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Poland to extend ban on Ukraine grain imports: PM

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Afghan govt cannot be trusted: US Gen

Detailed News On Page-08



Babar, ICC men's player of the month

Detailed News On Page-06



Gilgit-Baltistan chaos

PM for strict action against those involved

CM GB also briefs PM on the government's initiatives for the development of public welfare projects

BUREAU REPORT / DNA

GILGIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to identify the elements spreading chaos in the name of religion in Gilgit, and take strict action against them. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss development projects and law and order situation in Gilgit Baltistan, said the security of every citizen was the state's responsibility. In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed about the progress on projects in information technology, health, education, and other sectors, as well as the issues. He was told that steps had been taken to identify and address the problems confronting the education sector in all GB districts, particularly Diamer and Astore. The measures taken for the promotion of education sector included the provision of food to the students, reconstruction of buildings and rehabilitation of dilapidated structures, professional training of teachers, and establishment of smart schools. The prime minister was also apprised of projects in the GB health sector including the establishment of a 24-hour helpline to address the issue of mental health. Besides the performance of the environment and tourism sectors, the prime minister was also briefed about the sowing of wheat and subsidy on the crop, production and potential of hydel power in GB as well as the budget. Prime Minister Kakar directed the GB administration and leadership to assess the scope of the ongoing development projects and give a special focus on those of a crucial nature. Interim Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, Interim Information and Broadcasting Minister Murtaza Solangi, Gilgit Baltistan Governor Syed Mehdi Shah, Chief Minister Gulbar Khan, GB chief secretary and IG Police, and senior officers attended the meeting. Earlier, Governor Gilgit Baltistan Syed Mehdi

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SC upholds convictions of two ex-army officers

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) ruled on Tuesday that pleas filed by two former army officers against their convictions for plotting to overthrow the government of late prime minister Benazir Bhutto in 1995 were "without merit" and hence, stood dismissed. The two ex-army officers, Col Mohammad Azad Minhas and Col Inayat Ullah Khan, were arrested on Sept 26, 1995, along with now deceased Maj Gen Zaheerul Islam Abbasi, Brig Mustansir Billa and 38 other military officers on the charge of plotting to storm a corps commanders meeting scheduled to be held on Sept 30 that year at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. The alleged plan included the assassination of then-prime minister Benazir and army chief Gen Waheed Kakar, senior cabinet ministers and military chiefs, to be followed by the proclamation of the Islamic system of Khilafat with Maj Gen Abbasi as Ameerul Momineen. The details of the conspiracy were revealed after Qari Saifullah Akhtar, one of the conspirators and chief of his breakaway faction called Harkat-ul-Jihad al Islami,

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CHINESE AMBASSADOR IN TOWN



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of the People's Republic of China, Mr Jiang Zaidong, presenting his diplomatic credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. - DNA

Nawaz to be back on October 21
Shehbaz, others to welcome him in Lahore



DNA

LONDON: In a major development, former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has revealed the date for his elder brother and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan ahead of the upcoming elections to lead the party's political campaign in the country. "Nawaz Sharif will reach Pakistan on October 21," Shehbaz told a private news channel on Tuesday. The statement came after a meeting of the PML-N's top leadership headed by Nawaz in London.

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India beat SL, book spot in final

DNA

COLOMBO: India qualify for final after 41-run win in Colombo against Sri Lanka. After failing to bat the allotted overs, India needed early wickets to have any chance of defending the total. Like the last game, Jasprit Bumrah was on the money right from the word go and got India

Continued on Page 06

China always stood by Pakistan in difficult times: Alvi

The president made these remarks during his meetings with the ambassadors-designate who presented their diplomatic credentials

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for more robust cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the areas of trade, economy, culture and defence. He said that China was a reliable and tested friend, and Pakistan wanted to further strengthen the strategic relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries. The president made these remarks during his meetings with the ambassadors-designate of the People's Republic of China and Venezuela (Non-resident), as well as the Republic of Colombia (Non-resident), who presented their diplomatic credentials

Continued on Page 06

Caretaker FM chairs CYMM

NEWS DESK

LONDON: The 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) opened in London, bringing together Government ministers, senior government officials, education stakeholders and young leaders from across the Commonwealth to agree on policies and initiatives aimed at supporting and empowering young people

Continued on Page 06

Level-playing field for all parties a must

NAZIR SIYAL

SUKKUR: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has demanded that there should be a level-playing field for all political leaders, maintaining that the political leaders are deprived of equal opportunities to contest the upcoming general elections. He stated this while responding to a question regarding the level-playing field available to his party as the two political bigwigs - PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and PTI chief Imran Khan - are currently ineligible to contest upcoming general elections

Continued on Page 06

PTI calls free, on time polls

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership reiterated its demand that conducting free, fair and transparent elections within the constitutionally defined timeframe of 90 days was the only way forward, hoping that President Dr. Arif Alvi and the apex court would fulfill their constitutional role to ensure establishment of true democracy in the country.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Kim arrives in Russia

DNA

MOSCOW: The armored train carrying North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has crossed into Russian territory ahead of the summit with President Vladimir Putin, Kremlin Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov confirmed in the early hours of Tuesday. Earlier in the day, Kyodo news agency quoted local Russian sources as saying that Kim's train was heading north along the coast after stopping at the Khasan railway station on the North Korean-Russian border. Later, RIA Novosti reported that he crossed the Razdolnaya River, near Vladivostok. Vladimir Putin arrived in Vladivostok on Monday on a two-day visit to attend the Eastern Economic Forum.

Ji to stage protest on Sept 18

SHAMIM SHAHHID

LOWER DIR: The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced protest and sit-in against high inflation and high electricity bills. Emir Ji Sirajul Haq said in a press conference in Tamergharh that on September 18, they will hold a protest sit-in in front of the Peshawar Governor House against the heavy electricity bills and inflation which will continue until unidentified time. Sirajul Haq said if the IPPs contracts were not revised and inflation was not controlled, they would soon announce the further action plan. The next step would be in the form of wheel jam strike, he warned.



ANKARA: Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir meets Turkish Minister of National Defense Yasar Guler. - DNA

2,300 dead, over 10,000 missing in Libya flooding

The floods were caused by torrential rains from Storm Daniel, which made landfall in Libya on Sunday

AGENCIES

TRIPOLI: At least 2,300 people were killed in Libya and thousands more were reported missing on Tuesday after catastrophic flash floods broke river dams and tore through an eastern coastal city, devastating entire neighbourhoods. As global concern spread, multiple nations offered to urgently send aid and rescue teams to help the war-scarred country that has been overwhelmed by what one UN official labelled "a calamity of epic proportions". Massive destruction shattered the Mediterranean coastal city of Derna, home to 100,000 people, where multi-storey buildings on the river banks collapsed and houses and cars vanished in the raging waters. Libyan emergency services on the ground reported an initial death toll of more than 2,300 in Derna alone and said more than 5,000 people remained missing while about 7,000 were injured. "The situation in Derna is shocking and very dramatic," said Osama Ali of the Tripoli-based Rescue and Emergency Service. "We need more support to save lives because

Continued on Page 06

Pak extends condolences

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has extended heartfelt condolences to the people and State of Libya on the devastation caused by the deadly floods in the Northeastern part of Libya. In a statement Tuesday, the Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the loss of lives and the sufferings endured by the survivors are deeply saddening and we stand in solidarity with the Libyan people during these difficult times. "The loss of lives and the sufferings endured by the survivors are deeply saddening and we stand in solidarity with the Libyan people during these difficult times," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in the statement. She said Pakistani Embassy in Libya is monitoring the situation and is in contact with the local authorities for possible assistance and support to the community.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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78th INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDONESIA

Ethiopian embassy in Pak marks new year celebrations

The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Pakistan has celebrated Ethiopian New Year 2016 with traditional zeal and fervor

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Pakistan has celebrated Ethiopian New Year 2016 with traditional zeal and fervor. In this regard, a colourful reception was hosted here for Government of Pakistan's officials, media, civil society, diplomatic corps and Ethiopian Diaspora.

H.E. Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Minister for Commerce, graced the occasion as a chief guest, while other important guests including H.E. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps to Pakistan, H.E. Mohammed Karmoune Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco to Pakistan, Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry H.E. Zafar Bakhtawari and others also attended the ceremony. H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan accorded warm welcome to all the guests upon their arrival at the celebration ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Jemal Beker said every

year on September 11, Ethiopia celebrated its new year in accordance with its own ancient calendar which was an identity of the FDR Ethiopia.

"Our calendar consists of 13 months, with 12 months comprising 30 days each and a 13th month consisting of 5 days. Every four years, this 13th month counts 6 days to account for a leap year. Hence, we find ourselves celebrating this public holiday on September 11, unless it is a leap year in the Ethiopian calendar, when we celebrate it on September 12," he explained. He said the seven to eight-year gap between the Ethiopian and Gregorian calendars stemmed from an alternative calculation used to determine the date of the Annunciation. At one moment, the gathering broke into a loud applause when H.E. Jemal Beker said "Whoever presents in this gathering today becomes seven years younger of his age." He said on this day, all Ethiopians reaffirmed their unwavering faith in the core values that defined Ethiopia including love, forgiveness, unity, and harmony. The ambassador said Ethiopia had a unique place in human history as the land of origin, with the discovery

of Lucy—the human fossil believed to be one of our earliest ancestors. It was also the birthplace of coffee, with the village of Keffa giving coffee its name. "Visiting Ethiopia is akin to reconnecting with your ancestral roots," he noted. "Moreover, Ethiopia is renowned as the source of the Nile, the longest river in the world. Our nation also takes pride in producing some of the world's most exceptional athletes, and I am excited to announce plans to foster knowledge exchange between our athletes and our dear brotherly country in the realm of sports," the ambassador stressed.

He said the Ethiopian New Year of this year also marked completion of the first Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad which was a testament to the strengthening of the diplomatic ties between the two countries. The Ethiopian Government inaugurated its Embassy in Pakistan last year, coinciding with diamond jubilee of Pakistan, he added. The ambassador thanked the people and Government of Pakistan for extending hospitality, generosity, and sincerity to him and the FDRE Embassy during one year.



KARTAR PUR: Group photo of Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed along with CEO Abubakar Qureshi, Chairman Homeland Group Muhammad Iqbal Sidhu and others on the occasion of visit of Kartar Pur. – DNA

Cracks down on electricity theft continues

DNA

PESHAWAR: The district administration, in a joint operation with WAPDA officials on Tuesday, disconnected dozens of illegal electricity connections (kunda mafia) and registered FIRs against those involved. Upon the directives of Shah Fahd, Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, a crackdown operation is currently underway against electricity theft and the Kunda mafia in the provincial capital. The district administration has launched a joint operation in coordination with WAPDA authorities in areas including Tehkal, Phando, Jameel Chowk, and Kakshal to curb electricity theft. Several FIRs have been registered against electricity thieves as part of this operation, and legal action will be taken against the cable mafia. Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Shah Fahd, emphasized that, under the supervision of the district administration and in collaboration with WAPDA authorities, the operation to combat electricity theft is ongoing in Peshawar.

He also stated that stringent actions will be taken against individuals engaged in criminal activities during the operation, and the operation will be extended to other areas of the provincial capital until electricity theft is completely eradicated.

Several PIA flights cancelled due to lack of funds

DNA

KARACHI: Scores of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flights were cancelled on Tuesday due to shortage of funds. Sources privy to the development stated that a number of domestic flights to and from Karachi were cancelled as the national flag carrier failed to pay PSO for fuel supply. The cancelled flights include Karachi-Muscat, and two-way domestic ones from Karachi to Faisalabad, Islamabad and Lahore, according to sources. Unnecessarily, flights from Karachi to Turbat, Bahawalpur, and Sukkur have also been suspended, airline sources said. The insiders said the national flag carrier has requested the government for immediate provision of funds. Earlier it emerged that PIA is likely to ground more planes amid the current financial crisis. The flight suspension looms on the PIA heads as 15 more aircraft will be grounded if the national airline does not pay the amount within two days.

ICICI for focusing on pharmaceutical Industry to boost exports

MUHAMMAD ADIL

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the government should focus on the pharmaceutical industry to boost exports as this sector has great potential to increase exports to over US\$ 5 billion within a few years with the support of the government. He said that around 639 pharmaceutical manufacturing units are working in Pakistan, employing approximately 240,000 people and exporting products worth more than \$300 million to over 60 countries. However, streamlining regulations and addressing the key issues of this industry would help boost its exports to billions of dollars. He said this while addressing a delegation of Pakistan

Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Association (PPMA) during its visit to ICICI led by Arshad Mehmood, Zonal Chairman North of PPMA. Ahsan Bakhtawari said that with close cooperation of the government to the pharmaceutical industry, Pakistan can become a leading player in the global pharmaceutical export market. He stressed that the government should take policy measures to encourage the local manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) to reduce our dependence on imports. This would not only make Pakistan self-reliant but would also create opportunities for export-oriented growth. He said that ICICI is actively working with the relevant authorities of the government including the Ministry of Commerce and Special Investment Facilitation Council to promote the pharmaceutical sector, which is working to resolve the major issues of this sector.

would cooperate with PPMA in resolving the key issues of this sector. Speaking on the occasion, Arshad Mehmood, Zonal Chairman North of PPMA said that the pharmaceutical industry is importing most of its raw material to manufacture medicines, but due to significant devaluation of the rupee and the rising inflation, the manufacturing cost of this has increased manifold. He stressed that the government should introduce a zero tax regime for import of pharmaceutical plants & machinery and the packing material besides reducing taxes on utility bills that would help upgrade the pharmaceutical industry and further boost its exports. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, VP ICICI said that the Chamber has constituted a committee for the pharmaceutical sector, which is working to resolve the major issues of this sector.



Mohsin reviews health facilities in Muzaffargarh's hospital

DNA

MUZAFFARGARH: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi reviewed multiple health facilities being provided at Tayyab Erdogan Hospital while paying a visit to Muzaffargarh here Tuesday. He inquired about patients' health, followed by treatments offered on the spot in the hospital. He inspected dialysis, operation theaters, the ICU, and the CCU, among other departments. The Caretaker Chief Minister directed the capacity of the dialysis units to be increased in

view of the increasing number of patients. He assured me of all-out cooperation on his behalf in the requisite fields of health here. Naqvi expressed satisfaction with the performance of the hospital's administration, unlike Nishtar Hospital Multan, for extending good facilities within the hospital's premises.

On this occasion, the caretaker CM called on an elderly woman on his way and inquired about any issues facing the hospital. He instructed the concerned hospital staff to address the woman's issues right away after talk-

ing with her. Later, the CM moved to the site of Muzaffargarh Industrial Estate. He got a briefing on the project. He ordered that the project be kicked off as soon as possible to help out people residing locally. Meanwhile, Punjab Interim Chief Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, disbursed 32 allotment letters of plots among the families of police martyred at South Punjab Secretariat here on Tuesday. He announced not to charge possession and transfer fees from the families in this connection. He met the heirs of the police martyr and consoled them. Speak-

ing on the occasion the CM termed armed forces and police martyred heroes saying that alive nations never forget their heroes. He commended the services of the police for maintaining law and order in the province adding that the force had acted with gallantry for eradicating dacoits from the Kacha area. Provincial Minister, Azfar Ali Nasir, IGP, Dr Usman Anwar, ACS South Punjab, Saqib Zafar, Addl IG South Punjab, Maqsood ul Hassan, Commissioner Multan Division, Aamir Khattak, RPO, Sohail Chaudhary and other officials were present.

IIUI President inaugurates addition of 2 new banks

ISLAMABAD: In pursuit of student's centric approach of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) President and his vision of student's facilitation, two more new banks (Faysal Bank and Bank Al Falah) have been added for collection of fee so that students may not face any hurdles or inconvenience in fee deposit. Male students can now deposit fees in any branch of Habib Bank Limited and Faysal Bank Limited across Pakistan without any charges. The female students can also deposit fees in any branch of the Allied Bank Limited and Bank Al-Falah Limited across

Pakistan without any charges. The booth the bank will be operational by next week at the student's facilitation center, while the branch shall be inaugurated by the start of next month. A meeting to inaugurate the addition of the new banks was chaired by President IIUI, H.E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi at council hall of the university. It was also attended by Vice President Administration and Finance, Dr. N.B. Jumani, Incharge Finance and his team members. The IIUI President said that students' facilitation is the top priority and all the advanced options to support qual-

ity education will be adopted by the university. Lauding the hard work of the team, he directed to remove all the hurdles and constraints pertaining to deposit of dues. He opined that this is the age of mobile apps and digital banking, a one click approach is necessary to facilitate the parents and the students. On the occasion, the IIUI president was apprised that after implementation of Campus Management System, students will have the liberty to deposit fees in any bank of their own choice (across Pakistan) which are associated with the university. – DNA

13 warehouses sealed for sugar hoarding: Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali

Commissioner Rawalpindi ware houses sealed on charges of hoarding sugar, seized 2313 bags of 50 kg to be sold to consumers in the Sunday market at Rs 150 per kg

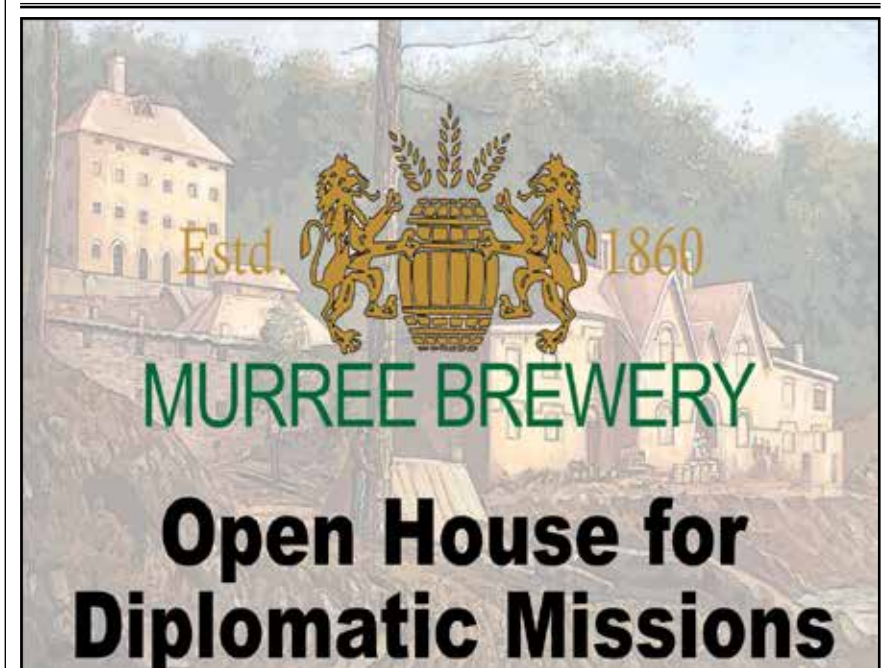
KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha directed the Deputy Commissioners of the four districts that the meeting of the District Price Control Committee must be convened at least twice a month so that the prices can be determined correctly and appropriately. He said that the country is currently going through a critical economic situation, but we are trying hard to provide all possible relief to the people. He said that the participation of market committee members and administrative officers should be

ensured in the bidding process in the market - soon Rawalpindi city will have its own market which will reduce the prices. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting held at the Commissioner's Office Rawalpindi. In the meeting, Additional Commissioner Coordination Syed Nazarat Ali, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Dr. Hasan Waqar Cheema, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Nabil Sandu, Assistant Commissioner General Maleeha Jamal, Director Agriculture Rana Shahid, Chief Officer Municipal Corporation Amjad Chaudhry, Civil Defense Officer Sanjida Khanum and other concerned officers attended meeting in person where

as Deputy Commissioner Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal participated through video link. Commissioner further said that although the increase in prices of essential commodities is linked to the increase in the global market due to which all products are affected, we are trying our best not to let anyone take undue advantage of this situation. He directed that some leniency should be given to those who create artificial inflation through hoarding and to provide relief to the public, he ensured the supply of food items at the DC counters set up at all stores at official rates and quality. While briefing Commissioner Rawalpindi about the details of

the measures to be taken in connection with price control, it was informed that from September 1, 2023 till now, during a total of 10,429 raids across the district, 786 violations were reported and a total of Rs. 1,021,000 fines were imposed. 02 FIRs, 05 buildings were sealed and 09 wholesalers were arrested. Similarly, to moderate the prices of sugar, 21 warehouses suspected of hoarding were checked, out of which 2313 bags of 50 kg were seized and 13 warehouses were sealed. Commissioner Rawalpindi said that this sugar seized from hoarders should be sold to consumers at the rate of Rs 150 per kg in the Sunday market.



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

National Days and Armed Forces Days

September

Sept01/Libya Revolution Day
Sept01/Tanzania Defence day
Sept01/Uzbekistan Independence Day
Sept07/Brazil Independence Day
Sept09/DPR Korea National Day
Sept09/Tajikistan Independence Day
Sept16/Malaysia Armed Forces Day
Sept16/Mexico National Day
Sept16/Papua New Guinea Independence Day
Sept18/Chile National Day
Sept21/Malta Independence Day
Sept23/Saudi Arabia National Day

Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....1122
& Rescue Services.....4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.....9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange.....9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555864
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....9261170-79
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

World urged to prevent India from weaponising judiciary

The weaponization of the judicial system against Kashmiris by the Modi government, they said, has not only undermined the independence of the Indian judiciary but also cast a dark shadow over its entire justice system

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at the seminar, while castigating India for using the judiciary as a tool to stifle dissenting voices in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, said that denying a fair trial to Kashmiri prisoners raises a big question mark over the Indian judiciary's impartiality.

According to KMS, the World Muslim Congress staged the event outside of the UNHRC's 54th session, which the Universal Human Rights Council also supported. The World Muslim Congress permanent representative to the United Nations in

Geneva presided and moderated the event. The panelists include: Barrister Abdul Majeed Trambo, Tazeen Hassan, note US rights defender Marry Scully, Syed Faiz Naqashbandi, Altaf Hussain Wani, Advocate Parvez Shah and Member of Sri Lanka parliament Wasantha Yapa Bandara. Speakers, while referring to Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, said, "As per the UDHR, every prisoner is entitled to an impartial and public hearing when his or her rights are at stake". They said that the right to a fair trial, an internationally

recognized human right, was also an indispensable pillar of justice and democracy. Highlighting the woeful plight of the Kashmiri prisoners who have been languishing in different jails, they pointed out that a fair trial, which happens to be the basic right of every detainee, was denied to Kashmiri political activists, human rights defenders, and civil society activists. They said the Indian government booked the top tier of the Hurriyat leadership and left them to rot in jails. They said that the Kashmiri prisoners were not given enough opportu-

nity to defend themselves in a court of law. The judges delivering hastily rendered judgments, they said, were behaving more like prosecuting or police officers. "Judges can act as advocates for one side or another", they said, adding that in the case of the Kashmiri prisoners, the judges of the Indian Courts have failed to maintain the degree of neutrality required to deliver justice. Citing the reopening of decades-old cases against the Kashmiri leaders, they said, "It is quite clear that the heavily politi-

cized Indian courts have become pliant toward the current government". The speakers, while urging the international community to take effective cognizance of the matter, said that it was high time that the global community should influence the Indian government to stop weaponizing the judiciary against the Kashmiris. The weaponization of the judicial system against Kashmiris by the Modi government, they said, has not only undermined the independence of the Indian judiciary but also cast a dark shadow over its entire justice system.



ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST and Centreline Ansar Mahmood Bhatti met with Ambassador of Portugal H.E. Frederico Silva, has recently stepped into the shoes of his predecessor. Ambassador Frederico is a career diplomat. In just four months he has already explored various important destinations in Pakistan.—DNA

Farewell held for outgoing Secretary Kashmir Affairs & GB

ISLAMABAD: A farewell ceremony was held here on Tuesday in honor of former Secretary of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Zahoor Ahmed. In addition to Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Babar Hayat Tarar, high officials of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council, and Gilgit Baltistan Council participated in the farewell ceremony, said a press release here. On this occasion, the officers of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs paid tribute to the former secretary and said that as the secretary of Kashmir Affairs, Zahoor Ahmad performed his duties with full honesty and sincerity and he served the officers of the ministry in all matters and gave excellent guidance to the employees. Expressing his views, the former secretary said that as secretary of Kashmir Affairs and GB, he had the best support of all the officers and staff of the ministry during this period and they all performed their duties as a team according to their abilities. He expressed his best wishes to the new Secretary of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Babar Hayat Tarar and said that Babar Hayat Tarar is a civil servant with excellent skills and his leadership skills will prove to be very beneficial in improving the performance of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and GB. Secretary Kashmir Affairs and GB Babar Hayat Tarr expressed his good wishes to the former secretary and prayed that Allah Almighty would bestow him with full success in his new position. He also presented an honorary shield and a bouquet of flowers.—DNA

PTCL, DynaSys join hands

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and DynaSys Networks (DynaSys) announced the signing of two Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) at a ceremony held at the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) in Rawalpindi. The signing ceremony was jointly chaired by Aamer Ejaz, Group Vice President, Carrier Services, PTCL & Ufone 4G and Ali Akhtar, Founder and CEO, DynaSys Networks, said a news release. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from both organizations, along with the leadership of NASTP. The MoU on the Internet of Things (IoT) establishes the technical framework for the integration of DynaSys' IoT platform and end-user devices with PTCL's Cloud and cybersecurity infrastructure as well as wired and wireless transmission networks. This would culminate in a fully assimilated and first-of-its-kind IoT service that would be commercially available to customers across Pakistan. The mission statement on IoT reaffirmed by both organizations is to jointly become Pakistan's largest IoT service provider with the first to one million active end-user subscriptions. During the ceremony, Aamer Ejaz, Group Vice President Carrier Services, PTCL & Ufone 4G said, "We are excited to establish a partnership with DynaSys to support the IoT and satcom needs of our business partners. PTCL, a market leader in telecom, is proactively playing its role to bridge the digital divide to bring a positive change in the lifestyle of people. Such partnerships will help achieve that objective by providing futuristic.—APP

Mishaal Malik urges G20 leaders to play due role in resolution of Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Human Rights, Mishaal Hussain Malik Tuesday appealed to the world leaders, participating in the G20 Summit in New Delhi to play their due role in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute and to hold India accountable for human rights violations. "Kashmiris are facing unabated extrajudicial killings, custodial torture, and death, arbitrary detentions, burning and looting of houses to inflict collective punishment, and other worst forms of human rights abuses", she said while talking to a Private news channel. Pakistanis always stand by the "Kashmiris in their self-determination struggle and will continue to highlight the dispute to the international community, she mentioned. Replying to a question, she replied Indian government is suppressing every voice raised for freedom, the right to self-determination.—APP

Gandhara Corridor termed indispensable

SKARDU: Minister of State, Chairman Prime Minister's Task Force for Gandhara Tourism, Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani Tuesday termed the establishment of Gandhara Corridor as indispensable for the development and prosperity of the country. He was talking to the media during his visit to the ancient Manthal Buddha Rock, Gilgit Baltistan along with a delegation of Japanese experts, and local citizens. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ramesh Vankwani said that the mesmerizing natural beauty of Gilgit-Baltistan is a great source of attraction for tourists from across the world. Regarding his proposed Gandhara Corridor project, Dr. Ramesh Vankwani said that the air corridor being established between the federal capital Islamabad and the capitals of Buddhist-majority countries will facilitate a large number of international Buddhist tourists to land at the Islamabad International Airport will later facilitate their visits to the Gandhara spots in coordination with the provincial authorities. He said that hundreds of years ago, the followers of Gautama Buddha used to cross the high rocky cliffs of Gilgit-Baltistan to go to China, Japan Korea etc. The site of the Buddha Manthal Rock has also been a place of worship for the Tibetans. Historically Skardu has been an important part of Buddhist Tibet in the past and even today Skardu is called Little Tibet (Tibet Khurd), he added. The image and carvings of the enshrining Buddha from ancient times on the rocky cliffs of Gilgit-Baltistan are evidence of religious devotion to Gautama Buddha. On this occasion, the Japanese delegation and the followers of Buddha supported the stance of Dr Ramesh and said that it is a heartfelt desire of the citizens of Buddhist-majority countries to visit Gandhara spots located in Gilgit-Baltistan. Later during an informal meeting with the Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjirani, Dr. Ramesh Vankwani discussed the way forward to promote Gandhara tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and promotion of Gandhara art across the country.—DNA

Minister for increasing revenue of NHA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar on Thursday stressed for increasing the revenue of the National Highway Authority (NHA). The minister was chairing the 44th meeting of the National Highway Council (NHC). It was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Communications, NHA, Finance Division, Planning & Development Division, and other relevant stakeholders. The meeting discussed a num-

ber of important issues, including ways to beautification of motorways, and the pace of work on the construction of residential apartments for NHA employees. Minister Tarar also directed to launch of a comprehensive media campaign for the implementation of hiked violation fines on motorways and national highways across the country. He further said that the pace of work on the construction of residential apartments for NHA employees should be geared up. He also desired to further improve the maintenance affairs of motorways

and ensure maximum travelling and civic amenities on service and rest areas for the ease of the travellers. He emphasized the beautification of motorway loops, which will ultimately improve environmental conditions and will be a practical step towards achieving an environmentally friendly road network in the country. The meeting concluded with the assurance of all stakeholders to work together to improve the functioning of the NHA and ensure the smooth flow of traffic on national highways.

Education; key for empowering women

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Tuesday emphasized that the provision of basic facilities to educate women and girls would provide them with better socioeconomic opportunities. "Women are more than half of the country's population and without their participation in the socio-economic sector, the country cannot progress," said the NA Speaker addressing to delegation of students and faculty members of the Government Associate Degree College for Women Manghot, Gujarat Khan. "Educating women would render them a more productive and contributive segment of

society," he remarked. The delegation of students and faculty members of Government Associate College for Women Manghot, Gujarat Khan were on an official visit to express their gratitude and thankfulness to Raja Pervez Ashraf for his dedicated efforts to provide a bus and two Hiaces to their college. While expressing his gratitude to Allah Almighty for enabling him to fulfill his promise of provision of one bus and two Hiace for transportation of girl students of Government Degree College for women Manghot, he said, "The prime responsibility of parliamentarians being public representatives is to

resolve challenges faced by common people." He said the facility of transportation would enable female students from far-flung areas to get higher education. He also expressed his resolve that he would leave no stone unturned to resolve the challenges faced by the daughters of Gujarat Khan, especially in matters of education and health. Principal Government Associate College for Women Manghot, Gujarat Khan Samia Nishat expressed gratitude to Raja Pervez Ashraf for the provision of one bus and two Hiace for students and faculty members. She said that this would prove instrumental in changing.—APP

Dr. Zhumaliev invites Pakistani businessmen

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Zhumaliev, a member of parliament and leader of the visiting Kyrgyzstan delegation on Tuesday invited Pakistani businessmen to visit his country to explore the avenues for partnership, investment, and joint ventures. Speaking to the business community in a meeting arranged by Meher Kashif Younis, Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House, he said Kyrgyzstan offers a diverse range of opportunities in the fields of health, trade, industry, and manufacturing, said a news release issued here. He said the health-care sector is ripe for innovation and

development, and he believed that joint ventures in this area can bring about significant advancements. The trade relationship between both countries can be further strengthened, benefiting both sides economically, he added. In the industrial and manufacturing sectors, Kyrgyzstan boasts a skilled workforce and favorable conditions for business growth. He is confident that through collaboration, "we can foster growth and create mutually beneficial ventures". He said that he facilitated Pakistani delegation meetings with key stakeholders, government officials, and local business leaders to provide them with insights into the business climate and investment prospects in Kyrgyzstan. Additionally,

the Pakistani delegation will have the opportunity to explore our picturesque landscapes and rich culture, which he believed will leave a lasting impression, he added. Dr. Zhumaliev said he looks forward to hosting the Pak delegation in Kyrgyzstan, where we can discuss in detail the possibilities for collaboration and investment. Ms Roza Amanonva deputy leader of delegation along with other members was also present in the interaction session. Meher Kashif Younis said together, we can pave the way for a brighter future in the realms of health, trade, industry, and manufacturing. He asked businessmen to reach out to him in case of any inquiries and require further information.

Govt launches mart app' to assist

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday said that a strict monitoring system has been introduced for private Hajj tour operators from the year 2024 to provide maximum facilitation to pilgrims and a smart app has been launched to register the complaints of Hajj effectively. Talking to a private channel, he instructed the ministries of Religious Affairs and Information Technology to construct a mobile application and website for the facilitation of Hajj to get their complaints registered. He said that pilgrims can now use the smart pilgrim app, which will provide many services to his or her smartphone and chat with their Hajj service provider to report any violation or file a complaint. The Hajj directorate will make every effort to provide complete training and facilities to pilgrims so that they can avoid any difficulty in the performance of Hajj, he added. He made it clear to them that strict action would be taken against them in case of any complaint against private tour operators.

Such individuals and companies are strongly urged to refrain from any illegal activity", he said, adding, that the ministry would personally supervise all aspects of the Hajj arrangements this year and will work tirelessly to ensure a comfortable and hassle-free experience.—APP

US embassy, UNDP inaugurate Agri Training Centers in KP

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) Embassy Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan inaugurated four Agriculture Training Centers (ATCs) established in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including the merged districts. The objective of establishing these centres was to enhance the capacity of farmers in the merged districts to promote the cultivation of alternative crops and eradicate illicit crops and other drug-related crimes, said a press release issued here on Thursday. With funding from the U.S. Embassy Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, the ATCs were established by the UNDP Pakistan Rule of Law Programme in partnership with the Sustainable Development Unit of the Planning and Development Department (P&DD), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in the districts of Bajaur, Khyber, Mohmand, and Torghar. These centres will facilitate the training of the local farmers on the cultivation of alternative crops in the merged districts, where the cultivation of poppies predominates.—DNA

HEC DG Scholarships visits UVAS

ISLAMABAD: Director General Scholarships Higher Education Commission Ayesha Ikram with Program Coordinator Madiha Anwar Butt on Tuesday visited the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) Lahore and called on Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Nasim Ahmad. Meanwhile, a meeting was held with UVAS senior professors while Prof Dr Nasim Ahmad chaired a meeting in which Dean Faculty of Biosciences Prof Dr Habib-ur-Rehman, Dean Faculty of Life Sciences Business Management Prof Dr Muhammad Azam, Chairman Department of Parasitology Prof Dr Kamran Ashraf, administrative officers and faculty members participated. Speaking on the occasion, Ayesha Ikram said the UVAS was performing very well for development of livestock, poultry, dairy and meat sectors. She urged to enhance research work and dairy and meat products development to increase income of the university.—APP

Briefs

China's Zhejiang Financial College launches e-commerce short course

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China's Zhejiang Financial College (ZFC) on launched an e-commerce short course at Aligarh Institute of Technology, Karachi. The two educational institutions first signed a Memorandum of Understanding during an online meeting after which the short course was formally launched with an introductory 3-class hour lecture. The short course consists of 12-class hours, starting from September 12. Students attending the course will receive certificate from ZFC. The two institutions will discuss further collaboration based on the outcomes of the short course, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. The MoU was facilitated by TANG Int'l Education Group. President TANG Int'l Li Jinsong said that vocational education acts as a significant driving force for a society's economic transformation and upgrading. "China-Pakistan vocational education cooperation has been highly valued by the two countries. —APP

Cars' sale drops 50% during July-August

ISLAMABAD: The sale of cars during the first two months of the current financial year 2023-24 has dropped by 50.35 percent as compared to the same month of last year, a recent data released by PAMA said. According to the data, as many as 9,611 cars were sold during the months under review as opposed to 19,358 units in the same months of last year. The breakup figures showed that 700 units of Honda Civic and City were sold during July-August 2023-24 as compared to the sale of 3,844 units during July-August 2022-23. Toyota Corolla and Yaris cars sales also declined by 52.83 percent as it went down to 2,186 units from 4,635 units in previous year. Suzuki Swift's sales also decreased by 11.48 percent as its sale went down to 755 units from 853 units last year. Sale of Suzuki Cultus declined to 482 units during the first two months of the current year, whereas during the same months last year, the sale was recorded at 1,072 units while the sale of Suzuki WagonR also decreased to 604 units from 647 units last year.

Railways plan to shift power network on solar system

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is planning to switch its entire stations' power network including major railway stations, offices, workshops, and factories to solar systems in different phases which would help to save billions of rupees for the department. "The step is expected to save Rs. 1.8 billion in the first phase to the department, later on, more stations, offices, and other facilities will be added in the subsequent phases," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Pakistani handicrafts showcasing artistry at China Int'l Fair

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani handicrafts set ablaze the 23rd China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT), one of the most prominent events hosted by China's Ministry of Commerce at Xiamen International Convention and Exhibition Center. For the purpose of cultural exchange and economic cooperation, Pakistani handicraft company Mega International showcased a dazzling array of traditional crafts and artisanal products that captivated visitors and investors alike at the exhibition area dedicated to international cooperation. From intricately carved onyx work to exquisitely

Fed Tax Ombudsman appointed Ambassador of Rotary Pakistan

Imran Ghaznavi, Spokesperson for Rotary Pakistan, expressed his enthusiasm about this significant appointment, stating, "We are thrilled to have Dr. Asif Jah join us as our Ambassador

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rotary Pakistan proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Asif Jah, Federal Tax Ombudsman, as its Ambassador. This prestigious appointment reflects Rotary Pakistan's recognition of Dr. Asif Jah's unwavering commitment and tireless efforts in serving the community. Dr. Asif Jah's dedication to public service aligns seamlessly with Rotary Pakistan's mission of "Service Above Self." In a meeting with ARPIC Imran Ghaznavi, the Spokesperson for Rotary Pakistan, Dr. Asif Jah was officially welcomed into the Rotary Family, marking the beginning of a collaborative journey dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of those in need. Imran Ghaznavi, Spokesperson for Rotary Pakistan, expressed his enthusiasm about this significant appointment, stating, "We are thrilled to have Dr. Asif Jah join us as our Ambassador. His support, expertise, and deep understanding of community service will undoubtedly be a valuable asset in our ongoing efforts to reach out to



individuals and communities in need." Rotary Pakistan is committed to fostering partnerships and collaborations that strengthen its resolve to bring positive change to communities across the country. Dr. Asif Jah's appointment as Ambassador underscores the organization's dedication to enlisting individuals with a passion for community service and a drive to create meaningful impacts. As Ambassador of Rotary Pakistan, Dr. Asif Jah will play a pivotal role in advocating for the organization's initiatives and furthering its mission to serve communities through various projects and programs. About Rotary Pakistan: Rotary Pakistan consists of Rotary Districts 3271 and 3272 comprising dedicated Rotarians committed to making a positive impact on communities across Pakistan. Through its various projects and initiatives, Rotary Pakistan strives to address pressing social issues, promote sustainable development, and uphold the principles of "Service Above Self."

SBP to announce monetary policy today

ISLAMABAD: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will announce Monetary Policy on Thursday, (September 14) in a meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of SBP will meet on Thursday, September 14 at SBP Karachi to decide about the Monetary Policy, a press release issued by SBP said. Later on, SBP will issue the Monetary Policy Statement through a press release on the same day. —APP

Renowned poet Rais Amrohvi remembered

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Urdu poet Rais Amrohvi was remembered on his birth anniversary on Tuesday. He was born on September 12, 1914, in Amroha in a notable family of scholars, his real name was Syed Muhammad Mehdi. Almost all the members of his family were poets. He migrated to Pakistan after partition and settled in Karachi. He was a noted scholar, Urdu poet and psychoanalyst of Pakistan. —APP

Pakistan-Afghan coal trade: tax and security

One critical factor to consider is that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) of Pakistan only permits the purchase of Afghan coal if its landed cost is lower than that of coal imported from other sources. This requirement adds an additional layer of complexity to the coal trade dynamics

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A roundtable discussion, hosted by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), explored into the complexities surrounding Afghanistan's coal trade, shedding light on the challenges and implications of recent developments. The event, titled "Coal Trade Shake-Up: Afghanistan-Pakistan Relations under the Spotlight," featured speaker Salman Javed DG PAYE. Recent developments have brought the coal trade

between Afghanistan and Pakistan into focus. Notably, the interim Taliban government of Afghanistan reached an agreement with Pakistani business leaders to reduce export taxes on coal. Afghanistan's coal mining tax, initially set at AFN 1200, was raised to AFN 2500 in July 2022, followed by a recent announcement of a reduction to AFN 2200.

In the midst of these changes, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) implemented price hikes, prompting Pakistan to explore alternative, cost-effective sources of coal. Op-

tions under consideration include Indonesian/African coal, both more economical compared to Afghan coal. A potential shift by Pakistani buyers towards these alternatives has raised significant concerns about the consequences for Afghanistan. One critical factor to consider is that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) of Pakistan only permits the purchase of Afghan coal if its landed cost is lower than that of coal imported from other sources. This requirement adds an additional layer

of complexity to the coal trade dynamics. The repercussions of a decrease in coal trade with Pakistan could have far-reaching effects on Afghanistan's economic landscape, as coal currently stands as the primary revenue generator for the IEA, covering a substantial 90% of the country's GDP. However, growing border security issues in regards to Afghanistan and TTP are highly concerning and are likely to affect the pre-existing declining trade relations between both countries as well.

Kashmiri political prisoners facing illegal detention, isolation in Indian jails

ISLAMABAD: Over four thousand Kashmiris, including All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders, human rights activists, journalists, youth, students and ulema have been facing illegal detention in jails of India and Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir for demanding their inalienable right to self-determination and raising the issue of human rights violations by Indian troops in the territory. According to a report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, most of these detainees including women have been slapped with draconian laws, Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and have been kept in complete isolation in the jails. Among these detainees some are residents of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, who had mistakenly crossed over the Line of Control (LoC) on different occasions. It has been learnt that as part of

the BJP-RSS regime's vindictive policy, more Hurriyat leaders, activists and youth have been shifted from IOJK to far-off jails inside India. The cruel move, the report said, is aimed at breaking their commitment to the ongoing freedom movement as well as hurting the families of the detainees emotionally and financially. It is worth mentioning here that the BJP-led Indian regime has killed many imprisoned Kashmiri youth in staged encounters. Senior leaders of APHC including Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai and Altaf Ahmed Shah also died during their incarcerations. Even a mentally challenged resident of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Tabarak Hussain, who had inadvertently crossed over the Line of Control in Rajouri district was not spared and killed in the custody of the Indian army. Earlier, another resident from AJK's Rawalakot, Zia Mustafa, who had mistak-

enly crossed over the LoC on January 13, 2003 was arrested and later killed in the custody of Indian occupation forces. At that time, the family members of Zia had lodged a missing report at a local police station. Zia Mustafa, an under-trial prisoner, who was in judicial custody, was taken out of Kot Bhalwal jail, Jammu, and killed in a fake encounter near the LoC in October 2021. The report also highlighted the continued illegal detentions of Kashmiri journalists, including Asif Sultan, Fahad Shah, Irfan Mehranj and Sajad Gul and prominent human rights defenders, including Khuram Pervaiz. Meanwhile, the Hurriyat leaders, while demanding the release of all political prisoners have appealed to the international community to increase pressure on India to give Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination and resolve the Kashmir dispute. —APP

Pakistani missions briefed on SIFC

ISLAMABAD: A virtual briefing session for Pakistani missions abroad on the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was convened by the Foreign Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here on Monday. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Government Effectiveness, Dr Jehanzeb Khan, made a detailed presentation informing the Heads of Missions on the establishment, legal framework and various other aspects of the Council. The Special Assistant briefed the Heads of Missions with regard to the expectations and their instrumental significance towards the success of the SIFC initiative. He particularly highlighted investment opportunities in Pakistan in four key areas: information technology, agriculture, energy and mining. The participating Heads of Missions were requested to brief and encourage their host countries to profit from the investment potential in Pakistan - being a resource-rich country. —APP

to take this opportunity to meet old friends. Pakistani handicrafts are widely welcomed by visitors for their exquisite design and high quality. The trust of Chinese friends in the products made by the Pakistani iron brothers is also an important factor. "With CIFIT acting as a catalyst, the future looks promising for Pakistani companies seeking to expand their presence in the global market. I hope our participation in CIFIT will open doors to new markets and collaborations, ensuring the continued preservation and promotion of Pakistan's rich artistry," Faisal concluded. Themed "Open and Integrated: Key to High-Quality Development", the 23rd CIFIT has attracted participation from 102 countries and regions as well as 14 international organizations.

Turkish delegation visits National Heritage Division

The Minister expressed a keen interest in enhancing collaboration in literary, cultural, cinema, film, tourism, and other areas of mutual interest. This aims to deepen and strengthen the effectiveness and recognition of this relationship

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: A Turkish delegation, led by Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, met with Caretaker Federal Minister Jamal Shah at the National Heritage and Culture Division to discuss mutual interests and bilateral relations. During the event, Federal Minister Jamal Shah stressed that the profound connection between Pakistan and Türkiye signifies an unmatched display of brotherly bonds and affection, setting it apart from all other relationships. Jamal Shah expressed that Pakistan highly regards and honors the enduring partnership with Türkiye, as these two fraternal

nations consistently offer support to one another in times of need. The Minister expressed a keen interest in enhancing collaboration in literary, cultural, cinema, film, tourism, and other areas of mutual interest. This aims to deepen and strengthen the effectiveness and recognition of this relationship. Turkish Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci emphasized the significant importance of Türkiye's relationship with Pakistan. He also highlighted the immense potential for enhancing cooperation in cultural and literary domains between these two fraternal nations. He mentioned that the Turkish Embassy plans to host a two-day celebration in

Islamabad on October 29, 2023, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. He extended an invitation to the minister to join in marking this significant milestone in Turkey's history—the centenary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye. In reply, Shah pledged the complete support of the National Heritage and Culture Division in arranging the two-day festivities for the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. He extended invitations to the Turkish Ambassador and Dr. Halil Tokar from the Yunus Emre Culture Center to participate in a national conference organized by the National Heritage and Culture Division.



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Ties between N.Korea, Russia is bad for everyone

North Korea is adept at grabbing attention through both rhetoric and weaponry. It announced that it had launched its first "tactical nuclear attack submarine", though the South Korean military said it did not appear to be operational. The most important development of recent days, however, is the report that Kim Jong-un will visit Russia, to discuss weapons sales with Vladimir Putin. Moscow has also proposed trilateral naval drills with China. An old but never easy three-way relationship is picking up again. Mr Kim's grandfather rose to power thanks to the Soviet Union's support; China's close but fraught relationship with its neighbour is longstanding. Yet from 2006, Moscow and Beijing were sufficiently concerned about Pyongyang's weapons programme to support a series of UN security council sanctions, even as their differences with the west on other matters mushroomed. Last year, however, they blocked a US-drafted resolution to tighten sanctions. The shift began with Donald Trump. His lurch from threats of "fire and fury" to bestowing a bilateral meeting on Mr Kim pushed a previously disdainful Xi Jinping into embracing Pyongyang. When a second Trump summit broke down, Mr Kim courted Russia too, to remind the US that he had options, and held his first meeting with Mr Putin in 2019. But the invasion of Ukraine was a turning point. North Korea is one of a handful of countries to have enthusiastically backed Russia at the UN. A year ago, US intelligence said it believed that Moscow was buying huge quantities of artillery shells and rockets from Pyongyang as its stocks were rapidly consumed. This summer, Mr Kim personally guided Sergei Shoigu, Russia's defence minister, around an arms exhibition. The pandemic appears to have left North Korea in desperate circumstances. The leadership cut the country off entirely and seized the opportunity to tighten its grip over every aspect of life - leaving people unable to feed themselves. China is believed to have been propping it up with emergency supplies. Nonetheless, while food is desperately needed, the regime is likely to press Moscow hard for technological assistance. Pyongyang's alarming progress in its weapons programmes proceeds, but it still needs expertise and income to advance further. On Russia's part, its need for help from its former protegee is another indication of its reduced status. And while the compatibility of Pyongyang's older Soviet-copy arms is presumably a factor, the discussions also suggest that China so far remains unwilling to sell Russia weaponry, despite its "no limits" friendship, diplomatic backing and the ongoing sale of dual-use equipment. Neither Moscow nor Beijing wants to see North Korea advance its capabilities. It is a costly, unreliable partner. They want to avoid nuclear proliferation in the region and to limit the development of US-Japan-South Korea partnership: though it is primarily a response to China's growing might, concerns about Pyongyang have contributed. Russia would like to maintain its battered relationship with South Korea - a major trade partner prior to the invasion of Ukraine - rather than push it closer to the US. But even if Mr Putin stops short of sharing technology, income from arms sales is more likely to be used to fund weapons development than it is to feed malnourished North Koreans. Russian purchases might also encourage others to buy from Pyongyang again. The renewed ties are cause for significant concern, and not only in Ukraine. The Guardian view on prisons: the escape from Wandsworth reveals a deeper crisis.

The escape of Wandsworth reveals

The escape of a suspected terrorist from HMP Wandsworth last week proves the point that critics of English and Welsh prisons have been making for some time with rising desperation. Overcrowded, dirty jails with demoralised staff are unable to fulfil their purpose of rehabilitating prisoners. They are also a danger to inmates, staff and the public. Daniel Khalife, who was on the run for four days, was recaptured in west London on Saturday. Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, has ordered an investigation into how the former British soldier managed to flee by strapping himself to the bottom of a catering delivery truck. Sir Mark Rowley, the Metropolitan police chief, believes the escape must have been planned, possibly with help from inside the prison, and 150 counter-terrorism officers were involved in the search. It seems likely that mistakes were made in Wandsworth, and individuals may be culpable. The placement of a man accused of involvement in espionage in a category B prison, rather than at high-security Belmarsh, will be examined. So will the decision to employ him in the kitchen - a "plum job" usually offered to prisoners serving long sentences, according to John Podmore, a former governor. But Mr Chalk's promise to leave no stone unturned and find out "who was on duty" did not inspire confidence. Instead, the panicked ministerial reaction was a disturbing example of locking the stable door after the horse has bolted. With a population at 171% of its certified capacity, Wandsworth is the second most overcrowded prison in the English and Welsh estate - just behind HMP Durham. A previous escape from Wandsworth took place in 2019. But problems are not limited to one or two "failing jails". After an inspection, the issuing of an urgent notification is the most serious step inspectors can take, requiring an action plan from the government within 28 days. In an unprecedented deterioration, three separate urgent notifications have been issued in the past five months - one of them about Cookham Wood, a youth prison, which was found to be full of homemade weapons. Of course, public concern - and that of politicians and the security services - is highest when prisons are revealed to be incapable of performing their most basic task, of keeping people locked up. But as well as punishing criminals, jails are supposed to help them change. Amid current levels of violence, overuse of solitary confinement and lack of purposeful activity, experts warn that inmates are more likely to be made worse. Earlier this year, a German court refused a British extradition request on the grounds that detention conditions were unacceptable. The number of prison officers has climbed by 3.2% since last year, to 22,426. Over the same period, the number of prisoners rose by 7% to its current total of 87,124 - not far off the all-time high of just over 88,000. But perhaps more alarming than the raw numbers is the fact that - as in police forces, schools and hospitals - experienced staff whose jobs were cut under austerity are proving difficult to replace. The new people hired by recruiters, when ministers belatedly recognised the harm caused by depleted workforces, are not like-for-like replacements. Rapid turnover and difficulties around retention are now acute issues across the public sector.



The Antidote for reviving as a powerful nation

Qamar Bashir



The conference commenced with a solemn tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Pakistan's heroes - the Shuhadas. These brave men and women, including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and devoted citizens, laid down their lives to ensure the safety, security, and territorial integrity of our beloved country. Fateha, a heartfelt prayer, was offered in their memory, reiterating Pakistan's enduring respect and dignity for these fallen heroes. This poignant moment underscored

In a nation where resilience and unity are paramount, the 259th Corps Commanders' Conference recently convened, bringing together the country's top military leaders to reaffirm their steadfast commitment to safeguarding national security and advancing economic prosperity. General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), presided over this crucial gathering, setting the stage for a comprehensive discussion on a range of critical issues. The conference commenced with a solemn tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Pakistan's heroes - the Shuhadas. These brave men and women, including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and devoted citizens, laid down their lives to ensure the safety, security, and territorial integrity of our beloved country. Fateha, a heartfelt prayer, was offered in their memory, reiterating Pakistan's enduring respect and dignity for these fallen heroes. This poignant moment underscored the conference's first item on the agenda - a poignant reminder of the profound significance of preserving the dignity, honor, and respect of our Shaheeds. The second major pledge emanating from the conference focused on the unwavering commitment to defend Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It emphasized the critical need to thwart 'inimical propagandists' whose desperate attempts seek to sow discord between state institutions and the public. These efforts, indicative of mounting desperation, were recognized for what they are - potential sources of humiliation for those seeking to undermine the nation's unity. While the conference did not explicitly name these 'inimical propagandists,' reading between the lines suggests they could be of various backgrounds, including a few serving and retired army officers and their close relatives. It's worth noting that the army has already undertaken stringent accountability measures, purging elements detrimental to the unity between the public and the armed forces. In addition to internal accountability, state institutions have been actively pursuing politicians, particularly those affiliated with the PTI, who have sought to create divisions. Properties have been attached, individuals have been declared proclaimed offenders, and legal actions have been initiated against those responsible. This conference sent a clear message that such pursuits will continue, and those involved can anticipate further repercussions. The conference also delivered a stern warning to those unscrupulous elements propagating relentless, false, and fabricated narratives against the armed forces. Through various media outlets, both conventional and social, these elements have sought to tarnish the reputation of Pakistan's armed forces. The conference unequivocally asserted that such actions will not go unpunished. It was a resounding message to the propagandists: desist from creating divisions between the public and the armed forces, or be prepared to face the consequences. The third agenda item tackled the pressing issue of countering terrorism, particularly threats emanating from Afghanistan, specifically from Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan

(TTP). This terrorist organization, known for its ruthless tactics and anti-government stance, has found sanctuary across the border in Afghanistan. It continues to launch lethal attacks on Pakistan's security forces and innocent citizens with impunity. Despite this provocation, Pakistan's security forces have displayed considerable restraint due to strategic considerations, seeking to avoid an escalation of hostility with the Afghan government. However, the conference made it abundantly clear that this restraint should not be misconstrued as weakness. The security forces pledged to counter the terrorist threat comprehensively. This includes launching relentless intelligence-based operations to eliminate TTP's sleeper cells, abettors, and facilitators within Pakistan. Additionally, border vigilance along the 2,500-kilometer-long porous borders will be strengthened, and rapid security force units will be deployed to neutralize threats swiftly. The conference also emphasized the importance of safeguarding strategic national and public assets. The conference recognized that addressing the TTP menace requires a two-pronged approach. First, kinetic power must be employed to counter immediate threats. Second, a long-term strategy is essential, involving education, job opportunities, and socioeconomic development in areas vulnerable to TTP recruitment. Negotiation attempts have proved futile, leading to a clear understanding that decisive action is necessary. Pakistan's armed forces are spearheading efforts to prevent violent extremism by empowering local communities and their partners at the grassroots level. This approach includes sharing information about the threat of radicalization, strengthening cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, and helping communities protect themselves against extremist propaganda, particularly online. The conference between the lines emphasized that countering TTP's hateful ideology is not solely the government's responsibility. Local communities, with their intimate knowledge of their regions, are best positioned to lead these efforts. It was heartening to note that people in former FATA, KP province, and northern areas have consistently condemned terrorism, collaborated with law enforcement to prevent terrorist attacks, and developed innovative programs to shield their loved ones from TTP's deadly ideology. Additionally, the government and law enforcement agencies are actively building expertise to prevent violent extremism. This involves ongoing research and analysis to identify, predict, and preempt new developments. It also entails close collaboration with individuals, communities, and officials on the frontlines, all working tirelessly to counter the threats that Pakistan faces. Countering violent extremist propaganda and promoting inclusive ideals is a top priority. Efforts must actively challenge the ideologies employed by violent extremists to radicalize and recruit individuals. By confronting justifications for violence and promoting a unify-

ing and inclusive vision of Pakistan's ideals, we can reduce the allure of extremist ideologies. The conference, mindful of the prevailing geo-strategic environment and the evolving threats to national security, rightly asserted that terrorists, their facilitators, and abettors, acting at the behest of hostile forces seeking to destabilize Pakistan, will face the full might of the state. This clear policy statement was eagerly awaited by the nation, underscoring the importance of resolute action. In light of the substantial threats facing Pakistan, it is now a national duty and responsibility for every Pakistani to stand united. Whether as individuals or as a society, we must stand shoulder to shoulder with our Army Chief and the brave and professional armed forces. We must provide unwavering support - intellectual, ideological, moral, and material - without doubt or unwarranted criticism. The threat of terrorism cannot be left solely to the armed forces to handle. It is a collective responsibility of the entire nation to support them unconditionally and holistically. By standing together, we can strengthen our resolve to combat terrorism and ensure the safety and security of our beloved Pakistan. The fourth and equally vital pledge made during the conference was to continue wholehearted support for ongoing efforts aimed at uplifting socioeconomic growth. These efforts are channeled through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which encompasses various sectors, including IT, agriculture, minerals, and defense production. Under the leadership of the Army Chief, concrete actions have been taken to translate these commitments into reality. A nationwide crackdown on hundi and hawala dealers, illegal money exchangers, and strict rules for formal currency exchange operations have been implemented. This crackdown immediately stabilized the market, leading to a significant drop in the value of the dollar and gold. The concerted efforts to combat smuggling, hoarding, and despair-inducing narratives, along with tackling corruption and creating an environment conducive to foreign investment, have instilled confidence and stability in the market. Pakistan's economy, poised for growth, is now on a positive trajectory. In conclusion, Pakistan's 259th Corps Commanders' Conference demonstrated the nation's unwavering resolve to combat terrorism, safeguard national unity, and promote economic stability and growth. It underscored the importance of unity in the face of adversity and collective responsibility in securing Pakistan's future. With a comprehensive strategy that combines kinetic and long-term solutions, Pakistan is poised to overcome its challenges and emerge stronger than ever before. The nation's resilience and determination are the keys to a brighter future.

—The writer is Former Press Secretary to the President Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC

The impact of civil wars on Burundi's politics and economy

Seerat Fatima



Burundi is formally known as the Republic of Burundi. It is a landlocked country, almost entirely surrounded by land, with no direct access to the sea. Located in the Great Rift Valley, it serves as a linkage between the African Great Lakes region and East Africa. Burundi shares its border with Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the east and southeast, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west. Lake Tanganyika runs along its southwestern border. The capital city of Burundi is Bujumbura until it was moved to Gitega in 2019. Bujumbura is the largest city in Burundi and is renowned for its beauty due to its location on Lake Tanganyika. Gitega is the second-largest city and is home to the Burundi National Museum, which adds to its allure by showcasing the culture and history of Burundi. Dancing and drumming are integral parts of the people's entertainment and signify the culture of Burundi. Grilled meat and fish are popular components of their cuisine. Burundi has a population of over 11 million, making it one of the countries with the lowest population in the world. It is noteworthy that the majority of Burundi's population is under 25, indicating a high youth population rate. Population growth is increasing rapidly, posing a significant challenge in terms of providing adequate education, food, and shelter. Women in Burundi tend to have more children compared to other countries, with various cultural practices such as early marriage and a preference for large families contributing to this trend. Illiteracy, lack of education, and limited family planning services also play a role. There are three main ethnic groups in Burundi: Hutu, comprising 85% of the population; Tutsi, making up about 14%; and Twa, constituting only 1% of the population. These ethnic groups have distinct cultures, traditions, languages, and be-

haviors, regardless of their biological identities. Hutus are primarily involved in farming and agriculture, while Tutsis are engaged in cattle herding. Twa people live as a minority in Burundi and face challenges related to unequal rights in society. The official languages of Burundi are Kirundi and French, with Swahili also spoken widely. Unlike some other African countries, Burundi's ethnic groups are less diverse, with Hutus and Tutsis forming the majority of the population and sharing language homogeneity. Kirundi, one of the official languages, serves as a common means of communication between these two groups. Christianity is the most followed religion in Burundi, with approximately 93% of the population adhering to it. Roman Catholicism accounts for 63% of Christians, while Protestantism represents 25%. Other religions are also followed by a minority of people in Burundi, with about 4.5% practicing indigenous beliefs and 2.1% following Islam. Burundi was an independent kingdom before the 20th century. After World War I, Germany was defeated, and subsequently, both Belgians and Germans ruled over Burundi and Rwanda. Burundi gained independence in 1962, but it experienced assassinations, coups, regional instability, and a devastating civil war that claimed thousands of lives. Ethnic tensions between Hutus and Tutsis have been a recurring issue in Burundi's history. In 1965, a coup attempt in Burundi was driven by these ethnic tensions. In 1972, Hutu militants attacked Tutsis with the intention of causing harm. From 1993 to 2005, Burundi endured a civil war in which Tutsis suffered significant casualties. The ongoing Somali civil war, which began in 2007, also contributes to ethnic tensions. Ethnic differences have been exacerbated by the historical favoritism shown to Tutsis during Belgian rule. Competition for limited economic resources has further strained relations among ethnic groups, and the presence of refugees in Burundi has added to ethnic tensions. The persistent and ongoing civil wars in Burundi have been a major cause of political instability. These conflicts have resulted in significant loss of life, negatively impacting the economy and political stability. Many people have been forced to seek refuge in neighboring countries due to the severe conflicts. The instability within the country has hindered development efforts, causing a depletion of the economy and reduced investment due to an unstable government. Weak leadership has further contributed to an unstable political environment and poor governance. In times of war, the country's priorities shift away from education, healthcare, and infrastructure toward maintaining an unstable structure. The psychological impact on the population is also profound. To address ethnic tensions, actions are needed at both the national and international levels. Dialogues should be encouraged with ethnic groups, polit-

ical leaders, and civil society organizations. Ethnic-based violence has significantly affected basic human rights in Burundi, and steps should be taken to strengthen the rule of law to combat cruelty and injustice. A just society can be established where everyone is treated equally regardless of their caste, creed, or religious beliefs. No one is above the law, and accountability is essential for developing a stable political system and governance. In the long run, education and awareness are crucial for resolving these tensions. Establishing an equitable system and promoting awareness of its importance can lead to lasting peace in the country. History has shown that systems of equality and justice are the foundation for prosperity, while injustice deprives ordinary people of their rights, which is unacceptable. Burundi's economy is heavily reliant on agriculture, with approximately 90% of its economic production coming from this sector. Farming holds paramount importance in Burundi, as many people rely on crop cultivation to feed their families. The country's major export is coffee, which is abundantly produced there. Additionally, tea is a significant export commodity. Maize is another staple crop in Burundi, playing a vital role in reducing food insecurity in the country. Maize is a drought-resistant crop that can thrive in varying climatic conditions and improve soil fertility. Due to its high production, many people in Burundi meet their needs by selling maize. Similarly, sorghum and beans are also sold on a large scale in Burundi, serving as a crucial source of income for its impoverished population. However, Burundi's agricultural production faces serious challenges due to its underdeveloped status, lacking the machinery required for enhanced production. Consequently, agriculture primarily relies on basic tools, resulting in limited output. The absence of high-quality insecticides and fertilizers further hinders crop quality and protection from pests. Burundi experiences varying climatic changes based on altitude. In the western part of the country, where mountains are located, heavy rainfall occurs almost year-round, and temperatures remain relatively high due to the altitude. In contrast, the Rift Valley, with its lower altitude, receives minimal rainfall throughout the year and experiences high temperatures and humidity. Overall, Burundi has two main rainy seasons: one from February to May and a shorter one from September to November. Unfortunately, these rainfalls can damage crops and harm agricultural production. The educational system in Burundi is on the brink of collapse, with one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. During the Burundian civil war, 25% of schools were destroyed, and many teachers were killed. Although education for six years is compulsory, almost half a million children lack access to education and does not attend school. Political instability has not only

impacted the system externally but has also resulted in a shortage of qualified teachers, leading to a significant decline in the quality of education. In a country where the majority of the population consists of youth, such a failing education system poses a severe obstacle to development and prosperity, contributing to high youth unemployment. Transportation is challenging in Burundi due to poorly constructed roads. In rural areas, many people have to travel long distances on foot, while bicycles are commonly used for transportation within cities and towns. Buses and minibuses are used in major cities for convenience. Motorcycles, commonly known as "boda-bodas," are occasionally used for urban transportation. However, they are rare in Burundi. Improving road infrastructure and transportation options is essential for the country's economic growth. The healthcare system in Burundi is underdeveloped, with the majority of hospitals, both public and private, concentrated in the capital, Bujumbura, and urban areas. Some small healthcare facilities exist in rural areas to provide basic medical treatment, but access to quality healthcare remains a concern. Limited education also contributes to the shortage of qualified medical professionals. As a result, diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and malnutrition are widespread. Hypertension and diabetes are common among the Burundian population and maternal and child health is at risk. It is crucial for organizations and NGOs to play a significant role in providing healthcare facilities to ensure the well-being of the population. Corruption is a major issue in Burundi and ranks among the top 25 most corrupt countries globally. Corruption erodes public trust in the government and discourages foreign investors, leading to slower economic growth. Establishing a strong judicial system is essential to combat corruption effectively. Burundians face numerous challenges in their daily lives, making it difficult for them to experience happiness. According to the Global Happiness Index 2020, Burundi scored only 3.78, reflecting the harsh realities of a country where many struggle to secure a single meal. Additionally, the legacy of war has instilled fear in the population. However, it is essential for Burundians to look for solutions to their problems to secure a better future for their generations. Ethnic tensions, poor infrastructure, low income levels, and limited agricultural production all contribute to the destruction of Burundi's economy. These factors have led to Burundi being labeled as one of the world's poorest countries.

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Briefs

PM for strict action against..

FROM PAGE 01
Shah called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar in Gilgit. During the meeting the Governor thanked the Prime Minister for taking special interest in the development of GB and visiting the area. Syed Mehdi Shah briefed the Prime Minister about the administrative affairs and law and order situation of Gilgit Baltistan. Meanwhile, Gilgit Baltistan Chief Minister Gulzar Khan also called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar in Gilgit. During the meeting, the Chief Minister informed the Prime Minister about the progress of the ongoing development projects in Gilgit. The Chief Minister also briefed on the government's initiatives for the development of public welfare projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, especially the health and education sectors. He also apprised the Prime Minister about government's initiatives for the promotion of tourism in Gilgit Baltistan.

SC upholds convictions..

FROM PAGE 01
turned an approver. On his witness, the Field General Court Martial (FGCM) awarded seven years of imprisonment to retired Maj Gen Abbasi, when a large cache of arms and military uniforms were confiscated. The FGCM also awarded a 14-year jail term to Brig Mustansir Billa for his alleged involvement in the attempted coup. Col Minhas and Col Khan were court-martialled in Sept 1996 for their alleged role in the conspiracy by the FGCM and sentenced to four years each in prison by a military court. Col Khan had challenged the sentence in the Supreme Court in 2000 and Col Minhas in the Lahore High Court which dismissed his appeal in May last year.

2,300 dead, over 10,000..

FROM PAGE 01
there are people still under the rubble and every minute counts. The floods were caused by torrential rains from Storm Daniel, which made landfall in Libya on Sunday after earlier lashing Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey. Derna, 250 kilometres west of Benghazi, is ringed by hills and bisected by what is normally a dry riverbed in summer, but which has turned into a raging torrent of mud-brown water that also swept away several major bridges. The number of dead given by the Libyan service roughly matched the grim early estimates provided by the Red Cross and by local authorities in the eastern region, who have warned the death toll may yet rise further.

China always..

FROM PAGE 01
and separately called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. Welcoming Ambassador-designate of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the president said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with China as it had always stood by it at difficult times. He said that Pakistan would continue to support China on all core issues. Highlighting the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the president said that CPEC would greatly contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan. He said that the project had helped in modernizing "our infrastructure, building our capacity and ensuring a sustainable energy supply". Pakistan was fully committed to timely completion of all projects under CPEC, he reiterated. The president expressed his gratitude for China's unflinching support to Pakistan's socio-economic development as well as its principled stance on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

Babar Azam wins ICC Men's Player of the Month Award

The pacer then followed up this performance with more wickets, taking three for 11 runs in the second match, and two for 20 in final outing

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's all-formats captain Babar Azam bagged the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Player of the Month for the third time, winning the award for August 2023 announced on Tuesday. Holding the top spot in the MRF Tyres ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings, Babar Azam continued to impress with his exceptional form last month, which included notable run-scoring feats against Afghanistan and a glittering century against Nepal. The win means Babar becomes the first men's player to win the award on three separate occasions, after previous triumphs in April 2021 and March 2022. Dynamic Ireland seamer Arlene Kelly also claimed the ICC Women's Player of the Month award thanks to prolific wicket-taking spells as her side recorded

a 3-0 series victory over the Netherlands in the T20I format. Kelly's bowling heroics included a Player of the Match performance in the first outing where she returned career-best figures. Babar and Kelly take home the prizes following votes cast by global fans registered at icc-cricket.com and a specialist panel comprising ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and media representatives. Babar has enjoyed plenty of individual accolades in recent months, and his performances in August capped a surge in momentum ahead of the eagerly anticipated ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, which begins next month. The Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy holder may have started the ODI series against Afghanistan quietly, however his form returned in the last two fixtures, where scores of 53 and 60 helped secure the series sweep for Pakistan.



On the back of these strong displays, Babar then saved his best performance for his last August outing – the opening Asia Cup fixture against Nepal in Multan. At one stage 25 for two, he displayed control and flair in stabilizing the Pakistan innings, before launching a wave of aggressive strokes to propel them to a mam-

moth 342 score, eventually ending with 151 from 131 balls. In total, Babar's 264 runs in the month came at an average of 66 and at a strike rate of 92.30. Reacting to his award win, Babar said, "I am delighted to be named ICC Player of the Month for August 2023." "The past month has been extraordinary for my team and I as we have put some terrific performances. With the Asia Cup coming to Pakistan after such a long time, it was great to play in front of the passionate and cricket-loving crowds of Multan and Lahore. That I scored my second ODI score of 150-plus in front of my own people in Multan doubled the joy. "I am looking forward to making the most of the form as we head into an exciting phase of cricket with the backend of the Asia Cup nearing and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup around the corner. My team and I are eager to bring joy and happiness to the millions of Pakistan fans." Babar wins his third prize edging out compatriot Shadab Khan, who excelled with the ball in the same fixtures, and the primary architect of the West Indies' T20I series victory over India, Nicholas Pooran. In the Women's category, Arlene Kelly wins her first

Player of the Month award after her efforts helped Ireland blitz the Netherlands 3-0 in Amstelveen. With ten wickets across her three T20I matches at a phenomenal average of 4.30, Kelly was a constant menace to a competitive Dutch lineup. Among a number of performance highlights, Kelly's standout spell came in the first duel, where her sharp and accurate deliveries produced career-best figures of 5-12 as the tourists won by ten wickets. The pacer then followed up this performance with more wickets, taking three for 11 runs in the second match, and two for 20 in the final outing. Kelly said, "I'm honoured to win the award for the month of August and grateful for the opportunities that cricket has provided. "The series win in the Netherlands was memorable, and being able to contribute with the ball made it that little bit more special."

Portugal lash Luxembourg in record 9-0 win

Bruno Fernandes ran show for Portugal as they romped to a record 9-0 win over Luxembourg without suspended Cristiano Ronaldo



ALMANCEL: Bruno Fernandes ran the show for Portugal as they romped to a record 9-0 win over Luxembourg without suspended talisman and all-time top goalscorer Cristiano Ronaldo. Roberto Martinez's side have now won all six of their qualifying games, without conceding a single goal and scoring 24 themselves, with this the country's largest-ever victory. Portugal lead the Group J

standings, five points clear of Slovakia in second place, whom they beat in Bratislava on Friday. Luxembourg are third, three points behind Slovakia. Manchester United playmaker Fernandes, who scored Portugal's winner against Slovakia, laid on three goals as the Selecao filled their boots and scored one himself. Goncalo Ramos, Diogo Jota and Goncalo Inacio struck two goals each,

while Ricardo Horta and Joao Felix also scored. Martinez, who replaced Fernando Santos after the Qatar World Cup, has a 100 percent record at the helm to date. "We are still at the beginning of a new era with a new coach and we are still taking on board the coach's ideas," said Jota. "Today we set a reference point match (to look at in) the future." Sporting Lisbon defender Inacio sent the hosts ahead

in the 12th minute with a header from Fernandes' exquisite cross with the outside of his foot. Paris Saint-Germain striker Ramos drilled home the second five minutes later after Fernandes pressed high to win the ball back. The 22-year-old striker then grabbed another goal in the 33rd minute with a clever turn and clinical finish for his sixth goal in eight appearances for his country. Liverpool striker Jota hit the crossbar as Portugal dominated at the Algarve stadium near the country's south coast. Inacio headed home his second goal from another Fernandes cross on the stroke of half-time and Jota struck early in the second half for the fifth, set up by the Red Devils midfielder again. Portugal thrashed Luxembourg 6-0 in their first clash in the Grand Duchy and Horta rifled home from the edge of the box for their sixth of the night to match the haul. – Agencies

PCB announces schedule of Women's U19

LAHORE: PCB on Tuesday announced the schedule of the five-team U19 T20 Women Cricket Tournament 2023, which is set to commence at the Lahore Country Club in Muridke from Wednesday, 13 September. The tournament promises to showcase the incredible talent and passion of young female cricketers from across the nation. The tournament will feature five teams namely Challengers, Conquerors, Invincibles, Stars and Strikers. The nine-day tournament will be conducted on a round-robin basis, meaning each team will play at least four matches. The final will be played on 21 September, after the league stage is done. The toss will take place at 09:30 PST, while the first ball of the match will be bowled at 10:00 PST. The U19 T20 Women Cricket Tournament 2023 serves as a perfect opportunity for the players to stake a claim in the national U19 side ahead of Pakistan U19 women's team's maiden tour to Bangladesh in January 2024. To further incentivise the players to bring out their best performances, the PCB has also introduced financial awards to encourage the players to bring out their best. The winning team will receive PKR 0.5 million, while the runner-up will get PKR 0.3 million. The player of the tournament will be awarded PKR25,000 and each player of the match will receive PKR10,000. The tournament's top performers – best player, best batter, best bowler and best wicket-keeper – will be gifted kit bags to encourage them to enhance their skills and pursue their cricketing ambitions. The PCB has also finalised the five squads, which consist of 14 players each. These squads have been selected by the national women's selection committee headed by former Test cricketer Saleem Jaffer after country-wide open trials in eight academies last month. Eleven players have been placed in the reserve pool and they can be called up based on a team's requirement. Only players born on or after 1 September 2004 are eligible to play in the tournament. Squads: Challengers – Mahnoor Aftab (captain), Aleesha Khan, Ezza Nadeem, Fizza Fiaz, Maheen Irfan, Mirab Amin, Muqadas Bukhari, Noor Mehdi, Raahima Syed, Ravail Farhan, Saba Sher, Sumbal Liaqat, Tanzeela Niaz and Widad Iftikhar. – DNA

IHF pulls out Olympic qualifiers from Pakistan

LONDON: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has pulled out one of the men's Olympic qualifier events for the 2024 Paris Olympics from Pakistan. The growing concern over non-cooperation and undue interference in the daily operations of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) reportedly became the reason for this decision, which was a tough choice for the FIH. It may be noted that the PHF had recently faced suspension by the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), which subsequently mandated fresh elections just last month. This suspension came into immediate effect on the orders of former prime minister Shahbaz Sharif, who issued the decree on his final day in office. The suspension of the national hockey governing body, sanctioned by the state-owned institution, the PSB, has played a pivotal role in the international body's decision. In a prior announcement made in July, the FIH had disclosed that China, Pakistan, and Spain were chosen to host the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, set to unfold between January 13 and 21, 2024. Lahore had been designated as one of the venues for the men's qualifying matches. – Agencies

PFA urges to provide rights for England women's

LONDON: England's female players deserve equal rights now, Professional Footballers' Association chief executive Maheta Molango has said, telling the TUC Congress on Tuesday that the disparity in treatment of men and women "simply isn't acceptable". Molango told the Congress, the highest trade union event in the UK, that greater player involvement in decision-making is key. "Our members need to be central to this process – shaping the future of the game both for those who play now, and for those who will follow in their footsteps," Molango said in Liverpool. "A seat at the table is no use when the decisions have already been made." The PFA's plea comes after former player Karen Carney's UK government-commissioned review in July called for an overhaul of the women's game to increase professionalism, and amid the Lionesses' dispute over bonus structures and commercial payments offered to the World Cup squad. "We want our legacy to be that we leave the women's game in a better place for those who follow us. That includes contracts, conditions and protections for players," Lucy Bronze, who helped England to

a runners-up finish at the Women's World Cup, said in a statement. "There is still a long way to go in the women's game, and now is the time for everyone to work together to make the experience of being a professional footballer as positive as it can be." Molango urged fellow trade unions to support the implementation of recommendations from Carney's review, including the need to establish a Professional Football Negotiating and Consultative Committee (PFNCC) for the women's game. The PFNCC, a committee of stakeholders including the players' union, already exists in the men's game. The government is expected to publish its response to the recommendations in the review later this year. "There's so much changing in the women's game right now," said Lioness Katie Zelem, who is a member of the PFA's Players' Board. "Lots of it is really positive, but it's important that the players are part of that process and that we get to have our voices heard. "We want to be partners in taking the game forward. There are structures in place in the men's game which mean players know they will be listened to. We need it to be the same for us." – DNA

Pak, Turkiye agree to further strengthen bilateral ties

Federal Minister Jamal Shah said that the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Turkiye are an unprecedented manifestation of brotherhood and love, which cannot be compared

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkiye have agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations by initiating cultural and literary exchange programs. The understanding came during a meeting between Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah and a high level Turkiye delegation led by their Ambassador to Pakistan Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci who called on him in Islamabad on Tuesday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest focusing on bilateral relations came under discussion. Federal Minister Jamal Shah said that the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Turkiye are an unprecedented manifestation of brotherhood and love, which cannot be compared. Jamal Shah said that Pakistan values and re-

spect the evergreen relationship with Turkiye as the two brotherly countries always supported each other in every need of the hour. The Minister desired to further strengthen cooperation in lit-

erary, cultural, Cinemas, film, tourism and other matters of mutual interest so that the effectiveness and recognition of this relationship may become deeper and stronger. Speaking on the

occasion, Ambassador of Turkiye, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci said that Turkiye attached great value to its relations with Pakistan. He said that there is a huge potential for further bolstering collabo-

ration in the culture and literary fields between the two brotherly nations. He said that on October 29, 2023 Turkiye Embassy will organize two-day celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Turkish Republic in Islamabad. He invited the minister to join in celebrating a monumental milestone in Turkiye's history, the centennial of the establishment of the Republic of Turkiye. In response, the Minister Jamal Shah assured full cooperation of the National Heritage and Culture Division in organizing two-day celebrations 100th anniversary of Turkish Republic. He also invited the Turkish Ambassador and Dr. Halil Toket, Yunus Emre Culture Center to attend a National conference being organized by National Heritage and Culture Division and its attached departments for the promotion folk literary heritage.



India beat SL, book..

FROM PAGE 01
off to the perfect start with twin strikes in his first four overs. From the other end, Mohammed Siraj chipped in as well to put Sri Lanka in further trouble. Introduced after the powerplay, Kuldeep Yadav continued where he left off against Pakistan and dismissed both Charith Asalanka and Sadepa Samarawickrama to put his side in a commanding position. India were then tested and stalled by a gritty stand between Dhananjaya de Silva and Dunieth Wellalage. Just when the game was starting to slip away from them, Ravindra Jadeja's persistence paid off as he accounted for de Silva.

Caretaker FM chairs..

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across 56 member states. High-level representatives from over 46 countries and six UK overseas territories, including 35 Government Ministers, are attending the meeting at the Commonwealth Secretariat's headquarters, Marlborough House. The meeting, which is held under the theme: 'Aiming Higher: Delivering More for Young People in the Commonwealth', is being chaired by the Government of Pakistan. Pakistan is leading the Commonwealth event for first time in thirty years. HE Jalil Abbas Jilani, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, reflected on CYMM's theme, which was suggested by his government, noting:

Nawaz to be back..

FROM PAGE 01
Nawaz – who has been in self-imposed exile in London since November 2019 owing to health reasons – was disqualified for life in 2017 by the Supreme Court for not declaring a receivable salary. The London huddle was attended by Suleman Shehbaz, Hassan Nawaz, former federal minister Khawaja Asif, Malik Mohammad Ahmed Khan and Nasir Janjua. The party's strategy regarding the election, Nawaz's return and the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) stance on the elections came under discussion. Last week, Nawaz himself for the first time confirmed his homecoming next month, during his interaction with his party workers and supporters at Stanhope House.

PTI calls free, on..

FROM PAGE 01
In a statement on Tuesday, PTI leadership said that the PTI was the largest and the only national party of the country, which was equally popular in all federating units of Pakistan. It was said that being the largest representative political party of the country, they Federation of Pakistan, they were fully cognizant of the national interests and priorities of Pakistan. The PTI leadership stated that the solution to political instability and economic misery lied in the implementation of the constitution in its true spirit.

Level-playing..

FROM PAGE 01
owing to convictions in separate corruption cases. "There is not a level-playing field for everyone and that is my objection," said the former foreign minister during his visit to slain journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar's house in Sukkur on Tuesday. Nawaz – who has been in self-imposed exile in London since November 2019 owing to health reasons – was disqualified for life in 2017 by the Supreme Court for not declaring a receivable salary. He is expected to return to Pakistan in October this year to lead the election campaign of his party. Meanwhile, Khan has been imprisoned in the Attock jail since his conviction in the Toshakhana case on August 5 for failing to properly declare gifts he received while in office. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) overturned a lower court's decision to jail him for three years with an Rs100,000 fine – a judgment that kept him from contesting upcoming elections – he remains behind bars due to his judicial remand in the cipher case till September 13.

Briefs

Poland
extend ban
on Ukraine
grain imports

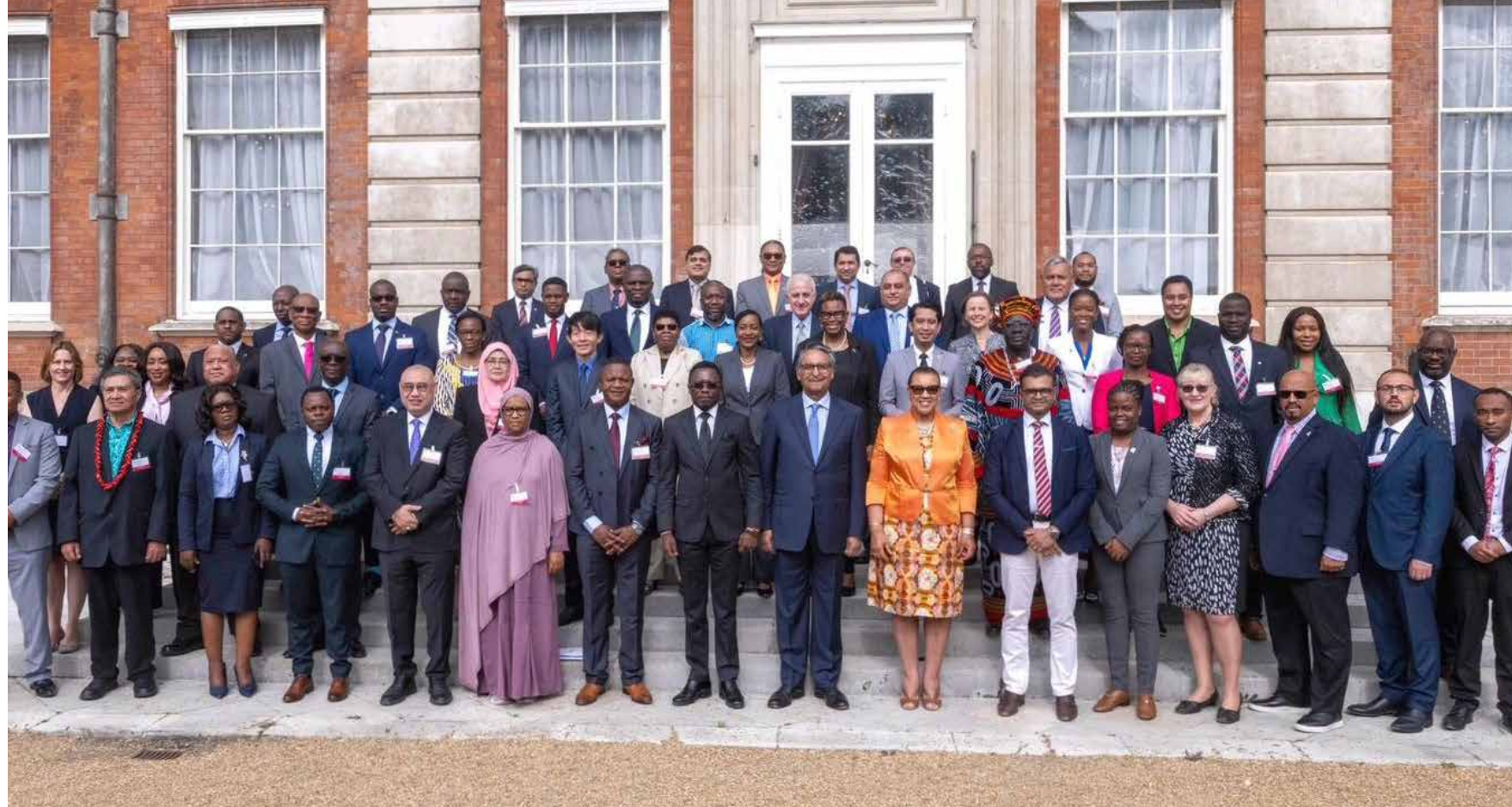
WARSAW: The Polish government on Tuesday agreed to extend a ban on Ukrainian grain imports unilaterally even if the current EU restrictions expire on September 15. "Regardless of the (European) Commission's further decision, we will not open the border to Ukrainian grain after that date," the government said in a statement. The statement said the government was still looking to extend the ban at the EU level but would do so in any case. "If Brussels does not keep the embargo, we will introduce these measures ourselves... The interests of the Polish countryside are most important to us," it said. The conflict in Ukraine and the problems with Ukrainian grain exports through the Black Sea have resulted in the EU becoming a major transit route and export destination for Ukrainian grain. In June, the EU agreed to restrict imports of grain from Ukraine to five member states seeking to protect their farmers who blamed those imports for the slump in prices on local markets. The five member states are Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The five have asked for the restrictions, which expire on Friday, to be extended. The issue is particularly sensitive in Poland as the country is holding elections next month. —APP

Over 400,000
people at risk
of Emergency
hunger: UN

New York: A recent UN agency analysis published on Tuesday warned that every 1% cut in food assistance risks pushing more than 400,000 people to the brink of starvation, emphasizing the importance of scaling up life-saving assistance. The UN World Food Program (WFP) "is being forced to drastically cut rations in most of its operations as international humanitarian funding plummets," the agency warned in a statement. "Experts at the agency estimate that, as a result, an additional 24 million people could slip into emergency hunger over the next 12 months — a 50 percent increase on the current level," it added. Citing WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain, the statement said: "With the number of people around the world facing starvation at record levels, we need to be scaling up life-saving assistance — not cutting it. If we don't receive the support we need to avert further catastrophe, the world will undoubtedly see more conflict, more unrest, and more hunger. Either we fan the flames of global instability, or we work quickly to put out the fire." According to the statement, there are currently 345 million people facing acute food insecurity worldwide, with 40 million of these in emergency levels of hunger. —Agencies

Emmerson
faced
criticism after
appointing
son

HARARE: The Zimbabwean president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, recently returned to power after a disputed election, has been accused by the opposition of attempting to create a family dynasty after appointing his son deputy finance minister barely a week on from conferring his wife with an honorary doctorate. Announcing his new cabinet on Monday, Mnangagwa said one of his younger sons, David Kudakwashe Mnangagwa, would be second in charge at the Treasury, while appointing a nephew, Tongai, as deputy minister in the tourism ministry. David Mnangagwa, who has no experience in government, is an actuary who previously sat on the board of a bank. He will deputise for Mhuli Ncube, who was reappointed after losing his parliamentary seat in last month's polls. Mnangagwa, 34, who also graduated with a law degree last week at the University of Zimbabwe, came into parliament through a youth quota designed to increase young people's representation. Members are handpicked by their party. —Agencies



LONDON: Group photo of heads of delegation at the 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting, chaired by caretaker FM Jalil Abbas. —DNA

Search for survivors after
Morocco quake continues

Morocco's desperate search for survivors, four days after a powerful earthquake killed more than 2,800 people, most of them in remote villages in the High Atlas Mountains.

NEWS DESK

MARRAKESH: Hopes were dimming on Tuesday in Morocco's desperate search for survivors, four days after a powerful earthquake killed more than 2,800 people, most of them in remote villages in the High Atlas Mountains. Search-and-rescue teams from the kingdom and abroad kept digging through the rubble of broken mud-brick homes, hoping for signs of life in a race against time following the 6.8-magnitude quake late Friday. In the tourist hub of Marrakesh, whose UNESCO-listed historic center suffered cracks and other major damage, many families still slept out in the open, huddled in blankets

on public squares for fear of aftershocks. But the need was most desperate in remote and poor mountain villages such as Missirat, only reachable via winding dirt roads southwest of Marrakesh, where traumatized inhabitants have searched by hand for missing relatives. Many of the region's traditional adobe homes crumbled to rubble and dust, while some concrete houses now stand ajar, their former residents gingerly salvaging mattresses, blankets, and cooking utensils from them. "We feel completely abandoned here, no one has come to help us," one desperate villager, Khadija Aitkyd, 43, told AFP. "Our houses have collapsed and we have nowhere to go.

Where are all these poor people going to live?" Residents of the village of under 100 people said the bodies of the 16 villagers killed in the quake have been recovered, but their dead livestock under the stones and timber was starting to decompose. Remote villages destroyed Rescuers, aid trucks, and private volunteers kept traveling to stricken villages in the barren foothills of the High Atlas, many accessible only via dusty dirt roads affected by rockfalls. In the village of Asni, in the worst-hit province of Al Haouz, the army set up a field hospital with medical tents where more than 300 patients had been treated by Monday, Colonel Youssef Qamouss told AFP. "The hospital was deployed

48 hours ago," he said, adding that it has an X-ray unit, pharmacy and other facilities. "It started operating this morning and we're already at more or less 300 patients." Many Moroccan citizens have rushed to help quake victims with food, water, blankets and other aid or by donating blood to help treat the injured, an effort joined by the national football team. The quake was Morocco's strongest on record and the deadliest to hit the North African country since a 1960 earthquake destroyed Agadir on the Atlantic coast, killing between 12,000 and 15,000 people. Overall, at least 2,862 people have died and more than 2,500 been injured in the latest tragedy, according to an official toll issued late Monday.

Morocco has allowed rescue teams to come to its aid from Spain, Britain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates but so far declined offers from several other nations, including the United States and Israel. 100,000 children affected - Albert Vasquez, the Spanish unit's communications officer, warned on Monday that "it's very difficult to find people alive after three days" but stressed that "hope is still there". The United Nations estimated that more than 300,000 people have been affected, one-third of them children, by the powerful seismic event that hit just after 11 p.m. (2200 GMT) when most families were asleep. "Thousands of homes have been destroyed, displacing families and exposing them

to the elements at a time of year when temperatures drop down during the nighttime," the UN Children's Agency said. "Schools, hospitals, and other medical and educational facilities have been damaged or destroyed by the quakes, further impacting children." The rebuilding effort is expected to be enormous for the country which is already suffering economic woes and years of drought and now faces a downturn in the crucial tourism sector. Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch chaired a meeting on Monday on housing and reconstruction and then pledged that "citizens who have lost their homes will receive compensation," adding that the details would be announced later.

Emmerson
faced criticism
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appointing son

HARARE: The Zimbabwean president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, recently returned to power after a disputed election, has been accused by the opposition of attempting to create a family dynasty after appointing his son deputy finance minister barely a week on from conferring his wife with an honorary doctorate. Announcing his new cabinet on Monday, Mnangagwa said one of his younger sons, David Kudakwashe Mnangagwa, would be second in charge at the Treasury, while appointing a nephew, Tongai, as deputy minister in the tourism ministry. David Mnangagwa, who has no experience in government, is an actuary who previously sat on the board of a bank. He will deputise for Mhuli Ncube, who was reappointed after losing his parliamentary seat in last month's polls. Mnangagwa, 34, who also graduated with a law degree last week at the University of Zimbabwe, came into parliament through a youth quota designed to increase young people's representation. Members are handpicked by their party. Irate Zimbabweans and the opposition condemned the appointments on social media, saying Emmerson Mnangagwa was creating a family dynasty after winning a disputed election on 23 August. The opposition described the result as a "gigantic" fraud, while the Southern African Development Community and EU observer missions said the elections fell short of international standards. —Agencies

Armenia's
landmines
killed
3,385 Azer-
bajani people

BAKU: Azerbaijan's presidential adviser said on Tuesday that 3,385 Azerbaijani people have died due to landmines planted by Armenia since 1991. Hikmet Hajiyev shared details about the loss of lives due to landmines laid by Armenia within Azerbaijani territory, both during the occupation of Azerbaijani lands and in the aftermath of the Second Karabakh War. Fifty-five Azerbaijani people lost their lives in blasts caused by mines laid by Armenia since the end of the Second Karabakh War on Nov. 10, 2020, Hajiyev said on social media platform X. He added that 251 others were injured. Among those killed were 42 civilians and 13 soldiers, he also said. "Terrifying figures of Armenia's systematic and deliberate landmine terror policy against Azerbaijan. Since 1991 up to today, 3,385 Azerbaijanis have become victims of landmines infested by Armenia. Armenia and illegal puppet junta regime continues to implant landmines produced in Armenia along the whole perimeters of 'grey zone'," he wrote. Relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia have been tense since 1991 when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. —APP

Austria reopens the
embassy in Baghdad

Austrian foreign minister visiting Baghdad to 'turn a new page' in the 2 countries' relationship

NEWS DESK

GENEVA: Austria's foreign minister is set to reopen the Austrian Embassy in Baghdad Tuesday in a formal ceremony. Alexander Schallenberg told a press conference with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussain in Baghdad on Tuesday that his visit is a "sign of trust." Austria wants to "turn a new page" in its relationship with Iraq, he added. Schallenberg is also set on Tuesday to meet Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid and Prime Minister Mohammed Shia



al-Sudan. Afterwards, the official reopening of the embassy is planned. The Austrian representation was closed in 1991, but

has been back in operation for just under a year, now located in the Babylon Rotana hotel for security reasons. The official

reopening demonstrates "confidence in state institutions and resilience in the face of challenges in the region," Schallenberg said. Opening an embassy is "one of the most beautiful tasks there is for a foreign minister," he added. The goal, he said, is "cooperation at eye level in the areas of the economy and security." At the joint press conference, Hussein, who also serves as Iraq's deputy prime minister, expressed his conviction that the embassy's reopening would lead to intensifying relations. "We are very optimistic that there will be cooperation.

Dutch art
detective recovers
stolen Van Gogh

HAGUE: A Dutch art detective has recovered a precious Vincent van Gogh painting that was stolen from a museum in a daring midnight heist during the coronavirus lockdown three-and-a-half years ago, police said Tuesday. Arthur Brand took possession of the missing painting, the 1884 "Parsonage Garden at Nuenen in Spring", worth between three and six million euros (\$3.2 million), at his Amsterdam home on Monday, stuffed in a blue IKEA bag. Brand, dubbed the "Indiana Jones of the Art World" for tracing a series of high-profile lost artworks, told AFP that confirming the painting was the stolen Van Gogh was "one of the greatest moments of my life." "Arthur Brand, in cooperation with the Dutch police, has solved this matter," Richard Bronsrijk of the Dutch police arts crime unit confirmed to AFP. "This is definitely the real one, there's no doubt about it." Brand told AFP that frequent calls by him and the Dutch police to hand back the stolen artwork finally paid off when a man, whose identity was not revealed for his own safety, handed Brand the painting in a blue IKEA bag, covered with bubble-wrap and stuffed in a pillow casing. A video clip supplied by Brand showed him unpacking the painting in his lounge and gasping in astonishment when he realised what it was. "I couldn't believe it," he said. —APP

Erdogan invites all parties to draft new constitution

Erdogan desire to introduce a brand-new and fully "civilian" constitution in a speech at the symposium. He called upon all political parties, academics specialized in the field and other experts to help them draft the new constitution

FOREIGN DESK

The Presidency's Directorate of Communications and Legal Policies Board hosted a symposium entitled "2023 Constitution to Replace 1982 Constitution" on Tuesday, the 43rd anniversary of a coup by the military junta that drafted the current Constitution. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reaffirmed the desire to introduce a brand-new and fully "civilian" constitution in a speech at the symposium. He called upon all political parties, academics specialized in the field and other experts to help them draft the new constitution.

The symposium was held at a museum in the capital, Ankara, a former prison where the junta led by Gen. Kenan Evren seized power. "Turkiye went through one of the darkest periods in the history of the Republic of Türkiye 43 years ago. We will never forget those days when 50 people were hanged and almost every household felt the suffering (at the hands of Uluçanlar, Mamak, Diyarbakir and Samsunlar could talk, they would tell us about those days," he said,

referring to notorious prisons run by junta across Türkiye where anyone, regardless of their political affiliation, could be subject to torture and arbitrary detention in the aftermath of the coup. "Putschists will account for their crimes in the afterlife, for crimes against young people like Hüseyin Kurumahmutlu, who was found not guilty after being hanged," he said, referring to a prominent nationalist activist. The president said the

biggest blow by the putschists of 1980 to the country was the 1982 Constitution. "Although it has been amended 23 times since 1987 and though we made a historical administrative change in 2017, we still have a coup constitution," said the president, who became the first president under the new executive presidency system after the 2017 referendum on constitutional amendments. Since its founding, the modern

Turkish state has been governed under four Constitutions, with the first one being adopted in 1921, and changing in 1924 and 1961 before the Constitution of 1982 was implemented. The debate on crafting a new constitution has become more prominent after Türkiye reelected incumbent President Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party (AK Party) in last May's landmark elections. Erdoğan has been pushing to replace

the current institution in favor of a "civilian, libertarian and inclusive constitution" when the opportunity arises. For a new constitution draft to pass in Parliament, it needs at least 400 lawmakers to ratify it. Anything over 360 votes would pave the way for a referendum, allowing the people to decide. The AK Party retained 268 seats in the May 14 parliamentary polls, far higher than its closest rival, the Republican People's Party (CHP), which won 169 seats. The AK Party, however, is part of the People's Alliance, which also includes its closest ally, the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), and together, the alliance has 323 seats. Erdoğan said that although each amendment was significant, they also damaged the "integrity" of the constitution. "For this reason, we launched work for a new constitution about a decade ago at Parliament. This would be a work with the largest political participation, but the opposition parties backtracked, and the work stalled. Yet, we did not give up our goal of giving a new, civilian, democratic, comprehensive constitution to the country. We offered the opposition to rewrite a new constitution together.

WTO warns
of 'first signs'
of trade de-
globalisation

GENEVA: The de-globalization of international trade is far from a reality, but "the first signs of fragmentation" are appearing, the WTO warned Tuesday, concerned about the effects of the phenomenon on growth and development. The idea of "de-globalization" has gained traction since the war in Ukraine and pandemic-related lockdowns in China prompted significant disruption to global supply chains. In its annual report on international trade, economists with the World Trade Organization (WTO) argued in favor of "reglobalization" as "the first signs of trade fragmentation threaten to slow growth and development." For several decades, the expansion of global trade has surpassed global economic growth, but the trend "kind of stopped around the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, and since then, it's been kind of stagnating", WTO chief economist. —APP



Briefs

Fawad Hassan inducted into cabinet

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday inducted former bureaucrat Fawad Hasan Fawad into the interim cabinet. The appointment has also been approved by President Arif Alvi under Article 224 (1A) on the advice of Premier Kakar. During his career, Fawad held highly sensitive and important positions in Pakistan and abroad. Before his retirement, Fawad's last post was director general of the Civil Service Academy in Lahore. He also served as principal secretary to the then-prime minister Nawaz Sharif as well as the Punjab chief minister. He also served as secretary to various offices including Excise and Taxation, Communication and Works, Health, and S&GAD with the Punjab government. He served as Deputy Commissioner Quetta and Lahore. After Nawaz's ouster from office and indictment in the Avenfield corruption case, Fawad was also arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for his alleged involvement in the Rs14 billion Ashiana-e-Iqbal Housing Scheme scam in 2018. However, in February 2023 he was acquitted in the case.

Ex-US general says Afghan Taliban cannot be trusted

DNA

WASHINGTON: The US cannot trust the Afghan Taliban, Marine Corps General (ret'd) Frank McKenzie who oversaw the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 has said. The US marine who headed the US Central Command from 2019 to 2022, further added that he believed the Afghan Taliban would act only in their own interests and they could not be trusted. "They actually have a long-term familial and customary relationship with al-Qaeda... I think that relationship is far stronger than any potential relationship they choose with the United States," McKenzie said. His remarks came during an interview with CBS News on September 10 – a day before the anniversary of the 9/11 attack that shocked the world and launched one of the biggest US off-shore campaigns in the form of "War on Terror". During the interview, the retired commander said that one of the reasons that the US was in Afghanistan was "to prevent the use of that country as a base from which to gather strength and either to direct or inspire attacks on our homelands, or the homelands of our allies." He further said: "As a result of our withdrawal from Afghanistan, it is now far more difficult for us to pursue those objectives."

Stranded Canadian PM leaves India

NEW DELHI: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has left India after a technical problem in his aircraft was fixed. Indian minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said he was at the airport to thank Mr Trudeau "for his presence at the G20 summit" and "wished him and his entourage a safe trip back home". Mr Trudeau was set to fly on Sunday, following a tense meeting with Indian PM Narendra Modi at the G20 summit. But he had to stay back for two more days after his plane developed a snag. Earlier in the day, press secretary of the Canadian prime minister Mohammad Hussain told Indian news agency ANI that "the technical issue with the plane has been resolved. The plane has been cleared to fly". In a statement sent to the BBC, Canada's Department of National Defence on Monday confirmed that the prime minister's aircraft – a Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) CC-150 Polaris with the tail number '01' – suffered a "maintenance problem" stemming from a "component that will have to be replaced". – Agencies

Pakistan, Azerbaijan discuss collaboration in diverse fields

The Planning Minister appreciated the support of Azerbaijan during the 2022 flood which badly affected Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Tuesday discussed collaboration in diverse fields including bilateral trade, energy and economic sectors, reiterating their resolve to further the existing relations between the two countries. The two sides, during a meeting between Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed and Azerbaijan ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov, also noted the positive trajectory of bilateral relations. They reiterated their resolve to further strengthen relations with a focus on different fields like trade, connectivity, energy, tourism and Information Technology, a news release said. The meeting was attended by Tamerlan Khalilov, Deputy Head of Mission of Azerbaijan, Chief of International Trade & Finance, Chief Foreign Aid and other senior officials of the Planning Ministry. The Planning Minister emphasized the importance of the long-standing friendship between the two countries and noted



that, after the restoration of Azerbaijan's Independence in 1991, Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize its independence. Furthermore, the Planning Minister appreciated the support of Azerbaijan during the 2022 flood which badly affected Pakistan.

Khazar Farhadov informed the Planning Minister that since 2022 direct flights between Azerbaijan and Pakistan have been greatly contributing to the existing bilateral relations between the two countries. He said that around 50,000 Pakistani tourists visited Azerbaijan in

2022. The government of Azerbaijan facilitates Pakistani tourists through an online visa which takes three hours. The Planning Minister appreciated this gesture and expressed his eagerness to explore opportunities for collaboration in the field of tourism.



GILGIT: Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar laid floral wreath at the martyrs' monument at the Chief Minister Secretariat in Gilgit and offered fateha. – DNA (News on Front Page)

West caged African children, says Russian President

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin remarked on Tuesday that African nations will always remember the dark chapter of Western colonial oppression when European powers trafficked children from the continent and put them on display in cages. Putin also claimed that the same countries are trying to push their former dominions into indentured servitude. Speaking at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, the Russian leader predicted it would not be too difficult for Russia to restore relations with Africa to the level of the Soviet era, when Moscow provided the continent with ample economic aid. The Russian leader argued that African countries remember Moscow's help in the struggle for independence and that Moscow had never acted as a colonizer. "Our cooperation has always been based on either mutual grounds or the desire to help," he said. However, Putin noted that these countries remember not only Soviet aid but also Western ruthlessness. As late as 1957, "people from Africa were taken to Europe in cages... You can't watch that without tears. Children sitting in cages, displayed for everyone to see," Putin recalled. "No one in Africa will ever forget it." The Russian president said the West has not abandoned its subjugation attempts. "Even now, they are trying to boss around and pursue their generally neo-colonial policies," Putin said, explaining that Western countries have imposed trillions of dollars worth of loans on the region. The West has concocted a credit system with

African countries which "by definition... does not allow them to pay back their loans. These are not credit relations; this is some kind of [punitive] indemnity," he added. However, Russia adheres to a different approach, which gives it an advantage in fostering ties with its partners worldwide, Putin argued.

Last week, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pointed out that African countries are ready to talk with their Western counterparts. However, the latter should not expect spectacular results if they reduce dialogue to "patting on the back" while failing to address the continent's "pressing needs." To foster closer ties with the region, Russia hosted a landmark Russia-Africa forum in St. Petersburg this summer that produced many bilateral agreements in various fields. Dozens of African delegations also attended it despite what Moscow described as "unprecedented pressure from the West" to skip the summit. Russian President Vladimir Putin has provided an update on the casualties the Ukrainian military incurred since their operation commenced in early June. He further noted that Kiev had not achieved the anticipated results it had initially sought. Putin said at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok on Tuesday: "There are losses, big losses. Since the start of this counteroffensive, the casualties [have reached] 71,500 people." The president claimed that Kiev is seeking to achieve results "at any cost," which makes it look like the Ukrainian leadership does not care about its own citizens' lives. – Agencies

UK Chevening scholarships open for applications on 40th anniversary



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott CMG OBE has called on mid-career Pakistanis to apply for a life-changing Chevening scholarship to study in the UK. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Chevening awards. Since 1983, over 2,000 Pakistanis have been awarded Chevening scholarships and fellowships. Chevening is UK's global scholarship programme, enabling outstanding emerging leaders to pursue one-year master's degrees in any subject and at any UK university. Pakistan has several notable Chevening alumni, including:

- sports journalist Roha Nadeem;
- Justice Athar Minallah of the Supreme Court;
- actor and caretaker Federal Minister Jamal Shah; and
- Sonia Shamroz the first ever woman to be appointed as the police chief of a district in the Khyber Pa-

khtunkhwa province. The scholarships are fully funded, including fees, flights, visas, accommodation and some spending money. Applications for Chevening scholarships to study in the UK are open between 12 September and 7 November 2023 – applications can be made on the Chevening website www.chevening.org.

British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said: "Home to some of the world's best universities, the UK is a top destination for hundreds of thousands of students each year. Chevening scholarships not only allow some of Pakistan's brightest scholars to benefit from a UK education, but to truly experience the UK and build important networks. "Chevening scholarships have already had a profound impact on thousands of Pakistani professionals. I would encourage anyone thinking about taking the next step in their career to apply." This year, there are also two new partnerships. Swindon Town Football Club are offering sports professionals the opportunity to study for a master's programme in Coaching and Sports Sciences. Essex University is offering two places on climate change and the environment, as well as heritage and museum studies. In addition to the one-year master's programme, there is the South Asia Journalism Programme hosted by the University of Westminster. It is aimed at mid-career journalists from South Asian countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. 7 journalists from Pakistan will be selected for the 'Good Governance in a Changing World: the Media, Politics, and Society' fellowship. These fellows will participate in eight intensive weeks of lectures, visits, and discussions that introduce them to key UK academics, media, and political figures in the field. They will spend time meeting their peers in some of the UK's top media organisations.

TTP commander killed in Afghanistan

DNA

KABUL: Badshah Khan, a 'most-wanted' commander and close aide of outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, was killed in a landmine blast in Afghanistan. According to details, the incident took place in Afghanistan's Paktika province, wherein most-wanted TTP commander Badshah Khan was killed in a landmine blast. Sources told media that the killed terrorist, who was on the "most-wanted list", was involved in terrorist operations against Pakistani security forces. Earlier in June 2023, the security forces in a successful intelligence-based operation (IBO) killed the most-wanted terrorist Zafar Khan alias Zafari and two of his group members in Darra Adam Khel, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). On the night of June 16th and 17th, the security forces – in a highly placed IBO – killed most-wanted Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorist commander Zafar Khan alias Zafari son in Dara Adam Khel. The other two terrorists were identified as Hasan Khan son of Muhammad Imran, a resident of Bazi Khel, and Anas alias Ali, a resident of Nangarhar, Afghanistan. Intelligence agencies and security forces hunt down terrorists by adopting unconventional operational procedures based on corroborated intelligence.

Crooks were given NROs by amending NAB law: PTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson termed that the resignations of the topmost officers of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) one after another as the worst example of political use of the anti-corruption watchdog at the hands of the state. PTI spokesperson reacted to the resignations of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Prosecutor General of the accountability bureau and said that corruption was the biggest problem currently facing the country. He said that the state circles, who were hell-bent on worst political engineering, had always been used the NAB to materialize their nefarious extra-constitutional ambitions. –DNA

US committed to remain steadfast toward Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome visited Gwadar, Balochistan on Tuesday to underscore the United States' commitment to the people of Balochistan, a partnership that remains steadfast and robust. The visit explored opportunities to enrich development, trade, and commercial ties, building on the successful outcomes that underpin the robust U.S.- Pakistan bilateral relationship, a US Embassy statement said today. The United States and Balochistan have a strong history of successful collaboration. In the face of last year's devastating floods, the United States helped 661,000 individuals, providing both food and much-needed cash assistance. And nearly 90,000 children were given nourishing meals to combat the threat of starvation. Over the past year, with U.S. support, 41 health facilities were successfully renovated. In the field of education, U.S. support is strengthening programs at BUITEMS and Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, and empowering the next generation of youth by developing literacy and education materials in Balochi and various local languages. During his visit, the Ambassador held productive discussions with political leaders, representatives from the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce, and a diverse group of government and private sector leaders. In his meeting with political leaders, the Ambassador reiterated U.S. support for Balochistan's development, touching on economic growth, disaster relief and preparedness; security; the benefits of U.S. trade and investment; and measures Pakistan can take to strengthen and improve its investment climate. Ambassador Blome's meeting with members of the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce focused on ways to increase U.S. trade and investment in the region's business, logistics, tourism, fisheries, and blue economy sectors. The group shared how growing these business-to-business relationships can help create inclusive, Pakistan-led growth that supports jobs across Balochistan. They also discussed how deepening business partnerships can enhance technical skills in Balochistan and help increase bilateral trade. – DNA

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