

## PRCS and Turkish Red Crescent Society...

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), organized a food assistance distribution in Peshawar, providing essential food packages to 70 families affected by the tragic Dir Colony School incident in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

*Detailed story on Page 2*

## Pakistan make winning start

Defending champions Pakistan U19 made a winning start to the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2026, defeating the United Arab Emirates U19 by nine wickets in the tournament's opening match.

*— Story on Page 7*


# The Province

Saturday November 4, 2026 | **Peshawar** | Volume: 27 | Issue: 287 | Pages: 8 | Price: 20


**Wisdom Quote!**



With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve.

— **Muhammad Ali Jinnah**

## News DIGEST

### Bilawal urges political parties to set aside differences, focus on economic crisis



LARKANA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday urged the federal government and political parties to set aside their differences and work together to address the country's economic crisis, warning that the economic fallout from the Iran war was placing an unprecedented burden on ordinary people.

Speaking at a groundbreaking ceremony for a 600-bed hospital in Larkana, he said the economic impact of the war was being felt from the United States to Larkana, adding that the burden was "breaking the back" of ordinary people. "We have not seen such a crisis in our recent history," he said.

He said it was the responsibility of every government to address the economic crisis and prioritise the welfare of its citizens, adding that surviving in the prevailing economic climate had become increasingly difficult for Pakistanis.

Bilawal described the situation as a test for the government and stressed the need for collective efforts to ease the hardships faced by the public.

He urged the federal government to engage political and economic stakeholders instead of pursuing confrontation, saying political differences should take a back seat to efforts to improve people's lives.

"If we remain engaged in fighting one another, with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, with Maulana (JUI-F chief Fazlur Rehman), with terrorists, with India and Afghanistan, then we will not be able to alleviate the suffering of the Pakistani people, which should be our utmost priority," the PPP chairman said.

"As Pakistanis, we should forget our differences and focus on the real issues, particularly the economic problems faced by the people," he added.

Turning to the electoral reforms committee, Bilawal said it was the first time he had witnessed the opposition, government coalition partners and some government representatives collectively raising concerns about alleged election rigging.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding promotion of cashless economy. — PHOTO: PID

# Govt slashes petrol price by Rs6.59 per litre, diesel Rs4.25

*Petrol will be sold at Rs346, high-speed diesel fixed at Rs378 per litre*

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Friday slashed the price of petrol by Rs6.59 per litre and that of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs4.25 per litre for the next four days. According to a notification issued by the Petroleum Division, the price of petrol was fixed at Rs346 per litre, while HSD would cost Rs378 per litre from November 7 to November 10.

The latest reduction brings petrol prices below Rs350 per litre for the first time since September 7, exactly two months after the government raised the rate by Rs12.90 to Rs358.77 from Rs345.87.

The revision also comes a day after the government slashed the price of petrol by Rs9.41 per litre and that of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs5.56 per litre for November 6.



RAWALPINDI: People are busy in filling petrol in their motorcycles at a petrol pump along Murree Road, in the city. The Government of Pakistan, through the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), reduced the price of petrol by Rs6.59 per litre to Rs346 per litre. — PHOTO: ONLINE

On November 2, the government announced that oil refineries would bear a burden of Rs15 billion per month, which would allow petrol to be sold Rs15 cheaper than it was in the global market amid the US-Israeli war on Iran. On July 17, the government announced a new pricing mechanism under which petroleum product prices would be reviewed and notified daily, replacing the weekly pricing mechanism, as renewed tensions between the United States and Iran continued to drive volatility in global oil markets and raise concerns over fuel supplies.

On September 13, Prime Minister Shehwbaz Sharif announced a special relief scheme offering Rs100 per litre off petrol for motorcycles, three-wheeler rickshaws and cars with engines up to 800cc,

## PM directs authorities to map out cashless economy transition

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the relevant authorities to prepare a clear roadmap, with specific timelines and targets, for establishing a fully digital payment system across the country as the government steps up efforts to promote a cashless economy.

Chairing a high-level meeting in Islamabad to review progress on the government's cashless economy initiative, the prime minister said promoting digital payments was among the government's top priorities, adding that positive results had started to emerge. According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on X, Shehbaz called for ensuring nationwide internet connectivity and easy public access to technology to facilitate the transition.

He also directed the authorities to address customer complaints arising from the use of digital payment services without delay.

The prime minister called for promoting digital transactions between consumers and merchants through the government's Raast QR Code initiative, saying it was helping advance the vision of a cashless economy.

He also instructed the authorities to launch an effective media campaign encouraging electricity and gas consumers to pay their utility bills through QR codes printed on their bills. All ministries and government departments were directed to ensure the full implementation of the cashless economy plan.

The meeting was informed that efforts to digitalise payments across federal and provincial government departments were progressing rapidly, with most institutions expected to complete the process by December.

The statement further said that 100% of payments under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) were being made through digital wallets. It added that work was underway to introduce an advanced digital payment mechanism for areas without internet connectivity, while infrastructure development to improve internet access across the country was also progressing.

## CDF, Sudan's interior minister pledge to deepen security ties

### Lt Gen Mustafa Ali also meets DPM Dar, appreciates Pakistan's support and solidarity

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Sudanese Interior Minister Lieutenant General (Police) Babiker Samra Mustafa Ali on Friday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in security and counterterrorism, the military's media wing said.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Sudanese minister called on Field Marshal Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest, evolving regional and global security dynamics, and avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

"Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening relations between the two countries, particularly in the fields of security, counterterrorism and institutional cooperation," the ISPR said.



The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace and stability and acknowledged the longstanding fraternal ties between Pakistan and Sudan.

## Samar orders audit of official vehicles in Information Department

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Adviser to the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information & Public Relations, Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement, Samar Haroon Bilour, has ordered a comprehensive audit of official vehicle records maintained by the Department of Information & Public Relations and its attached organizations. She has sought complete details of all government vehicles reported missing, untraceable or otherwise unaccounted for over the past 13 years.

In this regard, the relevant authorities have been directed to submit complete records of all official vehicles owned by, allocated to or currently being used by the department and its attached organizations.

The Adviser has specifically directed the concerned officials to provide comprehensive details, including vehicle registration numbers, make and model, as well as the names and designations of the officers to whom the vehicles have been assigned, along with all other relevant information.

She has also ordered the identification of officials responsible for vehicles that have gone missing or remained untraceable during the past 13 years.

Furthermore, Samar Haroon Bilour has directed the relevant authorities to issue notices to the officers responsible for the missing vehicles and ensure that all such vehicles are produced within 72 hours. She made it clear that failure to produce the vehicles within the stipulated timeframe would result in departmental and legal action against the responsible officials.

The Adviser has also directed the Department of Information & Public Relations to thoroughly verify all records and submit a comprehensive report to her office within five days.

Samar Haroon Bilour emphasized that the protection of public resources, transparency and accountability are among the government's top priorities. She stated that the comprehensive audit of official vehicle records aims to ensure the proper and effective utilization of public assets and identify any instances of irregularities, mismanagement or negligence.

### Samar expresses grief over Hazara Motorway accident

Peshawar: Adviser to the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information & Public Relations, Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement, Samar Haroon Bilour, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic accident involving a passenger bus and a dumper truck on the Hazara Motorway, which claimed several precious lives. In her condolence message, Samar Haroon Bilour described the incident as deeply tragic, stating that the loss of precious human lives was an irreparable tragedy. She extended her heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families and expressed solidarity with them in this difficult time. She prayed to Almighty Allah to grant eternal peace to the departed souls, elevate their ranks and bless the bereaved families with strength, courage and patience to bear this immense loss.
STAFF REPORTER

## Governor sees peace, transparency as key to KP economic growth

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday said sustainable peace was the foremost requirement for economic growth in the province, as a peaceful environment would attract investment, boost business activities and put the province on the path to prosperity.

Addressing the second All Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chambers Presidents Conference and Business Excellence Awards ceremony at the Governor House, he said the federal government had approved development projects proposed by the province. He added that efforts would be made to allocate 70 percent of the Rs160 billion package to the merged tribal districts.

The Governor assured the business community that federal funds allocated to the former FATA and PATA would be spent transparently, with no room for corruption or misuse of public money.

He said he was fully aware of the challenges facing the province's business community and had held several meetings to address them.

He had also taken up these issues with the prime minister and other senior officials, including the Field Marshal, and work had begun at the federal level to resolve them.

Kundi said the government was now focused on addressing the province's economic challenges and ensuring that funds were spent in the areas for which they were allocated.

He acknowledged the difficulties faced by traders and residents of the former FATA and PATA in the past and said efforts were underway to address the concerns of the affected business community.

He stressed that peace, coupled with a business-friendly environment and support for investors, was essential to unlock the province's economic potential.

KP had vast opportunities in minerals, energy, agriculture and tourism, which needed to be utilised to strengthen local industries and improve the province's image nationally and internationally.

The Governor said economic progress required close cooperation between the government and the business community.

He expressed the government's desire to ensure uninterrupted industrial activity, attract investment and create employment opportunities at the local level.

He said issues relating to CNG and wheat had been resolved, while work was underway to address concerns in the gemstone sector.

He also stressed the need to improve tourism infrastructure and facilities to turn the province's scenic destinations into centres of economic activity.

Kundi urged business leaders to prepare viable proposals highlighting their problems and suggestions, assuring them that he was ready to take up their cases with the relevant forums.

Regarding anti-encroachment operations, he stressed that no one should face injustice during such drives.

Citing an example, he said even the signboard of his own house in Dera Ismail Khan had been removed during an anti-encroachment operation.

He proposed establishing a complaint cell to examine cases of alleged wrongful demolitions of buildings and shops. Following an inquiry, the concerned deputy commissioner or assistant commissioner would take steps to provide relief to affected citizens.

Expressing concern over civic facilities in Peshawar, the governor said around 11,000 manholes in the city lacked covers, posing serious risks to pedestrians, particularly children, and motorcyclists.

He called for immediate measures to address the issue.

He also directed the relevant authorities to submit a report on the proposed allocation of two kanals of land to each chamber of commerce, saying that providing facilities to the business community was essential for promoting investment.

The Governor announced that a Made in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Conference would be organised to showcase local products, industries and business potential.

The event would provide local manufacturers and investors an opportunity to introduce their products and business ventures.

The SPACE

## SP Investigation Kamal distributes welfare cheques

RAUF KHATTAK

KARAK: SP Investigation Kamal Hussain Khan has taken a special initiative for the welfare of subordinate and lower-ranking police personnel by distributing financial assistance cheques among deserving employees.

According to details, SP Investigation Kamal Hussain Khan distributed welfare cheques among police personnel at his office under various welfare heads, including marriage grants, medical assistance and other financial support. Speaking on the occasion, he said that every member of the police force is a valuable asset to the department. He emphasized that the welfare, encouragement and resolution of employees' problems remain among the department's top priorities.

He further stated that police personnel perform their duties day and night to protect the lives and property of citizens and maintain law and order.

## Commissioner Mardan directs shifting of all city bus stands to new Chamtar Bus Terminal from November 15

MARDAN: Commissioner Mardan Division Syed Muhammad Ali Shah has said that all bus stands operating in Mardan city will be shifted to the New Chamtar Bus Terminal from November 15, making it fully operational. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure the timely provision of all essential facilities and completion of operational arrangements at the new terminal so that transporters do not face any difficulties or complaints after the shifting process. He was reviewing the operational preparedness and facilities provided at the New Chamtar Bus Terminal in accordance with its master plan during his visit. Deputy Commissioner Mardan Shah Saud, SP Traffic Sajjad Khan, TMO Mujeeb ur Rehman, officials of the Transport and Communications departments and other concerned officers accompanied him.

## DPO Karak holds meeting with DC to discuss law and order and security arrangements



KARAK: District Police Officer (DPO) Karak Fazal Wahid Khan QPM held an important meeting with Deputy Commissioner Karak Hamid Iqbal, during which the overall law and order situation, security arrangements, resolution of public issues, and other matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail. During the meeting, both officers reviewed the prevailing law and order situation across the district and discussed measures to further strengthen security arrangements, ensure the protection of lives and property of citizens, and address public grievances effectively. The meeting also focused on enhancing institutional coordination and mutual cooperation between the police and district administration to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of official matters and improve public service delivery. On the occasion, both officers reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining lasting peace in District Karak, ensuring public safety, resolving citizens' issues, and strengthening coordination between the police and district administration through joint efforts. RAUF KHATTAK

## Grand Iqbal Conference held at Government City Girls College Gulbahar

Scholars discuss Iqbal's philosophy of Khudi, self-awareness and intellectual awakening; students pay tribute to the Poet of the East through poetry, tableau and Persian and Urdu recitations.

GENERAL REPORTER



PESHAWAR: A grand and dignified Iqbal Conference was held at Government City Girls College Gulbahar, Peshawar, as part of Iqbal Month, following the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's directives to organize special ceremonies, seminars and academic gatherings across educational institutions in November.

The conference aimed to promote the philosophy, intellectual legacy and message of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, particularly his concepts of Khudi (selfhood), self-awareness, self-confidence and purposeful action, among the younger generation, especially female students.

The event was organized by the college's Urdu Literary Society and attended by renowned scholars of Iqbal Studies, Dr. Faqira Khan Faqri and Dr. Izharullah Izhar, as guest speakers. Principal Professor Rabia Sikandar, Associate Professor Dr. Jamila Naz, head of the Urdu Literary Society, Urdu lecturer Maimoona-ul-Kubra, faculty members and a large number of BS Urdu students also attended.

The conference formally began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Bisma, a student of the third semester of BS Urdu. Sana, a seventh-semester student, presented a devotional tribute to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Students of the seventh semester subsequently presented an impressive tableau based on Allama Iqbal's renowned poem "Khudi Ka Sir-e-Nihan." The performance beautifully highlighted Iqbal's philosophy of selfhood, self-awareness, determination and the importance of recognizing one's abilities, earning appreciation from the audience.

Associate Professor Dr. Jamila Naz introduced the first guest speaker, Dr. Faqira Khan Faqri, and highlighted his distinguished academic, literary and research contributions. She noted that he had served as Chairman of the Department of Urdu and held various important academic and administrative positions at the University of Peshawar. He is widely recognized as a prominent poet, intellectual and scholar of Iqbal Studies.

## Promotion of Female SST Teachers to Personal Grade-17 delayed, Hani Gul urges finance Dept for immediate approval

GENERAL REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Provincial President of the SST Female Unity Forum Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Hani Gul, has expressed serious concern over the unnecessary delay in the promotion of female Secondary School Teachers (SSTs) to Personal Grade-17 and urged senior officials of the Finance Department to take immediate notice and expedite the approval process. In a statement, Hani Gul said that the case regarding the promotion of female SST teachers to Personal Grade-17 has already passed through various government departments and relevant forums and has reached the Finance Department. However, due to the lack of progress at this stage, the important matter remains pending. She stated that female teachers have been rendering their educational services for many years and are entitled to Personal Grade-17 after completing ten years of satisfactory service.

## Ahsan Zeb selected among 200 int'l designers for Pinocchio exhibition

AMJAD HADI YOUSAFZAI

PESHAWAR : Pakistani visual artist and graphic designer Ahsan Zeb from Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has earned international recognition after being selected among 200 artists and designers from 31 countries for the prestigious international exhibition, "Pinocchio: A Contemporary Metaphor."

The exhibition marks the 200th birth anniversary of renowned Italian writer Carlo Collodi, born in Florence in 1826, whose celebrated literary work The Adventures of Pinocchio has inspired generations across the world.

Ahsan Zeb, an Assistant Professor at Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (PAF-IAST), Haripur, and a PhD scholar in Art and Design, will represent Pakistan at the international exhibition. His name has also been officially included in the list of selected artists and designers at Museo MAGMA, Italy.

Titled "200 for Carlo Collodi," the international project invited artists and graphic designers to reinterpret Pinocchio through contemporary poster design and visual communication, exploring themes of honesty, freedom, responsibility, education and human values.



The selected artworks represent 31 countries and will be exhibited at prestigious cultural venues in Italy, Argentina and Cuba from October 2026 to January 2027. The programme includes Museo MAGMA, Teatro Coliseo in Buenos Aires and Espacios Creativos in Havana, among other venues.

The project is organised by Museo MAGMA and CARTACANTA APS in collaboration with international cultural institutions, Italian cultural organisations and the Collodi Bicentennial Committee.

With more than 15 years of professional experience in visual arts, graphic design and academia, Ahsan Zeb has participated in various national and international creative initiatives. His work explores the connection between cultural identity, traditional visual heritage and contemporary design.

His selection is a proud achievement for Pakistan, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlighting the growing international presence of Pakistani artists and designers in the global creative community.

## Dinner hosted in honour of Abdul Haleem, Qaizar

MUHAMMAD REHAN

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A lavish dinner was hosted by Central Anjuman-e-Tajran leader and President of Multan Road Traders Saeed Awan in honour of newly elected members of Area Representative Development Council (ARDC) Haji Abdul Haleem Khan Qasuria and Sardar Qaizar Khan Miankhel, in which dignitaries from various fields including trader community, political and social personalities and journalists participated.In the ceremony, President of Central Anjuman-e-Tajran Sohail Ahmed Azmi, Chaudhry Jamil Ahmed, Chaudhry Javed Akhtar, Sheikh Majeed Ahmed, Haji Muhammad Nawaz, journalist Muhammad Rehan, Muhammad Irfan Mughal and other personalities participated. On this occasion, newly elected ARDC members Abdul Haleem Khan Qasuria and Qaizar Khan Miankhel were warmly welcomed and congratulated on assuming new responsibility.Addressing the dinner, host and President of Multan Road Traders Saeed Awan said that for solution of problems of Dera Ismail Khan and development of area, all sections including trader community will have to play their role. He said that people have many expectations from newly elected members of ARDC and it is hoped that they will highlight collective problems of Dera Ismail Khan effectively on relevant forums.He said that Dera Ismail Khan is an important regional centre, however city and district are facing various problems in basic facilities, infrastructure, employment, trade and other sectors. Coordinated and continuous efforts are needed to solve these problems. He assured the newly elected members that trader community will extend all possible cooperation to them for betterment of area.

President of Central Anjuman-e-Tajran Sohail Ahmed Azmi, in his address, said that collective voice and joint struggle is urgent need of time for development of Dera Ismail Khan. He said that by establishing effective liaison between traders, political and social representatives and elected institutions, better progress can be made for solution of long-standing problems of city and district.He said that this is an important responsibility for newly elected members of ARDC and they should convey development and public problems to relevant authorities on priority basis keeping in view expectations of people of Dera Ismail Khan. He said that Central Anjuman-e-Tajran will continue to play its role for solution of public and business problems and will support positive measures for development of area.

## PRCS and Turkish Red Crescent Society distribute food packages among the affected families

STAFF REPORTER




PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), organized a food assistance distribution in Peshawar, providing essential food packages to 70 families affected by the tragic Dir Colony School incident in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Each 54 Kg food package comprised essential household food items, including wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, red lentils, mung beans, chickpeas, sugar, tea and salt, to help address the basic food and nutritional needs of the affected families.

This initiative aimed to support families affected by the tragic incident at Dir Colony School in Peshawar, where several school children and teachers lost their lives, while many people sustained injuries.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary General PRCS, Mr Muhammad Abaid Ullah Khan, said:

PRCS stands in solidarity with the families affected by the tragic Dir Colony School incident. The loss of innocent children and teachers is deeply distressing, and we recognise the immense challenges faced by the affected families. Through this initiative, PRCS has extended food assistance to 70 families to support their immediate needs. I sincerely appreciate the valuable collaboration of the Turkish Red Crescent Society and acknowledge the continued guidance and leadership of Chairperson PRCS, Mrs Farzhana Naek, for strengthening the Society's humanitarian response and commitment to serving vulnerable communities.

Mr Kaan Saner, Head of Delegation, Turkish Red Crescent Society in Pakistan, stated:

The Turkish Red Crescent Society remains committed to supporting communities affected by humanitarian emergencies and difficult circumstances. Our collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society reflects the longstanding spirit of friendship, solidarity and humanitarian cooperation between our two National Societies. We hope that this food assistance will provide some relief to the 70 affected families as they navigate these challenging circumstances. We deeply value our partnership with PRCS and reaffirm our commitment to working together to support vulnerable communities across Pakistan.

Mr Farzand Ali Wazir, Chairman, PRCS Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Branch, said:

The Dir Colony School incident has left a profound impact on the affected families and the wider community. In these difficult circumstances, standing with those affected and extending practical humanitarian support is our collective responsibility. We are grateful to PRCS National Headquarters and the Turkish Red Crescent Society for their timely support and cooperation in providing essential food packages to the affected families. I also acknowledge the leadership and guidance of PRCS Chairperson Mrs Farzhana Naek in facilitating humanitarian initiatives that strengthen our response to communities in need.

## DHQ Kohat hospital boosts critical care capacity with Rs500 million oxygen plant

OUR CORRESPONDENT



KOHAT: Deputy Commissioner Kohat Muhammad Nawaz Wazir has on Friday formally inaugurated a state-of-the-art imported Oxygen Generation Plant at District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Kohat, a major addition to the hospital's capacity to provide critical healthcare services.

The Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) plant has the capacity to supply medical oxygen to up to 500 hospital beds and is equipped with 40 oxygen cylinders and a backup generator to ensure an uninterrupted supply.

Programme Officer of the National TB Control Programme Dr. Mehboob-ul-Haq, Engr Waqar Azeem of UNDP and DHQ Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. Syed Tahir Ali Shah attended the inaugural ceremony. Launched in June 2023 under the National TB Control Programme of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, the project was supported by the Global Fund, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) serving as its vendor.

A total of 36 Oxygen Generation Plants have been installed across Pakistan under the initiative, including 5 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, located in Kohat, Bannu, Swat, Malakand and Timergara.

The Kohat facility has an estimated cost of Rs500 million and is expected to strengthen the hospital's ability to meet the oxygen requirements of patients, particularly those requiring emergency and critical care. The plant is also expected to reduce the government's recurring expenditure on oxygen supplies, saving millions of rupees in public funds.

Speaking at the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nawaz Wazir described the installation as a significant milestone for the district's healthcare system, saying the modern facility would improve medical services and enhance the hospital's capacity to treat patients. He appreciated the National TB Control Programme, the Global Fund, UNDP and other stakeholders for their role in making the facility operational, saying it would benefit people in entire Kohat Division.

## Commissioner Bannu inaugurates MVU

STAFF REPORTER



BANNU: Commissioner Bannu Division Naeemullah Khan inaugurated the mobile veterinary unit, "Ehsas Be-Zuban Sehat Gaarhi," at the Commissioner's Office for District Bannu, in compliance with the directives of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government.

The initiative marks an important step towards providing modern, quality and timely veterinary services to livestock farmers at their doorsteps. District Director Livestock Bannu Dr. Akramullah Khan and Project Focal Person Dr. Ghulam Hassan were also present. Dr. Ghulam Hassan briefed the Commissioner on the services offered by the mobile unit, including animal treatment, disease diagnosis, vaccination, spraying, deworming and other veterinary facilities.Later, the Commissioner met with people from different areas of Bannu Division at his office and listened to their complaints, concerns and problems. He issued immediate directives to the relevant authorities for addressing public grievances and resolving legitimate issues on a priority basis. Meanwhile, Commissioner Naeemullah Khan, accompanied by Polio Officer Dr. Saif, participated in an online review meeting on the ongoing anti-polio campaign, chaired by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary Dr. Muhammad Fakher Alam Irfan.The meeting reviewed the overall performance of the polio campaign, administrative arrangements, achievement of targets and challenges faced during the campaign.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors enjoying with mascot on the opening day of Pakistan Tourism, Sports & Family Festival 2026 at Jinnah Sport Complex. — PHOTO: ONLINE

## News BRIEFS

### Property dispute leaves citizen in distress; appeals to higher authorities for justice

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Tula Muhammad, son of Liaquat Ali, a resident of Fato Abdul Rahim, Dalazak Road, Peshawar, has appealed to the authorities for justice, stating that a property and financial transaction dispute has caused him severe difficulties. He said that despite approaching the relevant authorities and police, his issue remains unresolved.

According to Tula Muhammad, his brother sold their house to Syed Saeed Ahmad Shah, son of Syed Ameer Ahmad Shah, also a resident of Fato Abdul Rahim, for Rs. 10 million. In return, another property was provided. However, a dispute subsequently arose over the transaction, leaving him struggling to secure his rightful claim. He alleged that the matter was also taken up at Shahpur Police Station, where the opposing party reportedly promised, in the presence of four witnesses, to pay him Rs. 2.3 million. However, he claimed that the other party later backed out of the commitment and is now refusing to make the payment. He explained that he earns his livelihood by driving a rickshaw and supports his children through hard work. Therefore, it is difficult for him to visit courts and government offices on a daily basis.

### Zahid Bakhtawari visits family of late Major General Rashid Mahmood to offer condolences



STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Zahid Bakhtawari, Advisor to the Punjab Health Ministry and Vice President of the Rawalpindi Cantonment Board, visited the residence of his longtime friend, late Major General Rashid Mahmood, to offer condolences to his bereaved family. On the occasion, he expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the deceased's father, Haji Ibrahim, brother Brigadier (R) Tahir Mahmood, and Atif Mahmood.

Zahid Bakhtawari said that Major General Rashid Mahmood's invaluable services to Pakistan and the Armed Forces of Pakistan would always be remembered. During his service, he performed his duties with exceptional professionalism, dedication, and a strong sense of responsibility. His professional contributions would always be remembered in golden words in the history of the Pakistan Armed Forces.

He further said that the late Major General was a dignified, noble, kind-hearted, and patriotic personality who deeply cared for his country and nation. His passing has deprived the nation of a highly capable, talented, and dedicated military officer.

He added that the death of Major General Rashid Mahmood was a great personal loss and that his memories and longstanding friendship would always remain alive in the hearts of those who knew him. Sharing the grief of the bereaved family, he prayed that Almighty Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bless the family with strength, patience, and courage to bear this irreparable loss. Ameen.

# Two-day international Iqbal Conference concludes

## Iqbal's thought and philosophy serve as a guiding light for all humanity: Turkmenistan Ambassador Atajan Movlamov

STAFF REPORTER



ISLAMABAD: The two-day International Iqbal Conference, organized jointly by Women University Mardan and the National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) on the theme "Iqbal's Thought and Global Affairs," concluded successfully. The concluding ceremony was attended by ambassadors, vice chancellors, eminent intellectuals, researchers, and faculty members from various universities, who shared their views on the philosophy, teachings, and global significance of Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Atajan Movlamov, stated that organizing such a conference in memory of Allama Iqbal reflects a beautiful aspect of Pakistan's civilization and culture. He emphasized that Iqbal's thought and philosophy serve as a guiding light for all humanity and appreciated the efforts to promote his ideas at the international level.

Vice Chancellor of Women University Mardan, Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, remarked that Iqbal is not merely a poet of one era but a poet for all ages, and his message is meant for the entire world. She expressed her gratitude to the distinguished guests, ambassadors, vice chancellors, speakers, and researchers for their participation and reaffirmed the University's commitment to continue organizing such academic and literary activities in the future.

Director General of the National Language Promotion Department, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, stated that Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had received the highest standard of modern education available in their time. He emphasized that they inspired us to pursue higher education and equip the younger generation with knowledge. He further observed that wealth and resources can be taken away, but knowledge and capabilities cannot. He added that Iqbal's teachings convey a universal message of human welfare, peace, and harmony.

Vice Chancellor of Mianwali University, Prof. Dr. Nadeem Sheikh, emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong connection with Urdu, the national language, and promoting its use. He stressed that the younger generation should not be deprived of the ability to read and write Urdu.

# VC gomal university stresses responsible media reporting

MUHAMMAD REHAN



DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Vice Chancellor Gomal University Dr Zafar Iqbal, while addressing an international seminar organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), said that in the current era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), responsible reporting by media, provision of authentic information, effective fact checking and formation of positive narrative have assumed extraordinary importance for prevention of extremism and violent tendencies.

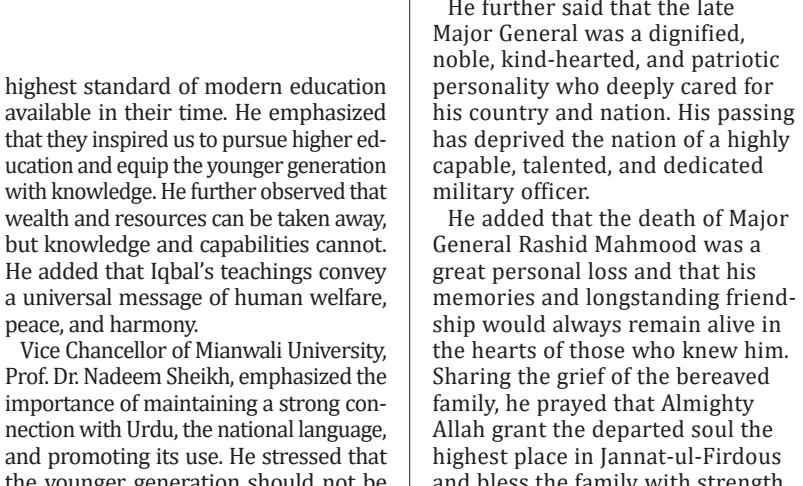
He said that while Artificial Intelligence is creating new possibilities for creation and transmission of information, risks of spread of fake news, misleading information and disinformation are also increasing. Therefore, it is necessary that media institutions, realizing their responsibilities, deliver fact-based, authentic and responsible content to public.Dr Zafar Iqbal, in his address, stressing need for review of media's current rating (TRP) system and advertisement-based business model, said that in television talk shows, controversies, confrontation and provocative debates are often highlighted to get more rating and increase advertisement revenue. As a result of this style of journalism, instead of dialogue and difference of opinion, tendency of clash, division and confrontation is strengthened in minds of viewers.

He said that as long as media's business model remains based on selling controversies and converting provocation into rating, effective prevention of extremism and radicalization in society will remain a major challenge.He proposed that media rating system should be comprehensively reviewed and alternative scales should be introduced which, instead of merely number of viewers, also give importance to journalistic quality, accuracy of information, social responsibility and social harmony.

Dr Zafar Iqbal also proposed to introduce a formal Conflict Index to measure level of conflict and provocation in media content. According to him, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) should play its effective role in this regard so that identification and monitoring of such media content is possible which promotes social division, hatred and violent tendencies. He said that conflict and confrontation should not be presented as normal entertainment or acceptable business activity.Speaking about media ownership, he said that concentration of media ownership in hands of few individuals or business groups is also an important policy issue.

# Sardar Waqar advocates attends Azerbaijan's Victory Day reception

TP REPORT



ISLAMABAD : Sardar Waqar Shehzad Advocate attended a prestigious reception held at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad, to mark the sixth anniversary of the Republic of Azerbaijan's Victory Day. On the occasion, he extended his heartfelt congratulations to the leadership and people of Azerbaijan on this historic day.

Sardar Waqar Shehzad Advocate expressed his sincere gratitude to Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Irfan Davudov, and his wife, as well as Defence Attaché Colonel Elnur Musayev and his wife, for organizing a beautiful and memorable evening.

The reception was attended by distinguished diplomats, senior civil and military officials, and personalities from various walks of life. The event celebrated the courage, national unity, sacrifices, and patriotic spirit of the Azerbaijani people.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Waqar Shehzad Advocate said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy deep-rooted relations based on brotherhood, friendship, trust, and mutual respect. The people of both countries share strong bonds of affection and solidarity. Such events bring the two nations closer and play an important role in further strengthening bilateral relations.

He also extended his best wishes to the people and leadership of Azerbaijan, expressing hope that the friendship and cooperation between the two brotherly countries would continue to reach new heights.

# KMU-QEC holds annual quality awards ceremony 2025–26

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Medical University (KMU) Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), Peshawar, organized its Annual Quality Awards Ceremony 2025–26 at Dr Hafizullah Auditorium, recognizing outstanding performance by its constituent and affiliated institutions and faculty members. Awards and certificates were presented to institutions and teachers in recognition of their achievements in academic excellence, teaching and quality assurance.

Dr Syed Amir Abdullah, Education Adviser to the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, attended as the chief guest, while Prof. Dr Zia ul Haq, Executive Director of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad, and Abidullah Kakakhel, Secretary Higher Education Department (HED), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, attended as guests of honour. The ceremony was also attended by KMU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Abdul Jalil Khan, UET Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Sadiq Khattak, Agriculture University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Imran Khan, HED Director Quality Assurance Imranullah Marwat, KMU Registrar Dr Zohaib Khan, KMU Director QEC Dr Syeda Asia Bukhari, deans, heads of institutions, faculty members and administrative staff.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr Syed Amir Abdullah said that KMU had made significant contributions to the promotion of medical education and research, adding that its quality-driven policies provided a strong foundation for improving academic and healthcare standards across the province. He observed that such awards not only recognized institutional excellence but also encouraged healthy competition and a culture of continuous improvement. Appreciating KMU's role as the province's only public-sector medical university, he emphasized the importance of transparency, quality and performance-based governance, expressing confidence that the university would sustain and further strengthen its achievements.



Prof. Dr Zia ul Haq said that the progress of higher education institutions depended on quality teaching, research, effective management and a sustained quality assurance mechanism. He appreciated KMU's initiatives and encouraged the university to further strengthen its research culture and pursue international academic standards.

HED Secretary Abidullah Kakakhel highlighted the importance of performance-based evaluation and institutional accountability in improving the quality of higher education. He congratulated the award-winning institutions and teachers, describing their achievements as an encouraging example for others.

Welcoming the guests, KMU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Abdul Jalil Khan said that the university, as the province's only public-sector medical university, had a significant responsibility to promote medical education, research and the development of skilled healthcare professionals. He said KMU was continuously strengthening its quality assurance framework across constituent and affiliated institutions, with the annual awards serving as an important incentive for academic and institutional excellence.

Based on HEC and HED quality assurance benchmarks, the leading institutions were announced in different categories. Among constituent institutions, the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences (IBMS) secured first position, followed jointly by the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IPMR) and the Institute of Pathology and Diagnostic Medicine (IPDM) in second place, while the Institute of Dental Sciences, Kohat, secured third position.

In the affiliated medical college category, Women Medical College and Women Dental College, Abbottabad, jointly secured first position, followed by North West School of Medicine, Peshawar, in second place and Rehman College of Dentistry (RCD) in third.

Among affiliated Allied Health Sciences institutions, NCS University System, Peshawar, secured first position, Women Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences, Abbottabad, second, while Rehman College of Rehabilitation Sciences, Rehman College of Nursing and Rehman College of Allied Health Sciences jointly secured third position. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Institute of Medical Sciences (KPMIS) obtained fourth position.

## Afghanistan's Crisis Within

A country facing mass hunger, worsening malnutrition, collapsing humanitarian support and economic uncertainty cannot afford to let political confrontation overshadow the crisis unfolding within its own borders. For Afghanistan, the challenge is not merely one of economic survival but of governance, institutional responsibility and the future of an increasingly vulnerable population.

Millions face hunger, children are increasingly vulnerable to malnutrition, healthcare services are deteriorating, and economic opportunities remain severely constrained. Yet the Taliban government's political discourse increasingly revolves around external confrontation. The question is whether this emphasis on external adversaries is overshadowing the urgent responsibilities of governing a country whose population is struggling to survive.

The humanitarian figures paint a disturbing picture. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) October 2026 assessment, approximately 15.9 million Afghans, or 32 per cent of the population, were experiencing acute food insecurity in September and October. The number is projected to reach 19.2 million during the November 2026–April 2027 winter season, including five million people facing emergency levels of hunger. The World Food Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization identify high food and transport costs, unemployment, weak purchasing power and declining humanitarian assistance among the principal pressures on households.

The crisis extends beyond food insecurity. A UNICEF and Action Against Hunger assessment warns that 4.04 million children aged six to 59 months will require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2027, including approximately 1.09 million facing severe acute malnutrition. These projections expose the vulnerability of an entire generation whose development is threatened by inadequate nutrition, preventable illnesses and diminishing access to essential services. Without sustained intervention, the consequences could extend far beyond the immediate humanitarian emergency.

Afghanistan's healthcare infrastructure faces equally serious pressures. The World Health Organization's 2026 Health Emergency Appeal estimates that 14.4 million people will require health assistance this year. Funding reductions contributed to the closure of more than 422 health facilities during 2025, affecting access for approximately three million people. For families already struggling with poverty, reduced healthcare access compounds their vulnerability and increases the risk of preventable deaths.

Another troubling dimension is the country's drug-use crisis. A February 2026 assessment by the United Nations Development Programme and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime identifies growing concerns surrounding synthetic substances and the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs. Its findings connect substance use with poverty, unemployment, psychological distress and household financial pressures. Addressing this challenge requires stronger public-health services, prevention, accessible treatment and sustained community support rather than punitive measures alone.

The consequences of domestic policies are equally visible in education and economic participation. UNICEF reported in August 2026 that more than 2.6 million girls have been denied secondary education since 2021. Its analysis estimates that restrictions on women's education and employment cost Afghanistan approximately US$84 million annually in lost economic output. These policies undermine human capital precisely when the country needs every available resource for recovery. Excluding women and girls from education and employment restricts individual opportunities while weakening the broader economy and society.

Against this backdrop, the prominence of external confrontation in Taliban political messaging deserves scrutiny. Border disputes are genuine political and security concerns, but they cannot explain Afghanistan's food insecurity, institutional weaknesses, healthcare shortages or restrictions on education. Nor should external adversaries become the dominant explanation for problems rooted in years of conflict, economic fragility and domestic policy decisions.

Whether deliberate or not, repeatedly redirecting public attention towards external tensions risks weakening scrutiny of governance at home. Political confrontation cannot substitute for credible economic planning, social protection or the effective administration of essential services. The government must recognise that national stability depends as much on the welfare of citizens as on the management of external relations.

Afghanistan needs functioning institutions, economic opportunities, accessible healthcare, education and accountable leadership. These responsibilities cannot remain secondary to political rhetoric. A government cannot indefinitely look beyond its borders while millions of its own people are waiting for food, healthcare, education and a future.

# Ballot Box Challenges Presidential Power

### Democracy is not a licence granted to those in power to govern without restraint

MUHAMMAD MOHSIN IQBAL






> **The election** results have raised serious questions about the direction of American foreign policy, particularly its reliance on military pressure, confrontation and the projection of power abroad

The American midterm elections have delivered a message that extends far beyond the boundaries of domestic politics. They have demonstrated that while the people possess the power to place a president in the White House, they also retain the authority to challenge his policies, restrain his ambitions and reject the direction in which he seeks to lead the country. Democracy is not a licence granted to those in power to govern without restraint; it is a continuing relationship between the electorate and its elected representatives, sustained by public confidence and accountability.

The results of November 3 have dealt a significant political setback to President Donald Trump and the Republican Party, with Democrats securing control of both chambers of Congress. The outcome represents a formidable challenge to an administration that had enjoyed considerable freedom in pursuing its legislative and political agenda. It also illustrates that the American electorate does not necessarily endorse every presidential decision simply because it has elected the individual occupying the Oval Office.

For years, American administrations have frequently presented their domestic and international policies as expressions of national will. Yet the distinction between the authority of a government and the consent of its people is fundamental. A president may possess constitutional powers, command enormous military resources and exercise considerable influence over international affairs, but none of these attributes guarantees public approval. The ballot box remains an instrument through which citizens can remind their leaders that political authority ultimately derives from them.

The election results have raised serious questions about the direction of American foreign policy, particularly its reliance on military pressure, confrontation and the projection of power abroad. Trump's posture towards Iran, the possibility of military escalation and the wider consequences of confrontation in the Middle East have contributed to anxieties about the human and economic costs of another conflict. At a time when global energy markets remain vulnerable to geopolitical instability, the consequences of military adventurism would not be confined to the countries directly involved. Rising oil prices, economic uncertainty and disruptions to international trade would affect ordinary Americans as well as populations across the developing world.

The American people have reason to question whether an increasingly confrontational foreign policy serves their national interests. The pursuit of peace is not a sign of weakness, nor does diplomatic engagement necessarily imply compromise on matters of national security. A powerful country demonstrates its maturity not merely through its capacity to wage war but through its ability to prevent one.

The question of Palestine has also exposed a profound moral contradiction in American foreign policy. Washington's largely unconditional support for Israel, despite the immense suffering inflicted upon the people of Gaza, has generated deep disquiet internationally. Images of devastated neighbourhoods, displaced families and innocent children have challenged the credibility of American claims to champion democracy, human rights and international justice. A policy that appears selective in its application of humanitarian principles inevitably weakens the moral standing of the country pursuing it.

Equally significant is the changing political and social landscape within the United States. The electoral success of Abdul El-Sayed in Michigan, who has won a seat in the United States Senate, carries historical importance. His victory makes him the first Muslim elected to the US Senate and reflects the growing political participation of communities that have often found themselves at the margins of mainstream political discourse.

His achievement should be viewed not simply through the prism of religious identity but as an expression of democratic inclusion. American society is diverse, and its political institutions must reflect that diversity. The electoral participation and success of Muslim and Black Americans demonstrate that public office cannot legitimately be treated as the exclusive preserve of any particular religious, racial or cultural group.

The attention surrounding El-Sayed's family, including his scarf-wearing wife, also carries a broader social significance. A woman's choice to observe her faith through her appearance should not become a source of political prejudice or public discrimination. The strength of a democratic society lies in its ability to accommodate differences without demanding that citizens abandon their cultural or religious identities to earn acceptance.

The elections have also challenged the assumption that political influence can be purchased through personal wealth, campaign expenditure or access to powerful institutions. Financial resources may strengthen a campaign, but they cannot indefinitely substitute for public confidence. The voter is not merely a spectator in the political arena; the voter is its ultimate judge.

The transfer of congressional control to the Democrats is particularly consequential. A president whose party no longer commands either chamber of Congress must confront a more demanding legislative environment. Congressional scrutiny, investigations and resistance to executive initiatives may significantly restrict the administration's freedom of action. Decisions concerning foreign military engagements, public expenditure and domestic governance will face renewed political examination.

Nevertheless, it would be premature to interpret the results as a complete rejection of every aspect of Trump's presidency or as evidence that every American voter shares an identical position on Iran, Israel, immigration or economic policy. Elections are shaped by several concerns, including inflation, employment, healthcare, taxation and public confidence in government. Their collective message, however, is unmistakable: presidential authority is not beyond democratic accountability.

For the international community, the American midterm elections offer an important reminder that even the world's most powerful democracy is subject to the will of its citizens. No president can assume that military strength, political rhetoric or economic influence will secure permanent public allegiance. The people may tolerate disagreements, but they retain the right to withdraw their confidence when they believe their leaders have departed from their expectations.

Ultimately, the greatest strength of American democracy is not the power of its presidency, the size of its military or the influence of its economy. It is the continuing ability of its citizens to challenge authority through peaceful and constitutional means. The message from the ballot box is therefore clear: power may win an election, but only responsible leadership can sustain public trust. A government that disregards the aspirations of its people may retain office for a time, but it cannot indefinitely command their moral and political confidence.

# Indigenous Defence and Operational Readiness

JUNAID QAISER



Pakistan's security environment is changing rapidly, demanding a defence strategy that goes beyond conventional military preparedness. Technological advancement, evolving warfare tactics and emerging regional threats have made it increasingly important for the country to strengthen its indigenous defence capabilities while ensuring that its armed forces remain professionally trained and operationally prepared. Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's recent visit to the headquarters of the Special Services Group (SSG) in Tarbela reflects this strategic thinking.

During his November 5 visit, Field Marshal Asim Munir emphasised the importance of continuous training, indigenous defence production and sustained operational readiness. These priorities are not merely military requirements; they are essential components of Pakistan's long-term national security and strategic independence.

The SSG occupies a distinctive position within Pakistan's military structure. Its personnel are trained to operate in exceptionally demanding environments, where physical endurance, tactical precision, discipline and the ability to make decisions under extreme pressure are indispensable. The CDF's interaction with the elite force therefore carried significance beyond a routine military engagement. It highlighted the importance of maintaining professional standards and ensuring that specialised forces remain prepared for increasingly complex security challenges.

During the visit, the military chief reviewed the SSG's specialised training arrangements and operational capabilities. He also witnessed demonstrations of advanced equipment, combat proficiency, agility and precision in special operations. Praising the officers and soldiers, he acknowledged their professionalism, high morale and unwavering commitment to their responsibilities. His recognition of the SSG is particularly important at a time when modern warfare is undergoing fundamental changes. The nature of security threats has expanded beyond traditional battlefield confrontations. Counterterrorism operations, hybrid warfare, technological competition, intelligence-based operations and unconventional threats require military institutions to continuously reassess their capabilities. In such an environment, training cannot be treated as an occasional exercise. It must remain a permanent institutional priority. A well-equipped military can only achieve its full potential when its personnel possess the professional expertise, discipline and adaptability required to use modern technologies effectively. Pakistan's experience in counterterrorism has demonstrated the importance of specialised forces capable of responding to difficult operational situations.

Equally important is the emphasis on indigenous defence production. A country that depends excessively on external suppliers for critical military equipment risks exposing its national security to international political pressures, supply-chain disruptions and changing geopolitical circumstances. Developing domestic technological and industrial capabilities provides greater strategic flexibility and strengthens national sovereignty.

> **The successful** training launch of the indigenous Fatah-4 ground-launched cruise missile in May also demonstrated Pakistan's efforts to improve its technological and operational capabilities

Recent developments in Pakistan's defence sector offer encouraging signs of progress. A day before the CDF's visit to the SSG headquarters, Pakistan successfully conducted the flight test of its indigenously developed Fa'az air-to-air missile. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the missile incorporates an advanced terminal guidance system and is designed to engage aerial targets at longer ranges.

This achievement represents more than a technological milestone. It demonstrates the importance of investing in domestic research, engineering and scientific expertise. Indigenous defence development can gradually reduce dependence on foreign suppliers while creating opportunities for Pakistani scientists, engineers and industrial institutions to contribute to national security.

Similarly, Field Marshal Asim Munir's August visit to Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) in Wah highlighted the importance of modernising the country's defence industrial base. His review of production facilities, export potential and locally manufactured weapons and ammunition reflected the military leadership's interest in connecting defence requirements with domestic industrial development.

The successful training launch of the indigenous Fatah-4 ground-launched cruise missile in May also demonstrated Pakistan's efforts to improve its technological and operational capabilities. Such developments indicate that the country's defence modernisation strategy increasingly involves a combination of indigenous research, technical innovation and practical military training.

Pakistan faces multiple security challenges, including terrorism, instability along its western borders and a complicated regional strategic environment. Addressing these challenges requires a military that is not only technologically capable but also institutionally disciplined and professionally prepared. Specialised formations such as the SSG play an important role in this broader national security architecture.

A credible defence capability strengthens deterrence, reduces the likelihood of miscalculation and creates space for diplomacy. Pakistan's national interest demands a balanced approach in which military preparedness, economic development and constructive diplomatic engagement reinforce one another. There is also an economic dimension to indigenous defence production that deserves greater attention. A stronger domestic defence industry can generate skilled employment, encourage technological research, support engineering institutions and expand opportunities for exports. With appropriate investment, transparency and collaboration between military research organisations, universities and the private sector, Pakistan can develop a more competitive defence-industrial ecosystem.

The country's long-term objective should therefore be to move beyond meeting immediate military requirements and establish a sustainable foundation for technological self-reliance. This requires consistent research funding, stronger institutional partnerships, modern manufacturing facilities and investment in human capital.

Field Marshal Asim Munir's visit to the SSG headquarters sends an important message about the direction of Pakistan's defence priorities. Professional excellence, continuous training, technological innovation and indigenous production must advance together. The recognition of the SSG's dedication also reinforces the importance of the men and women whose discipline and sacrifices sustain the country's security institutions.

For Pakistan, defence self-reliance is no longer simply an aspiration. It is a strategic necessity. The challenge now is to translate this vision into sustained technological progress, industrial strength and operational excellence.

Printed & Published by Fazli Haq on behalf of The Province | Printed at Gul Zaman Printing Press Mohallah Jangi, Peshawar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | Phone; 091 221 6407 | Published from: 2nd floor flat no 01 Darul Slaam Plaza Sikanderpura Chowk, Pehsawar | Editor-in-Chief: Fazli Haq | Editor: Ameer Mavia | email: theprovince@gmail.com |

# Iraq proposes regional diplomatic mission to Iran

*Iran says it shot down US MQ-1 drone over Qeshm Island*



BAGHDAD: Iraq on Friday proposed forming a committee of regional foreign ministers to visit Tehran and Washington in search of peaceful solutions to ongoing disputes, as Iran outlined its plan to resume negotiations with the US.

The proposal came during a phone call between Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein and his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi, according to a statement by Iraq's Foreign Ministry.

During the conversation, Araghchi presented Tehran's vision for preparing to resume negotiations with Washington, which had previously been put forward ahead of the US midterm elections.

The Iranian proposal includes setting a timetable for launching negotiations, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and revisiting points agreed upon during previous understandings reached in Pakistan.

It also includes additional provisions concerning Iran's nuclear program, the statement said.

Hussein thanked Araghchi for outlining Tehran's proposal and discussed the US midterm elections, their results and potential implications for regional developments.

The Iraqi minister warned that tensions were escalating across the region amid continued concerns over a possible resumption of military operations.

He stressed the need for practical measures to contain the escalation and create conditions conducive to reducing tensions. Both ministers emphasised the importance of continued communication and coordination among regional countries, particularly neighbouring states, to prevent further escalation and promote security and stability.

The diplomatic discussions come amid efforts to end the conflict that began Feb. 28, when the US and Israel launched military attacks against Iran, prompting retaliatory Iranian strikes.

Washington and Tehran reached understandings during Pakistan-mediated negotiations in April, followed by further diplomatic and technical discussions aimed at implementing arrangements to reduce tensions. However, disagreements over sanctions relief, maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz and broader regional security arrangements have continued to complicate efforts to reach a lasting settlement. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for global energy shipments, has remained a central issue in negotiations, with Iran seeking a greater role in managing maritime traffic through the strategic waterway.

### Iran says it shot down US MQ-1 drone over Qeshm Island

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said Friday that it had intercepted and destroyed a US MQ-1 reconnaissance and combat drone over Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz, according to Iranian state news agency IRNA.

In a statement, the IRGC said its Aerospace Force shot down the drone using an advanced air defence system operating under the country's integrated air defence network. The IRGC described the incident as the downing of the 16th US MQ-1 drone.

According to figures released by the IRGC, Iranian forces have brought down 16 MQ-1 drones and 56 MQ-9 drones, bringing the claimed total to 72 aircraft of the two types. The IRGC said Iranian forces were continuously monitoring US aerial movements, reconnaissance activities and flight patterns in the area.

Qeshm, Iran's largest island, is located in the southern province of Hormozgan, near the northern approaches to the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway connecting the Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.

Iran has repeatedly reported intercepting US drones over Qeshm and surrounding waters amid ongoing military tensions with Washington.

Earlier on Friday, the IRGC said that it had brought down two US MQM-170 reconnaissance drones over Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz, according to Iranian state news agency IRNA.

## Turkiye arrests former minister on corruption charge

ANKARA: Authorities in Turkiye have arrested a former minister and deputy chair of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan 's ruling party over her alleged involvement in a share-price manipulation scandal involving several investment funds.

Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya resigned as the deputy chair of the ruling Justice and Development Party in September, shortly after allegations emerged that she had sold shares worth tens of millions of dollars just before regulators decided to liquidate the investment funds over alleged manipulation.

Kaya, who served as family and social affairs minister from 2016 to 2018, was taken into custody late on Thursday pending a possible trial on charges of membership in a criminal organization and violating Turkiye's Capital Markets Law, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Her husband was released on condition that he regularly report to police, following a second round of questioning for the couple. Turkiye's main opposition party has accused Kaya of receiving 2.17 billion liras ($43 million) after reportedly investing 163 million liras ($3 million) in one of the funds. The couple have denied any wrongdoing but have transferred some of the profits to an account designated by the banking regulators, according to media reports. More than 430 people are under investigation over suspected market manipulation and insider trading, including 112 who have been arrested as part of the scandal, Justice Minister Akin Gurlek said this week.

## Israel's president pledges to pick candidate on Sunday to form govt

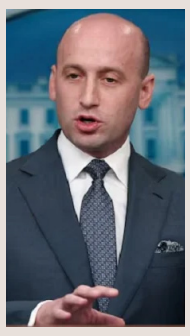
JERUSALEM: Benjamin Netanyahu's main rival secured nods on Thursday from a majority of lawmakers to try to form a government, but Israel's president said it was still unclear who could break the election deadlock as he pledged to nominate a candidate on Sunday. Israel's October 27 national ballot ended with no clear winner. Neither Prime Minister Netanyahu nor Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief, secured a clear path to a majority in parliament.

That has set up a tough task for President Isaac Herzog, whose mostly ceremonial role comes with the post-election responsibility of picking a candidate he believes has the best chance to form a coalition in a deeply divided country. Herzog held marathon talks with elected factions on Wednesday and Thursday, during which 67 of parliament's 120 elected lawmakers endorsed Eisenkot, while 46 endorsed Netanyahu.

In televised remarks at the end of the talks, Herzog said that while the "results of the consultations may appear clear", there were "mutual vetoes between the blocs and within the blocs themselves" that make it difficult to say who has the best shot to form a government. Herzog said he would make a pick on Sunday, and that he would hold "personal talks with some of the party leaders" over the Israeli weekend, which runs Friday-Saturday.

# Stephen Miller takes charge of White House after midterm rout

A White House official says President Trump is rewarding loyalists rather than changing course after Republican defeat



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has replaced White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles with Stephen Miller, elevating a longtime loyalist and architect of his hardline domestic policies to the administration's top operational role after Republicans lost control of both chambers of Congress in the midterm elections.

The shake-up puts Miller, one of Trump's most influential advisers, in charge of steering the president's agenda as he prepares to face a Democratic-controlled House of Representatives and Senate, along with an expected wave of congressional investigations.

White House officials told Reuters that Miller's appointment signals Trump's intention to pursue an aggressive approach to domestic policy and politics rather than moderate his course following the Republican election defeat.

Trump announced the appointment in a social media post on Friday, describing Miller as "one of my most trusted advisors" and praising Wiles for doing "an outstanding job". He said the change would take effect on Monday, November 9.

Wiles, who submitted her resignation on Thursday night, will move to Trump's political operation, according to a White House official.

Miller, who served as deputy chief of staff under Wiles, was a key figure in Trump's first administration from 2017 to 2021. He returned to the White House in 2025 and wielded considerable influence over the president's domestic agenda, particularly immigration policy.

He is widely regarded as one of the chief architects of Trump's aggressive immigration crackdown, which included setting a target of 3,000 arrests a day. Federal immigration agents subsequently expanded enforcement operations to include migrants who had lived in the United States for decades.

Miller's elevation comes as Trump faces growing political pressure following the midterm elections, in which Democrats secured control of both chambers of Congress, leaving Republicans with a reduced ability to advance the president's legislative agenda.

The election setback followed a period of declining public approval ratings for Trump. He had expressed dissatisfaction with his political and communications operations in the run-up to Tuesday's vote and told aides this week that the White House needed to be "more aggressive" as Democrats prepared to take control of Congress, according to a person briefed on the matter.

Allies of Wiles in the White House began raising concerns with others on Wednesday about the possibility of her replacement, the person said.

"He's rewarding those most loyal to him. He's not changing course," another White House official told Reuters.

Wiles, a longtime Trump political adviser, had served as his chief of staff since the beginning of his second term in January 2025. She was the first woman to hold the position and was credited with bringing discipline to Trump's political operation and White House team.

# Pakistan's Ambassador Saadia Qazi attends Thailand Economic Forum 2026




SADIQ INAM

BANGKOK: Saadia Altaf Qazi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Thailand and Permanent Representative to UNESCAP, attended The Standard Economic Forum 2026, held under the theme "Reinvent Thailand" at Paragon Hall, Siam Paragon.

The high-level forum brought together senior Thai policymakers, business leaders, and international experts to discuss Thailand's economic trajectory, emerging opportunities, and strategies for sustainable growth and greater global competitiveness. Keynote addresses were delivered by Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister of Thailand, and Ekniti Nitithanprapas, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

Prime Minister Anutin outlined a four-pillar "Reinvent Thailand" agenda focused on energy security, new growth engines (including semiconductors, data centres, AI, modern agriculture and food technology), human capital development, and a more constructive political environment. The Finance Minister presented reform priorities, including the "STI DEE" framework emphasising fiscal stability, disclosure, ease of doing business, and efficiency, with the Finance Ministry serving as a prototype for wider government reform.

Ambassador Qazi's participation formed part of Pakistan's active economic diplomacy in Thailand. The two countries are marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2026, and both sides have reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation in trade, investment, skills development, education, and people-to-people exchanges.

The forum provided a timely platform for the Ambassador to engage with Thailand's top economic leadership and international stakeholders as both countries look to deepen practical collaboration in an evolving regional economic landscape.

# Occupier terrorism against Palestinians growing bolder under world's indifference: Erdogan

Israeli forces and settlers attacked West Bank Palestinians, burning homes, farmland and targeting olive pickers



ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday criticized the international community's failure to address Israel's actions in the occupied Palestinian territories, warning that the international system is failing to uphold peace and security.

Speaking at the official opening ceremony of the TRT World Forum 2026 at the Istanbul Congress Center, Erdogan said: "Occupier terrorism, which seeks to forcibly displace Palestinians from their ancestral homeland, is growing more and more brazen by the day under the indifferent gaze of the modern world."

International institutions tasked with ensuring peace, security and stability are once again "watching from the sidelines" as atrocities unfold in Gaza, as previously happened in Rwanda, Srebrenica, and many other places, he said.

"They take no action other than watching human tragedies with concern or voicing concern over them," Erdogan added.

"More than 3,000 attacks and violations targeting Palestinians in the West Bank were recorded in October alone," he said.

Erdogan said that the October 2025 Gaza Peace Agreement, which Türkiye also helped broker, is not being implemented.

"Those who turn into lions when it comes to Türkiye suddenly become paper tigers when the issue is the genocide network," he said, adding: "This is the most blatant form of double standards."

### Global system collapsed

Underlining that the principle of "pacta sunt servanda" – agreements must be kept – which underpins international relations, is not being upheld, Erdogan said: "Everyone must understand that no problem can be resolved this way."

The Turkish president warned that global and regional developments show that the system has raised the "white flag of surrender."

"We are going through a turbulent period in which power rivalries are intensifying, rules are being disregarded, the rules-based system is being seriously eroded, and values are undergoing a virtual landslide," he warned.

Underlining that global governance mechanisms are proving inadequate and ineffective in resolving the challenges the world faces, Erdogan said: "All the norms and principles on which the international system is built are being trampled underfoot today."

"We are all facing a structural crisis in which the old is dying and the new has not yet been born," he added.

"Türkiye has put not just our bodies, but our entire selves, our hearts and souls, into building a fairer world," Erdogan said.

Erdogan highlighted that they are doing everything in their power to ensure the peaceful resolution of all wars, crises and tragedies unfolding across the region stretching from Palestine to Yemen, Sudan, and Ukraine.

"Despite the discomfort of some and attempts by others to derail us and our country through dirty campaigns, we will never back down," he said.

"Whatever the cost, we will continue to courageously voice what we believe to be right, openly share our proposals for solutions, and resolutely defend what is just and true," said Erdogan.

"As people guided by reason and conscience, I believe that it is our shared responsibility to bring this crisis to an end through fair and just solutions," he added.

Israeli army, occupiers carry out attacks across occupied West Bank

Israeli forces and occupiers carried out a series of attacks across the occupied West Bank on Friday, including assaults on Palestinians harvesting olives, the burning of residential tents and farmland, and raids on several areas, according to the Wafa news agency.

Israeli soldiers forced dozens of foreign activists and several journalists to leave Abu Falah village, northeast of Ramallah, after they attempted to support Palestinian residents seeking access to their land to harvest olives, Wafa reported.

In a separate incident, Israeli occupiers and soldiers assaulted and detained 15 foreign activists who were helping Palestinians harvest olives near Jabal al-Risan, according to the agency.



## American people strengthened democratic forces by supporting the democratic party: Sheikh Abdul Waheed

STAFF REPORTER



RAWALPINDI: President of Anjuman-e-Tajiran Liaquat Road Rawalpindi and the Inter-City Hotel Association, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, congratulated the Democratic Party on its success in the US midterm elections. He said the American people had sent a clear message through their votes that public aspirations and concerns cannot be ignored in a democracy.He stated that US involvement in the Iran war, continued support for Israel, and the use of taxpayers' money for foreign wars and military expenditures contributed to the Republican Party's electoral setbacks. Rising inflation, higher fuel prices, and domestic economic challenges further increased public frustration.Sheikh Abdul Waheed added that criticism of US policies towards Israel had also intensified amid the situation in Gaza and the suffering of Palestinians. He expressed hope that the Democratic Party's success would help promote economic stability, employment, public welfare, human rights, and global peace.

## SBP injects Rs 13.76 trillion to maintain liquidity in the market

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs 13,760.4 billion through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operations (OMO) on Friday for maintaining liquidity in the market. The central bank conducted the Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) for 7 and 14-day tenors on November 06, 2026, and injected Rs 13,357.9 billion against 43 quotes while other Rs 402.5 billion were injected through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based OMO.

The central bank, for the Reverse Repo Purchase of 14-day tenor, received 37 bids cumulatively offering Rs 13,366.55 billion at the rate of return ranging between 12.01% to 12.08%. The SBP accepted Rs 13,050 billion against all the 37 quotes at 12.01% rate of return. The total amount offered at 12.01% was Rs 6,557.2 billion, out of which SBP accepted Rs 6,240.65 billion on a pro rata basis. Moreover, the SBP also received 6 bids for the 7-day tenor, cumulatively offering Rs 307.9 billion at the rate of return ranging between 12.01% to 12.08 %. The SBP accepted all the 6 quotes with the entire amount at 12.01% rate of return. Meanwhile, SBP also conducted Shariah Compliant Mudarabah-based Open Market Operation for the 7 and 14-day tenors. The central bank received one bid for the 7-day tenor, offering Rs 150 million at 12.01% rate of return and the only bid for the 7-day tenor was rejected by SBP.

## Weekly inflation increases 0.29pc

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI)-based weekly inflation increased by 0.29 percent during the week ended on November 05, 2026, for the combined consumption group, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported here on Friday. According to PBS data, the SPI for the week under review increased to 374.61 points from 373.51 points recorded in the previous week. On a year-on-year basis, the SPI increased by 12.31 percent. The weekly SPI, with base year 2015-16=100, covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group (up to Rs 17,732) increased by 0.86 percent to 361.00 points from 357.92 points. Likewise, the SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,733–22,888, Rs 22,889–29,517, Rs 29,518–44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 0.70 percent, 0.52 percent, 0.40 percent and 0.10 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 items (41.18 percent) increased, 10 items (19.60 percent) decreased, while 20 items (39.22 percent) remained unchanged. On a week-on-week basis, the items that witnessed a decrease in prices included Petrol (4.20%), Diesel (2.97%), Pulse Gram (1.08%), Banana (0.85%), Onions (0.82%), Powdered Milk (0.73%), Chicken (0.61%), Sugar (0.40%), Wheat Flour (0.34%) and Pulse Moong (0.27%). On the other hand, increase was observed in the prices of Tomatoes (54.18%), LPG (3.72%), Potatoes (2.07%), Eggs (1.17%), Garlic (1.06%), Firewood (1.01%), Salt Powder (0.91%), Bread Plain (0.64%), Milk Fresh (0.49%), Curd (0.41%), Match Box (0.16%) and Shirting (0.15%).



RAWALPINDI: Street vendor sells dry fig and dry fruit on their handcarts along a road, in the city. — PHOTO: ONLINE

# PSX turns bearish, loses 1,493 points

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) reversed its positive momentum on Friday, losing 1,493.18 points, a negative change of 0.85 percent, to close at 173,886.69 points against 175,379.87 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 1,479.999 million shares, compared to 999.812 million shares traded in the previous session. However, the traded value of the ready market decreased to Rs22.572 billion, down from Rs46.062 billion a day earlier.

Meanwhile, total market capitalisation fell to Rs18.909 trillion from Rs19.113 trillion recorded in the previous session.

Out of 500 companies that traded in the ready market, 190 posted gains, 277 suffered losses, while 33 remained unchanged, reflecting a bearish trend across

Bawany Air(R) led the volume chart with 687.381 million shares, followed by Tasdeeq Information with 140.783 million shares, and WorldCall Telecom with 72.154 million shares.

Among the top gainers in the ready market, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited surged by Rs291.00 to close at Rs25,994.00, while Pakistan Services Limited advanced by Rs113.46 to settle at Rs1,248.07.

On the losing side, Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited declined by Rs101.26 to close at Rs8,399.99, while Sapphire Textile Mills Limited fell by Rs48.66 to Rs1,559.34.

In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 135.948 million shares with a traded value of Rs5.877 billion, compared with 242.975 million shares worth Rs12.638 billion in the previous session.

Of the 306 companies traded in the DFC market, 66 advanced, 235 declined, and 5 remained unchanged.

## PepsiCo wins sustainability Award for advancing sustainable agriculture

TP REPORT




ISLAMABAD : PepsiCo Pakistan has earned national recognition for its contributions to sustainable agriculture and the development of resilient food systems, receiving a prestigious Sustainability Award in the Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems category at the 29th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC).

The award acknowledges the company's continued efforts to transform agricultural practices, strengthen farming communities and promote environmentally responsible approaches across Pakistan's agricultural sector.

Through a range of initiatives focusing on farmer empowerment, regenerative agriculture, water stewardship and sustainable livelihoods, PepsiCo Pakistan has been working to strengthen agricultural value chains while encouraging farming practices that benefit both communities and the environment.

The company's approach emphasizes collaboration with farmers, business partners and local communities to create shared value throughout the agricultural ecosystem. These efforts aim to improve farming resilience, support rural livelihoods and contribute to the long-term sustainability of Pakistan's food production systems.

The recognition also underscores the growing importance of responsible business practices and public-private collaboration in addressing challenges such as environmental sustainability, resource management and agricultural resilience.

The achievement marks another significant milestone in PepsiCo Pakistan's sustainability journey and highlights the vital role of corporate initiatives in supporting a stronger, more sustainable and food-secure future for Pakistan.

## Ethiopia Embassy mobilizes Pakistan industry for 3rd business delegation

STAFF REPORTER



ISLAMABAD: Ethiopia Embassy, Islamabad has engaged with large scale industry in Lahore, Sialkot and Shehikhupura for a 3rd Trade and Investment Delegation to Ethiopia planned from January 24th to January 29th, 2027.

Led by H.E. Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the delegation of the Embassy engaged with various groups executives and visited different industry to exchange information, highlight the business opportunities in Ethiopia and prospective avenues for trade between the two countries.

The agriculture, pharmaceutical, steel, textiles, leather, automobiles and aviation were the main sectors worked out by the Embassy during five-day trip to Punjab province of Pakistan, aimed at mobilizing the delegation to Ethiopia.

The delegation met with Khawaja Masood, CEO Forward Sports, Salim Ghauri, CEO Netsol Technology Limited, Osman Khalid Waheed, CEO Ferozons Laboratories, Taufiq Ahmad Khan, Chairman and Dr. Adeel Abbas, CEO Highnoon, Raheel Asghar, CEO Millat Group, Ameen Ahsan, CEO Nizamsons, and Abbas Mukhtar, Director of Fatima Group.

Visits to industrial plants to various companies also included such as Fatima Group, Atlas Honda, Mughal Steel, and two units of the Sundar Industrial Estate.

The information about the 3rd delegation was also exchanged with the executives of different industry at Sheikhupura Chamber of Commerce and Industry in presence of its President Mr. Imran Zahid, Senior Vice President Asif Saeed Mughal, and Group Head and Founder of Global Business Community Club, Manzoor ul Haq Malik.

## U.S Chargé d'Affaires marks multimillion-dollar Cisco network deployment at State Bank of Pakistan

OUR CORRESPONDENT



KARACHI: U.S. Chargé d'Affaires (CDA) Natalie Baker joined State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad and senior executive leadership from Cisco Systems Pakistan today at the SBP Head Office to celebrate the successful deployment of the State Bank's new core banking network and Software-Defined Data Center.

The multimillion-dollar core banking network project, awarded to U.S. technology leader Cisco, represents a major milestone in modernizing Pakistan's critical financial infrastructure. The project establishes a secure, agile, and resilient software-defined data center architecture designed to safeguard monetary stability and ensure reliable digital banking services nationwide.

Speaking at the ceremony, CDA Baker emphasized the strategic value of trusted and secure technology in underpinning modern financial systems and highlighted the growing commercial ties between the United States and Pakistan.

"The central bank's infrastructure is a national asset that underpins economic stability and public confidence," CDA Baker said.

"The State Bank of Pakistan's choice to partner with American industry demonstrates a commitment to technology quality, security, and long-term reliability. The United States values its long-standing commercial partnership with Pakistan, and we stand ready to continue connecting Pakistani institutions with world-class American innovation."

SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad and Cisco Country General Manager Kashif Ul-Haque praised the joint engineering effort that completed the complex implementation and migration while maintaining uninterrupted central banking operations.

The event underscores the U.S. government's ongoing commitment to fostering private-sector collaboration, promoting transparent and secure digital infrastructure, and deepening bilateral trade and investment relations between the United States and Pakistan.

## DG KPRA visits Sub-Regional Office Kohat

OUR CORRESPONDENT



KOHAT: Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA), Miss Irum Naz, visited the KPRA Sub-Regional Office Kohat on Friday to review the performance of the South Region for the financial year 2026–27.

Additional Collector South Region, Mr. Rizwan Ullah, along with his team, provided a detailed briefing on the region's revenue collection performance. Deputy Director Communication, Mr. Sohail Raza, and P.S. to DG, Saifullah, also accompanied the Director General during the visit.

Deputy Collector South, Mr. Abdul Wahab, Assistant Collector Akhtar Rasool, Assistant Collector Abdul Kafeel, and Inspector Muhammad Ishaq participated in the briefing. Highlighting the revenue generated across various sectors, they informed the Director General that the region had successfully surpassed its revenue targets for the first quarter of the financial year. The DG was briefed that against the South Region's annual target of Rs 4.4 billion for the current financial year, the team has already crossed Rs 1.4 billion.

Furthermore, the team shared that Rs 422 million was collected in October alone, and assured that all-out efforts are being made not only to meet the annual target but to surpass it by a significant margin. Appreciating the team's dedication, the Director General commended the South Region's performance and encouraged the officers to maintain their hard work.

During the visit, the South Region team also highlighted key logistical requirements to further boost their operational capacity. The DG assured them of the Authority's full support, promising assistance in securing dedicated office buildings for the sub-offices in Dera Ismail Khan and Kohat, as well as providing vehicles to enhance operational efficiency.



LAHORE: Competitors take the plunge at the Punjab International Swimming during 14th Inter-School and Colleges Games 2026. — PHOTO: ONLINE

## Lille president suspended four months over ref rant after PSG draw

LILLE: Lille president Olivier Letang has been suspended for four months for criticizing officials following his club's Ligue 1 draw with Paris Saint-Germain this season, a Lille spokesperson said on Thursday.
Letang was in September fined 20,000 euros by the league's disciplinary commission, but the French football federation (FFF) appealed that punishment, arguing it was too lenient. The governing body's own appeals body subsequently imposed the harsher sanction.

The Lille president came under scrutiny after a 2-2 draw with PSG in late August, when he criticized the amount of stoppage time played and protested against the appointment of referee Eric Wattellier for the match. Letang described the situation as a "scandal" and later sent emails to French refereeing chief Antony Gautier and to officials at the FFF and the French league. In one, he wrote that Lille could "no longer accept being refereed by this person."

In a statement sent to media, Letting said he would pursue all available avenues of appeal, including a potential case before the French National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSF). Letang was suspended for more than two months in January over remarks directed at Wattellier and was fined 10,000 euros by UEFA in 2025 after criticizing an official following Lille's Europa League defeat by PAOK Salonika — DNA

## One-Day sports gala held at Dir Sub Jail in collaboration with district administration and district sports office Upper Dir



SYED ZAHID JAN

UPPER DIR: A one-day Sports Gala was organized at Dir Sub Jail in collaboration with the District Administration and District Sports Office Upper Dir, in which various sports and recreational activities were arranged for the prisoners.

The Sports Gala included tug-of-war, sack race, balloon game, ludo, carrom board and musical chair competitions, in which the prisoners participated enthusiastically and showed great zeal. Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shah Naveed, District Sports Officer Sadiqullah and Superintendent District Sub Jail Dir Naeem Hadi participated in the closing ceremony. On this occasion, prizes, sports uniforms and trophies were distributed among the players who showed outstanding performance. On this occasion, District Sports Officer Sadiqullah also handed over sports equipment to the Jail Superintendent.

# U19 Asia Cup: Pakistan make winning start with 9-wicket victory over UAE

### Unbeaten 139 by Usman Khan powers defending champions to successful chase of 225

SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

PESHAWAR: Defending champions Pakistan U19 made a winning start to the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2026, defeating the United Arab Emirates U19 by nine wickets in the tournament's opening match. Pakistan chased down the target of 225 runs, losing just one wicket to register a comprehensive victory.

Opener Usman Khan was the star of the match, producing a magnificent unbeaten century. He scored 139 not out off 120 balls, smashing 21 fours and one six. His opening partner, Jahangir Bilal, also made a valuable contribution with 60 runs off 87 deliveries, including six boundaries.

The opening pair laid the foundation for Pakistan's victory with a brilliant 153-run partnership for the first wicket. After Jahangir's dismissal, Usman continued his impressive batting, adding an unbeaten 72 runs for the second wicket with Abdul Qadir to guide Pakistan home in 37.3 overs. Abdul Qadir remained unbeaten on 20, while Usman finished on 139 not out as Pakistan reached 225 for one.

Earlier, Pakistan won the toss and elected to field. The UAE U19 team was bowled out for 224 in its allotted 50 overs.

For the UAE, Noorullah Ayobi top-scored with an aggressive 70 off 55 balls, hitting three fours and six sixes. Yayin Rai contributed 47 runs, while Zainullah Rahmani added 28.

For Pakistan, Mohammad Siam led the bowling attack with an impressive spell, taking three wickets for 37 runs. Ali Raza, Rizwanullah and Hasnain Abbas Dar claimed two wickets each, while Naqab Shafiq picked up one wicket.

Pakistan's all-round performance, featuring disciplined bowling and outstanding batting, ensured a convincing nine-wicket victory. Usman Khan's unbeaten 139 was undoubtedly the highlight of the opening encounter, as the defending champions began their title defence in impressive fashion.




# Bournemouth stay perfect in Europa League as Milan lose again



PARIS: Bournemouth extended their perfect Europa League record on Thursday as they came from behind to win 3-1 at 10-man Sparta Prague, while Ruben Amorim's AC Milan suffered a third defeat in four matches. Gambian Ebrima Singhateh ran from his own half to score a fine individual goal as Sparta took the lead in the Czech Republic after Bournemouth midfielder Lewis Cook hit the post with a first-half penalty.

Sparta had Tobias Guddal sent off before half-time and Bournemouth equalized through Tyler Adams on 57 minutes. Evanilson steered the Cherries ahead nine minutes from time and Rayan bagged a late third as Bournemouth's substitutes sent the European newcomers top of the table with a fourth successive victory. Marco Rose's side have won each of their past seven matches in all competitions ahead of a Premier League trip to Ipswich this weekend.

Milan lost 2-0 at home to Ferencvaros as the Hungarians kept pace with Bournemouth, maintaining their 100 percent record in Europe. Haiti international Lenny Joseph struck twice in the second half at San Siro to earn Ferencvaros a deserved win over the seven-time European champions despite having Bamidele Yusuf sent off. Milan are languishing outside the top 24 with just three points at the halfway stage of the league phase.

Crystal Palace snatched a 1-1 draw at home to Hoffenheim as Japanese midfielder Daichi Kamada levelled in stoppage time. Alexander Prass gave Hoffenheim an early lead at Selhurst Park and Palace lost Adam Wharton to a second yellow card before Kamada rescued a point for Pierre Sage's struggling side.

Palace, last season's UEFA Conference League winners, have five points from four outings in the Europa League but sit in the Premier League's relegation zone, just behind Manchester United on goal difference. — DNA

### Peshawar Sports Festival concludes

# Charsadda beat Peshawar to win Kabaddi title

### Dr. Sarfaraz Ali and Maulana Tayyab Qureshi distribute prizes among the winning athletes



STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar Sports Festival 2026 concluded with Charsadda defeating Peshawar in the kabaddi final to lift the trophy. At the closing ceremony held at the Hayatabad Sports Complex, Peshawar, Adviser for Sports and Youth Affairs Dr. Sarfaraz Ali and Adviser for Religious Affairs Maulana Muhammad Tayyab Qureshi distributed prizes among the successful athletes.

Secretary Sports Asif Khan, Director General Sports Wasil Khan, Additional Director General Sports Rashida Ghaznavi, Director Administration Nematullah Marwat, Director Operations Jamshed Baloch, Deputy Director Nazia Zaki, Assistant Director Ashfaq Ahmed, Administrator Hayatabad Sports Complex Abid Afridi and Assistant Director Accounts Shah Faisal were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Adviser for Sports and Youth Affairs Dr. Sarfaraz Ali said that no one truly loses in sports while one team wins a match, the other gains hope and encouragement. In reality, he said, sports are the ultimate winners as they teach discipline, tolerance and mutual respect.

He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had no shortage of sporting talent and that the provincial government would strive to provide equal opportunities to male and female athletes from all districts to develop their abilities and showcase their potential, enabling them to represent the province at the national level.

# Inter-District Primary Schools Sports Tournament kicks off in Lower Kohistan

### Sports essential for students' physical and mental development: Aurangzeb Khaleel

SYED SAJID SHAH

SHANGLA: Deputy District Education Officer (Male), Lower Kohistan, Aurangzeb Khaleel, has said that a healthy body is essential for a healthy mind, positive thinking and effective learning. He emphasized that sports and co-curricular activities are integral components of the educational process and play a vital role in the overall personality development of students.

He expressed these views while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Inter-District Primary Schools Sports Tournament, Lower Kohistan, held at Government Primary School Pattan.

A dignified and colourful opening ceremony was organized on the occasion, attended by Tournament General Secretary Mumtaz Khan, ADO Sports Zakir Ali, teachers and ground in-charges from various schools. DDEO Aurangzeb Khaleel, accompanied by the other guests, formally inaugurated the tournament by cutting the ribbon. He subsequently kicked a ball to officially commence the sporting activities.

Students presented beautiful national songs, while the enthusiastic slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad", "Allah-o-Akbar" and "Khel Kood Zindabad" echoed throughout the ground, creating an atmosphere of patriotism, excitement and sporting spirit.

Addressing the gathering, Aurangzeb Khaleel stated that sports are not merely recreational activities; rather, they are an essential part of education that develops discipline, confidence, teamwork, tolerance, leadership qualities and a spirit of healthy competition among students.

He said that providing children with proper opportunities and facilities for sports is a collective responsibility of the Education Department, school heads and teachers. A balanced educational environment must offer equal importance to classroom learning, physical education and co-curricular activities.

He further said that Lower Kohistan is rich in young talent and its children have the potential to excel in sports at district, provincial and national levels. However, their abilities need to be encouraged through appropriate facilities, proper guidance and a healthy competitive environment.



The DDEO expressed his determination that, like previous years, this year's primary schools sports tournament would also be conducted successfully, peacefully and in an organized manner. He directed the Tournament Management Committee to ensure proper arrangements for all matches, athletic events and other co-curricular activities, strictly observing the rules and spirit of sportsmanship.

He assured the organizers that the District Education Office, Lower Kohistan, would extend every possible cooperation and provide the necessary support for the successful completion of the tournament.

He concluded by appreciating the efforts of teachers, organizers and the Tournament Management Committee, expressing the hope that the event would promote unity, brotherhood, discipline and a spirit of healthy competition among students.

The Province

Saturday November 4, 2026 | Peshawar



## Mawra Hocane's heart breaks into 'million pieces'

ISLAMABAD: Mawra Hocane and Ameer Gilani have joined millions of football fans around the world in bidding farewell to legend Cristiano Ronaldo following news of his international retirement. The couple, who are known for their love of sports, took to their Instagram Stories to express their admiration for the Portuguese superstar and reflect on the legacy he has built throughout his remarkable career. Resharing Ronaldo's retirement announcement video, Mawra penned an emotional message, admitting that she was not ready to say goodbye to watching the football icon represent his country. "My heart has broken into a million pieces… I always knew this day would make me cry. I knew it was coming but I still don't feel like I'm ready for this," she wrote. The actress went on to praise Ronaldo's extraordinary impact on football, adding, "There will be no one like you… ever… You were magic." Mawra further added, "We're so so lucky to have lived in the same time as you and watch you play from sporting days to now… To most of us you ARE football and you always will be."



FAISALABAD: An eye-catching view of the sunset from Canal Road. — PHOTO: ONLINE

# Pak-UK agree to expand ties in counter-terrorism, cybercrime

*UK state minister Jarvis praises Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the fight against terrorism*

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Kingdom have agreed to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism, anti-narcotics efforts, cybercrime, immigration, coast guard operations and training programmes, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement on Friday.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and UK Minister of State for Security Dan Jarvis at the Ministry of Interior. The two sides also held delegation-level talks.

According to the statement, UK security minister Jarvis acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the fight against terrorism and praised the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for its performance in curbing illegal immigration.

"Cybercrime is an international issue, and all countries must work together to effectively address it," Jarvis said, adding that Pakistan and the UK had strong cooperation in various fields and wanted to expand it further.

The two sides also agreed to finalise a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on anti-narcotics cooperation soon. The agreement is expected to make cooperation between the UK's National Crime Agency and Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics



Force (ANF) fully operational.

Naqvi said 330 cases involving drugs being smuggled to the UK had been thwarted over the past few years.

The sides also agreed to convene a meeting of the working group established between the interior ministries of the two countries soon.

The security czar praised progress under the upskill project, saying it was helping build the capacity of Pakistani institutions.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott and officials from relevant Pakistani security and government institutions also attended the meeting.

## Pak-Tajikistan joint military exercise concludes

STAFF REPORTER



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Exercise Dosti-III, the third edition of the bilateral Counter Terrorism exercise between the Pakistan Army and the Tajikistan Army, concluded at the Special Operations School, Cherat. The exercise had commenced on 26 October 2026.

The exercise focused on sharing counterterrorism experiences, refining operational drills and procedures, and enhancing combat skills through mutual learning and the exchange of best practices. The concluding ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan, along with senior military officials from both countries.

During the ceremony, participating troops showcased various tactical skills and operational capabilities acquired during the exercise. The ambassador also interacted with the participants and was photographed with officers and soldiers from both sides to commemorate the successful completion of the exercise.

The exercise reflects the longstanding military cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan and reaffirms the resolve of both countries to further strengthen bilateral defence ties.

# Thousands take to streets to celebrate PTI Govt's ouster as public rejects party's false narrative: Ameer Muqam

OUR CORRESPONDENT

HARIPUR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Engineer Ameer Muqam here Friday said that thousands of people took to the streets to celebrate the end of the PTI government, reaffirming their support for peace and rejected the party's false narrative.

"The world has witnessed how our armed forces inflicted a humiliating defeat on the enemy during Maraka Haq," he said while addressing a public gathering in Haripur on Friday.

PMLN leaders former MNA Captain (R) Safdar, Sardar Shah Jahan Yousaf, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, MNA Babar Nawaz, Shaista Jadoon and Sahibzada Hamid Shah were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Engineer Ameer Muqam thanked the people for their overwhelming participation, saying thousands had turned up despite receiving only one day's notice.

He said people had remained frustrated during the PTI government and celebrated its ouster by taking to the streets in Peshawar, Swat, Battagram and Shangla.

The federal minister said that despite remaining in power in the province for nearly 13 and a half years, the PTI had failed to address the basic problems of the people or put the province on the path of development. Similarly, during PTI four-year tenure at the Centre, the party had pushed the country into economic and political difficulties.

He said the massive public gathering had sent a clear message that people were fed up with politics of confrontation, protests, long marches and personal interests.

Instead of dreaming of returning to power, the PTI leadership should prepare to account for its performance during its tenure and explain the utilisation of public resources, he added.

Paying glowing tribute to the armed forces of Pakistan, Muqam said the Pakistan Army was not only guarding the country's borders but also standing shoulder to shoulder with the nation in every difficult situation.

Whether during earthquakes, floods or the war against terrorism, he said, the soldiers in uniform had always served and protected the nation, making the ultimate sacrifice whenever required.

Referring to the recent Pakistan-India tensions, he said the armed forces had responded courageously and professionally to an enemy many times larger in size, demonstrating Pakistan's defence capabilities, national unity and military strength before the world.

He said the achievement had not only enhanced Pakistan's standing internationally but had also filled every Pakistani with pride.

Amir Muqam said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Pakistan had achieved significant successes on the defence, diplomatic and economic fronts.

He said effective measures had been taken to stabilise the national economy, restore international confidence in Pakistan, promote investment and strengthen foreign relations. Efforts to improve Pakistan's positive international image and enhance the prestige of the Green Passport were also part of this national progress, he added.

He maintained that Pakistan was steadily improving its position in the world as a strong, sovereign and capable country.

"The nation stood with its armed forces yesterday, stands with them today and will continue to remain united for the defence, security and stability of the motherland," he said.

Highlighting the spirit of the people of Kashmir and Pakistan Army personnel along the Line of Control, Engr Amir Muqam said their commitment and courage were remarkable. Recalling his personal observations, he said that even in the most challenging circumstances, the Kashmiri people remained firmly alongside their armed forces and were ready to make sacrifices for the defence of the country.

He said the entire nation was united on matters concerning Pakistan's security and sovereignty and had rejected negative propaganda against the armed forces.

## Spot ON

### IHC issues judges duty roster for next week

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued the judges' duty roster for the next week, constituting nine single benches and four division benches to hear cases.

According to the roster issued by the Deputy Registrar (Judicial) with the approval of IHC Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar, Justice Muhammad Azam Khan will not hear cases next week, while Justice Inam Amin Minhas will take up cases only on November 10. The first division bench will comprise Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Shahrukh Arjumand.

### Imaan Mazari, Hadi Chatha challenge sentences before IHC

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Lawyers Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha have filed appeals and applications seeking suspension of their sentences before the Islamabad High Court (IHC), challenging their convictions in a case related to the removal of security barriers during the movement of a foreign cricket team.

The appeals were filed through counsels Faisal Siddiqui, Riasat Ali Azad and Zainab Janjua. The IHC Registrar's Office has numbered Iman Mazari's appeal as 283/2026 and Hadi Ali Chattha's as 282/2026.

### PIA launches cabin cleanliness drive to improve service standards

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has launched an aircraft cabin cleanliness drive as part of its efforts to improve operational standards and passenger services.

The drive was launched simultaneously in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi, where PIA evaluation teams inspected aircraft cabins.

According to a press release issued on Friday, a ceremony was also held at the PIA office in Islamabad to recognise employees for their efforts and performance.

### Rana Sanaullah appreciates Punjab government for development work

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, on Friday appreciated the Punjab government for its development work in the province, aimed at promoting public welfare and improving the living standards of the people.

While talking to a private TV channel, he lauded the role of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in this regard, saying that the provincial government was making efforts to address public issues through various development projects.

## Security Forces foil Fitna al-Khwarij infiltration attempt in Kurram

STAFF REPORTER



PESHAWAR: Security forces foiled an infiltration attempt by terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khwarij along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Shalozan Sector of Kurram, while the Afghan Taliban resorted to unprovoked firing.

Security sources said that in response, Pakistani security forces responded swiftly and in a befitting manner to the Afghan Taliban's aggression, employing heavy weapons to target their positions.

The timely and effective response not only foiled the terrorist infiltration attempt but also inflicted heavy damage on Afghan Taliban posts, security sources said.