agricultural output.

He instructed officers to maintain professional responsibility and ensure high-quality project execu-

tion during the Rabi season. Executive Engineer Ghulam Mustafa Chandio and other officers were directed to follow departmental standards strictly. "Dedicated and professional officers are the true asset of the department," Bangalzai noted.



LORALAI: Deputy Commissioner Miran Baloch presides over the meeting regarding separate gym for women under BSDI.

Loralai hosts inter-district science exhibition to foster innovation among students

Independent Report
LORALAI: BITMS University organized an inter-district science exhibition with participation from prominent local educational institutions, including Captain Waqar Ahmed Shaheed Residential College and Government Boys and Girls Degree Colleges.

Students showcased innovative models, including the solar system, blood circulation, mini robots, fire-fighting cars, and energy-free projectors. Special Guest DIG

Loralai, Junaid Ahmed Sheikh, and other dignitaries praised the students' scientific curiosity and creative skills. The exhibition emphasized the importance of freelancing, artificial intelligence (AI), computer technology, and skill-based education in shaping successful futures.

Captain Waqar Shaheed Residential College won first position, Government Girls Degree College secured second, and BITMS University placed third.

UoB cancels Pharm-D and DPT entry tests

Independent Report
QUETTA: The University of Balochistan (UoB), Quetta, has announced the cancellation of the entry tests for Pharm-D and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) programs (Main Campus) for the 2025-30 session.

The tests were originally scheduled for Sunday, November 9, 2025, at NUML University, Quetta, but have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

The new schedule for the entry tests will be announced later by the university administration.



QUETTA: PML-Q Central Leader SR Nasar meeting with PPL Leader Sardar Sarbuland Khan Jozgazi.

On instructions of Chief Minister: Talented graduate of Govt. Girls HS Jinnah Town Rizwana Bibi appointed as Band Master

Independent Report
QUETTA: A talented graduate of Government Girls High School, Jinnah Town, Quetta, Rizwana Bibi was appointed as the school's band master.

Needless to mention here is that the appointment of Rizwana Bibi was made on the special instructions of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

It may also be mentioned that three days ago, during his visit to the school, the Chief Minister issued orders for this appointment when the school administration and the student personally presented their request to him. Rizwana Bibi, a hardworking and capable student, had long applied for the vacant position of

band master at the school, but due to departmental delays, her case had remained pending.

Taking immediate notice of her request, the Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to resolve the matter without further delay. Acting upon these directions, the Education Department officially issued her appointment orders.

On this occasion, the school administration and Rizwana Bibi expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister, stating that his personal interest and prompt action not only provided employment to a deserving student but also set a new example of encouragement for other students.



USTAMUHAMMAD: Superintendent Engineer Irrigation Ghulam Sarwar Bangalzai and Executive Engineer Ghulam Mustafa Chandio inspecting the Kirthar Canal.

Women's dedicated Gym approved to promote health and empowerment

Independent Report
LORALAI: The district administration took a landmark step for women's health and well-being by approving a dedicated gym under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI).

Deputy Commissioner Miran Baloch said that providing safe and re-

spectful facilities for women is a top priority.

The new gym will allow women to maintain physical fitness, build confidence, and strengthen their societal role. Currently, over 65 women are forced to exercise in male-dominated gyms, facing multiple social and practical challenges.

Former levies SHOs ordered to report within five days

Independent Report
PISHIN: Superintendent of Police Abdul Halim Achakzai issued orders directing all former Levies SHOs to report to their respective police stations within five days.

The order, issued under Deputy Commissioner Pishin, warned that failure to comply would result in strict administrative and departmental action. According to the order, only 91 personnel have reported to

the police lines so far, while many have not assumed their duties. SP Achakzai termed this behavior irresponsible and a violation of discipline, causing difficulties at the public level.

The district administration has already transferred former Levies DDO codes to the police following Finance Department approval. The DPO emphasized that full compliance is mandatory to maintain law and order.



QUETTA: Used Shoes sold at roadside stall as demand for warm clothes rises in Quetta amid winter season.

Farewell ceremony held for DC Munir Kakar

Independent Report
NASIRABAD: A grand farewell ceremony was organized at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Dera Murad Jamali, in honor of Deputy Commissioner Nasirabad, Munir Ahmed Khan Kakar, on the occasion of his transfer.

The event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Dera Murad Jamali Bahadur Khan Khosa, District Health Officer Dr. Abdul Manan Lakki, PPHI DSM Faisal Iqbal Khosa, ADHO Dr. Huzoor Bakhsh Mengal, APCA President Abdullah Rand, DC Office superintendents Babu Muhammad Qasim Domki, Babu Shukruddin Tania, Babu Hussain Bakhsh Junejo, and other officials and staff.

During the ceremony,

Deputy Commissioner Munir Ahmed Khan Kakar was presented with traditional Ajrak, gifts, and souvenirs, and his services were honored and appreciated. In his address, he stated that during his tenure in Nasirabad, he always prioritized transparent implementation of public welfare projects and ensured that all available resources were used to address public grievances. He emphasized that timely resolution of complaints by the district administration had shown positive results. Deputy Commissioner Kakar further said that transfers and postings are part of government service, but true success lies in serving the public, urging all officers and staff to continue working with the same spirit and dedication.

15-day special cleanliness campaign in full swing

Independent Report
BARKHAN: Under the directives of Commissioner Loralai Division, Wali Muhammad Bareech, a 15-day special cleanliness campaign is ongoing in Barkhan city.

Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khoso and Chief Officer Municipal Committee, Mohammad Javed Kanshi, supervised the campaign, which included cleaning drains, streets, and garbage removal in urban and suburban areas.

Chief Officer Kanshi stressed that the campaign is a public welfare mission, urging citizens to cooperate and dispose of waste responsibly at designated locations.

Secrecy again

The race is on. With the ruling PML-N attempting to build consensus around the proposed 27th amendment and opposition parties scrambling to present a united front, the next few days are expected to see a fresh round of wheeling and dealing over what fresh constitutional alterations will be approved.

It is telling that no draft of the proposed amendment has yet come to the fore, even though the prime minister himself is rallying allies for the vote. This, of course, is not unprecedented. It was much the same when the 26th Amendment was being prepared for the vote — few knew what was in the legislation, but the expectation, given the pressure, was that lawmakers would vote in favour of it, without any questions asked. How the amendment was passed is now part of the historical record. It remains to be seen if the 27th amendment will be made part of the Constitution in the same way.

It is unfortunate that this has become the new normal. The onerous conditions placed on parliament for the passage of a constitutional amendment were meant to ensure that the process would be treated with the seriousness and sobriety it deserves. The ‘two-thirds of the total vote’ requirement, for example, was put in place to ensure that the Constitution would not be trifled with, and that any changes to it could only be enacted through parliament when there was an overwhelming consensus.

A series of unfortunate decisions from the country’s top court over the past year have all but ensured that those checks and balances have been reduced to minor inconveniences, and that, too, which mostly exist on paper. And yet, there is such secrecy around the next set of major alterations to the law that the government will not even talk about them openly, let alone host a debate on their implications.

For now, any legislation to roll back the 18th Amendment has drawn a ‘no’, not only from opposition parties, but also from the PPP, whose votes are vital for any amendment to pass. One may, therefore, rest a little easier on this subject.

However, at stake is also the future of two other institutions, and it appears at the moment that while the government may concede on the rollback of the 18th Amendment, it could get its way on the other subjects. This ‘lesser of the two evils’ way of enacting legislation does not convince anyone. It remains necessary for the acceptance and legitimacy of any amendment that it be debated openly and at length. Therefore, the incumbent regime should not set even a tentative date for voting on it till the public’s representatives make clear where they stand. Parliament must not be reduced to a rubber-stamp for the whims of the powerful.

Aisha Khan

The Conference of the Parties (COP) emerged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Its purpose was clear yet ambitious: to provide a multilateral forum where nations could collectively agree on measures to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations and prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

The early years of the COP process reflected a sense of optimism. The Kyoto Protocol (1997) represented the first legally binding framework, committing industrialised countries to emission reductions. However, the absence of major emitters like the United States and the lack of commitments from developing countries weakened its implementation. The Copenhagen Summit (2009) exposed deep fractures between the developed and developing world over responsibility, finance, and fairness and marked a turning point in the politics of climate diplomacy.

This tension between collective ambition and national interest has defined every COP since. Despite a shared understanding that no single nation can solve the climate crisis alone, each negotiation cycle has been mired in differing historical responsibilities, domestic economic priorities and conflicting definitions of ‘justice’ and ‘equity’.

At the heart of climate diplomacy lies a paradox that explains why a universally accepted agreement remains elusive in achieving its objective: the countries that are most responsible for climate change are not the ones most vulnerable to its effects. Industrialised nations built their wealth on fossil fuels, while developing countries like Pakistan now bear the brunt of resulting climate impacts of floods, droughts, glacial melt and food insecurity with limited capacity to adapt. Efforts to reach universal consensus are stymied by this historical imbalance. The North-South divide manifests in three recurring areas of contention:

Responsibility and burden-sharing: Developed countries resist strong language on liability and com-

pensation, while developing countries demand recognition of loss and damage as a matter of climate justice.

Finance: Despite pledges, the promise on climate finance has not been fully delivered, and falls far short of need.

Ambition gap: Many countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions remain insufficient to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. The gap between pledges and implementation continues to widen. While the COP remains a vital arena for dialogue, its consensus-based decision-making model often leads to lowest-common-denominator outcomes with statements of intent rather than binding commitments.

The Paris Agreement (2015), celebrated as a diplomatic triumph for crafting a flexible, bottom-up framework, marked a shift from imposed obligations to voluntary pledges. Yet, a decade later, the reality is sobering. Global emissions continue to rise, and current trajectories point towards warming of around 2.7°C by the end of the century. Climate disasters from catastrophic floods in Pakistan to record heatwaves across Europe

and droughts in the Horn of Africa underline that adaptation is no longer a distant concern but an immediate survival challenge.

Meanwhile, the COP process itself has evolved or devolved into what many observers now describe as a ‘climate fair’. Conference halls are crowded not only with negotiators but also with corporations, NGOs and lobbyists, all vying for visibility. While this diversity of actors fosters innovation and awareness, it has also blurred the focus.

The spectacle often overshadows substance and announcements frequently outnumber actual deliverables. The risk is that COPs have become a performative rather than transformative stage for declarations, not decisions. Real progress increasingly occurs in smaller coalitions or outside the formal UNFCCC framework, through initiatives such as climate finance partnerships, regional adaptation programmes, and private sector decarbonisation alliances.

For Pakistan, it is time to reframe its approach from normative attendance to strategic influence using COP not just as a diplomatic

event but a platform for survival advocacy. To make its participation strategic, Pakistan should consider the following approach:

Adopt a justice-centred narrative framing its stance around climate justice and resilience through equity. Its experience as a climate front-line state gives moral authority to demand parity between adaptation and mitigation in global finance and policy.

Lead on regional solidarity as part of the Third Pole region to champion a South-South cooperation framework focused on shared challenges, glacier melt, river basin management, and food and water security. Regional diplomacy around climate resilience could become a signature pillar of Pakistan’s foreign policy.

Champion the loss and damage agenda for capitalisation — simplified access, grant-based finance and inclusion of local communities in rebuilding and adaptation planning.

Invest in science, storytelling, and strategy: negotiations are driven by data and diplomacy. Pakistan should strengthen its climate data infrastructure,

empower young negotiators and amplify its stories of resilience, turning lived experiences into global advocacy tools.

Forge strategic partnerships: beyond government-to-government engagement, Pakistan can build alliances with global think tanks, civil society, and climate innovators to position itself as a thought leader on adaptation finance and resilience-building.

The journey from Kyoto to Paris, and now towards COP30, reveals both progress and paralysis in global climate diplomacy. While the world has learned to talk about climate change with unprecedented urgency, it has yet to act with equal conviction.

For Pakistan, participation in COP must transcend attendance. It should be about shaping narratives, mobilising alliances and asserting leadership among the Global South. By focusing its voice on justice, adaptation, and regional solidarity, Pakistan can not only safeguard its national interests but also contribute meaningfully to a fairer and more resilient global climate order.

LG constitutional amendment

Ahmed Bilal
Mehboob

Something extraordinary, if not unprecedented, has happened in the parliamentary history of Pakistan. The Punjab Assembly passed a unanimous resolution on Oct 28, with significant support from the PTI-aligned opposition, proposing that the national parliament amend and expand Article 140-A of the Constitution in order to strengthen the constitutional framework for local governments (LGs) in the country.

Although there had been more than one proposal to amend Article 140-A in the past, these came either from civil society, political parties or individual legislators. This is the first time that a provincial assembly made this demand, with its Speaker holding a press conference the next day to lend strong support to the idea of a constitutional amendment to end the near-dysfunctional state and, in some cases, the total absence of elected LGs for long periods of time.

A constitutional amendment bill drafted by the renowned constitu-

tional lawyer Shahid Hamid, at the request of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency, was introduced by PTI senator Dr Sania Nishtar in the Senate in July 2023 to strengthen LGs in the country. The bill proposed the expansion of Article 140-A to include such details as elections taking place 60 days prior to the expiry of the LG term and the Sixth Schedule listing 36 subjects to be delegated to the LGs. The bill is pending before the Senate.

The MQM-P also introduced a constitutional amendment bill in the National Assembly in October 2024 to expand Article 140-A. The bill proposed the devolution of 42 subjects to the LGs. It called for a minimum guaranteed percentage of provincial revenue to be allocated to LGs and possibly directly transferred from the federal divisible pool to them. This bill also proposed the holding of LG elections before the expiry of their term.

The demand for a constitutional amendment to strengthen LGs started gaining momentum after almost 70 years of neglect of the LG system — a demand

that was reinforced after the passage of the 18th Amendment in 2010 when significant powers were devolved from the federation to the provinces, precisely demarcating the powers between the federation and the provinces.

But the devolution from the provinces to the LGs was mentioned only in general terms through the insertion of the brief new Article 140-A (of 41 words). The new article provided that “each province shall establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of the local governments”, but, unlike in the case of the provincial governments, it gave no specific framework of LGs, such as the minimum powers, financial resources, term and elections. All these details were left to the provinces to decide through the LG laws to be framed by the respective provincial assemblies and, in the case of Islamabad, the parliament.

Although 15 years have passed since the 18th Amendment, LGs in the country remain ineffective and powerless. Usually, in-

effective LG laws are framed by the provinces and amended frequently — the Election Commission of Pakistan is unable to keep pace with the changes and thus unable to hold elections.

A case in point is the election for the Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation where the last LG existed till 2021. Since then, whenever the ECP completed the demarcation of the LGs and announced the election schedule, the government amended the law changing the number of union councils, thus forcing the ECP to start the process of demarcation afresh. The ECP narrated its tragic tale of failures in a press release issued in May this year where it summed up how it had conducted delimitation of constituencies five times and the election schedule was issued thrice, only to be cancelled later because of last-minute changes in election laws.

There is an inherent conflict of interest between the provincial and local governments.

Provincial governments do not want to let go of their powers and financial resources which have significantly increased

since the passage of the 18th Amendment and the seventh NFC award. Generally, about one-third of the annual development funds are supposed to be spent through the LGs. No provincial government is, however, willing to part with these funds. In the absence of effective elected LGs, members of the national and provincial assemblies exercise considerable influence on local development spending and, therefore, are not keen on empowering LGs.

Neighbouring India faced a similar situation in the initial 42 years after enacting its constitution in 1950. In 1992, the Indian parliament passed two constitutional amendments inserting two full-fledged parts running into approximately 20 pages in the constitution. The 73rd amendment dealt with the panchayats or rural tier of the LGs and the 74th amendment was about the municipalities.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of these amendment acts reveal considerable similarities between present-day Pakistan and pre-1992 India. The statement says: “In many states local bod-

ies have become weak and ineffective on account of a variety of reasons, including the failure to hold regular elections, prolonged supersessions and inadequate devolution of powers and functions. ... Having regard to these inadequacies, it is considered necessary that provisions relating to urban local bodies are incorporated in the Constitution. ...”

No wonder there is a strong and growing realisation in Pakistan too that Article 140-A needs to be expanded to outline details, making it impossible for provinces to deny the establishment of effective LGs.

One may make the case that the LGs are a provincial subject and, therefore, expanding Article 140-A may run counter to provincial autonomy. The reality is that no one is suggesting the removal of ‘local governments’ from the provincial legislative list but as the insertion of Article 140-A was not a violation of provincial autonomy in 2010, further expansion of this article providing a basic outline of LGs will not interfere with provincial rights either.

Next energy revolution

Ammar Qaseem

Pakistan is in the midst of a people-led energy revolution. As of August 2025, the country has imported 49.7 GW of solar panels, a figure that now surpasses the on-grid installed capacity. Driven by increasing electricity prices, every day more of these panels are being installed on rooftops across urban neighbourhoods, industrial zones, and rural areas.

While these solar installations have drastically advanced Pakistan’s renewable energy portfolio and brought it to the global spotlight, they have also reduced electricity off-take from the national grid, shifting the burden of capacity payments from expensive power plants to the remaining consumers. As a result, tariffs have increased further, prompting more consumers to leave the grid. A vicious cycle has thus been set up.

The implications of this cycle extend beyond the grid as well, as its benefits are not shared equally across society. The solar revolution has allowed middle- and upper-class consumers to enjoy cheap electricity while the economically downtrodden are left to bear the burden of previous electricity contracts, many of which were undertaken in the first place to meet the former’s high consumption peaks, particularly from air conditioning loads.

The way forward, however, does not lie in the discouragement of rooftop solar, but in its wholehearted embrace. Far from being a threat, distributed solar can become the foundation of Pakistan’s energy transition — if we reimagine how the grid is managed. The shift needed is con-

ceptual. The grid must move from being a one-way delivery system to a dynamic platform that intelligently coordinates millions of distributed solar resources. This requires a different kind of infrastructure — not poles and wires, but digital control, market signals and flexible assets which can coordinate effectively. Such a set-up is called a virtual power plant (VPP).

A VPP is an aggregation of distributed energy resources — such as solar panels, batteries, electric vehicles, and smart appliances — remotely managed through an energy management system to act like a single power plant. It monitors generation, storage, and consumption in real time and optimises the collective output by sending control signals to charge, discharge or curtail resources in response to grid conditions and market prices. In doing so, VPPs provide capacity, energy and ancillary services, ease pressure on transmission and distribution networks, support renewable integration, cut reliance on fossil fuels and allow consumers to actively participate in energy markets while gaining financial benefits.

For Pakistan, which already has one of the highest growth rates in rooftop solar globally, the conditions for VPPs are ripe. In 2025 alone, more than 60,000 electric bikes were sold, a figure that is expected to reach 100,000 by the year’s end. Battery imports are projected to exceed 8 GWh by 2030. At the same time, the competitive electricity market reform promises to do away with decades of government monopoly on the grid, allowing bilateral trade between consumers and sellers. These are all basic components of a VPP.

In a competitive market, rooftop solar generators can pool their resources into VPPs and bid excess electricity into the market, offering not just energy but also grid services. Households and commercial units can become energy traders, promoting greater autonomy, consumer freedom, and decentralisation. People can inject cheap electricity into the grid in critical times through their batteries, or even by changing their consumption patterns, for example, by charging electric vehicles at night when the grid is under-utilised.

Globally there are many examples of successful VPP set-ups. One of the largest VPPs is op-

erated by Next Kraftwerke in Europe, aggregating more than 12 GW of solar, wind and biogas capacity across multiple countries. Similarly, Australia’s national VPP trials included around 7,000 households and demonstrated how home batteries could deliver reliable frequency control to stabilise the grid. These examples show that with the right incentives and digital infrastructure, even small-scale producers can collectively become a source of generation and reliability for the grid.

The solar energy revolution in Pakistan is both a crisis and an opportunity in disguise. If we continue to let things be, the burden on the lower economic classes will increase. However, if we tap into this new reservoir of renewable electricity through incentive-driven markets and flexible VPP set-ups, we can harness it as a stabilising force for the grid. Whether it becomes a disaster for vast segments of our society or a breakthrough for all depends on the choices we make now.

Rafia Zakaria

The victory was not entirely unexpected but it was historic. For a while, the polls had shown that Zohran Mamdani, the immigrant Muslim of South Asian origin, was leading in the polls for New York City mayor. But it was not entirely guaranteed as pundits predicted that a larger-than-usual turnout of older voters who favoured Andrew Cuomo could cause an upset. That upset never came and on the night of Nov 4, America’s largest city elected a Muslim mayor for the first time.

For Democrats, particularly progressive Democrats, who had balked at their party’s tacit support for the genocide in Gaza, its lack of action over ICE raids, and lack of real solutions to inflation, the victory was a vindication. In Mamdani — against whom more than 20 billionaires put up millions of dollars — they could finally show where the energy of the party lay. Gen Z turned out in droves to support and vote for him. Here, finally after years of centrist fakes favoured by the likes of Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer, was someone who spoke the language of party voters. The margin of his victory shows how wrong the Democratic establishment had been.

The real story is also one of immigrants and of Muslims. New York is the city burdened with the memory of 9/11, which both the Republicans and the Democrats used to start and fund wars everywhere, thus triggering the age of Islamophobia. For over two decades, the memory of 9/11 has been used by politicians in NYC to justify racial profiling and the open targeting of Muslims or even anyone who ‘looks’

like one. Dubious security rationales and unsubstantiated ‘possibilities’ of attacks were used to terrify Muslim men and women. FBI and NYPD agents were sent to infiltrate mosques; Muslims were often coerced into informing on other Muslims even when there was nothing to inform on. Plans to build a mosque were met with vitriolic Islamophobia, including by Jewish-American groups in the city who used 9/11 to institutionalise the marginalisation of Muslims.

This leads to another facet of Mamdani’s win. NYC is the most Jewish city in the world outside of Israel. Many might have thought that in the shadow of the Gaza genocide and Mamdani’s open support for the Palestinians, such a victory was not possible. However, while large numbers in the Jewish community voted against him — exit polls showed Russian Jews had been especially mobilised against Mamdani — a decent number of young American Jews voted for him. Unlike older American Jews, most of whom tend to be Zionists and feel that criticism of Israel is antisemitism, younger American Jews have a more nuanced view.

This is likely to be very concerning to Israel whose lobby AIPAC funds both Republican and Democratic candidates in the US in exchange for their support. In the mayoral debate for NYC, Mamdani was the only candidate who said he was not interested in taking a trip to Israel and would rather stay in NYC. He was criticised by the other candidates who doubled down on him, but he remained firm. He is also the man who won. This is likely to worry lobbyists who may wonder if politicians

realise that Americans are quite exhausted with their politicians supporting Israel while they cannot afford rent or food.

Beyond NYC, Democrats won with big margins, which is being seen as a clear preview of what midterm elections in the US are likely to serve up next year. Voters voted against the Republicans and by default the Trump agenda by notable margins; even lacklustre Democratic candidates managed to win. This is welcome news for everyone in America who has been watching the gutting of the government that has been underway since the beginning of this year. Usually, presidents have a bit more time before the public tires of them. Not so this time.

As for immigrants and Muslims, the news was good from places beyond NYC as well. Virginia elected Indian American Ghazala Hashmi as their first Muslim American woman lieutenant governor; Muslims were elected as mayor of Dearborn, Michigan and Dearborn Heights.

Zohran Mamdani was nine years old when the events of 9/11 happened. His Oscar-nominated filmmaker mother Mira Nair, who is married to the well-known postcolonial scholar Mahmood Mamdani, likely never imagined that the grade schooler, who was a Muslim kid in a city that had begun to grow wary of Muslims overnight, would go on to become the youngest mayor of New York City in 100 years. But miracles do happen and the churn of history means that the outcast can be reborn as a leader in the same lifetime. Zohran Mamdani’s story is a lesson and an inspiration to all those who doubted the possibility of better times.

Iqbal's concept of Khudi essential to follow for fostering unity among Muslim countries: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Saturday paid glowing tribute to the Poet of the East and Philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

He said that Iqbal's vision rekindled in the hearts of the Muslims of the subcontinent a new spirit of freedom, self-respect and national pride.

The Speaker also said that Iqbal's philosophy not only the intellectual source of Pakistan's creation but also a beacon of guidance for the entire Muslim world.

He said that Allama Iqbal awakened the Muslims to their distinct nationhood and gave them a vision of an independent homeland.

Ayaz Sadiq urged

today's youth to embody Iqbal's message of Khudi (selfhood) in their practical lives, and to play their part in nation-building — so that Pakistan may truly become a strong, self-reliant, and prosperous state.

He said that Iqbal's dream was never confined to territorial freedom alone; it was a call for intellectual, moral, and spiritual revival.

Ayaz Sadiq said that Iqbal's message teaches faith, unity, action, and a sense of collective responsibility.

Reaffirming his resolve, the Speaker said that by following Iqbal's guiding principles, "we will strive to transform Pakistan into a genuinely welfare-oriented, peaceful, and prosperous state."

Deputy Speaker Na-

tional Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, in his message on the occasion, said that Allama Iqbal's poetry awakens hearts and enlightens minds.

He said that the Poet of the East gave the Muslim Ummah a timeless message of selfhood, faith and ceaseless action. "What is needed today," he said, "is to weave these ideas into our national policies, educational systems, and collective mindset."

The Deputy Speaker further said that Iqbal's famous words, "The destiny of nations lies in the hands of individuals", remind us that Pakistan's progress, stability and prosperity rest upon the awareness, unity, and hard work of its people.



HYDERABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Leader Rawal Sharjeel Memon launches Pakistan's largest school furniture distribution initiative in Hyderabad.

Ulema play vital role in promoting peace, tolerance: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori met with Mufti Azam Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman at Governor House, here on Saturday.

Pir Hassan Haseeb-ur-Rehman was also present during the meeting.

Discussions were held on religious harmony, unity of the Ummah and social reform.

The Governor said, "Ulema play a vital role in promoting peace and tolerance in society."

Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman appreciated Governor's social and public service efforts and acknowledged his positive contributions.

Russian Consulate hosts State Reception to mark "People's Unity Day"

KARACHI (APP): The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Karachi hosted a grand state reception to celebrate People's Unity Day.

The reception was attended by Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, State Minister Fahad Haroon, Speaker of the Sindh Assembly Syed Awas Qadir Shah, Sindh Ministers, Zia UL Hassan Lanjhar, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, distinguished guests, diplomats,

government officials, business leaders, media representatives, and members of the cultural community.

Welcoming the guests, the Consul General of Russia, Andrei Fedorov, expressed his delight in marking the occasion with friends and partners in Pakistan. He highlighted that although People's Unity Day is a relatively new holiday, it carries a profound historical legacy dating back more than 400 years to the era known as "The Time of Troubles."

Sindh govt to introduce new Sindh Water Law

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government has begun preparations to introduce a new Sindh Water Law under the guidance of the Sindh Water Policy 2023.

According to a communication on Saturday, Sindh's Minister for Irrigation, Jam Khan Shoro and Irrigation Secretary, Zarif Iqbal Khero, held an important meeting with a delegation from the World Bank.

The delegation included Mr. Bekele Debele (Lead Water Resource Management Specialist), Francois Onimus, and Mr. Zelalem Tesfaye Mekonnen. Project Director Nazir Memon, Addi-

tional Secretary Athar Behzad Memon, and other officials also participated in the meeting. According to the spokesperson, the meeting reviewed detailed progress on the SWAT Project and the drafting of the new Sindh Water Law.

The spokesperson for the Irrigation Department stated that a committee comprising officials from the Irrigation Department and SEDA will finalize the legal draft by next month and present it to the Sindh Ministry of Irrigation.

The Minister Jam

FIA nabs three human smugglers

SARGODHA (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Composite Circle Sargodha arrested three human smugglers in connection with visa fraud cases on Saturday. According to an FIA spokesperson for Sargodha, Abdul Ghafoor, the arrests were made during a major crackdown against human smugglers and fraudsters operating in the region.

The arrested individuals were identified as Mohsin Raza, Muhammad Ifthikhar, and Muhammad Hayat. Mohsin Raza was involved in a fraud case where he deceived a citizen by promising an Italy visa in exchange for 1.5 million rupees. Muhammad Ifthikhar was apprehended for a similar scam related to a UAE visa, after taking 600,000 rupees from a citizen. Additionally, Muhammad Hayat, a proclaimed offender, was arrested for defrauding 20 victims by promising them Iraq and Iran visas in return for a total of 1.95 million rupees.

The FIA spokesperson confirmed that investigations into the cases are ongoing, and the agency is committed to bringing all perpetrators to justice.

Two illegal crush plants sealed in Birot

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Additional Assistant Commissioner Shameemullah on Saturday carried out an operation against illegal crush plants in the areas of Bhan and Hoteri, Birot.

The action was initiated following complaints and identification by local residents. During the visit, the crush plants were inspected in the presence of community members. The plant owners were not present on-site, after which Bakhrot Police Station was instructed to summon the owners to court.

According to the inspection report, the crushing machines were installed at locations prone to landslides, with residential settlements situated on the upper side — posing a serious safety risk.



PESHAWAR: Executive Director strategy and Coordination City University Science & Information Technology Muhammad Ayoub Sethi presenting a shield to Secretary Mardan Board Prof. Hazrat Ali during Academic Excellence Award Ceremony 2025 of PMDC.



KARACHI: Russian Consul General in Karachi, Andrei Viktorovich Fedorov, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori and other diplomats cutting a cake during a ceremony marking the People's Unity Day of the Russian Federation at a local hotel.

CM chairs meeting, discuss provision relating to 33-MPO, 16-MPO, Section 144

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Sohail Afridi here Saturday chaired an important meeting to discuss provisions related to 3-MPO, 16-MPO and Section 144.

During the meeting it was decided that a four-member committee, headed by Provincial Minister for Law Aftab Alam would be constituted to present recommendations for reforms in the relevant laws. The committee would identify

provisions that could be misused and propose amendments to make the laws more transparent and equitable.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that freedom of expression and the right to peaceful protest are fundamental rights of every citizen. However, he added, a new framework would be developed to strike a balance between citizens' right to protest and public convenience, so that demonstrations do

not cause unnecessary hardship to the general public.

"Every law has both positive and negative aspects and our aim is to make them transparent," the chief minister said. "Laws must protect the people and not be used as tools of political pressure," he added. The CM reaffirmed that protecting citizens' lives and property and ensuring public convenience remain the top priorities of his government.

CM Punjab to unveil eco-friendly agenda at COP30

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif will attend the COP30 Conference on Environment in Brazil from November 10 to 21, where she will present the Punjab government's vision of "Waste to Value, Vision to Global Action" developed over the past 19 months.

Accompanied by Senior Provincial Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique, and Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat, the Chief Minister will highlight Punjab's environmental reforms, including mea-

sures to eliminate smog, improve air quality, and make all sectors eco-friendly for the first time in the province's history. She will outline Punjab's electric vehicle-based transport transition, the plan to introduce electric buses in 42 cities, and the Clean and Green Punjab initiatives.

She will also discuss the T30 vision for an environmentally friendly Punjab, including proposals to run 120,000 electric motorcycles and rickshaws, introduce 1,100 electric taxis, and launch an advanced digital rail system.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the meeting to review Punjab Chief Minister Health projects. Dr. Adnan Khan and Dr. Farqad Alamgir are also present.

LHC to take up Ducky Bhai's bail plea on Nov 11

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Saturday set November 11 as the date for hearing the bail plea of YouTuber Saad Rehman, popularly known as Ducky Bhai.

Justice Farooq Haider will hear the plea. The Registrar's Office has released the official cause list confirming the hearing date.

The court has issued notices to the National Crime and Cyber Investigation Agency (NCCIA) and sought the detailed case records.

In the petition, the NCCIA Lahore has been made party. The NCCIA initiated action after the app was found to be involved in fraudulent activities and online betting, leading to significant public losses.

Ducky Bhai was arrested, while his wife,

Arooba Jatoi, secured interim bail. The couple has denied any involvement in illegal promotions, claiming they were unaware of the app's fraudulent nature.

Authorities, however, maintain that influencers received payments for endorsing the app, and investigations are ongoing to determine the extent of financial transactions and responsibility in the scam.

Ducky Bhai was arrested at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport on August 17 on charges of promoting platforms such as Binomo, 1xBet, Bet365, and B9 Game via his YouTube channel.

The case was registered by the state under Sections 13 (Electronic Forgery), 14 (Electronic Fraud), 25 (Spamming), and 26 (Spoofing) of the Pre-

vention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, as well as Sections 294-B (Offering prize in connection with trade) and 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

The development has sent ripples through Pakistan's digital community as authorities tighten scrutiny of influencer-driven promotions.

Reports suggest that the agency has summoned several more YouTubers for questioning.

With millions relying on YouTubers and TikTok stars for lifestyle, entertainment, and even financial guidance, the scandal underscores the urgent need for clear guidelines on influencer marketing and advertising ethics.

KP CM statement against state institutions regrettable: Amir Muqam

PESHAWAR (INP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs Engr Amir Muqam here on Saturday termed the recent statement by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sohail Afridi against state institutions as regrettable, irresponsible and provocative.

He said hate-filled statements against state institutions cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.

In a statement, Engr Amir Muqam said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa salute the sacrifices of the security forces and the Pakistan Army for peace and stability of the country.

He said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa deeply respect the eternal sacrifices and blood of the martyrs and termed it in high esteem.

"This reflects the extremist mindset of an individual, not of the people of the province," he said.

Engr Amir Muqam said such remarks strengthen the enemy's narrative, adding spreading discord among the people and creating distrust against state institutions is not the conduct of patriotic leadership.

He claimed that spreading hatred in the name of the sanctity of mosques and martyrs is highly condemnable.

Engr Amir Muqam said the Chief Minister KP must remember that his office demands responsibility, seriousness, and national unity and not division and confrontation with institutions. He said Pakistan Muslim League (N) has a clear stance that peace, development and stability are the true rights of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



HYDERABAD: District Bar Association Leader Amir Nawaz Warraich speaks at lawyers convention against 27th Constitutional Amendment draft organized by High Court Bar association.

Pakistani, Iranian filmmakers may jointly produce world-class film on Allama Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari has said that Pakistani and Iranian filmmakers can collaborate to produce a world-class film on the life and philosophy of Allama Iqbal.

She announced that the Punjab government has approved the establishment of Film City, and work on the project will begin soon. The possibility of Iranian collaboration will be formally presented before the Film City Committee. The IDAP has already completed the design for the project.

Azma Bokhari further said that Iranian investors should consider setting up display centers for Iranian carpets in Punjab, as there is a strong market demand for Iranian carpets in Pakistan. "There are vast investment opportunities in this sector," she added.

The Information Minister made these remarks while speaking at a dinner hosted by the Iranian Consul General in

Lahore. The Iranian delegation included Dr. Ahmad Noroozi, Director for Overseas Affairs, Abbas Mohammadnejad, Murtaza Shamsi, and Ali Mohammed Nafchi. From Pakistan's side, Secretary Information Syed Tahir Raza Hamdani, Additional Secretary Culture Muhammad Nawaz, Chairman Alhamra Razi Ahmed, and DGPR Fareed Ahmed were also present.

During the event, Minister Azma Bokhari presented shields to members of the Iranian delegation. She also shared that a draft plan for Quran recitation competitions is being prepared for the upcoming Ramadan, which will be shared with the Iranian Consulate to ensure joint cultural collaboration — similar to the joint observance of Iqbal Day.

Azma Bokhari said, "Pakistani producers are eager to create a feature film on Allama Iqbal. Pakistan and Iran can jointly undertake this project as a co-production venture."



HYDERABAD: Health workers conduct anti-dengue fumigation under supervision of district administration at Sindh High Court premises.

Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary Over 2,000 Sikh pilgrims gather at Gurdwara Panja Sahib to celebrate

ATTOCK (INP): Over 2,000 Sikh pilgrims from India and around the world gathered at Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hasan Abdal, Attock, to celebrate the 556th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Dev.

The three-day celebrations concluded with the Bhog ceremony, bringing the religious events to a close under strict security arrangements, the local correspondent of APP reported this from, Hasanabdal, Attock on Saturday.

According to the details, the gurdwara and surrounding areas were beautifully illuminated, with arrangements made for cleanliness, langar, and accommodation.

Pilgrims performed rituals at the shrine of Baba

Wali Kandhari, praising the facilities and hospitality provided by Pakistani authorities.

Visiting pilgrims commended the Pakistani government's efforts to preserve Sikh heritage and facilitate religious tourism.

Nishan Singh of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee described the arrangements as "excellent", while Deputy Party Leader Gurmest Singh Boh praised the preservation of Gurdwara Panja Sahib's historical and spiritual essence.

The pilgrimage high-

lights Pakistan's commitment to preserving Sikh heritage and fostering cultural and spiritual ties with the Sikh community abroad.

On this occasion,

ETPB Additional Secretary Nasir Mushtaq expressed gratitude to the teams and district administration for successfully managing the celebrations, saying Sikh pilgrims carry a message of peace, harmony, and goodwill from Pakistan.

Shaza Fatima says: Google to manufacture 600,000 Chromebooks annually in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Saturday said that Google will manufacture approximately 600,000 Chromebooks each year in Pakistan, marking a major milestone for the country's technology sector.

Speaking to the media, she said Google has completed its registration in Pakistan and plans to open its office in the country soon.

Highlighting recent developments under the

leadership of the Prime Minister, she said that Pakistan's engagement with leading global technology and social media companies has entered a new and productive phase.

Shaza Fatima revealed that Google, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence Production and the National Radio & Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC), has begun Chromebook manufacturing in Haripur. Launched as a public-private partnership with a local company, the project is expected to give a significant boost to

Pakistan's IT manufacturing industry.

The minister said the initiative aimed to provide affordable, high-quality devices, particularly for students and the education sector.

"Such high-tech ventures reflect global companies' growing confidence in Pakistan's economy, while also promoting technology transfer, international best practices, and new job opportunities," she added.

During her visit to the Haripur facility, Shaza Fatima said she was pleased to see around 600 young

men and women employed there.

"As production expands, the assembly line will be extended to create more jobs and enable Chromebook exports," she said, highlighting the strong participation of women engineers in advancing Pakistan's technology landscape.

The minister also said that the Ministry of IT has finalized a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Google to provide tech training for youth, particularly girls, with a focus on artificial intelligence (AI).



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of President American Business Council (ABC) Akram Wali Muhammad, Senior Vice President (ABC) Asim Saeed Khan, Senior Vice President (ABC) Tishna Patel, VP (ABC) & US Consul General Charles Goodman.



KARACHI: People buy warm clothes. Demand for warm clothes rises in Karachi's Saddar Area as winter cold waves arrive.

Junaid moves to streamline sugar, cement operations at Port Qasim

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Maritime Affairs has initiated measures to streamline sugar and cement handling operations at Port Qasim following reports of severe congestion caused by the slow discharge of sugar consignments.

A high-level meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry reviewed the situation and its impact on export activities, particularly cement and clinker shipments.

The meeting brought together senior officials including Secretary Maritime Affairs Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul, Chairman Port Qasim Authority Rear Admiral (Retd.) Syed Moazzam Ilyas, Acting Chairman Karachi Port Trust Rear Admiral Atiq-ur-Rehman, Chief

Executive Officer of the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) Syed Rafeo Bashir Shah, Technical Advisor Maritime Affairs Commodore (Retd.) Muhammad Jawad Akhtar, and representatives of the Cement Exporters Association led by Arif Habib.

Addressing the meeting, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry underscored the need to enhance operational efficiency, align port management with national logistics priorities, and ensure smooth coordination among stakeholders.

The minister stressed the need for all ports to enhance their operational efficiency to ensure the smooth and timely discharge of consignments, noting that improving these operations is vital to prevent port congestion, which can cause delays, raise costs, and disrupt the sup-

ply chain.

The meeting was informed that sugar was being unloaded at a rate lower than the port's potential capacity. The minister directed the Port Qasim Authority (PQA) to optimize sugar unloading operations in line with its discharge capacity of around 4,000 to 4,500 tons per day.

The meeting also reviewed directives from the Prime Minister's Office, which included utilizing Gwadar Port for up to 60 percent of sugar imports to ease the load on Karachi's terminals. Participants also discussed berthing priorities and measures to prevent bottlenecks affecting the turnaround of export-bound ships.

It was agreed in the meeting that all vessels at Port Qasim and Karachi Port would be berthed strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.

China becomes world's largest AI patent holder, accounting for 60% of global total: report

BEIJING (APP): China has become the world's largest holder of artificial intelligence (AI) patents, accounting for 60 percent of the global total. Its 6G patent applications account for approximately 40.3 percent globally, ranking No.1 worldwide, according to a report released by the Chinese Academy of Cyberspace Studies at the 2025 World Internet Conference (WIC) Wuzhen Summit on Saturday.

Over the past year, China's information infrastructure has continued to optimize and upgrade, with digital economy developing toward higher quality, greater depth and stability, and the scale of network content and digital cultural industries has continued to expand, said the China Internet Development Report 2025.

As of June 2025, the total number of fixed broadband access users in China had reached 684 million households, with a cumulative construction of 4.55 million 5G base stations and 1.118 billion 5G mobile phone users. The number of active IPv6 internet users reached 834 million, ac-

counting for 75 percent of the total internet users, according to the report.

In 2025, China's quantum computing industry is expected to exceed 11.56 billion yuan in scale, with year-over-year growth surpassing 30 percent, accounting for 41.2 percent of the overall quantum technology industry, Global Times quoted the report as saying.

As of December 2024, China had 974 million online shopping users, accounting for 87.9 percent of the total internet population. Online retail sales grew by 7.2 percent, with the country becoming the world's largest e-commerce market for 12 consecutive years, the report noted.

The construction of China's online content system continues to advance, with the digital culture industry scale entering the "trillion-yuan" level. The report showed that in 2024, enterprises in the national culture and related industries achieved revenue of 14.15 trillion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 6 percent, with digital cultural industries such as micro-short dramas.

Gold price drops by Rs600 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs600 per tola on Saturday as it fell from Rs 423,062 to Rs 422,462. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association told.

The rate of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also declined from Rs 362,707 to Rs 362,193, showing a reduction of Rs514 while the price of 10 grams 22-karat gold also went down from Rs332,493 to Rs 332,022, registering a fall of Rs471.

In the international market, gold prices dipped from \$4,007 to \$4,001 per ounce, showing a decrease of \$6.

Silver prices also witnessed a decline. The price of 24-karat silver per tola reduced from Rs5,112 to Rs5,094, down by Rs18. The 10-gram silver rate fell from Rs4,382 to Rs4,367, a decline of Rs15.

In the global market, silver fell from \$48.50 to \$48.32 per ounce, marking a decrease of \$0.18.

The Association stated that all gold and silver prices were calculated based on the interbank exchange rate.



LARKANA: Students looking to buy used old shoes at old Bus Stand Road.

Business community is the backbone of the national economy, says Malik Sher

ATTOCK (APP): Chief Executive of Shaheen Group of Companies and former candidate for the National Assembly, Malik Sher Khan Sidhryal, has said that the business community serves as the backbone of the national economy, and strong cooperation between the government and the private sector is essential for sustainable development. He said that the more the country promotes business and trade, the faster the journey toward progress will be, ultimately leading to the eradication of unemployment.

He expressed these views while addressing a graceful breakfast reception hosted in honor of Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem

Haider Khan at a well-known local hotel. The event was attended by a large number of business, industrial, and social personalities.

On this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan appreciated the hospitality and national spirit of Malik Sher Khan Sidhryal, saying that such gatherings not only strengthen inter-provincial relations but also accelerate the process of national development.

Malik Sher Khan Sidhryal further said that the issue of overloading has become a serious challenge for the national economy. Overloaded vehicles are causing billions of rupees in losses to the national exchequer every year.

IPO chairman advises youth to prefer entrepreneurship

LAHORE (APP): Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) Chairman Farrukh Amal has said that young graduates should prefer entrepreneurship and get their businesses registered instead of taking jobs.

Addressing the closing ceremony of 'Hailey Research Week' here at Hailey College of Commerce, he said that intellectual property is the main pillar of sustainable economic development, which enables societies to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Farrukh Amal said, intellectual property protection is not only a means of preventing counterfeiting but also increases brand value and encourages innovation, adding that protecting the rights of creators and innovators creates an environment where ideas flourish

and progress is possible in every field including energy, health, education and technology.

Stressing the importance of intellectual property protection in the digital era, he said that companies and businessmen should register their trademarks and logos immediately. He said that IPO Pakistan is committed to protecting the rights of the creative community and their effective enforcement.

The Chairman said, IPO has introduced a new digital system under which complaints can be filed online. This system will eliminate unnecessary rounds of offices, reduce processing time and complainants will be informed about the progress of their applications in a timely manner.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying handicrafts to attract customers at F-6 area in the Federal Capital.

UAF launches wheat campaign, mobilizes 4,000 students to assist farmers across Punjab

FAISALABAD (APP): A total of 4,000 students from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) have been deployed to agricultural fields across six divisions of Punjab to assist farmers in wheat cultivation. This initiative, which runs from November 8 to November 16, is aimed at boosting per-acre wheat productivity by 2 to 3 maunds. The students, working under the guidance of agricultural experts and in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture Extension Department, will visit farmers' fields to offer practical advice and disseminate expert recommendations.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Zulfiqar Ali emphasized that the campaign provides students with valuable field experience while also helping farmers adopt

modern agricultural practices. He described the initiative as a flagship collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture Extension Department, and urged students to engage with farmers patiently and thoughtfully, as it would be a learning experience that would equip them with first-hand knowledge of real-world farming challenges.

The students will guide farmers on the latest agricultural practices, including the use of certified seeds, balanced fertilizer application, and techniques to maximize yield while minimizing input costs. Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali stressed the importance of applying scientific methods to agriculture to help drive a revolution in the sector by ensuring higher per-acre production.

The Vice Chancellor

Punjab Governor says: ABC playing important role in strengthening trade relations between Pakistan and the U.S

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended a Focus Group Discussion organized by the American Business Council of Pakistan in Karachi today. The meeting was attended by President American Business Council (ABC) Akram Wali Muhammad, Senior Vice President (ABC) Asim Saeed Khan, Senior Vice President (ABC) Tishna Patel, Vice President (ABC) and US Consul General Charles Goodman. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem

Haider Khan said that the American Business Council is playing an important role in strengthening trade relations between Pakistan and the United States. He said that two years ago, the country was on the verge of default. The existing system falls short in supporting foreign investors, necessitating reforms to create a more conducive environment.

The Governor Punjab said that the interest rate has come down from 19 percent to 11 percent. He said that if we want to compete with In-

dia and China, then energy prices need to be further reduced.

The Governor of Punjab said that conditions will improve once we break free from the IMF's grip. He said that Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir is a gift for the country especially with regard to business, he is trying his best to solve the problems of businesses.

The Governor of Punjab said that there is a need to improve the conditions for foreign investors, especially American companies, in Pakistan.



MULTAN: Labourers busy loading wooden logs onto a tractor-trolley at the timber market to supply them to different areas.

CCP authorizes acquisition of Novartis Pakistan by IIL

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has authorized the acquisition of Novartis Pharma (Pakistan) Limited (Novartis Pakistan) by International Investment IIL Limited (IIL) after completing its Phase-I competition assessment under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010 and the Competition (Merger Control) Regulations, 2016.

IIL, an investment holding company incorporated in Hong Kong and part of the Getz Group, submitted a pre-merger application to the CCP, said a release issued here on Saturday.

The transaction involves the transfer of control of Novartis Pakistan from its existing parent entities, Novartis AG and Novartis Pharma AG, to IIL.

pursuant to a Share Purchase Agreement.

Novartis Pakistan is a leading pharmaceutical company engaged in the manufacture, import, marketing, and distribution of medicines across a wide range of therapeutic classes.

The acquisition represents a significant development in Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector, as IIL already maintains a presence in the country through its subsidiaries, Getz Pharma (Private) Limited and Scilife Pharma (Private) Limited.

During the Phase-I review, the Commission examined whether the transaction could result in the creation or strengthening of a dominant position or otherwise substantially lessen competition in the relevant markets.

Development projects worth Rs. 5.75 billion approved for Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): In line with the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, development projects worth Rs. 5.75 billion have been approved for Bahawalpur district under the "Saraken Bahal-Punjab Khushhal" (Roads Rehabilitation for a Prosperous Punjab) Program. The approval was granted during a meeting of the District Coordination Committee for Development, chaired by Mian Shoaib Owaisi, Member Provincial Assembly and Chairman of the Committee. Under this program, the Highways Division Bahawalpur will carry out 86 development schemes aimed at the construction

and rehabilitation of over 183 kilometers of roads across the district. The initiative is designed to improve travel facilities in both urban and rural areas, ensuring modern, high-quality road infrastructure for the public.

The project plan includes upgrading 30 roads using TST (Tack Seal Treatment) technology, while 56 roads will be fully carpeted to ensure smooth, durable, and efficient traffic flow. The meeting, held at the Committee Room of the Deputy Commissioner's Office Bahawalpur, featured detailed briefings on the scope and financial structure of the approved projects.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying traditional caps to attract customers at F-6 area in Federal Capital.

Trump expects International Stabilisation Force to land in Gaza ‘very soon’

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he expects a US-coordinated International Stabilisation Force (ISF) to be on the ground in Gaza “very soon”.

The multinational force — likely to include troops from Muslim countries such as Egypt, Qatar, Turkey, etc — is part of Trump’s post-war governance plan for Gaza.

The plan helped lead to a fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas on October 10, but the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has not abated.

“It’s going to be very soon. And Gaza is working out very well,” Trump said at a White House function with Central Asian leaders.

“You haven’t been

hearing too much about problems, and I’ll tell you, we’ve had countries that have volunteered if there’s a problem with Hamas.”

The force is supposed to train and support vetted Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip, with backing from Egypt and Jordan.

It also will be tasked with securing border areas and preventing weapons reaching Hamas.

On Wednesday, the United States circulated a draft UN Security Council resolution to partner nations aimed at shoring up Trump’s plan, including by greenlighting the international force.

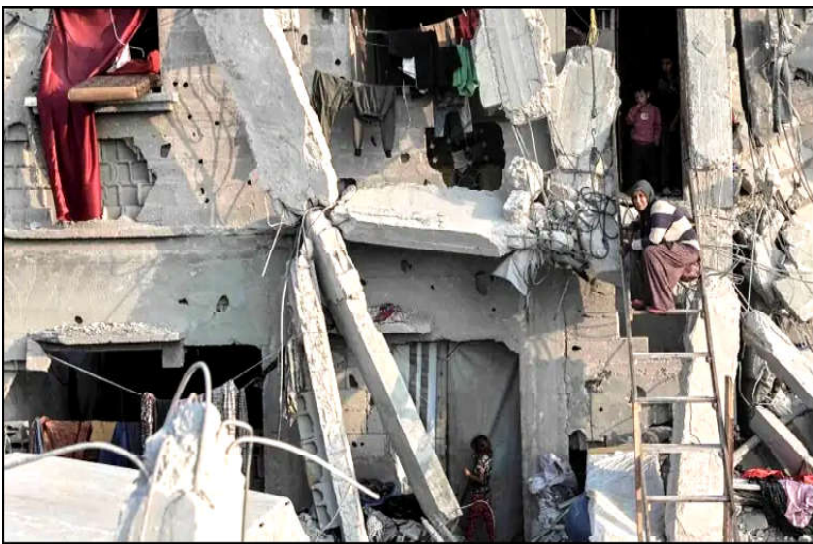
Washington’s UN envoy Mike Waltz shared the draft with the 10 elected Security Council members — which includes Pakistan — and several regional part-

ners, a spokesperson for the US mission said in a statement.

A vote has not yet been scheduled. According to diplomatic sources, several countries have indicated their willingness to participate in the force, but insist on a Security Council mandate before actually deploying troops into the Palestinian territory.

Meanwhile, senior Muslim diplomats said the issue is already sensitive, and strong pro-Palestinian sentiment in their countries makes it even more delicate.

They noted that support for the US draft resolution would depend on a clear UN mandate, a non-combat role, and coordination with Palestinian authorities.



A Palestinian woman sits on a ladder outside her heavily damaged house in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip.

Trump says no US government official will attend G20 summit in South Africa

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said on Friday that no US government official would attend the Group of 20 summit in South Africa later this month, because of what he said were “human rights abuses” taking place in the country.

South Africa’s foreign ministry described the decision as “regrettable” and repeated its rejection of Trump’s claims that white Afrikaners face persecution based on their race in the Black-majority country.

“It is a total disgrace that the G20 will be held in South Africa,” Trump said in a Truth Social post. “Afrikaners (People who are descended from Dutch settlers, and also French and German immigrants) are being killed and slaughtered, and their land and farms are being illegally confiscated.”

“No US Government Official will attend as long as these Human Rights abuses continue. I look forward to hosting the 2026 G20 in Miami, Florida!” Trump said.

Vice President JD Vance, who was expected to attend the Group of 20 world leaders in Johannesburg in Nov 22-23, was no longer going, a source familiar with the matter said. Trump has taken issue with South African domestic and foreign policies — ranging from its land policy to its case accusing Israel of genocide in the US ally’s war in Gaza. The president last month set the lowest cap on record for US refugee admissions and said those people admitted would be focused largely on white Afrikaners.

Indonesia police find possible explosive powder in Jakarta mosque blasts

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesian police found possible explosive powder as they investigated explosions at a mosque in the capital Jakarta, and the suspected perpetrator is recovering, the police chief said on Saturday.

Explosions that injured dozens of people during Friday prayers could have been an attack, officials said, with a 17-year-old student the suspected perpetrator.

“Several pieces of supporting evidence were found,” police chief Listyo Sigit Prabowo told a press conference after visiting the victims at a hospital.

“There were written materials and some powder that could have potentially caused an explosion,” he said.

“We are gathering other records, including examining social media and family members to gather all the information.”

The suspected perpetrator, a student at a school next to the mosque, was recovering after undergoing surgery on Friday, Listyo said.

“The suspect’s condition is improving, and hopefully this will make things easier for us when needed,” he said.

Putin appoints deputy defense minister Bulyga to security council

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin has appointed Andrei Bulyga, one of Russia’s deputy defense ministers since last year, as deputy secretary of the country’s powerful security council, according to a decree published on the Kremlin’s website on Saturday.

In a separate decree, Putin appointed Colonel-General Alexander Sanchik, who had been serving as commander of Russia’s southern military district, as a deputy defense minister, replacing Bulyga.



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban speaks in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, DC.

Kenyan prosecution welcomes detention of UK ex-soldier over woman’s murder

Monitoring Desk

NAIROBI: Kenya’s prosecution service on Saturday welcomed the detention of a British ex-soldier accused of murdering a woman in the east African country more than a decade ago.

Robert James Purkiss, 38, was remanded in custody by a judge after being arrested on Thursday, Britain’s National Crime Agency said in a statement.

Purkiss is wanted in Kenya on suspicion of killing 21-year-old Agnes Wanjiru in 2012, in a case that has caused diplomatic tensions between the two countries. The body of the young mother was found in a septic tank two months

after she reportedly went partying with British soldiers at a hotel in Nanyuki, a town in central Kenya where Britain has a permanent army garrison.

Kenya’s Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) welcomed the “significant development” in a statement on X, adding it was a result of an “extensive and coordinated effort” between the British and Kenyan authorities. The ODPP “reiterates its unwavering commitment to pursuing justice for Agnes Wanjiru and her family, in collaboration with international partners, to ensure that those responsible are held fully accountable.”

ICC issues arrest warrant for ally of Philippine ex-President Duterte over drug war, ombudsman says

Monitoring Desk

MANILA: The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Philippine Senator Ronald Dela Rosa, who oversaw then-President Rodrigo Duterte’s war on drugs, the nation’s ombudsman said on Saturday, although the ICC denied the assertion.

Duterte, in office from 2016 to 2022, was arrested and taken to The Hague in March on a warrant linking him to murders committed during his war on drugs, in which thousands of alleged narcotics peddlers and users were killed.

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla told Reuters in a text message that the information about Dela Rosa’s warrant had been relayed to him by the officer-in-charge of the Department of Justice.

Asked for comment, DOJ spokesperson Polo Martinez said the ministry was still verifying the information.

“We have not yet received a copy of said arrest warrant. We shall provide further details as soon as it becomes available,” Martinez said in a text message.

Ukrainian drones hit electricity substation in northern Russia, governor says

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Three Ukrainian drones hit an electricity substation in the northern Russian region of Vologda overnight, regional governor Georgy Filimonov said on Saturday.

Damage to the substation is being assessed, but electrical supplies in the region, which is located north of Moscow and around 1,900km from Ukraine, are continuing uninterrupted, Filimonov said in a post on Telegram.

Separately, two people were wounded when a Ukrainian drone hit a residential building in the Russian city of Saratov, local

governor Roman Busargin said in a statement on Telegram.

Saratov, an industrial city on the Volga river 625 km (388 miles) from the Ukrainian border, has been repeatedly struck by Ukrainian drones since Russia ordered tens of thousands of troops into its neighbor in February 2022.

The more sparsely populated Vologda region, by contrast, has not been a regular target of Ukrainian strikes. In total, Russia’s Defense Ministry said on Saturday that it had downed 83 drones overnight, mostly over regions bordering Ukraine.

North Korea warns of more ‘offensive action’ after latest missile launch

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea’s defence minister warned on Saturday of more “offensive action”, as Washington and Seoul criticised Pyongyang’s latest ballistic missile launch.

North Korea’s missile launch on Friday came just over a week after US President Donald Trump — on a tour of the region — expressed interest in meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Pyongyang did not respond to the offer.

Pyongyang’s defence minister No Kwang Chol said Washington “has become brazen in its military moves to threaten the security” of the North, and that it was “intentionally escalating the political and military tension in the region”.

“We will show more offensive action against the enemies’ threat,” he said, according to Pyongyang’s official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Earlier in the week,

before Friday’s launch, US Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth and his South Korean counterpart visited the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) where they “reaffirmed the strong combined defence posture and close cooperation” between their countries.

On Wednesday, the US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George Washington arrived in the South Korean port city of Busan for logistics support and crew rest, according to Seoul’s navy — an act North Korea’s No said was “further escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula”.

No also said Hegseth’s DMZ visit was meant to “fan up war hysterics”.

The US Indo-Pacific Command said on Friday that North Korea’s latest ballistic missile launch “highlights the destabilising impact” of Pyongyang’s actions, adding that the United States was “consulting closely with our allies and partners”.

US, Iran signal possible talks but remain at odds over nukes

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said on Thursday that Iran has asked for heavy US sanctions to be lifted and that he is open to discussing it, drawing a reply from Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who said Iran seeks peace but will not be coerced into abandoning its defence programmes.

The exchange of statements signals a potential, yet deeply contentious, diplomatic path following a recent military confrontation that derailed prior nuclear negotiations between the two nations.

“Frankly, Iran has been asking if the sanctions could be lifted,” Trump said during a dinner with Central Asian leaders. “Iran has got very heavy US sanctions, and it makes it really hard.” “I’m open to hearing that, and we’ll see what happens, but I would be open to it,” he added.

Trump’s remarks

come as Tehran reels from years of international sanctions, particularly after the US unilaterally withdrew from an international nuclear accord in 2018 and reimposed tough punitive measures.

In Tehran, President Pezeshkian responded on Friday with a firm declaration of Iran’s position, according to state media. He said that while his country is willing to engage in dialogue, it will not negotiate away its fundamental rights to a nuclear programme and a defensive missile arsenal. “We are willing to hold talks under international frameworks, but not if they say you can’t have a [nuclear] science, or the right to defend yourself [with missiles] or else we will bomb you,” Mr Pezeshkian said. “We want to live in this world in peace and security, but not be humiliated, and it is not acceptable that they impose upon us whatever they want and we just serve them.”

US hit with second day of flight cuts as shutdown drags on

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US airlines and travelers slogged through a second day of flight cuts across the country on Saturday as the government shutdown was expected to drive more cancellations in the days to come. The Federal Aviation Administration instructed airlines to cut four percent of flights on Saturday at 40 major airports because of the shutdown. The cuts will rise to six percent on Tuesday and then to 10 percent by November 14.

The cuts, which began at 6 a.m. ET (1100 GMT) on Friday, include about 700 flights from the four largest carriers — American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines.

Airlines will cut fewer flights on Saturday than Friday because of lower overall volume. United will cut 168 flights, down from 184 Friday, while Southwest will cancel just under 100 flights, down from 120.

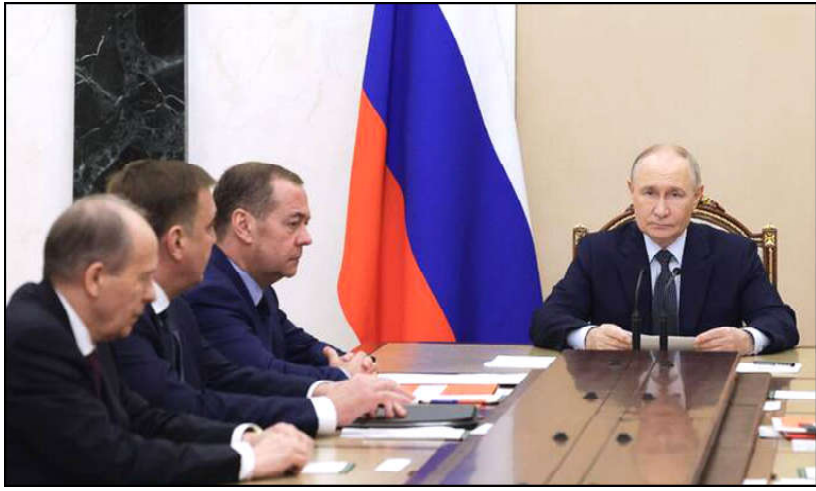
During the record 39-day government shutdown, 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 security screeners have been forced to work without pay, leading to increased absentee-

ism. Many air traffic controllers were notified on Thursday that they would receive no compensation for a second pay period next week.

The Trump administration has ramped up pressure on Congressional Democrats to agree to a Republican plan to fund the federal government, which would allow it to reopen.

Raising the specter of dramatic air-travel disruptions is one such effort. Democrats contend Republicans are to blame for the shutdown because they refuse to negotiate overextending health insurance subsidies.

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said it was possible that he could require 20 percent cuts in air traffic if things get worse and more controllers do not show up for work. “I assess the data,” Duffy said. “We’re going to make decisions based on what we see in the airspace.” Separate from the cancellations, absences of air traffic controllers on Friday forced the FAA to delay hundreds of flights at 10 airports including Atlanta, San Francisco, Houston, Phoenix, Washington, D.C., and Newark.



Russian President Vladimir Putin holds a meeting on issues related to the further build up of the Russian armed forces, as Federal Security Service (FSB) Director Alexander Bortnikov, Presidential Aide Alexei Dumin and Deputy Chairman of the Security Council Dmitry Medvedev sit nearby, at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia.

Tornado kills five, injures more than 400 in Brazil

Monitoring Desk

BRASILIA: A tornado killed at least five people and injured more than 400 as it destroyed most of a town in southern Brazil, authorities said Saturday.

The twister on Friday overturned cars and damaged homes in Rio Bonito do Iguacu, in Parana state, the local weather service reported.

It killed five people and injured 432, the Parana state government said. Two others are missing but this number could rise, it said.

Winds in Rio Bonito do Iguacu, population 14,000, reached between 180 and 250 kilometers per hour (110 and 155 miles per hour), Parana’s environmental technology and monitoring agency said.

Civil Defense officials said 80 percent of the town is now destroyed. Images on social media show homes razed by the violent weather.

“It is a war scene,” Fernando Schunig, head of the Parana Civil Defense agency, told the news outlet G1.

He said the likelihood of more fatalities is high because the twister hit right in the center of the town.

“When these events hit an urban area, the damage is major. It is very lethal,” Schunig said.

The governor of Parana, Ratinho Junior, said on X that “security forces are on alert, mobilized and monitoring the cities affected by the severe storms.”

US accuses Iran of ‘plotting to kill’ Israeli ambassador

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The United States accused Iran on Friday of “plotting to assassinate” Israel’s ambassador to Mexico, in what would be the latest attempt to take the two countries’ conflict to another region.

A US official said the Revolutionary Guards’ elite Quds Force initiated the plot late last year and that it was disrupted this year.

“The plot was contained and does not pose a current threat,” the US official said.

The US official did not provide detailed evidence or say how the plot was contained. The Iranian mission to the United Nations declined to comment.

According to the US official, the alleged plot would have taken place after April 1 last year, when Israel attacked the Iranian embassy complex in Damascus, killing several top officers of the Revolutionary Guards.

Across Europe, nationalist parliament speakers spark controversy

Monitoring Desk

VIENNA: As far-right parties have topped polls across Europe in recent years, nationalist politicians have taken the helm of four parliaments, stirring controversy.

Czech lawmakers elected the country’s first-ever far-right parliament speaker on Wednesday, becoming the latest parliament in Europe to be headed by a nationalist and pro-Russian politician since Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine. One day after Czech far-right leader Tomio Okamura — who has called for an end to aid for Ukraine — was elected parliament speaker, he ordered the removal of the Ukrainian flag from the building, where it had been hoisted in solidarity.



Iranians drink water from a public street fountain in Tehran.

Saim Ayub, spinners steer Pakistan to ODI series victory over South Africa

Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: Pakistan sealed the three-match ODI series against South Africa on Saturday at Iqbal Cricket Stadium, courtesy of Saim Ayub's half-century and spinner Abrar Ahmed's four-wicket haul.

Chasing a modest 144-run target, the home side comfortably knocked the winning runs for the loss of just three wickets and 100 balls to spare.

Pakistan, however, had a contrasting start to the pursuit as Nandre Burger dismissed their opener Fakhar Zaman for a

two-ball duck in the first over.

Following the early setback, star batter Babar Azam joined Saim Ayub in the middle, and the duo scripted a commendable recovery by putting together 65 runs for the second wicket at a brisk pace.

The anchoring stand culminated on the second delivery of the 11th over when Babar got run out after scoring 27 off 32 deliveries with the help of five boundaries.

Saim was then involved in another 65-run partnership, when he put Pakistan within touching

distance, alongside Mohammad Rizwan.

The opening batter, however, could not carry his bat all the way through as he fell victim to Bjorn Fortuin in the 24th over when the home side needed only 14.

He remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with a 70-ball 77, studded with 11 fours and a six.

Rizwan, on the other hand, remained firm and steered Pakistan over the line in the 26th over with an unbeaten 32 off 45 deliveries, smashing three fours and a six. All-rounder Salman Ali Agha chipped in

five not out from two balls.

For South Africa, Fortuin and Burger could pick up a wicket apiece.

Proteas captain Matthew Breetzke's decision to bat first ultimately backfired as his team could accumulate 143 before being bowled out in 37.5 overs despite experienced opener Quinton de Kock's anchoring half-century.

The visitors got off to a decent start to their innings as their opening pair of Lhuan-dre Pretorius and de Kock yielded 72 runs before the former fell victim to Salman Ali Agha in the 15th over.



Pakistani players and officials pose for winner trophy on the end of third one day international cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa, in Faisalabad, Pakistan.



Balochistan Population Welfare department division director planning Abdul Sattar Shahwani and scholars Mufti Ehsanullah and Mufti Zaheer Ahmed attend family planning awareness seminar organized by Provincial Population Department and UNFPA in Quetta.

Pakistan committed to dialogue with Afghanistan despite delays: Senate told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Saturday informed the Senate that Pakistan remains committed to resolving all issues through dialogue with Afghanistan.

However, he said that Pak-Afghan negotiations have faced delays due to the non-provision of written guarantees from the Afghan side.

Responding to points raised by Mashal Azam in Senate, he said the government fully supported the ongoing Pakistan-Afghanistan peace talks. "This government has always believed that all outstanding issues with Afghanistan must be resolved through negotiations," he noted.

However, he said that despite verbal acknowledgements by the Taliban regime regarding the presence of TTP safe havens, the refusal to provide written assurances had resulted in the current stalemate in talks.

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that Pakistan would continue pursuing diplomatic channels to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.

Referring to a 2018 precedent when Nawaz Sharif, had signed Senate election tickets as President of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), he said that the Supreme Court of Pakistan later ruled that a convicted individual could not issue party tickets, causing the cancellation of those nominations and the election of candidates as independent members.

He said it was therefore misleading and undemocratic to claim that constitutional amendments could only be undertaken with the consent of a convicted person.

"The authority to amend the Constitution rests solely with Parliament — the Senate and the National Assembly — through a two-thirds majority," he said.

International delegations arriving in Islamabad to attend ISC

ISLAMABAD (INP): International delegations have begun arriving in Islamabad to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), scheduled to be held in the federal capital from November 11 to 12, 2025.

The advance team of the Rwanda parliamentary delegation, accompanied by support staff, arrived in Islamabad on Saturday.

Senior officers from the Senate Secretariat warmly received the delegates at the airport.

The upcoming conference, being hosted under the visionary leadership of Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, underscores Pakistan's commitment to promoting parliamentary cooperation.

PM, President Erdogan review bilateral ties

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with President of Republic of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the Victory Day Parade held here on Saturday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Chief of the Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir was also present in the meeting.

The two leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Türkiye and reaffirmed their resolve to further deepen cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The prime minister

conveyed warm felicitations to President Erdogan and the brotherly people of Türkiye on the occasion of Republic Day, and appreciated the enthusiastic celebrations of Pakistan-Türkiye Friendship Week which reflected the strength of the deep-rooted and enduring ties between the two nations.

The prime minister underscored Pakistan's commitment to transforming its longstanding fraternal ties with Türkiye into an expanded partnership encompassing political, defence, economic, trade, investment and people-to-people linkages.

CM Bugti congratulates Cricket Team on ODI series triumph over South Africa

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti extended heartfelt congratulations to Pakistan's national cricket team for their remarkable victory in the One Day International (ODI) series against South Africa.

In a statement, the Chief Minister said that winning both the T20 and ODI series reflects the players' dedication, discipline, and teamwork. He praised the squad for showcasing unity, determination, and professionalism on the field, saying their performance has made the entire nation proud.

Bugti particularly lauded young batsman Saim Ayub for his outstanding batting, noting that his form has infused new energy into Pakistan's batting lineup and raised hopes for future matches.

"The national team has proven that with determination, confidence, and hard work, no opponent is unbeatable," the Chief Minister remarked.

He emphasized that the Balochistan government views this sporting success as a symbol of the nation's positive identity and a beacon for the promotion of sports across the country.



QUETTA: Agri-Business Linkages Fair was held at B.A. Mall Quetta, bringing together farmers, agribusiness entrepreneurs, traders, and market stakeholders. Secretary Agriculture Balochistan Mr. Noor Ahmed Pirkani and Secretary Livestock Tayab Lehri graced the event as Chief Guests.

Lahore ranks second in world's most polluted cities list

LAHORE (INP): Lahore ranked second in the list of most polluted major cities in the world, according to the global air quality monitoring organization IQAir.

Indian capital topped the list of most polluted major cities in the world with an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 274 on Saturday morning while Lahore was second with an AQI of 228.

The AQI at various locations in Lahore was recorded at 441 at Lower Mall, 324 at Bedian Road, and 310 at Raiwind road. Experts have warned that an AQI above 302 poses serious risks to human health, increasing the chances of respiratory and other diseases.

Due to the severity of smog, the air quality in Multan, Sialkot, Gujranwala and Bahawalpur has become extremely hazardous to health. The AQI in Multan rose to 443, Sialkot to 294, Gujranwala to 278, and Bahawalpur to 217.

Education, health sector reforms vital for national progress: Rana Tanveer

SHEIKHUPURA (APP): Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain has said that sustainable national development requires strong and consistent progress in the education and health sectors.

He added that the incumbent government, under Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, is taking significant measures to improve the education and health sectors. He expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Regional Centre in Sheikhupura on Saturday. The minister congratulated AIOU Vice Chancellor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, his team, and the people of Sheikhupura on the establishment of the new campus.

He said it has always been his priority to serve the people of his constituency alongside serving Pakistan. Rana Tanveer Hussain noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has placed special focus on education. He worked vigorously to improve academic stan-

dards nationwide. He said Islamabad's universities are now placed among some of the world's leading institutions. He added that the importance of AIOU increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and today its enrolment exceeds 1.1 million students. He informed that computer classes will soon begin at the newly inaugurated regional centre.

Rana Tanveer Hussain also highlighted that the National Skills University has set up a campus in Muridke while Quaid-i-Azam University has opened a campus in Sharqpur. He said Sheikhupura is rapidly progressing in the field of education with almost every major university now operating a campus in the district, adding that efforts are underway to establish a Punjab University campus as well.

Referring to national issues, he said that after the war with India, the world acknowledged Pakistan as a strong nation, and now the Prime Minister is working to ensure economic stability.

President for renewing pledge to Allama Iqbal's principles

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday stressed upon renewing their commitment to Allama Muhammad Iqbal's principles and drawing strength from his ideals for a brighter future.

In a message on the birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal being observed on November 9, he said, "Today, on the birth anniversary of the Poet of the East, thinker of Islam and architect of Pakistan, Allama Iqbal, we pay tribute to his thoughts and insights and his extraordinary role for the Islamic nation and the Muslims of the subcontinent."

"Allama Iqbal is the name of such a spiritual and intellectual force that lit a candle of light in the darkness of slavery, and gave a message of self-reliance to a nation that was in despair," he added.

The prime minister said, "Allama Iqbal taught the lesson that faith, knowledge and action are the pillars on which a living nation builds itself."

FC to launch operation for repatriation of Afghan refugees from November 10

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Frontier Corps (FC) will begin a nationwide operation from November 10, 2025, to repatriate all remaining Afghan refugees from Pakistan.

Sources confirmed that the operation will be conducted exclusively by the FC without interference from provincial governments or police departments.

The initiative is said to be part of the federal government's ongoing strategy to ensure the orderly and legal repatriation of undocumented Afghan nationals residing in Pakistan.

Indian troops martyr two Kashmiri youth in Kupwara

Srinagar (INP): Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred two Kashmiri youth in Kupwara district of the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to the Kashmir Media Service, the youth were killed in a staged encounter during a cordon and search operation in the Keran area of the district on Saturday morning. The massive search operation named 'Operation Pimple' was initially launched by Indian forces on Friday and is still ongoing, according to officials.

Observers said that such killings, carried out by Indian forces' personnel enjoying immunity under the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) are part of a continued strategy to suppress the Kashmiri people's struggle for their UN-recognized right to self-determination.

Referring to national issues, he said that after the war with India, the world acknowledged Pakistan as a strong nation, and now the Prime Minister is working to ensure economic stability.

Tarar offers sympathy on passing of PTV Reporter Mazhar Abbas's Father

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Saturday extended his heartfelt condolences to Mazhar Abbas, Prime Minister's beat reporter for PTV News, on the passing of his father.

In his message, the minister expressed deep sympathy with Abbas and his family, praying for strength and patience in their time of grief. The loss of a father is a profound shock and an irreparable tragedy. Attaullah Tarar expressed that the Ministry of Information, along with the entire media community, stands in solidarity with Mazhar Abbas and his family during this difficult time of grief.

the Muslims of the Subcontinent.

In his address at the All-India Muslim League session in 1930, he emphasized the importance

of securing the rights of Muslims which laid the foundation for a sovereign nation, he added.

Govt committed to educate youth in light of Iqbal's thought: PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said that in the light of thought of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the government of Pakistan was committed to provide such an education for the young generation that was not only a source of livelihood but also improved intellect and character.

In a message on Iqbal Day celebrated on November 9, he said, "Today, on the birth anniversary of the Poet of the East, thinker of Islam and architect of Pakistan, Allama Iqbal, we pay tribute to his thoughts and insights and his extraordinary role for the Islamic nation and the Muslims of the subcontinent."

"Allama Iqbal is the name of such a spiritual and intellectual force that lit a candle of light in the darkness of slavery, and gave a message of self-reliance to a nation that was in despair," he added.

The prime minister said, "Allama Iqbal taught the lesson that faith, knowledge and action are the pillars on which a living nation builds itself."

Iqbal's message serves as beacon of hope for generations, AJK-PM

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that Allama Iqbal's message serves as a beacon of hope and guidance for generations to come.

In his special message on the birth anniversary of the Poet of the East, Sir Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the Prime Minister said that Iqbal was a great thinker, philosopher, and visionary leader who left behind an unparalleled legacy in modern history.

The Prime Minister said that it was Allama Iqbal who first conceived the idea of Pakistan — a dream that was later realized under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He added that it is a matter of great pride that Allama Iqbal hailed from Kashmir and wholeheartedly supported the struggle of Kashmiri Muslims against the oppressive Dogra regime.

"The State of Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of the homeland that Allama Iqbal had envisioned for the Muslims of the subcontinent," the Prime Minister said.

Over 2,000 more Afghan refugees cross Torkham border

TORKHAM (INP): The Torkham border remained open for a seventh consecutive day to ensure the safe return of Afghan refugees.

According to border authorities, a total of 2261 Afghan nationals, including men, women, and children, crossed back into Afghanistan on November 7, 2025, after completing their registration at the NADRA Immigration Centre.

The authorities further revealed that 3863 Afghan nationals were returned to their homeland through Torkham border on November 6, 2025.

Officials said that over the past six days, a cumulative 32,989 Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland from Pakistan, with a significant number of elderly individuals and young children among them. Sources added that refugees have been travelling both on foot and in vehicles, with the repatriation process continuing daily from early morning until late at night.



Visitors engage with books at Iqbal Literacy Festival organized by Khana-e-Farhang Iran in Quetta.

Pakistan Army presents newly built, restored mosques to KP people

WANA (INP): The Pakistan Army has presented a sacred gift to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the form of newly built and restored mosques.

In South Waziristan's Wana area, the Spin Mosque, constructed in July 2021 with the support of Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (South), features a vast courtyard and a beautiful prayer hall accommodating over five thousand worshippers at a time.

The mosque's Imam said that children from remote areas come here to gain both religious and modern education. Locals expressed

deep gratitude to the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps for building such a magnificent mosque.

The Pakistan Army has undertaken the construction and renovation of several mosques across the former FATA region. In Bajaur district, Frontier Corps KP (North) completed the restoration of the Suleman Khel and Ahrab mosques, previously damaged by terrorism.

Responding to students' requests, a grand Jamia Masjid Farooq-e-Azam was also constructed and renovated at the University of Malakand.



QUETTA: Secretary Education Saleh Baloch distributing certificates amongst the participants during closing ceremony of Coordinator Control and Focal Person ADP, BS Colleges Training Workshop.