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PM hosts dinner in honour of Senators All coalition parties fully supported national approach

PM says we all worked together for the 27th Constitutional amendment to strengthen the federation, for the wider interests of the country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday here hosted a dinner in honour of Senators from the government and coalition parties. The Prime Minister welcomed the Senators from the government and coalition parties and thanked them for their co-operation in the process of approving the 27th Consti-

tutional amendment. "We are grateful to President Asif Ali Zardari and the leaders of all coalition parties," he said adding, "All coalition parties fully supported the national approach." He said, "We all worked together for the 27th Constitutional amendment to strengthen the federation, for the wider interests of the country and to

increase harmony between the provinces and improve governance."

He said, "All the milestones achieved during this government are the result of mutual cooperation between the government and allied parties."

"Pakistan's diplomatic successes and recognition in the world are a reflection of harmony and mutual unity between all

the coalition parties," he observed. "Thanks to the joint efforts of all of us, Pakistan has achieved an enhanced status," he said adding, "The country's economic situation is gradually improving." The Prime Minister said, "By the grace and mercy of Allah, the country's direction has been corrected because of political and economic stability in the country."



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the banquet in honor of government and coalition Senators.



RIYADH: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza meeting Chief of General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili in Saudi Arabia.

Opposition launches protest over 27th Amendment

Will raise our slogan 'Aise dastoor ko hum nahi mante' (we do not accept such a constitution)," Achakzai

ISLAMABAD (INP): Tehreek Tahaffuz-e-Ayeen-Pakistan Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai on Sunday announced the launch of a movement and declared that parliament would not be allowed to function.

"The movement begins from 8.30 tonight, we will raise our slogan — 'Aise dastoor ko hum nahi mante' (we do not accept such a constitution)," Achakzai said in a presser in Islamabad.

He said that a group has "taken control" of Pakistan without holding elections, adding that the movement — the PTI was seeking — would begin today. "An attack has been carried out on the very foundations of Pakistan — this too is a 9/11," the TTAP chief added.



ISLAMABAD: Movement for the Protection of the Constitution's Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Senator Raja Nasir Abbas Jafri and Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar are holding a press conference at the NPC.

Senate witnesses heated debates over proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Sunday witnessed heated debates over the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill, with the treasury benches hailing it as a historic step toward strengthening the constitutional framework, enhancing judicial transparency, and ensuring inclusive representation across all federating units. However, opposition members outrightly rejected the proposed amendment, arguing that it would undermine the independence of the judiciary.

Taking part in the debate, senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) Senator Pervaiz Rashid said that the struggle for judicial independence in Pakistan had always been led by political workers and democratic forces rather than the judiciary itself. He appreciated the amendment bill, saying that judicial independence must not translate into unaccountable authority.

He recalled how political workers had struggled for judicial freedom, which should now serve the people instead of power groups.

He said opposition members who boycotted the committee's deliberations missed the opportunity to contribute their recommendations at the proper forum.

Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) stressed that parliamentarians should pursue constructive engagement to prevent any institution from exceeding its constitutional mandate.

He urged chairpersons of the committees to actively convene meetings to ensure accountability of ministries.

While taking part in the debate, Senator Talha Mahmood of PPP termed the amendment as a timely reform to strengthen the state structure amid internal and external challenges. He lauded the creation

KP CM booked under Peca over statements against state institutions

ISLAMABAD (INP): A case has been registered against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi under the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) after his videos circulated on social media allegedly tarnishing the reputation of state and national security institutions. The First Information Report (FIR), was lodged at the Cyber Crime Reporting Centre in Islamabad, with a sub-inspector from the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) listed as the complainant. The legal action comes after Afridi gave a media talk outside Adiala jail in which he reportedly made "false, misleading, derogatory, and intimidating" remarks.

For his part, Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen and TTAP leader Raja Nasir Abbas said the parliament and judiciary have been "destroyed," accusing the rulers of driving the country toward destruction.

Jafar Express, Bolan Mail train services suspended

QUETTA: Railway authorities announced the suspension of the Jafar Express from Quetta to Peshawar due to technical reasons. The service will also remain canceled on November 12 and 13. Additionally, the Bolan Mail service from Quetta to Karachi has been canceled following operational delays. Authorities advised passengers to stay updated on rescheduled departures.

Historic achievement in health sector: Ratio of child immunization in Balochistan increased significantly, says CM

Mir Sarfraz Bugti says Full Immunization Coverage (FIC), which remained at only 38 pc from 2020 until recently, has now risen to 47 pc within a year

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that the ratio of child immunization in the province has increased significantly, which, Alhamdulillah, is a historic achievement in the health sector.

In a post on social media platform X, the Chief Minister maintained that the significant improvement in the province's public health sector is the result of the provincial government's strong commitment and effective reform measures.

He stated that recent statistics show a notable in-

crease in the rate of full immunization coverage among children in Balochistan, reflecting public confidence and better administrative strategies.

The Chief Minister shared that the Full Immunization Coverage (FIC), which had remained at only 38 percent from 2020 until recently, has now risen to 47 percent within a year. These figures were released under the Third Party Verification of Immunization Coverage Survey (IPVICS) conducted by Aga Khan University (AKU).

He said this progress

Continued on page 2

Joint parliamentary committee approves draft of 27th Constitutional Amendment

Committee rejected four separate amendments proposed by MQM-P, BAP, PML-Q and ANP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The joint parliamentary committee of Senate and National Assembly has unanimously approved the draft of the 27th Constitutional Amendment, clearing the way for its presentation in the Senate on Monday morning.

The committee meeting was held on Sunday in Committee Room No. 5 under the chairmanship of Senator Farooq H. Naik. Members discussed the amendment clause by clause before granting approval.

Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar, Minister of State for Railways and Finance Bilal Azhar Kiani, Senate Standing Committee on Law Chairman Farooq

H. Naik, Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan, and PPP's Naveed Qamar were among the participants. JUI, which boycotted the previous session, sent a member to participate in this meeting.

However, leaders of PTI, MWM, PKMAP, and Sunni Ittehad Council did not attend and have also boycotted the upcoming sessions of the National Assembly and Senate.

The committee session was conducted in two parts. In the first session, members approved amendments to Article 243 of the Constitution, while other proposed changes were discussed. After a brief break, the committee reconvened for over two hours

and formally approved the draft of the 27th Amendment. The committee will now submit its report to the Senate for further consideration.

Govt allies proposed amendments rejected

The joint parliamentary committee has also rejected four separate amendments proposed by government allied parties. The rejected amendments included:

MQM's proposal to devolve powers of local governments under Article 140A.

Balochistan Awami Party's (BAP) proposal to increase provincial assembly seats.

Continued on page 2



Joint meeting of the Standing Committees on Law and Justice of the National Assembly and the Senate held at Parliament House.

NP decides to oppose 27th Constitutional Amendment

Independent Report
QUETTA: The National Party (NP) has decided to oppose the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment.

According to central spokesperson for the National Party, after the draft of the 27th Amendment was presented in the Senate, consultations were held with legal experts.

In addition, detailed discussions were also con-

ducted with party officials regarding the amendment.

The spokesperson stated that the 27th Constitutional Amendment is equivalent to weakening the fundamental spirit and constitutional framework of the Constitution. Therefore, the party's constitutional bodies have, by a majority vote, rejected the 27th Amendment, and the party would oppose it in Parliament.

Six killed in firing incident in Kalat and Panjgur Districts

KALAT (APP): Four people, including tribal leader Shakir Saadullah Langove, were killed in a firing incident in the Khaliqabad area of Kalat district on Sunday.

According to a private news channel, unidentified assailants opened fire in the Sarbund area, killing Shakir Saadullah Langove, his brother Shakir Khairullah Langove, and two others.

Leaves sources identified the other victims as Muhammad Karim and Muhammad Zahir. The attackers fled the scene after the assault. Meanwhile, two people were killed in a firing incident in Shepstan area of Panjgur district, Balochistan, on Sunday. According to a private news channel, unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants opened fire.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Balochistan Bakht Muhammad Kakar inspects the road work project at Nawan Killi.

CJCSC calls on Saudi Armed Forces Chief of General Staff

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M.), who is on an official visit to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, called on General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces.

During the meeting, both sides discussed evolving global and regional environment and avenues for enhancing bilateral defence cooperation, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here Sunday.

The military leader-

ship reaffirmed their resolve to further deepen the strong brotherly ties and enduring defence partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. In recognition of his significant contributions in deepening Pakistan-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia relationship in particular the military to military ties, the CJCSC was conferred with the "King Abdulaziz Medal of Honour of the Excellent Class."

The Saudi military leadership lauded professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in fight against terrorism.



ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Sunday, instructed that the proposed constitutional amendment put forward by few senators from the PML-N, regarding immunity for the Prime Minister, should be withdrawn immediately.

On X handle, the prime minister said that as a matter of principle, an elected prime minister must remain fully accountable, both before the court of law and the people.

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Pak, Saudi Arabia sign agreement for Hajj 2026

JEDDAH (INP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have formally signed an agreement outlining the arrangements and facilities for Hajj 2026.

The agreement was signed in Jeddah by Saudi Deputy Minister for Hajj and Umrah Dr. Abdulfattah bin Sulaiman Mashat and Pakistan's Secretary for Religious Affairs Dr. Syed Ata-ur-Rehman.

Dr. Ata-ur-Rehman expressed gratitude to the Saudi government for its continued efforts in providing excellent facilities and services to the guests of Allah during Hajj.

He said that, as in previous years, Pakistani pilgrims will be provided with high-quality services during the upcoming pilgrimage.

The secretary reaffirmed the Ministry of Religious Affairs' commitment to ensuring timely and ef-

fective arrangements for both government and private Hajj schemes, in accordance with Saudi government guidelines.

The federal cabinet introduced key changes to the distribution of Hajj quotas this year. Under the Hajj policy 2026, the government Hajj scheme quota has been increased to 70 percent, while the private Hajj tour operators were allocated 30 percent of the total quota. In 2025, Pakistan's total Hajj quota was 179,210, equally divided between the government and private sectors.

However, due to significant mismanagement, over 67,000 Pakistani pilgrims were unable to perform Hajj that year. The revised policy aims to ensure better oversight, transparency, and accessibility for pilgrims opting for the government scheme.

Govt taking concrete steps to promote Iqbal’s philosophy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi on Sunday said that the government was taking concrete measures to promote and preserve Iqbal’s philosophy as a guiding force for the nation’s intellectual and moral development.

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, the Poet of the East, the federal minister announced the formation of a committee to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal, comprising Iqbal scholars, educationists, and researchers.

The Iqbal Academy Pakistan will play a central role in implementing various national and international initiatives under this plan.

The minister revealed that the government plans to establish Iqbal Studies Centres across all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-

Baltistan to encourage research and learning on Iqbal’s thought.

He also announced the launch of the Iqbal Research and Cultural Complex in Sialkot, which will serve as a hub for research, training, and academic exchange.

Khichi added that the Iqbal Academy is working on translating Iqbal’s poetry and prose into major world languages, while national and international research projects on Iqbal’s philosophy will also be published.

In collaboration with universities and research institutions, the Ministry will organize international conferences and exhibitions to promote Iqbal’s message of selfhood, intellectual freedom, and universal brotherhood.

“The government is committed to incorporating Iqbal’s vision into the national curriculum and policy framework,” the minister stated, adding that special initiatives are being

launched to familiarize the youth with Iqbal’s message of Khudi and nation-building.

He emphasized that “the solution to today’s global challenges lies in the teachings of Iqbal, whose vision inspires humanity, freedom of thought, and universal harmony.”

Highlighting upcoming cultural diplomacy efforts, Khichi said that on November 13, the Pakistan Academy of Letters will introduce Portuguese translations of Iqbal’s works in a special event featuring the ambassadors of Brazil and Portugal.

“Our foremost priority is to safeguard our civilizational heritage including the timeless philosophy of Allama Iqbal and pass it on to future generations,” he said.

“Through art, literature, and cultural engagement, we will continue to inspire youth in the light of Iqbal’s teachings,” the minister said.



LAHORE: Players struggling to get hold on the ball during the final polo match playing between Master Paints and FG/Din Polo teams at Lahore Polo Club during LPC Polo Cup 2025. FG/Din polo team won by 8-6.

Lok Mela third day concludes with a vibrant Punjab cultural night

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ongoing Lok Mela 2025, organized by the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) under the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, continued to draw massive crowds on its third day, with thousands of visitors immersing themselves in Pakistan’s living traditions, crafts, and regional performances. The day concluded with a vibrant Punjab Cultural Night, celebrating the province’s rich musical and artistic heritage. Held at Lok Virsa’s Open Air Theatre, the Punjab Cultural Night lit up the stage with energetic performances by renowned folk musicians and dancers. The rhythmic beats of the dhol, chimta, bansuri, and tumbi reverberated through the venue as performers showcased the soulful spirit of Punjab.

The audience responded with loud applause, dancing along to the powerful tunes and cel-

ebating the warmth, color, and depth of Punjabi culture.

Throughout the day, the festival grounds were abuzz with activity from artisan stalls and folk theatre to open-mic sessions, children’s activities, and food courts featuring traditional Pakistani cuisine.

The Punjab Pavilion emerged as a major attraction, offering displays of handcrafted textiles, calligraphy, folk literature, pottery, and live craft demonstrations that gave visitors an authentic glimpse into Punjab’s artistic traditions.

Launched earlier this week, Lok Mela 2025 is part of Lok Virsa’s long-standing annual tradition that brings together artisans, performers, and cultural representatives from all provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. For decades, the festival has served as a cultural bridge, promoting national harmony, creative exchange, and pride in Pakistan’s diverse heritage.

Senate witnesses..

Continued from page 1

Democracy and the PPP manifesto since 2008.

He said the amendment would not weaken the judiciary but reinforce parliamentary oversight, adding that “parliament is being strengthened, not the courts weakened.”

Senator Danish Kumar emphasized the inclusion of minorities in decision-making.

He proposed that every federal and provincial cabinet include at least one minority member, highlighting that Pakistan’s identity is rooted in tolerance and Sufi traditions.

The debate reflected a broad parliamentary consensus that the proposed reforms aim to institutionalize accountability, reinforce democratic governance, and restore the spirit of cooperative federalism envisioned by the 1973 Constitution.

Responding to points raised by Mohsin Aziz and Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur, leader of the House

in Senate, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar clarified the historical background of the reforms.

He said the concept of a Federal Constitutional Court was first conceived between 2002 and 2006 during consultations between Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, later formalized in the Charter of Democracy (CoD) signed in London on May 13, 2006. He said that the idea was endorsed by all major political leaders, including Maulana Fazlur Rahman, Asfandyar Wali Khan, and Imran Khan, during subsequent follow-up meetings. “This is a shared national vision—common ownership of all political forces,” he said.

Other members Syed Ali Zafar, Faisal Javed, Mohsin Aziz, Noorul Haq Qadri also spoke on the occasion and opposed the constitutional amendment. Later the House was adjourned the meet again on Monday at 11:00 am.

Taliban regime’s support for terrorists becomes a serious threat to peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Taliban regime’s continued support for terrorists and breach of commitments have become a serious threat to the entire region, as undeniable evidence of terrorism originating from Afghan soil has once again come to light.

Security sources said that second suicide bomber involved in the attack on Frontier Corps Headquarters (North), Quetta on September 30, has been identified as an Afghan terrorist. The Afghan suicide bomber affiliated with Fima al-Khawarij has been identified as Muhammad Suhail alias Khabbab, they said.

The sources said Muhammad Suhail alias Khabbab was a resident of Maidan Shahr district, Wardak province, Afghanistan.

Delegations from Morocco, Somalia, Congo, Guyana arrive for speakers’ Conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary delegations from Morocco, Somalia, Congo, and Guyana, along with the President of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), Dr. Tageldin Ibrahim Hamad, arrived in Islamabad to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers’ Conference being held under the leadership of Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani.

The two-day conference, taking place from November 11 to 12, 2025, aims to promote global peace, strengthen cooperation, and enhance parliamentary relations among participating countries.

Dr. Tageldin Ibrahim Hamad, representing the Universal Peace Federation—an organisation associated with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC)—was warmly welcomed at Islamabad International Airport by senior officials of the Senate Secretariat.



LAHORE: Commander Central Punjab, Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmed Azmie offering Fatcha after laying floral wreath during change of guard ceremony to pay homage to the national poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his 148th birthday anniversary at Mazar-e-Iqbal.

Sports promote teamwork, discipline, and wellness: Chaudhry Majeed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Faisal Town Group, Chaudhry Abdul Majeed on Sunday said that sports promote teamwork, discipline, and wellness in the society.

He was addressing the prize distribution ceremony of the final match of the ICCI-IEAA Tape Ball Cricket Tournament as the Chief Guest.

The event was jointly organized by the ICCI and the Islamabad Estate Agents Association (IEAA), concluded with great enthusiasm and true sportsmanship.

Chaudhry Abdul Majeed along with President Islamabad Chamber of

Commerce and Industry Sardar Tahir Mehmood presented the championship trophy along with a cash prize of Rs. 2.5 million to the winning team, Gondal Tigers in recognition of its commendable performance.

A total of 24 teams participated in the tournament, which was played under the knockout format, drawing vibrant participation from the business community and sports enthusiasts across the capital.

In his address, the Chief Guest while announcing Rs10 lakh cash award for the winning team, Gondal Tigers and Rs. 5 lakh for the runner up team,

Gulberg Greens Eleven emphasized the vital role of sports in promoting teamwork, discipline, and a healthy lifestyle.

He said that such activities always foster leadership qualities and unity among the youth, which are essential for nation-building. He also appreciated the ICCI and the IEAA for organizing such a significant healthy activity which is in fact a true national service.

In his address Sardar Tahir Mehmood reaffirmed ICCI’s commitment to encouraging positive and healthy initiatives that strengthen community bonds and engage the youth in constructive pursuits.

Sri Lanka team trains ahead of ODI series

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sri Lankan cricket team conducted a comprehensive training session at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, marking their preparations for the upcoming ODI series against Pakistan.

According to details, the team, engaged in a two-hour training session under the guidance of their coaches, focusing on fielding drills and net practice.

The first ODI match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka is scheduled to take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on November 11.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people visiting Ten-Day annual folk festival “Lok Mela 2025” at Lok Virsa.

Joint parliamentary..

Continued from page 1

Pakistan Muslim League-Q’s (PML-Q) amendment for a uniform education curriculum across the country. Awami National Party’s (ANP) proposal to change the name of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The committee confirmed that the proposed amendment provides the President of Pakistan with lifetime immunity under Article 248, extending to past cases as well.

Committee members said the rejection of the allied parties’ amendments reflects a consensus on maintaining the core structure of the proposed reforms. Following the joint parliamentary committee meeting, Senator Farooq H. Naik confirmed that the draft of the 27th Constitutional Amendment has been approved, with some revisions incorporated after receiving suggestions during the session. Senator Naik said after the first session, “Today we will review all clauses and hope to finalise

the draft. Every party has the right to give its opinion, and all viewpoints will be considered. Proposals from PML-N and MQM-P will be evaluated, and decisions will reflect the majority consensus. All decisions will be presented in the house, and we expect to finalise the draft by 5 pm today.”

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar told the media that all parties had provided their input on the amendments, describing the consensus as “very encouraging.” He added, “It includes all matters, including Article 243. Once the report is presented in the Senate tomorrow, it will be clear.” Dar emphasised that the unanimous approval of the draft is a positive development for the country.

Earlier, during the joint committee sessions of the Senate and National Assembly, the proposed draft of the 27th Amendment—including provisions related to the appointment of armed forces chiefs—was formally approved.

German envoy meets Shujaat to explore joint ventures

LAHORE (INP): Germany’s Ambassador to Pakistan, Anna Lepel, called on Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain to discuss matters of mutual interest and ways to enhance bilateral trade and investment.

The meeting was also attended by Punjab’s Provincial Minister for Industry, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, and Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis, Chaudhry Salik Hussain.

During the discussion, both sides emphasised the need for practical steps to increase trade between Pakistan and Germany.

In the meeting, opportunities for joint ventures between Pakistani and German investors were also explored, reflecting a growing interest in bilateral economic collaboration.

Sodhi, Duffy three-fors trump late Springer, Shepherd blitz in thriller

AUCKLAND (INP): The series that keeps on giving. After two humdingers in Auckland, the third T20I between West Indies and New Zealand in Nelson was shaping up to be a more one-sided contest, with the visitors having slipped to 88 for 8 in 12.3 overs, chasing 178, staring at a comprehensive defeat. Surely game over, right?

Shamar Springer and Romario Shepherd, however, had other ideas. In a stunning rearguard action, the duo added 78 runs for the ninth wicket off just 39 balls to keep West Indies’ chase alive. From 90 off 45, they brought the equation down to 13 off seven. But New Zealand, just as they did in the second T20I, held

their composure in the end. Jacob Duffy pulled off a stunning return catch off the final ball of the 19th over to send back Springer. And with 12 needed of the final over, Kyle Jamieson stepped up for the second game running to dismiss Romario Shepherd. New Zealand won the third T20I by nine runs to go 2-1 up in the five-match series.

Electing to bat, New Zealand recorded 177 for 9 in their 20 overs on the back of Devon Conway’s 56 off 34 balls and Daryl Mitchell’s 24-ball 41. The final score was threatening to be a lot more, but three run-outs and Matthew Forde and Jason Holder’s two-fors denied New Zealand a late charge.



Jeeps Race through Muzaffargarh and Layyah Districts during 10th Thal Desert Jeep Rally near Multan.

Match officials announced for Pakistan-Sri Lanka ODI series

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan’s Ali Naqvi will officiate the three-match ODI series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka as match referee.

The series will be played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from November 11 to 15, said a press release.

England’s Alexander Wharf, a member of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, will stand as on-field umpire for the first ODI alongside Pakistan’s Asif Yaqoob (ICC Emerging Panel of

Umpires). Bangladesh’s Saikat Sharfuddoula, also part of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, will be the third umpire, while Rashid Riaz (ICC International Panel of Umpires) will serve as the fourth umpire.

For the second ODI on November 13, Saikat Sharfuddoula will be joined by Faisal Afridi (ICC International Panel of Umpires) as on-field umpires. Alexander Wharf will act as third umpire, while Asif Yaqoob will perform duties of fourth umpire.

ITP issues traffic advisory for One-Day and Tri-Nation Cricket Series

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has issued a comprehensive traffic advisory for the ongoing One-Day and Tri-Nation Cricket Series being played at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, deploying over 300 officers across the federal capital to ensure smooth traffic flow and public convenience.

An ITP official told APP on Sunday that special arrangements have been made to facilitate the movement of cricket teams from Islamabad to the stadium and to minimize inconvenience to citizens.

He said that alternative routes have been arranged for citizens in case of temporary road closures: In case of Faisal Avenue closure, motorists may use Srinagar Highway, Club Road via Faizabad, or Park Road via Lehrtr Road.

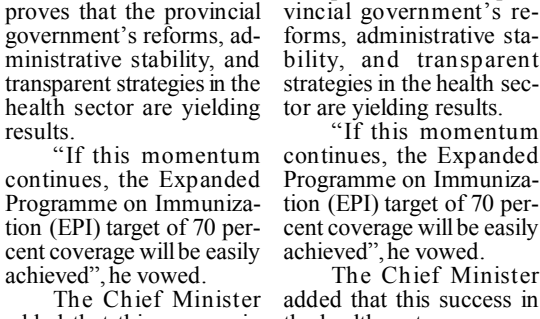
If 9th Avenue is closed, citizens should take Sabzi Mandi Mor–Police Lines Chowk via Srinagar Highway, or from Rawalpindi side, use Golra Mor–Peshawar Mor–Srinagar Highway.

Those traveling from Margalla Road towards Khanna can take Blue Area–Club Road–Lehrtr Road.

The spokesperson said that ITP officers are present on service roads to guide citizens and maintain discipline. He added that traffic on Expressway and Srinagar Highway may slow down during team movements, especially during peak hours.

He advised citizens to plan their travel with extra time and remain patient during movement hours. The ITP is making all-out efforts to ensure that the public faces minimal inconvenience. Traffic updates and advisories are being shared through Islamabad Police’s official social media pages and FM Radio 92.4.

For assistance or emergencies, citizens can contact Pucar-15 or the Traffic Helpline 1915.



KARACHI: Trucks loaded with huge pipes parked near Federal Urdu University as work on laying sewerage line start.

Ratio of child..

Continued from page 1

proves that the provincial government’s reforms, administrative stability, and transparent strategies in the health sector are yielding results.

“If this momentum continues, the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) target of 70 percent coverage will be easily achieved,” he vowed.

The Chief Minister added that this success in the health sector ensures a safer and healthier future for every citizen of the province.

He appreciated the entire team of the Provincial Health Department and reaffirmed that the government would continue its mission of public service with renewed determina-

tion.. proves that the provincial government’s reforms, administrative stability, and transparent strategies in the health sector are yielding results.

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QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education Raheel Hameed Khan Durrani and Lala Kabir addressing the conclusion ceremony of Youm-e-Defa Hockey Tournament.

Raheela attends inter-school hockey tournament finals, awards winning students

Independent Report
QUETTA: Balochistan's Provincial Education Minister, Raheela Hamid Khan Durrani, graced the finals of the Inter-School Hockey Tournament held in connection with Defence Day and distributed awards and medals to the outstanding players.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Durrani emphasized that promoting sports in educational institutions is among her top priorities. She stated, "I want schools to integrate extracurricular activities, especially sports, alongside formal education as a compulsory part of the curriculum."

Highlighting the provincial government's focus on developing sports across

Balochistan, she said that, in line with the Chief Minister's vision, efforts are being made to bring a wide range of sports to remote areas. The Minister expressed pride in hockey being Pakistan's national game and shared that she herself had the honor of playing hockey in the past.

Minister Durrani lauded the provincial Hockey Federation and school management for organizing the tournament efficiently. She also assured stakeholders that the proposals and demands presented regarding sports development would be given due consideration. Underlining the social importance of sports, she remarked that engaging youth in sporting activities is one of the most

effective ways to ensure their physical and mental well-being. "We want to establish as many sports grounds as possible across the province to ensure that our young generation remains healthy, active, and disciplined," she said.

She further highlighted a crucial social concern, stating that attracting young people to sports is the most effective strategy to protect them from negative influences, including drugs and other harmful activities.

The ceremony saw enthusiastic participation from school students, teachers, and notable local figures, reflecting the community's growing interest in sports and youth development programs.



KHUZDAR: A delegation of All Parties Citizen Action Committee meeting with Commissioner Kalat Division Dr. Tufail Baloch.

Relief for Students: CM Bugti approves school bus for Lehri Girls' High School

Independent Report
NASEERABAD, Nov 9: Former Federal Minister and senior tribal leader Mir Hasan Khan Domki praised Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Khan Bugti and Provincial Minister Mir Kohyar Khan Domki for approving a school bus for the Girls' High School Lehri, terming it a commendable and long-awaited step.

He said that for years, female students of the area faced severe transportation challenges, and this initia-

tive would bring much-needed relief and safety for the students and their parents. Mir Hasan Domki added that this is the first time a Chief Minister has practically addressed the educational and public issues of Tehsil Lehri on a priority basis.

He expressed gratitude to CM Bugti, stating that education is a dream for every household, and this move will empower the daughters of Lehri with better learning opportunities and a secure commute.

All-Parties Civic Action Committee delegation discusses regional development

KHUZDAR: A delegation led by Bashir Ahmed Jatak, Chairman of the All-Parties Civic Action Committee Khuzdar, held a detailed meeting with Commissioner Kalat Division, Dr. Tufail Baloch, to discuss key civic challenges. The committee highlighted pressing issues in infrastructure, public services, and governance, pre-

senting practical solutions for immediate implementation. Bashir Ahmed Jatak stressed the importance of uniting political parties to collectively resolve regional problems.

Dr. Tufail Baloch assured that all suggestions would be evaluated, and relevant departments would be instructed to act promptly.



ZIARAT: Assistant Commissioner Sajjad Ahmed addressing the ceremony on the eve of Allama Iqbal day.

PPP Leader Bugti slams MPA Lehri's "provocative and misleading" remarks

Independent Report
NASEERABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader and District Chairman Dera Bugti, Chief of Shambani Wadera Ghulam Nabi Bugti, strongly condemned MPA Liaquat Lehri's recent statement against the provincial government, terming it provocative, misleading, and hate-driven.

Wadera Ghulam Nabi Bugti said the remarks were baseless attacks on the government's performance and an insult to the sacrifices of law enforcement agencies, including FC, Levies, and Police.

He stated that such statements aim to spread confusion and hostility

among the public, which could harm peace and unity in the province.

Highlighting the leadership of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, he said that both Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have acknowledged the CM's effective governance.

He added that Liaquat Lehri had once surrendered before militant groups, displaying cowardice, and therefore, his role in the fight against terrorism is negligible.

The PPP leader demanded that Liaquat Lehri issue an unconditional apology for his allegations and divisive rhetoric.



QUETTA: Warm clothes demand rises in Quetta amid arrival of winter season as temperatures drop below freezing.

Norizai urges citizens to engage in local development

Independent Report
QUETTA: Haji Wali Muhammad Norizai, Provincial Parliamentary Secretary for Social Welfare, called on citizens to actively participate in identifying developmental priorities and solving community problems.

He emphasized that the provincial government, under Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, prioritizes merit, transparency, and equitable resource allocation. Haji Norizai assured that remote areas would receive developmental attention, and officials would regularly visit districts to monitor progress and resolve challenges efficiently.

Mengal residential public School Wadh hosts grand Iqbal day ceremony

Independent Report
KHUZDAR: On the occasion of Iqbal Day, Haji Mir Naik Muhammad Mengal Residential Public School in Wadh organized a highly prestigious and impactful intellectual and cultural ceremony, celebrating the legacy of Allama Iqbal, the poet of the East. The event showcased the school's commitment to nurturing students' academic and creative potential.

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran by student Feroz Khan, setting a spiritual tone for the proceedings. Following this, younger students captivated the audience with group performances of national and patriotic songs, adding vibrancy and enthusiasm to the program.

Students delivered impressive tableaux and presentations on Allama Iqbal's philosophy of 'Khudi',

demonstrating their understanding and talent. Selected speeches and poetry recitations based on Iqbal's work left the audience mesmerized. The event was expertly coordinated by Owais and Fawad Khan, whose fluent and engaging commentary maintained the program's flow and impact.

The school administration was commended for meticulous planning and execution, ensuring a seamless and successful event. The chief guest, Captain Adnan from Kalat Scouts, praised the school for celebrating Iqbal Day with such dedication and emphasized that November 9 reminds the nation of Allama Iqbal's inspirational vision. He urged students to embrace Iqbal's concept of selfhood and contribute meaningfully to the progress of Pakistan through education and civic responsibility.

During his address, the school principal highlighted that Allama Iqbal's intellec-

tual legacy is an essential part of the nation's traditions, and exposing the youth to his teachings remains a key objective of the school. Teachers' tireless efforts in shaping students' skills and character were also lauded.

In a show of global solidarity, students expressed support for the Palestinian people and advocated for the protection of human rights, delivering deeply impactful speeches that resonated with the audience.

The ceremony was attended by distinguished guests including Mir Matiur-Rehman Mengal, Mir Iqbal Jan Raisani, Mir Muhammad Khan Raisani, Haji Muntaz Mengal, Mir Khan Jan Mengal, and Mir Noorullah Mengal, among others.

Students demonstrating exceptional performance were awarded certificates and shields in recognition of their achievements.

Aminullah Raisani meets honorary Japanese CG

Highlights opportunities for enhanced bilateral cooperation

Independent Report
QUETTA: Former Pakistani Ambassador Aminullah Khan Raisani, who served in Lebanon, Syria, Oman, and as High Commissioner to Cyprus, met with Honorary Japanese Consul General for Quetta, Syed Nadeem Alam Shah, to discuss avenues for strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan. Dr. Talha Shah was also present during the meeting.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on promoting human resource exchange programs, leveraging Japan's expertise in information technology and digital transformation, and enhancing collaboration in trade, investment, climate change mitigation, energy, and people-to-people relations.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Raisani congratulated Shinzo Takayuchi on becoming Japan's first female Prime Minister, expressing optimism that under her leadership, Japan would achieve new milestones of progress while further strengthening longstanding ties with Pakistan. He emphasized that

Japan would continue to play a constructive role in supporting Pakistan's development and prosperity.

Ambassador Raisani highlighted Pakistan's potential for economic growth, stating, "Pakistan should adopt a trade-focused policy rather than aid-dependency. Through strategic economic diplomacy, Pakistan can emerge as an Asian Tiger. Ample opportunities exist for foreign investors, and if Paki-

progress is harmonized with respect for human values. He recommended that Pakistan benefit from Japan's disaster management expertise, including preparedness and rehabilitation measures for earthquakes, floods, and other natural calamities, to enhance national resilience.

In response, Honorary Consul General Syed Nadeem Alam Shah praised Japan's rapid post-World War II development as a



QUETTA: Former Ambassador Ameenullah Raisani meeting with Honorary Consul General of Japan Syed Nadeem Shah.

stani diplomats worldwide perform their duties with diligence and integrity, Pakistan can overcome foreign debt challenges and achieve sustainable economic growth."

Reflecting on his diplomatic experience, Ambassador Raisani underscored Japan's model as a global example of economic, technological, and social development, where material

global benchmark. He emphasized that Pakistan's federal and provincial governments are adopting Japanese models and technology across sectors including economy, education, healthcare, police reforms, water and sewage treatment, traffic systems, environment, and urban infrastructure, aiming to bring modern, sustainable reforms to the country

Naseerabad admin recovers encroached NTC tower land, removes illegal saw machine

Independent Report
NASEERABAD: In a major anti-encroachment action, the Naseerabad district administration has successfully recovered government land belonging to the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) and removed an illegally installed saw machine from the site.

Assistant Commissioner Dera Murad Jamali Mir Bahadur Khan Khosa said the operation was conducted under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad after receiving

complaints of illegal occupation near the National Highway.

The operation team included Tehsildar Mir Moazzam Ali Jatoi, Naib Tehsildar Mahtab Ahmed, and SHO Talib Hussain Lashari.

The Assistant Commissioner reaffirmed that no individual will be allowed to occupy government land or property, adding that anti-encroachment and parking operations will continue along the National Highway and surrounding areas.



QUETTA: Chief of Killi Ismail Mir Sher Ali Mirwani and Sardarzada Tariq Lehri enquiring about the health of Sardar Rab Nawaz Kurd at his residence.

Ration and education cards can serve as effective public welfare tools, DWP

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Democratic Watan Party emphasized the need to expand public welfare initiatives by introducing ration and education cards, modeled on the successful health card system.

The party's spokesperson said that providing essential services such as healthcare, nutrition, and education is crucial, especially given the economic challenges faced by ordi-

nary citizens. Ration cards could ensure dignified access to food for low-income groups, while education cards could provide equal opportunities for students.

"Public welfare is a hallmark of a responsible state. Citizens have a right to basic facilities such as health, food, and education. We fully support initiatives that improve lives and strengthen social equity," the spokesperson added.



QUETTA: Director Balochistan Academy for College Teachers (BACT) Shahzad Anwar presenting shield to Secretary, Colleges, Higher & Technical Education Department, Government of Balochistan Saleh Baloch during the closing ceremony of three day training workshop of Coordinators and focal persons for BS colleges.



QUETTA: President Pakistan Paramedical Staff Association Balochistan Habib Khan administrating oath from the newly elected cabinet.

Ali Madad inaugurates tubewell in Killi Nichari

Independent Report
QUETTA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and Member of the Balochistan Assembly, Haji Ali Madad Jatak, inaugurated a tube well in Killi Nichari, Sariab, funded through his development grant.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by tribal elders, notables, and a large number of residents from the area.

Addressing the gathering, Ali Madad Jatak said his mission is to take practical steps for resolving public issues, particularly ensuring access to clean drinking water — a top priority of the government. He noted that the residents of Killi Nichari had long suffered from water scarcity,

and the newly completed tube well would now provide hundreds of families with clean and fresh water.

Earlier, tribal and regional notables, party workers, and residents of his constituency met with Haji Ali Madad Jatak at his residence to discuss local issues, development projects, and political affairs.

During the meeting, Jatak said he finds peace and satisfaction in serving the people, as he considers public service an act of worship.

He added that several development schemes have already been initiated across the constituency, which will bring real progress and prosperity once completed.



ZIARAT: Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Muhammad Riaz Khan Dawar inspecting the Levies Station Kotlal.

People's youth organization demands local election tickets be given to committed workers

Independent Report
SIBI: Senior Vice President of the People's Youth Organization, Sibi Division, Malik Bashir Ahmed Khajak, called on party leadership to award local government election tickets to dedicated and ideologically loyal workers.

Speaking to media, Malik Bashir emphasized that the inclusion of opportunistic elements could demoralize committed party

members. He urged the leadership to recognize the sacrifices of workers who have kept the party flag high in challenging conditions and to prioritize loyal leaders in the provincial cabinet formation.

Malik Bashir also appealed to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to personally assess the situation and ensure loyal members are given due recognition and opportunities.

Govt High School Duki receives new school bus to enhance student access

Independent Report
DUKI: District Education Officer Duki, Dr. Nasruddin Tokhi, expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hamid Khan Durrani, Provincial Forest Advisor Sardar Masood Khan Luni, and Secretary Education Asfandiyar Khan Kakr for providing a dedicated

school bus to Government High School Duki.

Dr. Tokhi stated that the bus will facilitate convenient pick-and-drop services for students, ensuring timely access to education. He highlighted that teacher absenteeism and negligence will not be tolerated, and strict disciplinary measures will be enforced against defaulters.

DC Ziarat conducts surprise night inspection of levies check posts

Independent Report
ZIARAT: Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Riaz Khan Dawar conducted an unannounced night inspection of Levies check posts, including

Kotlal.

During the inspection, attendance registers were reviewed, and officers-in-charge briefed the DC on operations.

Dangling sword

A 27th Amendment is no longer just a subject of gossip and rumour. It is materialising and has triggered speculation about how this regime expects to consolidate its power. It is clear why it was kept under wraps: the proposed legislation will hollow out the Supreme Court and supplant it with a supra-court with all powers to overrule the former's authority. The other subjects it touches on are the number of ministers and advisers, as well as the leadership of the armed forces.

It would seem as if the potential rollback of the 18th Amendment and significant changes to be made to the National Finance Commission Award were but a smokescreen. There is no mention of either of the subjects in the legislation presented before the Senate. Did the government use a bait-and-switch to make its proposals more digestible? We must wait to see how they are received.

Meanwhile, one cannot help but comment on the grand ambitions of the proposed amendment. The Supreme Court, once the last resort on all questions of law and legality, will be superseded by the federal constitutional court, which will quite literally be hand-picked by the ruling regime. In theory, under the amendment, the ruling parties could stack the entire bench of this new, most powerful court in the country.

Could such a bench ever be expected to rule impartially on the constitutionality of the government's actions? It would seem naïve to expect it to do so. How supporters of the amendment will explain this blatant subversion of judicial independence remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is to be reduced to a final court for routine civil and criminal appeals only. This demotion will complete the apex court's descent to irrelevance, triggered by its failure to enforce its writ in the '90-days elections' case. The humiliation will be complete.

One also wonders about the wisdom behind granting five-star ranks immunity from all prosecution for life. It is a rather surprising concession, given that past governments of both the PML-N and PPP were persecuted and overthrown by military strongmen. Those same military rulers also committed gross excesses against ordinary citizens and resorted to subjugating civil rights wholesale whenever the public's will clashed with their personal interests. Unfortunately, they never faced justice for their crimes.

Given such precedents, would the promise of near-blanket, lifetime immunity not give future despots more incentive to commit violations of oath and law with impunity? The government should perhaps have considered formally recognising the titles of five-star-ranked personnel only and conferring all the prestige it wished upon them. A lifetime of immunity is a rather odd honour to bestow on anybody.

Attention now turns to the debate. The government must not rush matters and allow all to share their thoughts freely.

Muhammad Amir Rana

After Zohran Mamdani's victory as mayor of New York, academic Vali Nasr remarked on social media that the moment symbolised "the end of the era of the Global War on Terror". Yet, for Pakistan, the supposed front-line state in that long global campaign, the war never truly ended but rather got worse. Ironically, nations once branded as epicentres of terrorism, Iraq, Syria, and even Afghanistan now appear relatively more stable. One must ask why Pakistan remains suspended in perpetual insecurity, despite once being the front-line state in the war against terrorism.

The state has found many excuses to explain terrorism within its borders, blaming Afghan-istan, global jihadist networks, local militant groups and religious extremism. Yet it rarely reflects on the policies it crafted to remain relevant in the region's strategic game. These policies were marred by miscalculations regarding the strengths and weaknesses

of militant groups, and more critically, by persistent policy failures. Successive governments and security institutions have refused to admit these mistakes, hold anyone accountable, or meaningfully reform the frameworks that consistently failed to deliver.

The irony lies in the fact that Pakistan's security apparatus continued to implement the very approaches that had proven ineffective. Instead of acknowledging their flaws, it became defensive and intolerant of criticism, silencing legitimate forums and institutions that could have questioned these policy failures and ensured even minimal transparency in decision-making.

Apparently, the state institutions have decided to address the problems of terrorism and extremism decisively. This renewed resolve is reflected both in Pakistan's posture towards Afghanistan and in how the state has dealt with the extremist group TLP in Punjab. However, once again, these policies are being implemented with full impunity, and it remains unclear who'll be held accountable if they fail to de-

liver the desired outcomes. State institutions must not lose their composure in their display of muscle.

In recent times, civilian governments have borne the burden of the strategic blunders made by state institutions. But under the current hybrid system, there is little room left to shift the entire responsibility onto civilian shoulders. The civilian leadership today appears to be in complete synchronisation with the military establishment in its approach to security, the economy and politics.

The synchronisation has created relative political stability in the country, but it is unable to address the security challenges that Pakistan is facing. What happened in Doha and Istanbul during the dialogue between Afghanistan and Pakistan showed that Pakistan, which had facilitated the Doha dialogue between the Taliban and the US, was now itself in talks, enabled by Türkiye and Qatar, and in these talks, the bone of contention remained the terrorist groups TTP and the Ittihadul Mujahideen led by Gul Bahadur, and terrorist activities inside Pakistan.

Both these terrorist groups were close aides of the Taliban in their fight against Nato forces, and clearly, Gul Bahadur had been Pakistan's proxy to support the Taliban insurgency. The TTP, which was equally lethal in Afghanistan and Pakistan, was tolerated for several years in North Waziristan until Operation Zarb-i-Azb was launched. Once again, the group was engaged in talks.

It was a deliberate policy to bring the Taliban into power in the hope that they would strengthen the state's strategic interests on the western borders. The price was so high that it bled Pakistan and caused disharmony inside it. The approach to supporting the Taliban had only one objective — to bring them to power; the state institutions did not have any plans once they came to power.

The Haqqanis, considered close to the state, have turned against Pakistan — something that should have been a strategic shock, but was absorbed silently. Neither the state institutions nor the intelligentsia in Pakistan questioned why the Haqqanis wanted to reverse Fata's

status and convert the area once again into tribal territory, where they could operate freely, sustain their political economy, and continue spreading radicalism in Pakistan. The TTP and Gul Bahadur are merely the Haqqanis' stooges in this plan.

The irony lies in Pakistani officials signalling the possibility of regime change in Afghanistan if the Taliban do not comply with their expectations, an approach that violates diplomatic norms. Yet analysts are raising a valid question: if the state were to attempt regime change in Afghanistan, who would be its closest ally? Who else, if not the Haqqanis?

This is not just a dichotomy in the state's approach; it reflects a mindset rooted in the concept of a 'hard state', where the application of hard power often clouds the distinction between friends and foes. The state appears to be focused solely on achieving its set objectives, regardless of the long-term consequences.

One hopes that whatever policy the state has crafted to deal with terrorism and extremism, it will deliver tangible results and

allow Pakistan to finally declare victory over this decades-old scourge. However, state institutions must not lose their composure in their display of muscle. A 'hard state' should not mean a loss of reason; it must evolve long-term policies to address its challenges.

Anatol Lieven's central argument in Pakistan: A Hard Country is that Pakistan is not a 'failed state'; rather it has a weak state apparatus that governs a socially resilient society. The idea derived from his analysis is that a muscular state could strengthen itself through firmness and control. However, as seasoned former diplomat Ashraf Jehangir Qazi recently reminded us, quoting Swedish economist and sociologist Gunnar Myrdal, Pakistan today is "characterised by weak governance, a lack of effective law enforcement, and a general societal and political indiscipline" — a reflection of Pakistan's current political condition. As he wrote in these pages: "Reliance on the use of force to resolve complex political challenges is not an indication of a strong or hard state."

27th to cement status quo

Abbas Nasir

The experts will pore over the draft of the Constitution (27th Amendment) bill, which was tabled in parliament during a special session of the Senate on Saturday, to come up with their detailed critique but to a layman like me it seems aimed at cementing the status quo and also points to token resistance by the provinces.

It largely expands on the thinking behind the 26th Amendment and plugs whatever loopholes that exercise left to ensure that the days of 'judicial activism' that some saw as politically motivated are long gone. The judiciary will find itself much more tightly corralled.

The irony won't be lost on those who desired and campaigned for judicial independence that this tighter corraling of the judiciary will be accomplished with the help of some of the honourable members of the institution itself such as through a mechanism to transfer judges of the high courts. (I already have a list emerging in my

mind, for example, of Islamabad High Court judges heading to far less salubrious and picturesque and definitely more turbulent and volatile centres than the federal capital).

The unity of the days of former chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry is no more than a dot disappearing in the rear-view mirror, a distant memory. When we are lamenting the clipping of the judiciary's wings it would be in bad taste to mention the excesses of the Chaudhry era. But how can one forget those?

The share of power and resources for the lead partner has been sought and is likely to be granted.

For it was those excesses that culminated in the unholy alliance between the judiciary and the establishment that marked the era of chief justice Saqib Nisar who presided over the first major rollback of democracy (in 2016) since its revival after the 2008 elections and triggered the downside that continues to this day. Elements of the political

class have been willing collaborators.

Those with far more legal competence and nous than I will ever have are commenting on this aspect of the amendment so I can move on to other areas such as the amendment governing Article 243 which deals with military appointments.

One of the changes to 243 will abolish the position of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee with the retirement of the incumbent Gen Sahir Shamshad this month. At which time the incumbent army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir will take over the newly minted dual role of the Chief of Army Staff-Chief of Defence Forces. The amendment states that the title of the field marshal will be for life. As far as my knowledge is concerned the title is always for life. So this part of the amendment is merely a reiteration. Also, a Commander of the National Strategic Command will be appointed by the prime minister on the recommendation of the COAS-CDF.

While it has not been spelt out, it is likely that

the position will be a four-star general so the senior-most serving three stars will have something to aspire for, given the five-year tenure of their boss that is extendable for further period(s).

In essence, all of this represents the post-facto recognition and cementing of the status quo. The proponents of this move cite this May's 'victory in the war with India' as the rationale or justification behind the changes to Article 243 as they reflect on the operational 'lessons' learnt about the demands of this new era of warfare.

Against this backdrop and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's insistence that his country's Operation Sindoor was 'on pause' and not ended, there was considerable speculation about a 10 per cent cut in the provincial share of the federal divisible pool as enshrined in the National Finance Commission Award (NFC) to fund additional defence needs.

It was also suggested that the ministries of education and population welfare and planning that devolved to the provinces

via the 18th Amendment in 2010 would revert to the centre along with their sizeable, donor-supplemented, budgets. On the reversion of these two ministries to the centre and the removal of the protection to the provincial share in the NFC, it seems, the PPP dug in its heels and, according to Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, the PML-N agreed to exclude matters 'for now' from the amendment on which consensus was not reached.

While the PPP managed to block a constitutional (institutionalised) cut to its share, it would not be surprising if the extra Rs500 billion needed for defence needs is offered up voluntarily by the provinces including Sindh and Balochistan (where too the PPP claims it leads the provincial government) with dangers looming large on the eastern as well as the western fronts.

It would be difficult to describe the KP government's posture under its belligerent new chief minister. If Sindh and Balochistan were to offer up their share,

Punjab would follow suit, given that the PML-N has the government there.

Yes, democrats and those who believe in the independence of the judiciary will be crestfallen when this amendment is passed by parliament (and passed it will be, rest assured) but all it does is to once again underline the reality: power flows through the barrel of a gun.

In the past, take-overs have happened a few years (1977) or a few months (1999) after military debacles major or minor. Now, after a Trump-rubber-stamped win, an institutionalised increase in the share of power and resources for the lead partner of the hybrid set-up (this last a term used by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif) has been sought and is likely to be granted.

This is the reality. Notwithstanding the token provincial resistance. And sadly, for some of us this is how it will remain for the foreseeable future: save for a dramatic turn of events, that, for now at least, is improbable and not even a distant possibility.

Nothing to watch

Muna Khan

I saw sorry baby, a really good film about a sexual assault that wasn't the typical trauma story. Since it may soon release on HBO Max, which is available in Pakistan, I recommend you watch it; I promise I haven't given too much away. The incident occurs between a graduate student and her thesis adviser and is not shown which makes it far more powerful than the often gratuitous violent assaults depicted on screen.

The film is about Agnes, played by Eva Victor who directs the film too, and the struggles she faces in three years following the assault. She is a professor at the same college where the incident occurred and the film depicts, what Deadline called, "Agnes' imperfect journey through the other side of trauma".

The student-professor relationship is often portrayed as one brimming with some romantic or sexual tension. That is hugely problematic because more often than not, the relationship stays within professional boundaries but cinema and TV love to show otherwise. I think it has to do with audiences enjoying stories about secrecy or something forbidden or the power imbalance that comes with illicit relationships. There's a forbidden relationship in the popular TV show Pretty Little Liars between a high school girl and her English teacher. The way it is portrayed, audiences can't help but feel like they should be rooting for them even though they know it's wrong. In the real world, it's statutory rape in many countries, including the US where the show was created and targeted a demographic of girls as young as 11. Imagine them thinking that this relationship was

'cute' rather than being told this is wrong. It sends the message that intentions — they didn't mean to fall in love — are more important than being taken advantage of.

I am loath to generalise but the correct word for a teacher pursuing a student at school and undergraduate level is 'predator'. Universities have different guidelines about professor-student relationships at the graduate level but you can't deny the power imbalance there too. Sometimes it is complex but sometimes it is simple, ie, inappropriate. It's why I urge you to watch Sorry Baby to see how that relationship is portrayed and then how the story is told from the point of view of the survivor and not the predator.

The correct word for a teacher pursuing a student is 'predator'. It is against this backdrop that I wanted to write about Main Manto Nahin Hoon, a drama by the infamously problematic writer Khalilur Rehman Qamar who is known for his regressive and misogynist portrayals of (and comments about) women. Full disclosure: my father and I watched three episodes of this play when it aired but didn't get into it so we abandoned it but I have followed criticism on social media of the portrayal of a relationship between the professor Manto (Humayun Saeed) and his student Mehmali (Sajal Ali). In one scene, students boycott their class and demand their professor perform a court marriage with Mehmali. This happens in front of the dean whose response is to say "wow". And not launch an inquiry into this grossly inappropriate relationship.

Social media users were right to call this scene absurd. In another nonsensical video clip of a scene I saw on X, students clap

when the professor seems to accept the student's advances/ proposal. Mehmali keeps calling him 'sir'. In the good news, social media users have been calling this out. I wish the same could be said for 'reviewers'.

A fortnight or so ago, actor Atiqa Odho discussed this play in a talk show saying that some universities were not going to allow TV crews to film on campuses because they were upset at the way the drama glamourised the teacher-student relationship. I understand there is a market for problem-matic storylines but in a country like ours, we have to draw a line, especially because misogynistic comments are defended, and men get away with abuse, rape, murder, etc. This is not the messaging we want our children to receive.

Imagine parents not wanting to send their daughters to universities because they don't see them as safe places. We cannot afford girls dropping out. A paper in the Journal of Development and Social Sciences found that women dropped out of a university in Karachi due to early marriage, insensitivity towards harassment and family pressure. While the rate of female enrolment has seen a slow increase, according to the market research company Gitnux, the gross enrolment ratio for tertiary education specifically for females is eight per cent. This is dismal.

Our dramas were known for sharp, incisive commentary on social issues, for shifting attitudes on outdated values. Now they're celebrating regression, misogyny and issues that have no standing in plural, progressive societies. Women shouldn't have to suffer so that media companies can make money.

The 27th amendment

Sameer Khosa

The cat is out of the bag. The government plans to pass another amendment to the Constitution.

After days of secret negotiations, the draft of the proposed amendment was presented in the Senate on Saturday. Proposals included the establishment of a federal constitutional court. The retirement age of the FCC judges will be increased.

Judges of high courts could be transferred against their will and stand retired if they refuse. The first chief justice of the FCC will be appointed by the president on the advice of the prime minister. Other proposals include changes in Article 243 abolishing the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, making the Chief of Army Staff the Chief of Defence Forces, and giving field marshals their rank and uniform for lifetime. To discuss this amendment without its context would be to miss the forest for the trees. The context is this: parliament that stands to pass these amendments is the least representative parliament in Pakistan since the end of the Musharraf era in 2008.

The 2024 elections that resulted in the present government have been widely discredited by internal as well as external election observers — at least those that have dared to say so in public. Internal observers such as Patten that exposed the rigging had their offices raided and sealed. External observers such as the Commonwealth sat on its report of November 2024 for almost a year until it was leaked. The EU has declined to release its Election Expert Mission Report for fear that it will damage foreign relations with Pakistan. That in it-

self explains how flattering that report must be.

An independent judiciary constitutes an existential threat to the sham political order created out of those elections. Thus, every attempt has been made to subjugate the judiciary. Independent election tribunals that were inquiring into the irregularities were sidelined by changing the law to allow handpicked retired judges to be appointed as tribunals. When the Supreme Court ruled that reserved seats for minorities and women must be allocated to the PTI, a constitutional amendment was passed to ensure that the author of that judgement would not become the next chief justice of Pakistan (CJP). Constitutional benches were created comprising judges in whose selection the government itself had a say. They conveniently undid the verdict and handed several extra seats to the ruling coalition, thus making an unrepresentative parliament even more unrepresentative.

The point of the amendment is to reward and control.

Since the 26th Amendment, an onslaught of judicial manipulation has ensued, just as intended. Justice Yahya Afridi was appointed CJP out of turn while skipping the two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. In the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan (who was junior even to Justice Afridi) was appointed as the head of the constitutional bench (conveniently voting for himself as the tie-breaker vote). It must have pleased those who appointed Chief Justice Afridi when he promptly consented to parachuting judges from other high courts to the Islamabad High Court to block the appointment of

an independent-minded judge as the chief justice of that court. Similarly, it must have been equally pleasing when the constitutional bench rubber-stamped such transfers.

Thus, through a mixture of incentives and coercion the regime has caused the judiciary to turn on itself. At critical moments, such as justice Qazi Faez Isa's apparent desperation for an extension causing him to overturn the 63A verdict, Justice Afridi's eagerness to accept the office of CJP at the cost of his colleagues, or Justice Amin-ud-Din's decision to vote for himself as the head of the constitutional bench, judges of the Supreme Court failed tests of character that could have protected the court and foiled these designs. Judges would do well to remember that Faustian bargains have tragic ends.

The point of the 27th amendment is to reward and control. To ensure that no judge considered unfriendly to the regime can survive and to reward others with extensions in tenure. This is why the FCC with the enhanced age, so that some judges can be allowed to retire while others can be taken to the new court. This is why the power to transfer, so that troublesome judges can be transferred out of the way. This is why the new FCC will be staffed by judges picked by the PM and his handpicked chief justice. Let no one fool you about what is going on: a political elite ruling against the will of the people is destroying the institutions of this country and defacing its constitution only to perpetuate their own unrepresentative rule. In the face of this assault, resistance is our duty. If there is a lawmaker with conscience left on the treasury benches, dare one say it, exercise it now.

MQM will continue struggle for people's rights, says Tessori

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has said the MQM will continue struggle for the rights of the people of Karachi.

Addressing a public gathering in Sarjani Town via video link, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori said, "The rights of the people of Karachi will be taken back from the rulers."

"I congratulate the MQM leaders for the excellent arrangements for today's successful rally. The holding of this rally today is a testament to the immense love of the people of Sarjani. "The proud people of Sarjani have been associated with the MQM for decades."

He said that there is a bouquet of all linguistic units in Sarjani, all units are represented in this gathering today, there is a need to increase the police force to enforce law and justice in Sarjani. "We will ask the

Sindh IG for another police station in Sarjani Town."

Kamran Tessori said, "People are facing power outages and other problems. They are also facing difficulties in obtaining CNICs. The Karachi Water Corporation is not performing well here, gas loadshedding has also increased considerably. "There are insufficient employment opportunities. People here are looking at MQM to solve their problems."

I assure you that the MQM will continue to fight for your rights. We will take back your rights from the rulers. A new chapter of development in Sarjani and the city has begun, the Sindh governor concluded.

Meanwhile, Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori in his message to the nation on the birth anniversary of thinker of Pakistan and poet of East Allama Muhammad Iqbal said that

Iqbal's thought, vision, and philosophy of selfhood were a beacon for the youth.

Allama Muhammad Iqbal was the true companion of father of the nation Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The Governor of Sindh said that foundation of Pakistan includes Iqbal's dream and the light of Quaid's struggle.

He said that Iqbal's dream was of a free, self-reliant, dignified, and developed Pakistan.

Tessori said Today, we must pledge to make Iqbal's thoughts an integral part of our practical lives, national character, and collective behavior.

Iqbal's poetry carries the message of awakening, unity, and self-respect for the Muslim Ummah, he said adding that introducing the youth to Iqbal's teachings and philosophy is the most pressing need of our time.



SIALKOT: Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif is offering Dua after cutting cake to mark the 148th birth anniversary of national poet Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Ceremonial change of guard: Pak Navy replaces rangers at Allama Iqbal mausoleum

LAHORE (INP): A solemn and grand ceremony marked the change of guards at the Allama Iqbal Mausoleum in Lahore, as Pakistan Navy personnel took over the honor of guarding the national monument.

Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmed Azmi, Commander Central Punjab of the Pakistan Navy, attended the event as the chief guest. During the ceremony, he inspected the contingents of both the Pakistan Rangers and the Pakistan Navy, appreciating their discipline and commitment.

The well-dressed Pakistan Navy contingent formally assumed the responsibilities of the honorary guard, while the Punjab Rangers bid farewell after completing their tenure at the mausoleum. The ceremony reflected a blend of military precision and respect for the legacy of Pakistan's national poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Born on November 9,

1877, in Sialkot, Allama Iqbal received his early education in his hometown before moving to Lahore for higher studies and later to the United Kingdom and Germany for advanced education. Widely known as the "Poet of the East," Iqbal's poetry conveyed messages of empowerment and self-realization, inspiring generations of youth across the globe.

Visitors to Iqbal's final resting place can still see many of his personal belongings, including his chair, desk, bed and hookah, preserved in their original condition, offering a glimpse into the life of the philosopher-poet.

The ceremonial guard change at the mausoleum not only underscores the military's role in safeguarding national heritage but also pays tribute to the enduring legacy of Allama Iqbal, whose thoughts continue to guide and inspire Pakistan's youth.



SARGODHA: Educationist Professor Dr. Haroon-ul-Rashid Tabassum, President Sargodha Press Club Chaudhry Abal Hanan and other journalists are cutting the cake on the occasion of birthday anniversary of national poet Dr. Allama Iqbal at Sargodha Press Club.

Iqbal's selfhood inspires Muslims of subcontinent to achieve Pakistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Being the root of existence and living with dignity, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal's philosophy of Khudi (self) has inspired the Muslims of the subcontinent to achieve a separate state in the subcontinent where they could live with prosperity and practice religious obligations with complete freedom.

"Dr Iqbal philosophy of Khudi or selfhood has not only changed the mindset of the Muslim youth but also helped them believe in their own abilities and strength to achieve their ultimate goal of Pakistan," said Professor Dr Naushad Khan, former Vice Chancellor of Islamia College Peshawar while talking to APP on Sunday.

He said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal had faced criticism especially from religious circles but he stood firm with his philosophy as

he believed that Muslims had all abilities to regain power in the subcontinent where they ruled for nearly 800 years.

"Dr Muhammad Iqbal had faced criticism mostly from religious people on the concept of selfhood but he didn't stop himself from sharing his thoughts with the people of the subcontinent, which later helped achieve Pakistan."

After the debacle of the 1857 war, the Muslims of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent were subjected to different forms of discrimination and inhuman treatment by the colonial masters, who considered them rivals after snatching powers from the Mughals that ruled the subcontinent for nearly 800 years.

However Dr Iqbal philosophy helped them to go for a separate homeland, which was the only solution of their problems," said

Professor Dr. A.H.Hilali, former Chairman of Political Science Department at University of Peshawar while talking to APP.

"Great educationist Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and poet philosopher Dr Allama Iqbal came for the rescue of Muslims after colonial rulers tilted towards Hindus by empowering them in education, employment, economic, and political services, in a bid to prolong their rule and keep Muslims backward," said Dr Hilali.

He said the Poet of the East had presented his philosophy in a very unique and creative way by using high poetic imaginations, but his words cannot be understood by everyone because he was an ocean of knowledge.

Dr Iqbal has comprehensively explained selfhood's significance in his book Asrar-i-Khudi



LAHORE: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain laying floral wreaths during change of guard ceremony to pay homage to the National Poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his 148th birthday anniversary at Mazar-e-Iqbal.

Adopting Iqbal's philosophy of self-reliance key to building strong Pakistan: CM Maryam

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her special message on the birth anniversary of the Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal (RA), said that the government and people of Punjab salute Iqbal's intellectual greatness and timeless vision.

She described Allama Iqbal as a poet, reformer, and mentor who awakened the Muslims of the Subcontinent with a strong sense of identity and freedom. The chief minister noted that Iqbal provided the ideological foundation for the Muslim community, which Q u a i d - e - A z a m

Muhammad Ali Jinnah later translated into the creation of a separate homeland. She added that Iqbal's message for the youth — especially his emphasis on self-reliance — remains central to Pakistan's progress and development.

Maryam Nawaz said that adopting Iqbal's philosophy of self-reliance is the most meaningful way to honour him and a pathway for Pakistan to evolve into a moderate, welfare-oriented, and prosperous state. She added that Iqbal's teachings on self-discipline, moral strength, fairness, frankness, and democracy embody the universal and

enduring principles of Islam.

The chief minister underscored the urgent need to understand and implement Iqbal's vision to establish a free, fair, and just socio-economic system. She said that only by truly embracing his philosophy can Pakistan attain a prominent place politically, economically, religiously, and socially among the comity of nations. Maryam Nawaz concluded by calling on the nation to reaffirm its resolve to draw inspiration from Iqbal's thoughts and make his philosophy a guiding light for a stronger, more prosperous future.

Iqbal's vision still a guiding light for nation: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday paid rich tribute to the great philosopher, poet, and thinker Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal on the occasion of Iqbal Day, observed across the country on November 9.

In his message, the Governor said that Allama Iqbal's vision and philosophy awakened the spirit of self-awareness and independence among the Mus-

lims of the subcontinent, ultimately paving the way for the creation of Pakistan.

Governor Kundi said that Iqbal's concept of Khudi (selfhood) continues to inspire the nation to uphold dignity, self-respect, and moral strength.

He emphasized that the youth, in particular, should study and follow Iqbal's teachings to contribute effectively toward national progress and development.



HYDERABAD: Members of Education Department Lower Staff protest against non-payment of salaries at Hyderabad Press Club.

Minister reaffirms commitment to lasting peace ahead of Aman Jirga

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Aman Jirga scheduled for November 12, would bring together key stakeholders to deliberate on strategies for restoring and sustaining peace and harmony across the province, said Minister Mina Khan Afridi.

In a press statement on Sunday, he said that peace and stability were the top priorities of the provincial government, as progress, prosperity and public wel-

fare are only possible in a peaceful environment. He added that the Peace Jirga will be attended by religious scholars, political leaders, tribal elders, representatives of civil society and government officials to discuss practical measures for strengthening peace through dialogue and collective wisdom.

Minister Mina Khan Afridi emphasized that lasting peace cannot be achieved without public participation, which is why

the government has decided to bring together all segments of society on one platform. He said that the Peace Jirga will serve as a bridge for dialogue, reconciliation, and trust-building, paving the way for social harmony and unity in the province.

Afridi reaffirmed that the government is fully committed to working with all sections of society to restore lasting peace and to address challenges through mutual understanding and

People of Sindh pay tribute to poet of East: Murad Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Iqbal Day said that the people of Sindh pay tribute to the poet of the East Allama Iqbal.

He said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal was a great thinker, philosopher, and poet.

The Chief Minister said that the poet of the East taught the lesson of selfhood and self-confidence.

Shah said that Allama Iqbal's thoughts are a beacon for the youth.

The youth should adopt Iqbal's philosophy of selfhood and play a role in

the country's development, he said adding that Iqbal's concept of Pakistan gave the nation the awareness of freedom.

Shah said that Allama Iqbal was a strong advocate of Muslim unity and had a deep connection with Palestine.

He said that the current issues can be resolved by following Allama Iqbal's teachings.

On this day, we must pledge to put Iqbal's message into practice, he stressed adding we must move forward united for Pakistan's bright future.

CM KP pays tribute on Iqbal Day, vows to fulfill poet's vision

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi stated that the message of Allama Muhammad Iqbal remains a vital source of national guidance today.

In his message released on Iqbal Day on Sunday, the Chief Minister paid tribute to the national poet for delivering enduring message of self-reliance, faith, and action.

CM Afridi emphasized that Iqbal's philosophy was a call to renew national resolve to become a

dignified, faithful, and independent nation that determines its own destiny and upholds justice and fairness. He affirmed that current government's vision — a Pakistan built on the foundations of justice, merit, and self-restraint is the realization of Iqbal's dream.

He concluded by reiterating the commitment to creating a transparent, empowered, and awakened society in line with Iqbal's thoughts, ensuring Pakistan fulfills the dreams of both Iqbal and the Quaid-e-Azam.



HYDERABAD: Students are solving paper in computer during Entry Test for Allied BS Degree Program and Bio Medical Degree in University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) in Jamshoro.

Murtaza Javed says: PML-N will win by-election in Haripur

HARIPUR (INP): Former Federal Minister and Provincial General Secretary of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Sunday attended a coming meeting at the residence of former Chairman Village Council Jabri, Haji Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, in Village Council Jabri, Natha, as part of the ongoing campaign for PML-N candidate Babar Nawaz Khan in the NA-18 Haripur by-election.

Addressing the gathering, Abbasi said that the people of Haripur have always stood by the Muslim League (N) because of its commitment to development, service, and stability. "We will continue to work for the welfare of the

people and Insha'Allah, PML-N will win this by-election with a clear majority," he said. He added that Babar Nawaz Khan's victory would be a continuation of the party's mission to strengthen the nation through progress and good governance. During the meeting, Abbasi held detailed consultations with local elders, and it was agreed to further intensify the election campaign and strengthen the public outreach drive. The event was also attended by Tehsil Chairman Khanpur Raja Haroon Sikandar, Chairman Village Council Jabri Dawood Abbasi, Chairman Haji Aqeel Abbasi, Senior Vice President PML-N Chaudhry Majid Mukhtar.



ISLAMABAD: An artist displays painting and calligraphy works at a stall to attract the visitors at H-9 weekly bazaar.

Kashmiri martyrs' mission will be accomplished at all costs: Speakers

MIRPUR (INP): The speakers of a seminar, organized in memory of the martyrs of Jammu at Kashmir Press Club, Mirpur, have said that the mission of the martyrs of Kashmir freedom movement will be completed at all costs.

The speakers said the martyrs of occupied Jammu and Kashmir have made great sacrifices and history will always remember them.

Paying tribute to the martyrs of Jammu, he said apart from the Dogra forces, Hindu groups and Sikhs carried out the worst massacre of Muslims in Jammu on November 6, 1947. The aim of this fascist-based massacre was to reduce the population of Muslims in Jammu, in which they succeeded because before November 6, 1947, the population of Muslims in Jammu was 61 percent, which was reduced to 31 percent.

The speakers said the

dream of freedom of the Kashmiri people will come true very soon and the sacrifices of lakhs of martyrs will bear fruit and occupied Jammu and Kashmir will become free and part of Pakistan.

They said India has to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and no decision contrary to the wishes of the Kashmiri people will be acceptable.

They said India cannot crush the spirit of freedom of the people of Kashmir. Freedom is the fundamental and internationally recognized right of the Kashmiri people, which India must vindicate at all costs, they added.

The seminar was also addressed by Chairman of Institute of Kashmiri CDS, UK, Nazir Ahmed Qureshi, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Mirpur district.

Pakistan participates in CIIE focusing Jewellery market popularising gemstones

SHANGHAI (INP): Pakistan, a jewelry company that has participated in the 8th China International Import Expo (CIIE) for seven consecutive years has focused Chinese Jewellery market popularizing coloured gemstones.

The company, Winza, has long focused on the Chinese jewelry market and now operates five branded stores and three offices across major cities such as Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen, according to a report carried by China Economic Net (CEN).

Ahmed Aqeel, the company's head, noted that "colored gemstones, such as rubies and sapphires, are increasingly becoming the preferred choice for a new generation of consumers, particularly the younger demographic, when it comes to weddings and collections."

This trend signals a diversification and maturation of China's jewelry market, opening significant growth opportunities for Pakistan's high-quality gemstone products.

The report added,

with China's per capita GDP exceeding US\$13,000, consumer demand for high-quality and personalized goods continues to grow steadily.

The 2024 Central Economic Work Conference identified boosting consumption and improving investment efficiency as key tasks for 2025.

This direction was further underscored in the Proposals for the 15th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development, which prioritized consumption promotion under the broader goal of building a strong domestic market and accelerating the creation of a new development pattern.

These policy signals collectively chart a clear course for the continued expansion and upgrading of China's consumer market.

Against this backdrop, the CIIE saw strong attendance and active participation, becoming a vital window into China's dynamic consumer market.

For many overseas enterprises, the vitality of the Chinese market remains

a source of optimism, shifting their focus from "whether to enter" to "how to deepen engagement."

Multinational brands are increasingly unveiling innovative products at CIIE, using the event to make their global debuts and build brand awareness.

Their strategic focus has shifted from expanding distribution channels to understanding regional consumer habits in China, driving product iteration and localization through market demand, ensuring precise alignment with growth opportunities.

In the fresh food supply chain, Good Farmer Group, a leader in the industry, debuted new products at this year's CIIE, including organic Peruvian blueberries.

Good Farmer Group has been a regular attendee of CIIE, and its China e-commerce manager, Jiang Lei, explained that the release of these products highlighted both the efficiency of global supply chains and the company's keen understanding of Chinese consumer trends.



LAHORE: A large number of people purchasing warm sweaters and jackets in preparation of winter on Empress Road.

Saleem Memon urges government to Prioritize restoration of gas supply

HYDERABAD (APP): President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon, has expressed displeasure over the ongoing gas crisis faced by both industries and domestic consumers across the country.

He stated that with the onset of winter, gas pressure and supply issues have intensified, severely affecting industrial production and creating immense hardship for households.

He revealed that over 40% of small-scale industries nationwide are suffering due to low gas pressure and irregular supply, while hundreds of industrial units in Sindh have been forced to partially shut down operations.

The President emphasized that instead of repeat-

edly increasing gas prices, the government must take immediate measures to control line losses and gas theft, ensuring efficient utilization of the available supply.

Saleem Memon urged the government to adopt alternate sources of energy to keep the industrial wheel running smoothly.

He pointed out that around the world, alternative energy solutions such as LPG, biogas, solar power, wind energy, and waste-to-energy plants are being successfully promoted to sustain industrial growth. He further added that if the government truly intends to promote small and medium enterprises (SMEs), it must find a sustainable and long-term solution to the energy crisis.

At the same time, he emphasized that industrial-

ists should explore and adopt self-sufficient energy sources, as operating industries at government-announced energy rates has now become nearly impossible.

Concluding his remarks, President Saleem Memon urged the government to Prioritize the restoration of gas supply to industrial areas, introducing immediate subsidies and financing schemes for alternative energy projects and to Establish a special task force to curb gas losses and eliminate administrative corruption. He emphasized that the government, the Ministry of Energy, and OGRA must act urgently to prevent industrial shutdowns and to resolve the energy crisis on a permanent basis, ensuring the stability and growth of Pakistan's economy.

320,000 farmers register for Sindh wheat growers support program

KARACHI (APP): Around 320,000 wheat growers have so far registered under the Wheat Growers Support Program launched by the Sindh government to boost local wheat production, strengthen farmers' incomes, and reduce reliance on costly imports.

Allah Warayo Rind, Director General of the Sindh Agriculture Department, who also heads the monitoring committee for the initiative, told Wealth Pakistan that the registration deadline—originally set for October 31, 2025—has now been extended to November 10, 2025, enabling more farmers to benefit. He said that scrutiny of applications has already begun, and the first disbursement ceremony is scheduled for the second week of Novem-

ber 2025 in Larkana.

Under the scheme, the provincial government is providing cash assistance to farmers owning between one and 25 acres of land. Each eligible farmer will receive cash for two DAP fertilizer bags at Rs1,400 per bag, and two urea bags at Rs 4,000 per bag, per acre of cultivated land.

"So far, 321,000 farmers have registered, and the verification process is under way," the DG said. "Out of these, 188,000 applications have been confirmed, while the overall target is to benefit 411,000 farmers across Sindh."

Verification is being carried out through the Benazir Har Card database, bank accounts, national identity cards, and land revenue records to ensure transparency.

Industries dept warns against fake license holders

FAISALABAD (APP): The Industries Department has issued a clarification regarding repair manufacturing licenses in the Faisalabad division, stating that no individual or entity currently holds such a license. Shopkeepers and factory owners have been advised to deposit their respective fees directly at the relevant office, as no official licenses have been issued for repair manufacturing activities at this time.

District Officer Muhammad Irfan revealed that it has come to their attention that some private individuals are falsely claiming to be licensed agents and collecting fees under the guise of official authorization. He highlighted that these unauthorized fees are not being deposited into official government accounts.



LAHORE: A street vendor is selling dry fruits, figs and other items on the roadside in the city.



ISLAMABAD: US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker visits Golra Railway Station and Museum; lauds Federal Minister for Railways, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi as a "Railway Reformist" driving unprecedented modernisation and reform in Pakistan Railways.

Vibrant showcase at Indonesian Expo 2025 Celebrating 75 years of Indonesia, Pakistan enduring trust, friendship

ISLAMABAD (APP): The historic bond between the Republic of Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan took centre-stage today, as the Indonesian Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo formally inaugurated the Indonesian Expo 2025, held at the prestigious Centaurus Mall.

The two-day event (8-9 November) honors the 75-year milestone of diplomatic relations grounded in mutual respect, cultural affinity, and shared ideas of the better world.

The opening ceremony was graced by the former Chairman of the Senate committee of defence, Mushahid Hussain Syed, as the Chief Guest, alongside Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo and Mdm. Tamara Y. Sukotjo, distinguished members of the diplomatic and business communities, and a large and enthusiastic public audience.

"Why hold it in a shopping mall, because friendship should not stay inside closed halls. It should be celebrated with the people, right here where families, youth, and communities gather," Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo explained the reason behind choosing Centaurus Mall as a venue for the Expo.

"This is not about protocol, it's about sharing joy, culture, and togetherness between Indonesians and Pakistanis," he continued highlighting deep connections between the two brotherly countries. Moreover, the Embassy's Women Association led by Mdm. Tamara Y. Sukotjo performed an enchanting Indonesian bamboo-made instrument called Angklung, enchanting the audience with its harmonious resonance with popular songs of "I have a dream" and "Dil-Dil Pakistan."

"Indonesia has a special place in my heart, as I spent memorable moments in Jakarta as son of the first Pakistani Defense Attache for Indonesia," Senator Mushahid Hussain said in his remarks while wearing Batik outfit gifted by the 7th Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

"I also met with Mr. Prabowo Subianto when he was outside the Indonesian cabinet. Even I said to him that he would be the next President of Indonesia," he explained while confirmed strong partnership between the two largest Muslim-majority countries.

The main artistic highlight of the evening was the

appearance of the celebrated Indonesian troupe Paguyuban Citra, flown in specially for the occasion.

Their performance of Indonesian songs and dances drew sustained applause.

The spirit of brotherhood between Indonesia and Pakistan was further manifested when Indonesian and Pakistani dancers joined together in a vibrant rendition of the traditional Indonesian dance Lenggang Jakarta, symbolising intercultural unity and shared joy.

The Indonesian Embassy encourages all members of the public to attend the second day of the Expo on 9 November 2025, which promises another day of fascinating product displays, cultural activities, live music and business-networking opportunities.

"It was an amazing experience to witness the creativity, vibrant culture, and artistic performances of Indonesia showcased at the Expo," Hamza Butt from Rawalpindi commented the Expo 2025.

"You have amazing cultural performances that make us feel so close and happy together," said Fatma Khan from Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of women visiting stalls during Ten-Day annual folk festival "Lok Mela 2025" at Lok Virsa.

US companies double down on China market amid growing confidence, policy shifts

BEIJING (APP): Despite recent volatility in US-China trade relations and broader global uncertainty, American companies are showing their ongoing commitment to the Chinese market. At the 8th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, US companies once again claimed the largest exhibition space for the seventh year in a row.

Many business leaders and chamber representatives expressed strong confidence in China's high-level openness and its strategy for sustainable, high-quality development. They stressed that a stable US-China relationship is key to

their continued success in the market. In response to recent claims that US companies are pulling out of China, Myron Brilliant, Senior Counselor at DGA-Albright Stonebridge Group, firmly rejected this notion. After speaking with executives from more than 50 American businesses in China, he found no evidence that any planned exits were underway. On the contrary, many of these companies are deeply invested in research and innovation in China, with some playing a significant role in the local economy and partnering with Chinese firms to explore third-party markets, CEN re-

ported. Energy giant ConocoPhillips reaffirms its optimism about China's economic vitality. The company pointed out that China's dynamic market offers tremendous growth opportunities for foreign businesses. The healthcare sector is equally confident. Medtronic's Global Senior Vice President and President for Greater China, Alex Gu, predicted that China will soon become the world's largest medical market. This positive outlook is driving US medical companies like Johnson & Johnson, Merck, and Pfizer to increase investments and fast-track the commercialization of their cutting-edge products.

Consular to Italy Pakistan emerging as IT investment hub

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Investment Consular to Italy, Muhammad Sheheryar Khan, Sunday said Pakistan's economy is evolving rapidly, with the Information Technology sector and allied services showing significant growth.

Talking to Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq, in a Zoom meeting, he highlighted Pakistan's young, tech-savvy population, competitive labor costs, and government incentives as key factors attracting local and international investors.

He said Pakistan's booming freelance and soft-

ware export industry, where the country ranks among the top globally, was a major driver of growth. Software exports alone have crossed \$3 billion, with thousands of IT professionals providing services worldwide.

Muhammad Sheheryar Khan noted that Pakistan's workforce, with a median age under 25, was highly skilled, English-fluent, and adaptable to global market needs. Special Technology Zones offering tax breaks and export incentives, along with initiatives like Digital Pakistan, were fostering innovation and digital infrastructure.

SNGPL disconnects 3 more meters, checks 55 meters

MULTAN (APP): In a bid to curb gas theft and illegal activities, the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force intensified its operation and disconnected three more gas meters in various areas of the city.

According to details, two meters were disconnected over using compressor for getting gas illegally. One meter which was taken off by consumer recovered. The door-to-door inspections of 55 consumers were carried out.

Iftikhar Malik calls for stronger Pakistan-ASEAN economic cooperation

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik has urged the government to explore new avenues of investment and economic cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to strengthen regional trade integration and economic growth.

In a statement here on Sunday, the trade leader said ASEAN, comprising ten dynamic economies, offers Pakistan significant potential to diversify exports, attract foreign investment, and enhance people-to-people connectivity.

He called for developing strategic trade partnerships through joint ventures, industrial collaboration, and technology exchange, particularly in agriculture, information technology, renewable energy, halal food, and textiles.

Malik emphasized engaging the private sector, chambers, and think tanks to formulate a comprehensive ASEAN engagement strategy to maximize economic diplomacy. "The

time has come for Pakistan to look beyond traditional markets and strengthen ties with emerging Southeast Asian economies for shared growth and sustainable development," he added.

He also stressed the need for institutional reforms, ease of doing business, and a stable policy framework to attract ASEAN investors. Regular business exchanges, trade promotion missions, and delegation visits, he said, would build confidence and open new commercial opportunities.

Highlighting the importance of regional trade blocs, Malik urged Pakistan to actively pursue Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trade Arrangements (PTAs) with ASEAN to access its market of over 650 million consumers. He further noted that enhanced connectivity through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) could serve as a vital link between South Asia and Southeast Asia, fostering regional stability and prosperity.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor make water bubbles with a toy gun to attract children at H-9 weekly bazaar in Federal Capital.

Pakistan must fully exploit global Halal food market: Shahid Imran

LAHORE (APP): Convener of the FPCCI Regional Committee on Food Shahid Imran has stressed the need for Pakistan's corporate sector to fully capitalize on the global halal food market, which is currently valued at \$2 trillion and projected to reach \$3 trillion in the next five years.

Speaking to a delegation of halal food exporters, led by Shabir Ahmad from Mardan, on Sunday, Imran highlighted the vast opportunities for collaboration between Pakistan and Malaysia. Malaysia, with its well-established and value-added halal food industry, along with its extensive multinational networks, can play a crucial role in helping Pakistan integrate more effectively into the global halal supply chain.

Imran pointed out that while traditional halal food exports, such as meat, poultry, seafood, fruits, vegetables, dairy products, grains, oils, fats, waxes, and confectionery, are already

competitive, the real potential lies in developing value-added products. He emphasized that Pakistan could boost its export profile by offering more processed and packaged halal food products to international markets.

Furthermore, he noted the strategic importance of the Pakistan-Malaysia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in enhancing bilateral trade relations. He urged Pakistan to position itself as a partner and catalyst in driving sustainability and mutual prosperity in the halal food sector.

Imran also underscored Malaysia's potential to help Pakistan tap into broader economic and trade opportunities within the ASEAN regional bloc.

Through greater cooperation with Malaysia, Pakistan could not only expand its halal food exports but also leverage the ASEAN region's growing demand for halal products, paving the way for long-term growth and success in the global halal market.



HYDERABAD: Vendor sells guava to support family at roadside in Hyderabad.

Pakistani delegation to participate in JGTD 2025 in Dubai

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from Pakistan will participate in the Jewellery, Gem & Technology Dubai (JGTD) 2025, one of the leading international exhibitions for the gems and jewellery industry, scheduled to be held in Dubai from November 11 to 13.

The delegation is participating under the banner of the Gold & Gems Art Promotion Council of Pakistan. The delegation of Pakistani jewellers will be led by Muhammad Ahmad, President of the Gold & Gems Art Promotion Council of Pakistan. The visit aims to explore new business opportunities, promote Pakistani craftsmanship, and strengthen trade relations with global jewellery markets. Organised jointly by Informal Markets and the Italian Exhibition Group (IEG), the exhibition will

feature over 350 exhibitors from nearly 30 countries and regions, including new participants from Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Jordan. Country pavilions from China, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, and the United States will also showcase a wide range of products. The exhibition will display finished jewellery, gemstones, diamonds, pearls, lab-grown diamonds, semi-finished diamonds, and jewellery manufacturing technologies, with a new High Jewellery section introduced in 2025. The platform serves as a key marketplace for trade buyers and suppliers worldwide, with previous editions attracting visitors from over 120 countries. During the exhibition, the Pakistani delegation will also participate in B2B meetings and networking activities.

Boat with Rohingya migrants sinks off Malaysia, hundreds missing

Monitoring Desk
KUALA LUMPUR: A boat carrying members of the Rohingya community from Myanmar has sunk near the Thai-Malaysian border, with hundreds missing, seven dead and 13 rescued, the Malaysian maritime agency said on Sunday.

Rescuers were combing an area of 170 square nautical miles near Langkawi island on Saturday after a boat with 300 people on board left Myanmar's Rakhine state three days earlier, said the maritime agency head for the area Romli Mustafa.

Images from the agency showed one survivor covered with a sheet

and another on a stretcher.

Myanmar's impoverished Rakhine state has suffered years of conflict, hunger and ethnic violence mostly targeting the Rohingya Muslim minority community. Driven out of Rakhine state following a brutal 2017 military crackdown, some 1.3 million Rohingya live as refugees in densely-packed camps in neighbouring Bangladesh.

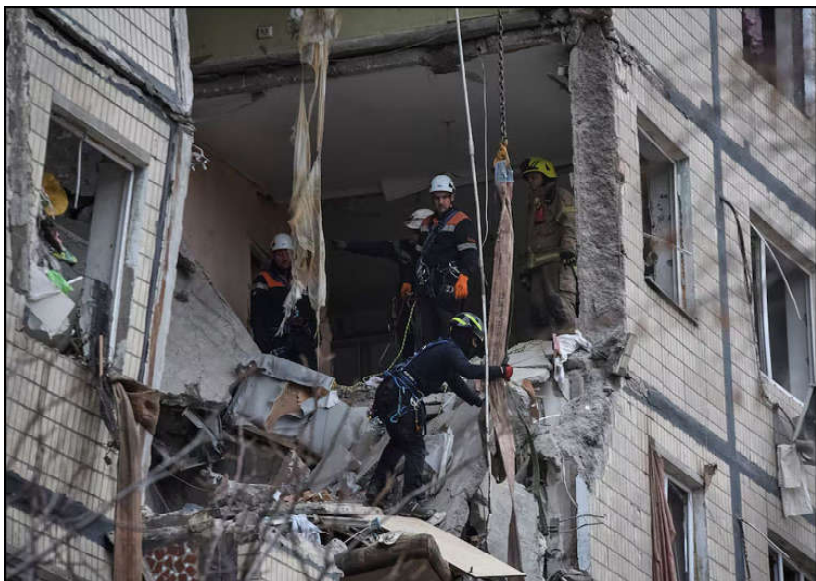
Malaysian state media Bernama cited Kedah province police chief Adzli Abu Shah as saying people initially boarded a large vessel from Myanmar but were instructed to transfer onto three smaller boats, each carrying about 100 people, to avoid detection

as they neared Malaysia.

The status of the other two boats was unknown, and a search-and-rescue operation was ongoing, he said.

Facing violence at home in Myanmar and increasingly difficult living conditions in Bangladesh, Rohingya from both countries regularly attempt perilous journeys by sea, including to Malaysia.

More than 5,100 Rohingya have taken boats to leave Myanmar and Bangladesh between January and early November this year, with nearly 600 people reported dead or missing, according to data from the UN Refugee Agency.



Rescuers work at the site of the apartment buildings hit during the Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Dnipro, Ukraine.

Before talks with Trump, Saudi Arabia doubles down on terms for Israel ties

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: U.S. President Donald Trump has been talking up the prospects of Saudi Arabia agreeing to normalise ties with Israel, but it is unlikely to happen when Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visits the White House this month.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia after decades of enmity could shake up the political and security landscape in the Middle East, potentially strengthening U.S. influence in the region.

Trump said last month he hoped Saudi Arabia would "very soon" join other Muslim countries that signed the 2020 Abraham Accords normalising ties with Israel.

But Riyadh has signalled to Washington through diplomatic channels that its position has not changed: it will sign up only if there is agreement on a

roadmap to Palestinian statehood, two Gulf sources told Reuters.

The intention is to avoid diplomatic missteps and ensure alignment of the Saudi and U.S. positions before any public statements are made, they said. One said the aim was to avoid any confusion at or after the White House talks on November 18.

The Crown Prince, widely known as MbS, "is not likely to entertain any possible formalising of ties in the near future without at least a credible pathway to a Palestinian state," said Jonathan Panikoff, former deputy U.S. national intelligence officer on the Middle East.

MbS is likely to try to use his influence with Trump to seek "more explicit and vocal buy-in for the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state," said Panikoff, who is now at the Atlantic Council think tank in

Washington.

Next week's visit is the Crown Prince's first to Washington since the 2018 killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, an MbS critic whose murder in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul caused global outrage. MbS denied direct involvement.

The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco have already normalised ties with Israel under the Abraham Accords, and Trump has said he expects an expansion of the accords soon.

"We have a lot of people joining now the Abraham Accords, and hopefully we're going to get Saudi Arabia very soon," he said on November 5, without offering a timeline.

In a television interview broadcast on October 17, he said: "I hope to see Saudi Arabia go in, and I hope to see others go in. I think when Saudi Arabia goes in, everybody goes in."

Paris Peace Forum forging new coalitions for peace, people and planet

PARIS (INP): The Paris Peace Forum 2025, held at Musée de l'Homme (Palais de Chaillot) in Paris, France, convened global leaders, policymakers, civil society organizations, and journalists to address critical challenges facing the world.

This year's forum, themed "New Coalitions for Peace, people, and the planet", provided a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and the advancement of concrete solutions to foster peace and cooperation.

The forum served as a platform for international leaders to address pressing global challenges. It emphasized the need for collective action and cooperation to promote peace, address humanitarian crises, and ensure a sustainable future.

The forum's commitment to supporting projects and fostering dialogue underscores its role in driving positive change on a global scale.

The agenda of the forum was packed with a diverse range of sessions, workshops, and high-level discussions. Key topics included:

- Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability: Discussions centered on accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement, promoting green technologies, and financing climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- Digital Governance and Cybersecurity: Experts explored the challenges of regulating the digital space, combating disinformation,

Israel receives remains of deceased hostage

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israel on Sunday received the remains of a deceased hostage held in Gaza that Palestinian militant group Hamas said were of an Israeli soldier killed in the territory more than a decade ago.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement the remains were handed over to Israeli forces in the Palestinian territory by the Red Cross.

There has not yet been formal identification.

Hamas' armed wing had said it would hand over the body of Hadar Goldin, a military officer killed in an ambush in Gaza during the 2014 Israel-Hamas war.



Red Cross vehicles transport a body, identified by Hamas as deceased Israeli soldier Hadar Goldin, in Deir Al-Balah, central Gaza Strip.



An aerial view shows damaged buildings after a tornado hit Rio Bonito do Iguaçu, Parana state, Brazil.

Russian attacks target nuclear substations, kill seven, Ukraine says

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia launched a barrage of drones and missiles in overnight attacks on Ukraine, targeting substations that supply two nuclear power plants and killing seven people, Ukrainian officials said on Saturday.

"Russia once again targeted substations that power the Khmelnytskyi and Rivne nuclear power plants," Foreign Minister Andrii Sybida said on X.

"These were not accidental but well-planned strikes. Russia is deliberately endangering nuclear safety in Europe."

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia had launched more than 450 drones and 45 missiles.

Three people were killed and 12 were wounded in the city of Dnipro when a drone hit an apartment

building. Three were killed in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia region and one in Kharkiv region farther north, regional officials said.

Energy facilities in the Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv regions were damaged, leaving thousands of people without power and water, Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said. Officials in Poltava said power generators were used to provide water.

Russia's Defence Ministry said earlier on Saturday that it had launched "a massive strike with high-precision long-range air, ground and sea-based weapons" on weapon production and gas and energy facilities in response to Kyiv's strikes on Russia.

Energy Minister Svitlana Hrynychuk said emergency crews had sta-

bilized the power grid, but warned consumers further power cuts were needed to allow work to proceed after the attacks.

"We are assessing the aftermath and coordinating what actions to take in order to find alternative power sources to ensure people get their power and heating back," Hrynychuk said on national television.

News reports and unofficial social media accounts said blackouts persisted in at least two regions - Kharkiv in the northeast and Poltava in central Ukraine.

State-owned energy company Tsentrenergo said the attacks were the largest on its facilities since the start of the war in February 2022, and that it had halted operations at its plants in the Kyiv and Kharkiv regions.

US sanctions official says time is right to cut Iran's Hezbollah funding

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: The United States seeks to take advantage of a "moment" in Lebanon in which it can cut Iranian funding to Hezbollah and press the group to disarm, the U.S. Treasury Department's top sanctions official said.

In a late Friday interview, John Hurley, the undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, said Iran has managed to funnel about \$1 billion to Hezbollah this year despite a raft of Western sanctions that have battered its economy.

The U.S. has adopted a "maximum pressure" campaign on Tehran meant to curb its uranium enrichment and regional influence,

including in Lebanon where Iran-backed Hezbollah is also weakened after Israel shattered its military power in a 2023-24 war.

Late last week Washington sanctioned two individuals accused using money exchanges to help fund Hezbollah, which is deemed a terrorist group by several Western governments and Gulf states.

"There's a moment in Lebanon now. If we could get Hezbollah to disarm, the Lebanese people could get their country back," Hurley said. "The key to that is to drive out the Iranian influence and control that starts with all the money that they are pumping into Hezbollah," he told Reuters in Istanbul.

Tornado in southern Brazil kills six, injures hundreds

Monitoring Desk
BRAZIL: A tornado accompanied by strong winds and heavy rain struck the southern Brazilian state of Parana, killing six people, the state government said on Saturday.

The town of Rio Bonito do Iguaçu was hit hardest late Friday, with the state's civil defense agency reporting that over half of the urban area suffered roof collapses, along with multiple structural failures. Authorities said 437 people were treated for injuries and about 1,000 were displaced. The nearby city of Guarapuava was also affected.

According to the Parana Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring System, the tornado's winds reached speeds between 180 kph (111 mph) and 250 kph (155 mph).



People attend a demonstration held by the General Confederation of the Portuguese Workers (CGTP) demanding better wages and working conditions, in Lisbon, Portugal.

Hamas says fighters holed up in Rafah will not surrender

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Hamas fighters holed up in the Israeli-held Rafah area of Gaza will not surrender to Israel, the group's armed wing said on Sunday, urging mediators to find a solution to a crisis that threatens the month-old ceasefire.

Sources close to mediation efforts told Reuters on Thursday that fighters could surrender their arms in exchange for passage to other areas of the enclave under a proposal aimed at resolving the stalemate. Egyptian mediators have proposed that, in exchange for safe passage, fighters still in Rafah surrender their arms to Egypt and give details of tunnels there so they can be destroyed, said one of the sources, an Egyptian security official.

Sunday's statement from Al-Qassam Brigades held Israel responsible for engaging the fighters, who it said were defending themselves.

"The enemy must know that the concept of surrender and handing oneself over does not exist in the dictionary of the Al-Qassam Brigades," the group said.

U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff said on Thursday that the proposed deal for about 200 fighters would be a test for a broader process to disarm Hamas forces across Gaza.

Al-Qassam Brigades did not comment directly on the continuing talks over the fighters in Rafah but implied that the crisis could affect the ceasefire.

"We place the mediators before their responsibilities, and they must find a solution to ensure the continuation of the ceasefire and prevent the enemy from using flimsy pretexts to violate it and exploit the situation to target innocent civilians in Gaza," the group said.

Three die as heavy seas batter Spanish island of Tenerife

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: Three people died and 15 were injured on Saturday as rough seas battered the Spanish holiday island of Tenerife, emergency services said.

A rescue helicopter airlifted a man who had fallen into the water at La Guancha, a beach in the north of the island, but he was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital, emergency services said. In a separate incident, a man was found floating on the beach at El Cabez in the south of the island. Lifeguards and medical staff were unable to resuscitate him and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

A woman suffered a heart attack and died when a wave swept 10 people into the sea at Puerto de la Cruz in northern Tenerife. Three others from the group were seriously injured and taken to hospital for treatment.

Super Typhoon Fung wong slams into Philippines, two dead

Monitoring Desk
ISABELA, Philippines: Super Typhoon Fung-Wong made land in the Philippines on Sunday with two fatalities reported and 1 million people evacuated ahead of one of the nation's most powerful storms this year.

The storm crossed over the north of the archipelago's most populous island Luzon, weather bureau PAGASA said, with torrential rain, sustained winds of 185 kph (115 mph) and gusts of up to 230 kph (140 mph).

It was the 21st storm this year to hit a nation only just recovering from Typhoon Kalmaegi, which left 224 dead in the Philippines and five in Vietnam.

"We heard on the news that the typhoon is very strong, so we evacuated early," said Christopher Sanchez, 50, who camped with his family on a basketball court in Isabela province on Luzon.

Given previous flooding, the family moved pos-

sessions to their roof before leaving. "We're scared. We're here with our grandchildren and our kids," he said in the sports arena dotted by tents, elderly people on plastic chairs and children roaming.

Luzon and another island Eastern Visayas bore the brunt of the storm's early onslaught, with one person drowned and another trapped under debris, authorities said.

The storm was expected to weaken as it moves inland.

Pope Leo offered prayers for the predominantly Catholic nation. "I am close to the people of the Philippines affected by a violent typhoon. I pray for the deceased and their families, for the injured and the displaced," he said on Sunday.

In Luzon island's Aurora province where the storm arrived, lights went out but phone lines were still working, civil defence official Cheng Quizon told DZBB radio.



Protesters hold placards in front of the India Gate during a protest against air pollution in New Delhi, India.

Hungary gets reprieve from Russia oil sanctions

WASHINGTON (INP): US President Donald Trump handed Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban a one-year exemption from sanctions for buying Russian oil and gas after the close right-wing allies held a chummy White House meeting.

Trump slapped sanctions on Moscow's two largest oil companies last month after losing patience with Russian President Vladimir Putin over his refusal to end the nearly four-year-old invasion of Ukraine.

But while Trump has pushed other European countries to stop buying oil that he says funds Moscow's "war machine", Orban used his first trip to the White House since Trump's return to power to push for special treatment.

As they heaped praise on each other, Trump said he was considering an ex-

emption because landlocked Hungary had to rely on pipelines that made it dependent on Russian oil and gas.

"As you know they don't have the advantage of having sea," Trump told reporters.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said after the meeting that Washington had granted a "full and unlimited exemption from sanctions on oil and gas". But a White House official said Hungary's exemption was only for one year.

Hungary had committed to purchasing US liquefied natural gas worth around \$600 million, the official said.

The Hungarian prime minister has maintained close ties with both Moscow and Washington, while often bucking the rest of the EU on pressuring Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Syrian President arrives in US for landmark visit

WASHINGTON (INP): Syria's President Ahmed al-Sharaa arrived in the United States for a landmark official visit, his country's state news agency reported, a day after Washington removed him from a terrorism blacklist.

Sharaa, whose rebel forces ousted longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad late last year, is due to meet US President Donald Trump at the White House on Monday.

It's the first such visit by a Syrian president since the country's independence in 1946, according to analysts. The interim leader met Trump for the first time in Riyadh during the US president's regional tour in May. US envoy to Syria Tom Barrack said earlier this month that Sharaa would "hopefully" sign an agreement to join the international US-led alliance against the Islamic State (IS) group.

The United States plans to establish a military base near Damascus "to coordinate humanitarian aid and observe developments between Syria and Israel", a diplomatic source in Syria told.

The State Department's decision Friday to remove Sharaa from the blacklist was widely expected.

State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said Sharaa's government had been meeting US demands, including on working to find missing Americans and on eliminating any remaining chemical weapons. "These actions are being taken in recognition of the progress demonstrated by the Syrian leadership after the departure of Bashar al-Assad and more than 50 years of repression under the Assad regime," Pigott said.

India intensifies crackdown in Jammu region, civilians summoned, questioned

JAMMU (INP): In yet another sweeping operation aimed at intimidating locals, Indian police have launched a fresh crackdown on so-called Over Ground Workers (OGWs), former detainees and families of pro-freedom activists across Doda, Kathua, and Rajouri districts of Jammu region in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Indian police and paramilitary personnel conducted raids at multiple locations in Doda

and Kathua districts, summoning dozens of residents for questioning over alleged links with relatives based in Pakistan or Azad Jammu and Kashmir tools of harassment and collective punishment.

SSP Kathua, Mohita Sharma, admitted that the raids were mainly focused on homes of martyred youth and their relatives settled in Pakistan or Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Several people were detained, and inspections were conducted at mobile SIM vendor outlets,



QUETTA: Residents turn to weekly markets on Joint Road for used goods amid price hikes.

Pakistan committed to resolve differences with Afghanistan thru dialogue: FO Spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan remained committed to resolution of bilateral differences with Afghanistan through dialogue, however, Pakistan's core concern of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan needs to be addressed first and foremost, said Foreign Office Spokesperson on Sunday.

In a statement, he said, "Pakistan's Armed Forces and its people are well determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from its soil and take action against its supporters, abettors and financiers".

Responding to different media queries regarding the Pakistan talks with the Afghan Taliban Regime held in Istanbul on 6th November 2025, the Spokesperson said, "The Third Round of Pakistan-Afghanistan talks, mediated by the brotherly states of Türkiye and Qatar concluded at Istanbul on 7th November 2025."

"Pakistan deeply appreciates the sincere efforts made by brotherly Türkiye and Qatar to mediate the difference between Pakistan and Afghanistan on the core issue of terrorism emanating from Afghan soil against Pakistan," he added.

He said, "For the past four years, since the Taliban regime came to power in Afghanistan, there has been sharp surge in terrorist attacks emanating from Afghan soil on Pakistan."

Pakistan hosts landmark ISC to promote peace, development

ISLAMABAD (APP): All arrangements have been finalized for the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), set to be held in Islamabad from November 11 to 12, 2025, under the theme "Promoting Peace, Security, and Development."

Speakers of Parliaments, 15 Deputy Speakers, 37 Members of Parliament, and representatives from several international organizations—making a total of 174 delegates from over 40 countries—are expected to attend the event.

Parliamentary delegations from various countries have already begun arriving in Pakistan for the conference. Dr. Iqbaluddin Ibrahim Hamad, President of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF)—an organization associated with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC)—arrived in Islamabad along with his delegation and was warmly received by senior officials of the Senate Secretariat.

Throughout these years, Pakistan, despite suffering military and civilian casualties, exercised maximum restraint and did not retaliate."

Pakistan's expectation was that with passage of time, Taliban regime would be able to control these attacks and take concrete actions against the TTP/FaK elements present on Afghan soil, he continued.

During these years, he said Pakistan also tried to positively engage with Afghanistan by offering bilateral trade concessions and humanitarian assistance. Pakistan's intention has always been to constructively engage with Afghanistan so as to enable it to become a stable, peaceful and prosperous country that is at peace within and with its neighbors," he stressed.

"However, despite all these positive gestures by Pakistan in terms of trade, humanitarian assistance, educational and medical visas facilitation, and efforts at international forums to encourage the international community to engage with Taliban regime in the interest of regional peace and stability, and for the socio-economic development of Afghanistan and its people, the response from the Taliban regime has only been hollow promises and inaction," he added.

He said, "Instead of

acting upon the core expectation from Pakistan i.e. not to allow Afghan territory to be used for attacks against Pakistan, the Taliban regime has always tried to shy away from taking concrete and verifiable actions. Instead, it has tried to confuse the main issue with other relatively irrelevant and hypothetical issues. By confusing the main issue of terrorism, it keeps trying to develop a narrative which absolves Taliban regime of its commitments and responsibilities towards international community and its own people."

"Pakistan's October 2025 response to the consistent attacks emanating from Afghanistan was a manifestation of the will and determination that Pakistan will not leave any stone unturned to safeguard its territory and its people," he noted.

He said, "TTP/FaK and BLA/FaH are declared enemies of the State of Pakistan and its people. Anyone harboring, abetting or financing them is not considered a friend and well-wisher of Pakistan and its people. Pakistan is determined to take every possible action to safeguard its interests and its people."

"At the same time, Pakistan is also a strong proponent of peace and diplomacy."

From Somalia, Saadia Yasin, First Deputy Speaker of the House of the People, arrived with her team, while Prosper Kasongo Lukali Tunda, a Member of Parliament from Congo, and Ubraj Narine, Director of National Peace Initiatives from Guyana, also reached Islamabad to participate.

The Moroccan delegation, accompanying the Speaker of the House of Councillors, included the Speaker's Executive Director, a senior journalist, an interpreter, and other officials.

Chairman Senate and Founding Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference, Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, described the event as a "momentous occasion in Pakistan's parliamentary history."

He said the conference marks an important milestone in Pakistan's efforts to promote international dialogue, peace, and cooperation through parliamentary diplomacy.

Senate passes resolution to recognize pivotal role of Iqbal in awakening Muslims

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Sunday unanimously passed a resolution to recognize the immense and enduring legacy of poet-philosopher and great thinker Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, on his 148th birth anniversary and his pivotal role in awakening the spirit of Muslims of the Indian subcontinent.

The resolution was moved by Sherry Rehman on behalf of the all parties in the House.

"Acknowledging him as the 'Poet of the East' and the architect of the vision for a separate Muslim homeland in British India, a vision solidified in his 1930 Allahabad Address," the resolution said.

The House affirmed that his poetry, philosophy, and political thought continue to inspire the nation and its youth, embodying ideals of self-realization, the concept of KHUDI, unity, and courage, his intellectual legacy will continue to serve as a beacon of guidance for future generations.

The House committed to upholding the principles of liberty, equality, and justice that were central to his vision.

The Senate resolves to honor the enduring contributions of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal by promoting his philosophy in

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said that progress in education is the foundation of a bright and prosperous future for the country and society. Addressing the convocation of Lahore Leads University via video link on Sunday, the minister said the world recognises the skills, creativity, and potential of Pakistan's youth, and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has introduced policies aimed at

empowering them. He said the government is ensuring equal opportunities for young people across the country. Congratulating the graduates, he praised their dedication and the sacrifices of their parents, noting that their achievement was the result of hard work and perseverance.

The minister also commended Leads University, its faculty, vice chancellor, and the Board of Governors for their role in promoting education and equipping students with

educational curricula and public discourse across the nation, the resolution said. The House calls upon all citizens, particularly the youth, to embrace Iqbal's message of self-belief, courage, and the pursuit of excellence to build a strong and prosperous Pakistan.

The Senate urges a renewed commitment to the spirit of unity and brotherhood, as articulated in Iqbal's poetry, to overcome internal and external challenges and work for the collective progress of the nation and the Muslim world.

The House encourages Government, Civil Society, and educational institutions to organize and support events, seminars, and cultural activities that reflect and celebrate the life and teachings of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

The Senate reaffirms the national resolve to work towards a just, humane, and progressive society based on the principles of freedom, dignity, and mutual respect, as envisioned by Iqbal.

The House decides that the observance of Iqbal Day will be used not only as a day of remembrance but also as a day of active re-commitment to the ideals that were powerfully articulated by Iqbal for the betterment of all humanity.



QUETTA: Eminent Leader Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani in a group photo with Journalists delegation led by BUJ President Khalil Ahmed, Abdul Khalik Rind, Saleem Shahid and others during dinner hosted by him in their honour.

UN panel passes Pakistan led resolutions on arms control, nuclear security

ISLAMABAD (INP): The United Nations General Assembly's First Committee on Disarmament and International Security adopted four resolutions sponsored by Pakistan on Saturday, including measures on regional disarmament, confidence-building and nuclear security assurances, said an official statement.

Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations said in a statement that the committee unanimously adopted two of its resolutions entitled "Regional disarmament" and "Confidence-building measures in the regional and sub-regional contexts."

The other two resolutions entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" and "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels" were

adopted with an overwhelming majority of the member states. "Pakistan has, for decades, led initiatives in the United Nations to advance priority issues of nuclear disarmament, regional disarmament, conventional arms control and confidence-building measures," the statement said.

"The adoption of these resolutions reaffirms the importance of the international community's priority on 'negative security assurances'.

Meanwhile, in Dalbandin, district headquarters of Chagai, another person identified as Sardar Hussain was gunned down by unidentified attackers near the city.

His body was shifted to Prince Fahd Hospital for post-mortem, while police have launched an investigation into the incident.

modern knowledge and technological skills. Highlighting the importance of education, Tarar said that "68 percent of Pakistan's population comprises youth, who are the true guarantee of the country's bright future." He stressed that equipping them with relevant skills is vital for national development, and institutions like Leads University are playing a crucial role in this regard.

He noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's

government has prioritised youth empowerment through education, technology, and skills development, citing the ongoing distribution of 100,000 laptops purely on merit this year. He added that over 1.1 million laptops have been distributed during different tenures of the PML-N government. The minister said that talent is emerging from every region of the country — Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

He noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's



ISLAMABAD: Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker visits Golra Railway Station and Museum; lauds Federal Minister for Railways, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi as a "Railway Reformist" driving unprecedented modernisation and reform in Pakistan Railways.

PM grieved over PML-N leader Cheema's death

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Sunday, expressed his sorrow over the death of PML-N leader and former Member of the National Assembly Justice (ret'd) Ifthikhar Ahmad Cheema.

The prime minister extended his condolences to his brothers former IG Motorway Police Zulfikar Ahmad Cheema and former MNA Dr. Nisar Ahmad Cheema on telephone, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister prayed for the departed soul and grant of patience and strength for the bereaved family.

He said that late leader's political and public services would always be remembered.

Two killed in separate firing incidents in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Two people were killed in separate firing incidents in different parts of Balochistan on Sunday.

According to a private news channel, a land dispute in Jhal Magsi's Hathiari area led to an exchange of fire, resulting in the death of Muhammad Bachal Magsi.

Local administration and police promptly reached the site and brought the situation under control. Police started investigation to the incident and search of culprits were underway.

Meanwhile, in Dalbandin, district headquarters of Chagai, another person identified as Sardar Hussain was gunned down by unidentified attackers near the city.

His body was shifted to Prince Fahd Hospital for post-mortem, while police have launched an investigation into the incident.

Iranian ambassador pays tribute to Allama Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (INP): On the occasion of Allama Iqbal Day today (Sunday), Iranian Ambassador Reza Amir Moghadam paid tribute to the renowned poet-philosopher, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

The Ambassador highlighted Iqbal's deep connection with Persian literature and his role in strengthening intellectual ties between Iran and Pakistan, said in a message on X (social media).

Iqbal's message of unity and faith continues to inspire nations, guiding humanity towards dignity, justice, and spiritual awakening, the Ambassador said, adding that Iran honors Iqbal as a shared cultural and spiritual figure, symbolizing wisdom, brotherhood, and the strong bond between Iran and Pakistan.

The Ambassador announced that November 9 is celebrated as "Allama Iqbal Day" in Iran, recognizing Iqbal's enduring legacy.

U.S acting envoy visits Golra Railway station

ISLAMABAD (APP): U.S. Acting Ambassador to Pakistan Natalie Baker on Sunday paid a special visit to the historic Golra Railway Station and Railway Museum. Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi briefed the visiting envoy on the site's cultural and historical significance as well as its recent up-gradation.

During the visit, the minister gave Ambassador Baker a detailed tour of the Golra Station, the Quaid-e-Azam Saloon, and the heritage museum, which houses vintage locomotives, carriages, and railway equipment dating back to the 19th and 20th centuries.

The U.S made railway machinery and instruments on display particularly drew the ambassador's attention.

Abbasi also apprised the envoy of the reforms and modernization initiatives being implemented in

Pakistan Railways under his leadership. He said major railway stations in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Karachi, and Faisalabad have been upgraded and digitized in line with international standards, while Pakistan's first-ever "Safe and Smart Railway Station" has been established in Rawalpindi. The ambassador praised the minister's reform vision, describing Hanif Abbasi as a true "railway reformist" who is transforming the institution along modern lines.

Highlighting the importance of the rail sector, the minister said Pakistan Railways is not only a vital national asset but also a symbol of the country's cultural heritage and international connectivity.

The visit left a lasting impression on Ambassador Baker, who admired the beauty, preservation, and historical charm of the Golra Railway Station.

Quetta-Karachi highway reopens after successful negotiations with protesters

Independent Report

SURAB: Following successful negotiations with protesters, the district administration fully reopened the Shaheed Sikandarabad-Surab Quetta-Karachi National Highway.

Deputy Commissioner Sahibzada Najibullah and SP Akhtar Muhammad Achakzai oversaw the talks, while Additional Deputy Commissioner

(Revenue) Salman Ali Bileydi coordinated with local law enforcement, including DSP Muhammad Yunus Magsi and SHO Sarwar Mahtab Muhammad Hasni. The negotiations were successful, and traffic flow has now returned to normal. Officials continue to monitor the situation to ensure public convenience and safety.



QUETTA: Traffic police in Quetta, lift vehicle from no parking area to ease traffic jam on double road.

Global Pakistani diaspora backs 'URAAN Pakistan' in historic Oxford declaration

OXFORD, UK (APP): Marking a milestone in Pakistan's development journey, the global Pakistani diaspora on Sunday adopted a historic Oxford Declaration on URAAN Pakistan, pledging collective support for transforming the country into a trillion-dollar, knowledge-based economy.

In a powerful gathering that fused intellectual firepower with patriotic fervor, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal stood before a premier assembly of the nation's best and brightest shared the URAAN Pakistan implementation plan, a news release said.

The URAAN Pakistan Conference at the University of Oxford served as a strategic launch-pad, mobilizing the diaspora, academia, and youth behind a fast-tracked vision for a transformative Pakistan.

The conference featured over 100 select del-

egates from 27 leading international universities and 33 premier global organisations, representing the largest gathering of Pakistani intellectual capital in recent years. The forum showcased 21 distinguished speakers from 10 top UK universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, SOAS, Glasgow, and Durham. Among the prominent voices were Prof. Madeleine Arnot (Cambridge), Prof. Raheel Nawaz (Pro-VC, University of Staffordshire), Dr. Abrar Chaudhury (Oxford), and Dr. Aliya Khalid (Oxford), who shared platforms with senior Pakistani officials including Dr. Nadeem Javaid (VC PIDE) and Dr. Adnan Rafiq (Member Governance, Planning Commission). The conference notably amplified emerging youth voices through speakers like Mr. Israr Kakar (former President of the Oxford Union) and Mr. Ahmed Sultan Butt (Special Assistant to the Minister).



QUETTA: MPA Haji Ali Madad Jattak inaugurates tube well which is completed from his own special fund at Killi Nichari Sariab.