



# Islamabad POST

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**EU chief vows new migrant help for Italy after Lampedusa surge**

Detailed News On Page-08

**UK refuses to say if spy claim raised with China**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Lionel Messi has muscle fatigue Martino**

Detailed News On Page-06



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Justice Qazi Faez Isa as Chief Justice of Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

## Justice Qazi Faez becomes 29th CJP

### CJP Isa appoints Jazeela Aslam as 'first-ever' woman Supreme Court registrar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Judge Justice Qazi Faez on Sunday took oath as the 29th chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) after his predecessor Umar Ata Bandial hung up his robes a day earlier. President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath at a ceremony held at the Presidential House in Islamabad. Top government and military officials, including caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Army Chief General Asim Munir, senators and foreign ambassadors, attended the ceremony. Justice Isa's tenure as the country's chief justice, however, will be quite brief, as he is set to retire from the position on October 25, 2024. He took oath as the apex court's judge on September 5, 2014. Despite being the senior puisne judge, he was not assigned any constitutional case for the past three years, following a presidential reference filed against him in 2019. The newly-appointed top judge of the country was born on October 26, 1959, in Quetta. His father, the late Qazi Mohammad Isa, was a prominent leader in the Pakistan Movement and a close associate of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. After completing his initial education in Quetta, Justice Isa pursued O and A levels studies from the Karachi Grammar School. He then moved to London to pursue his higher education in law to complete the bar professional examination at the Inns of Court School of Law. He joined the Balochistan High Court on January 30, 1985, and became an advocate of the Supreme Court in March 1998. After an emergency was declared during the Pervez Musharraf era on November 3, 2007, Justice Isa decided not to appear before judges who took oath under the Provisional Constitution Order (PCO). At the same time, after the decision of November 3 was annulled by the Supreme Court, the Balochistan High Court judges resigned, while Justice Isa was directly appointed as the judge of the provincial high court on August 5, 2009. He remained associated with the field of law for 27 years before being appointed as a judge in the Balochistan

## Full court to hear SC practice law today

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The top court will take up petitions challenging Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 on Monday with the case being heard before a full court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa. As one SC judge is due to leave the country on today (Monday) night for an official trip abroad, a 15-member bench will be resuming proceedings, which were earlier adjourned indefinitely. In April 2023, an eight-member bench led by then CJP Umar Ata Bandial had suspended the effects of the legislation, which regulates the discretionary powers of the CJP's office to take suo moto notice through a committee of three senior-most judges including himself. Since the enactment of the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023, Justice Isa had avoided being part of a bench to hear cases. The outgoing government PDM had enacted the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 with a aim of clipping the chief justice's powers to form benches and fix any case before him. That same month an eight-member bench had suspended the bill's implementation after a set of three petitions were filed challenging it. The 2023 law, serves

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## Briefs

### Parvez Elahi rearrested after release

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Liberty eluded Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Parvez Elahi yet again as Imran Khan's close aide was rearrested shortly after being discharged in a case relating to irregularities in the Lahore Master Plan 2050 project by an anti-corruption court in the Punjab capital city, confirmed his counsel Rana Intezar Hussain on Sunday. After hearing arguments from both sides, the anti-corruption court (ATC) judge discharged Elahi in the graft case and ordered to release him, his lawyer said. Citing the officials, the counsel said that Elahi – the former Punjab chief minister – was rearrested this time in a terrorism case and was being shifted to Adiala jail in Rawalpindi. Earlier, the PTI president was produced before the duty judicial magistrate a day after he was taken into custody by the ACE from jail. He was granted bail from an anti-terrorism court in the Federal Judicial Complex (FJC) attack case on Friday. The duty magistrate approved ACE's request seeking the remand of Elahi. ATC Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain had approved Elahi's bail against the surety bond of Rs20,000 – which Elahi's legal team failed to pay. He faces four corruption cases, according to ACE officials. The Punjab ACE arrested the former chief minister from outside the Adiala jail on Saturday. According to the ACE, Elahi was arrested in four corruption cases, filed against him. He was transported to the ACE headquarters in Lahore on Saturday evening.

### Sheikh Rasheed arrested

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) leader and PTI ally, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, was arrested by Islamabad police on Sunday, reported a private news channel. According to reports, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed's two nephews namely Sheikh Raashid Shafique and Shaikh Umar were also arrested along with him from his house located at Bahria Town Phase III Islamabad. His lawyer Sardar Kaziq said that it is not known in which case Sheikh Rasheed has been arrested. However, he asserted that they will take the legal route.

## UNGA session

### World leaders to address Global poverty, inflation and debt

In his address, the prime minister will outline Pakistan's perspective on a range of regional and general issues of concern, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq, will join nearly 150 world leaders in next week's UN General Assembly to deliberate about key international peace and security issues as well as Global South's concerns over growing poverty, inflation and debt burden. With the high-level segment of the 193-member Assembly's 78th session beginning Sept 19, hundreds of New York Police Department (NYPD) personnel on Sunday began erecting roadblocks and check points around UN Headquarters in Manhattan to turn the area into a high security zone to protect the visiting world leaders. PM Kakar is scheduled to arrive in New York tomorrow at

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### PM Kakar departs for US

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar departed for the US on five-day visit on Sunday to participate in the United Nations General Assembly session. The PM will participate in the high-level debate of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York from Sept 18 to 23. He will also address the United Nations General Assembly

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## Hawala hundi business FIA undertakes massive crackdown

US dollar to further weaken after these raids; the FIA has compiled the data of agents involved in the illegal exchange of currency

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: A nationwide crackdown against elements involved in illegal currency exchange and hawala hundi was launched under the direction of Director General FIA Mohsin Hasan Butt. This year, 303 raids were conducted against elements involved in the illegal exchange of currency. However, 416 suspects involved in the illegal exchange of currency were arrested, and 289 cases and 49 inquiries have been registered against the involved accused. Consequentially, during the raids, several shops and offices used by the accused were sealed. Furthermore, the arrested accused recovered a

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### NAB chairman summons meeting

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Following the Supreme Court's Friday verdict in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendment case, NAB Chairman Lt-Gen (ret'd) Nazir Ahmed Butt summoned a consultative meeting to formulate the future course of action, a newspaper reported on Sunday. Today (Monday) NAB Prosecution Division will give a detailed briefing to the meeting

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## India crush Sri Lanka to win Asia Cup title

One-sided match disappointed Lankan and other fans



SPORTS DESK

COLOMBO: Pace bowler Mohammed Siraj returned figures of 6-21 to lead India's rout of Sri Lanka by 10 wickets as they clinched their eighth Asia Cup title on Sunday. Siraj got four wickets in one over to help skittle Sri Lanka out for 50, a total the Indian openers Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill

surpassed in 6.1 overs for an impressive victory ahead of next month's one-day international (ODI) World Cup at home. Sri Lanka's miserably low total in the 50-over contest left a nearly packed house disappointed after they witnessed just 116 minutes of play. The hosts elected to bat first following a delayed start due to rain and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah struck first with the wicket of Kusal Perera, caught behind for a duck in the first over. Siraj soon took over as he made the ball swing and seam in overcast conditions to easily surpass his previous ODI best of 4-32. He got Pathum Nissanka for two and then struck on successive balls to send back Sadeera Samarawickrama (0) and Charith Asalanka (0), but a hat-trick was averted. Dhananjaya de Silva hit a boundary but Siraj had him caught behind with the next ball, much to the delight of the Indian fans.

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## Industrial units fined Rs 940,000 for smog

LAHORE : The district administration Lahore imposed a total of Rs 940,000 fine on various factories over release of dangerous chemical substances, causing environmental pollution and posing threat to living beings. In an operation, conducted in different areas of the city, the inspection teams sealed seven industrial units out of which five in tehsil Shalimar and one each in tehsil City and Cantt for causing smog and environmental pollution. Furthermore, seven case were got registered while two accused were also got arrested over violation of the smog standard operating procedures (SOPs). A spokesperson for the department told the media on Sunday that the administration was taking action against the environment laws violators. He added that six brick-kiln owners were got arrested and a kiln was sealed besides imposing Rs 0.6 million fine during the current month. He said that Deputy Commissioner Lahore Rafia Haider took notice of public complaints, constituted teams and directed them to visit industrial areas and identify factories causing environmental pollution, adding that strict action was also initiated against those involved in crops and trash burning to restrict increasing threat of smog. An amount of 15,000 per acre fine would be collected from those who burn crop or trash, he warned. He urged factory-owners to ensure proper disposal of waste of their units; otherwise, they would face stern action as per laws.—APP

## LESCO recovers rs 130.67m from 4,808 defaulters

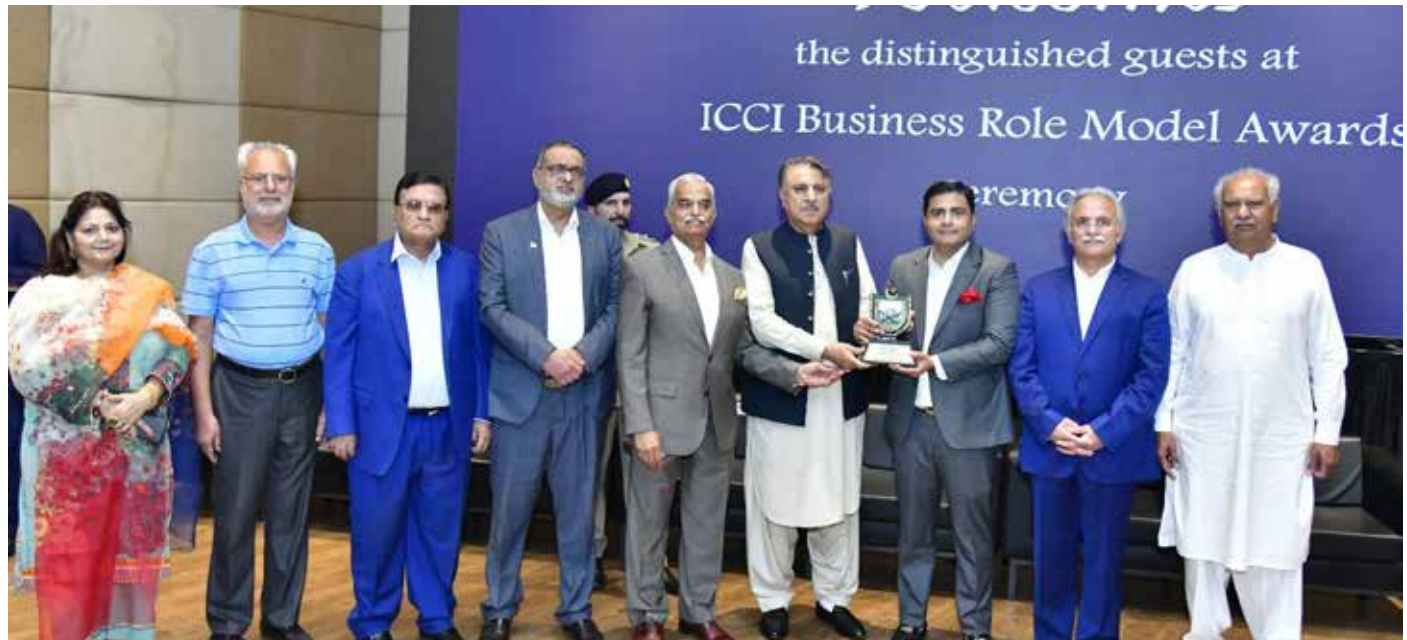
LAHORE : The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has recovered a total of Rs 130.67 million from 4,808 chronic defaulters in all its circles during the last five days of its recovery campaign, in collaboration with Tehsildars (Recovery). A LESCO spokesman told the media on Sunday that for the recovery campaign started on September 13, the Lahore Division's Commissioner had assigned additional charge of Tehsildar Recovery (from LESCO defaulters) to relevant Tehsildars, while LESCO Chief Executive Officer Engineer Shahid Haider has also designated four senior officers to assist them in the dues recovery from defaulters. He said that during the five days of recovery campaign, LESCO recovered a total of Rs 130.67 million from 4,808 chronic defaulters in all its circles. He elaborated Chief Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun recovered outstanding dues of Rs 16.67 million from 493 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs 19.38 million from 714 defaulters in Eastern Circle respectively. Similarly, LESCO Manager (Material Disposal) Engineer Anwar Watto along with Tehsildar Model Town Rana Ahsan and Tehsildar Cantt Sajjad Qureshi recovered Rs 21.54 million from 520 defaulters in Central Circle and Rs 14.38 million from 430 defaulters in South Circle, while Manager (Technical) Engineer Muhammad Farooq with the assistance of Tehsildar Nankana Sahib Muhammad Iqbal Rasheed and Tehsildar Sheikhpura Muhammad Aslam Gujjar recovered Rs 5.26 million from 305 defaulters in Nankana Circle.—APP

# Governor urges business community to invest in Balochistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) organized a business role model award ceremony to confer awards on the business leaders of the markets in recognition of their valuable services to the traders. Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar was the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar said that Balochistan is the gateway to Asia from where trade can be done with many countries. He said that due to CPEC, the importance of Balochistan has increased a lot. He invited the business community to do business and invest in Balochistan because there is great potential for them in Balochistan. He said that Balochistan is a poor province and the business community can play an important role in its development by doing business and investing in the province. He said that the resources of Balochistan are ready to be shared with everyone. He stressed that everyone should play a role to steer the country out of the current crisis. He lauded ICCI for organizing the business role model award as it will encourage the business community. At the end of the event, he distributed awards to the business leaders of the markets. President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is currently passing through a critical period in history and only the business community can get the country out of the current economic crisis, but the government's support in this regard is very important. He said that the



business community plays a key role in the development of the economy by doing business and investment and their only demand is to give them their rights. He assured that the business community will provide all possible support to achieve the objectives of the Special Investment Facilitation Council so that domestic and foreign investment in Pakistan can be better promoted. He invited all the political parties to ICCI TO present their economic manifesto. He appealed to the Prime Minister and the Army Chief to establish peace in Balochistan so that the province could move towards development and prosperity. He said that Gwadar can change the destiny of Pakistan but development work in it is slow and needs to be accelerated. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Lead-

er ICCI, said that the current conditions are not favorable for business, due to which the business community is also suffering. He said that the interest rate of the SBP is 22% and the prices of petroleum products have reached the highest level in history due to which the business community as well as the people are facing great problems. He said that it is the era of economic wars and those countries are doing better with strong economies. He stressed that stakeholders should come together and prepare a comprehensive agenda to get Pakistan out of the current difficulties. Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the enemy of Pakistan is conspiring against Pakistan in Balochistan and we all have to defeat it together. He

said that Balochistan can change the destiny of not only Pakistan but the whole region because the development of Balochistan will develop the whole region. He said that the blue economy of Balochistan can start a new era of development in Pakistan. He said that development and prosperity are being achieved in the world by creating a regional trade block and opening the borders for trade, so now it is time that Pakistan should also try to develop regional trade by opening its borders with the neighboring countries. Former President ICCI Muhammad Ijaz Abbasi also addressed the event and emphasized the need for a peaceful environment for business and investment in Balochistan. Those who received award included Akhlaq Abbasi, Malik Naeem Akhtar Awan, Mu-

hammad Yusuf Rajput, Abdul Ghaffar Chaudhry, Akhtar Hussain Abbasi, Zaheeruddin Babar Chaudhry, Saqib Abbasi, Abdul Rahman Siddiqui, Raja Muhammad Yasin, Farrukh Khan, Azhar Amin, Rana Zafar Iqbal, Basharatullah Kakakhil, Zahid Mehmood Qureshi, Zarif Khan, Rohail Anwar Butt, Abbas Hashmi, Altaf Ahmad Butt, Chaudhry Ashraf Farzand, Haji Zafar Iqbal, Jameel Ahmad Qureshi, Ismail Khan, Chaudhry Muhammad Irfan, Furqan Murtaza, Ms. Nasira Ali, Ms. Shama Siddiqui, Ms. Nausheen Arshad, Naeem Iqbal, Zubair Malik, Atiq Janjua, Rana Muhammad Akram, Rana Muhammad Altaf Hussain, Haider Cheema, Rana Asif Aziz, Faisal Nazir, Chaman Lal, Waleed Khalid, Usman Khan, Muhammad Wasim Abbasi and Muhammad Nawaz Basra.

## PAF concludes successful participation in bright star-2023

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The Pakistan Air Force contingent concluded its successful participation in the multinational tri-services air exercise, Bright Star 2023, held at Mohammed Naguib Military Base in Egypt. This two-week-long exercise brought together a total of 30 countries, including prominent participants such as Pakistan, United States, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Greece and Qatar. The exercise showcased the exemplary performance of PAF's contingent and its state-of-the-art JF-17 Thunder fighter jets. This participation not only highlighted PAF's commitment to regional and international cooperation but also underscored its capabilities and prowess to operate in diverse and challenging environments. Since its inception in 1977 as a bilateral training event between the United States and Egypt, the Bright Star Exercise has grown into a remarkable multinational initiative, promoting combined force interoperability and shared learning among participating nations to counter regional hybrid threats. Pakistan Air Force, with its commitment to regional stability and international cooperation, actively immersed in this exercise, emphasizing the profound strategic significance of this collaborative endeavor.

## Mepco recovers Rs 405 m from defaulters

MULTAN : Multan Electric Power Company (Mepco) claimed to recover Rs 405 million from over 14000 defaulters. In a significant development, a relentless crackdown on electricity bill defaulters, with a special focus on tubewell consumers, is heading forward smoothly. According to official sources, a substantial sum of Rs 405 million has been successfully collected from more than 14 thousand defaulters, marking a crucial step towards rectifying non-payment of dues and arrears in the region. This comprehensive operation involved the disconnection of 417 agricultural tube wells, underscoring the gravity of the issue. Not limited to agricultural users, it also encompassed industrial, commercial, and domestic consumer connections that had failed to meet their financial obligations.—APP

## Mushaal raises alarm on IIOJK human rights

Mushaal said the Indian government was pro-longing the illegal detentions of Kashmiri political prisoners who have been put behind bars for peacefully struggling for the political resolution of the Kashmir dispute as guaranteed by the United Nations Security Council resolutions

ISLAMABAD : Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Sunday expressed serious concern over the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir territory. Talking to a private news channel, she urged the United Nations to play an active role in their release and asked India to stop systematic human rights violations in IIOJK. She said changing the demography of the territory by granting voting rights to Indian citizens in the internationally recognized disputed territory is a big violation of international law. She said it is highly unfortunate that the Modi regime has closed doors of all peaceful means to resolve the long-pending Kashmir dispute by resorting to the worst kind of extremism and fascism and converting the occupied territory into a military garrison. She added it is the responsibility of the UN and all relevant Human rights organizations to settle the Kashmir dispute by implementing its relevant resolutions to protect the lives of the people of IIOJK. Mushaal said the Indian government was pro-longing the illegal detentions of Kashmiri political prisoners who have been put behind bars for peacefully struggling for the political resolution of the Kashmir dispute as guaranteed by the United Nations Security Council resolutions. The worsening situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir needs urgent international attention and the world community must act immediately to protect Kashmiris from Modi's onslaught. Kashmiri families, whose loved ones are in Indian jails, cannot think of any occasion of joy and happiness because they are worried about the health of their loved ones in filthy and congested Indian jails, she added. Replying to a question, she said Indian Army had a long history of gross human rights violations and fake encounters in the territory.—DNA

## Provincial Minister emphasizes Islamic teachings' role

RAWALPINDI : Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Dr. Jamal Nasir has said that Muslims can achieve success in our worldly and hereafter lives only by following the teachings of Islam. He said that the life of the Prophet (SAW) is the only model and the path to success for every Muslim and without adopting this path neither we can progress in this world nor we can be successful in life hereafter. He said this while addressing a Sirat-ul-Nabi conference in Khayaban Sir Syed Rawalpindi. Provincial Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir said that there are a large number of Muslims all over the world and lands rich in natural resources are available to them, but despite this, we Muslims are suffering from difficulties and hardship.—DNA

## CM aide visits Khyber Eye Foundation

PESHAWAR : Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Health Dr Riaz Anwar Sunday visited Khyber Eye Foundation and expressed satisfaction with the healthcare initiatives. Chairman Muhammad Adnan Jalil and esteemed board directors and administrators, welcomed Dr Riaz Anwar and all accompanying guests. During the visit, all guests were given a tour of the Khyber Eye Foundation and received a detailed presentation about the hospital's operations. Chairman Muhammad Adnan Jalil briefly expressed his thoughts, emphasizing the foundation's importance as a charitable institution and its provision of free healthcare services to the underprivileged and needy individuals in the region. Dr Riaz Anwar, the Special Assistant Health, expressed his satisfaction with the hospital's performance, noting that he had heard numerous commendations about the facility from his acquaintances. He stated, "I am now convinced that Khyber Eye Foundation is a reputable brand, and it serves as a beacon of hope for the less fortunate." He further added, "This hospital is a testament to your hard work and dedication, and I assure you that I am always available to contribute to the progress of this institution. Whenever there is a challenge, I will be here to address it." At the end of the visit, Dr Riaz Anwar was honored with a shield as a token of appreciation. Additionally, former Chairman Muhammad Ghayur Sethi, who played a significant role in the foundation's growth, received a shield for his relentless efforts. Syed Naseer Jamal Shah was also entrusted with the responsibility of leading enterprise resources planning and automating the systems at Khyber Eye Foundation.



ISLAMABAD: Whole sale traders are busy in arrangements of bidding of sweet melons at Fruit and Vegetables Market at Sector II-11 in Federal Capital.—ONLINE

## US Deputy Chief promotes climate action in Karachi

U.S. Deputy Chief explored opportunities to enrich development, trade, and commercial ties, and showcased the strength of our people-to-people relationships, the cornerstone of our bilateral relationship

NAZIR SAYAL

KARACHI : U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer's visit to Karachi September 13-16 underscored the strong partnership between the United States and the people of Sindh. He explored opportunities to enrich development, trade, and commercial ties, and showcased the strength of our people-to-people relationships, the cornerstone of our bilateral relationship. As co-host of the second Green Shipping roundtable,

Mr. Schofer underscored the crucial role of sustainable shipping practices in mitigating the impact of climate change. The Green Shipping roundtable stakeholders discussed opportunities to reduce carbon emissions in the port, shipping, and logistics sectors in Pakistan. Port authorities, industry, and other key actors in the ports and shipping value chain discussed how to promote environmentally friendly and sustainable shipping practices and ways to support the Green Shipping

Challenge at COP28. Mr. Schofer stated, "Through events like the one today, we are encouraging bilateral dialogue on climate action and exploring innovative solutions to strengthen Pakistan's climate resilience." He praised the attendees' commitment and engagement to support a sector-wide transition to more sustainable shipping practices. The visit included a stop at Lincoln Corner Karachi, where Mr. Schofer met with students, entrepreneurs, and volun-

teers, applauding their dedication and creativity. He highlighted the significance of youth-led innovation in driving progress and fostering strong U.S.-Pakistan relations. The Deputy Chief of Mission also underscored the importance of religious tolerance during a meeting with religious minority leaders, reaffirming the United States' unwavering support for the rights of Pakistani religious minorities. The visit wrapped up with a visit to Port Qasim. Productive meetings with Port Qasim Au-

thority Chairman Syed Hasan Nasir Shah, and Cargill and Engro Corporation leadership focused on green shipping, port operations, energy solutions, and other innovative approaches aimed at enhancing Pakistan's trade competitiveness and increasing ways to connect with Pakistan's largest export market – the United States. The U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework was highlighted as a shared commitment to sustainability and climate resilience.

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## 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

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Marriott.....051- 2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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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



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



## Hospitals

CMH.....5611111  
MH.....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.....5770886  
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# We have buildings without Professors, says VC PIDE

RASTA Conference, by fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange, has opened avenues for innovative and proactive thinking

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), through its Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program, successfully concluded its 3rd RASTA conference at the Gun & Country Club in Islamabad. The conference encompassed a wide array of research themes, including Urban Development and Industry, Law and Judiciary, Human Capital and Opportunities, Sludge and Dead Capital, Education and Technology, and Public Finance Management and Financial Inclusion. These sessions provided an extensive and multifaceted examination of their respective topics, thereby contributing significantly to a deeper comprehension of the pertinent issues. Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and Chairman of the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC), stated, "We have only buildings without Professors. We cannot call them Universities that don't have Professors." This thought-provoking observation highlights the need for a robust educational infrastructure, including qualified faculty, to develop true centres of higher learning. Furthermore, Dr. Haque pointed out that universities need to focus on conducting quality research that can contribute to the progress of the country. "Universities are not conducting quality research, which may benefit the country," he noted, underlining the role of academic institutions in shaping the nation's future. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Haque stressed the significance of innovative and creative thinking as a cornerstone of national prosperity. He stated, "Innovative and creative thinking is crucial for prosperity," emphasizing that such thinking is essential for addressing the challenges of the modern world and driving economic development. The PIDE-RASTA Conference, by fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange, has opened avenues for innovative and proactive thinking. Dr. Haque concluded by saying that the PIDE-RASTA Conference serves as a platform for scholars, experts, and stakeholders to collaborate, share insights, and shape a brighter future for Pakistan through education and



innovative thinking. He emphasized that RASTA represents an evolving process. He stressed the importance of conducting local research and finding tailored solutions to local issues while acknowledging the value of global research that aligns with local needs and requirements. Dr. Haque emphasized the need to focus on progress and move forward with the ideas presented to policymakers, advocating for a distinctive local flavour in research. He praised RASTA's inclusivity, highlighting how it has exposed policymakers to new perspectives and emphasized the critical nature of inclusive research. The 3rd RASTA Conference continued its intellectual journey on its second day, featuring a compelling lineup of presentations that explored various facets of Pakistan's economic and legal landscape. Esteemed speakers from academia and research circles engaged in thought-provoking discussions on pressing issues.

In the first session, Saad S. Khan examined the "Critical Appraisal of Legal Institutional Structure of Revenue Courts in Pakistan: Minimizing Sludge in Agricultural Property Cases," shedding light on the complexities within the legal system.

Moazzam Ali presented a case study titled "Alternate Use of Public Assets: A Case Study of Allama Iqbal Open University," exploring efficient public resource utilization. Anwar Muhammad Aslam addressed "Unlocking Pakistan Railways Dead Capital," discussing strategies to optimize the potential of Pakistan's railway infrastructure. Alvina Sabah Idress analyzed "Factors Associated with School Dropout in Pakistan: An Assessment Using Survival Analysis," offering valuable insights into the education sector. Ghazanfar Iqbal advocated for a solution to K-12 education problems with his presentation on the "Framework for Mainstreaming Career Education." Verda Salman highlighted "Technology Adoption in Islamabad Police," showcasing innovative approaches in law enforcement. Abdullah Anjum, Chief of Research at PIDE, contributed to the discussion on self-sufficiency in edible oil production with his comprehensive report titled "Investigation of a Value Chain of Edible Oil to Identify Possible Policy Interventions to Achieve Self-sufficiency." In the second half, Muhammad Ahmad Barula explored "Taming the Leviathan towards Public Sector Resources Efficiency: Fis-

cal Federalism or Fiscal Decentralization in Pakistan," addressing governance and resource allocation. Ameen Shakeel engaged in a discourse on the "Withholding of the Taxation System: Beneficial or Not?" examining the implications of the taxation system. Fareena Armugan delved into "Firm's Financial Inclusion and Export Performance: Evidence from Manufacturing Sector Firms in Pakistan," shedding light on economic development strategies.

RASTA, Pakistan's premier economics and public policy research grants program, remains at the forefront of shaping the nation's policy discourse. With an unwavering commitment to fostering an extensive knowledge network, RASTA has emerged as a pivotal force in producing high-quality, evidence-based policy research. This dynamic initiative boasts participation from over 60 universities, collaboration with more than 10 international institutes, and involves a talented cadre of over 2,300 researchers and academicians. RASTA's steadfast dedication to knowledge-driven solutions is propelling Pakistan towards a brighter and more prosperous future, underpinned by data-driven policy decisions.

## KMBL and HBL Konnect Sign Agreement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited and HBL Konnect have signed an agreement, enabling payments for Khushhali Bank customers through HBL Konnect branchless banking and agents network across Pakistan. The agreement marks a significant step taken by KMBL to incorporate partners from the digital payments industry to transform its infrastructure, thereby facilitating customers to make their Khushhali Bank payments conveniently throughout the country. KMBL, a longstanding banking name with a wide customer base predominantly in rural area, has also previously onboarded Jazz-Cash, EasyPaisa, OmniPay along with offering inter-net and mobile banking in order to digitize its operations and transition into swift and responsible digital banking methods.—APP

## FPCCI for maintaining status quo in petroleum prices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh Saturday urged the government to keep the petroleum prices unchanged — given the incrementally consecutive gains of the Pak rupee against dollar for the last eight inter bank sessions. The trend was visible for all to see that rupee value would further appreciate in the coming days due to crackdown on speculative trading by commercial banks and in open and grey markets, he added.

# DRF celebrates 'seven years of resilient voices in media'

ISLAMABAD: Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) held a conference titled 'Celebrating Resilient Voices in the Media' at a local hotel here, the other day. According to a press release received, the conference was marked as a celebratory event of DRF's work and achievements with women journalists in the country, particularly through its Network of Women Journalists for Digital Rights (NWJDR). The conference brought together journalists, civil society, government representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss the state of media and the challenges that women journalists face in the country and celebrate their achievements despite the difficult circumstances they face working in the field. The conference had an exciting line-up of three panels to delve into DRF's engagement with the journalist community in Pakistan and showcased an art exhibition of hand-drawn illustrations from DRF's magazine, Digital 50.50. Talking to the APP scribe, Programme Manager Research at the DRF Zainab Durrani said, "Today's topic of the event is directly related to our day-to-day works and projects which we are doing for and along with the journalists." Zainab Durrani while giving the details of the conference said that there were three panels of discussion to highlight the work and performances of the DRF to date. She said they had so far published 120 articles with illustration/artwork in their magazine 'Digital 50.50' which defines the idea behind their stories. The contributor Umaira Khalida was part of the first panel of discussion while other amazing journalists Fouzia Yazdani and Unsia Benazir Shah moderated the second panel of discussion. Zainab Durrani while moderating the last panel highlighted the challenges faced by journalists in online spaces and talked about its remedies. "There is also an online helpline to resolve their issues and complaints," she added. At last, the Executive Director (ED) Nightat Dad also joined the event online and thanked the participants for attending the conference. —APP

# POL rates hike PIAF asks govt to withdraw decision

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has asked the government to withdraw the anti-business decision of huge raise in oil products prices, warning the authorities that inflation above six percent could hurt the economic growth and only a prudent approach could keep it in under the control. PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that Rs26 per litre increase in petrol prices would put an additional burden on the industries and general public at a time when they are already hard-pressed with up to Rs7.5 per unit power tariff hike amid unprecedented inflation. He said the trade and industry would start a country-wide protest in case the government did not withdraw the hikes in petroleum and power

rates. The caretaker government on Friday night pushed through another hike in the prices of petrol by Rs26.02 per litre and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs17.34 per litre. The increase brings the price of petrol to Rs331.38 per litre while HSD is Rs329.18 per litre, the Ministry of Finance said in a post on X (formerly Twitter) after midnight. Most of the transport sector runs on HSD. Its price is considered highly inflationary as it is mostly used in heavy transport vehicles, trains and agricultural engines like trucks, buses, tractors, tube wells and threshers, and particularly adds to the prices of vegetables and other eatables. Petrol, on the other hand, is mostly used in private transport, small vehicles, rickshaws and two-wheelers and has a direct bearing on the budget of middle- and lower-middle class. The increase in prices of petroleum products came on the

heels of over 27.4 per cent increase in the August rate of inflation that would also have a lag effect on general prices in the country over the coming days and weeks. At present GST is zero on all petroleum products, but the government is charging Rs60 per litre petroleum development levy (PDL) on petrol and Rs50 each on HSD and high octane blending component and 95RON petrol. The government is also charging about Rs18 to Rs22 per litre customs duty on petrol and HSD. Petrol and HSD are the major revenue spinners with their monthly sales of about 700,000-800,000 tonnes per month compared to just 10,000 tonnes of monthly demand for kerosene. Faheem Saigol said the industrial and general consumers will be feeling the pinch of high transportation costs as petrol and diesel prices have swelled very high. He strongly condemned the massive hike in petroleum products saying it would fuel the inflationary pressures and push up the cost of doing business — which is already the highest in the region. He questioned how the existing export orders can be met profitably after the double blow of electricity and petroleum price hikes.

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## Court Notice

In the Court of Mohsin Ali  
Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Nasar Hussain .  
Versus Province of Punjab etc.  
Notice to:

Province of Punjab through District Collector Gujrat, Tehsildar Halqa Jora Jalalpur, Tehsildar Halqa Harbaspur Gujrat, Patwari Halqa Jorra Jalalpur, Patwari Halqa Harbaspur Gujrat, Dilawar Hussain, Rasab Hussain, Asif Hussain S/o. Pola Khan, Mukhtar Begum, Shehnaz Begum, Shamsad Begum D/o. Pola Khan R/o. Jorra Jalalpur Tehsil & District Gujrat, Presently Residing House#95 Charlay Old Revenue UK, Qaiser Mehmood Lal Khan R/o. Jora Jalalpur Tehsil & District Gujrat, Presently Residing Italy, Tanezeela Shaheen W/o. Nazim Masood D/o. Lal Hussain R/o. Jora Jalalpur Tehsil & Dist Gujrat, Presently Residing UK, Ameena Kousar W/o. Haji Munawar Hussain D/o. Lal Khan R/o. Jora Jalalpur Tehsil & District Gujrat.

Suit for Declaration with consequential relief Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 07-10-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Naveed Abbas Mangat Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Muhammad Akram Malik. Versus Parvez Akhtar etc.  
Notice to:  
Muhammad Haneef S/o. Muhammad Latif cast Jutt R/o. Loray Tehsil & District Gujrat.

Suit for Partition of Land Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 27-09-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Mohsin Ali Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Naseem Akhtar.  
Versus Province of Punjab etc. Notice to:  
Muhammad Khaleel S/o. Zafar Iqbal R/o. Chechian PO Baro Tehsil & District Gujrat.

Suit for Declaration with consequential relief Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 21-09-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## Court Notice

In the Court of Medum Saira Batool Guardian Judge Tehsil Kharian District Gujrat Title: Sonia Shehzadi. Versus Public at Large etc. Notice to:  
Fiaz Ahmad S/o. Bota Cast Rehmani R/o. Mohalla Pisikay/Acharkay Shadiwal Tehsil & District Gujrat.

Suit for Application U/S 7 Guardian and wards Act Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 21-09-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

# Speakers call for following Quaid-e-Azam Principles

Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain said that Quaid-e-Azam wanted an enhanced role for the private sector in Pakistan to make it a strong economy of the region and stressed that the government should take measures for ease of doing business in the country

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan organized an event titled "Quaid-e-Azam ka Tasawar-e-Pakistan". Senator Raja Zafar-ul-Haq and Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain, members of Board of Governors of Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan, Salman Farooq, Prof. Naeem Qasim, Engr. Arif Sheikh & Gazala Shaheen Wayn Members of the General Council and many other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Raja Zafar ul Haq said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had envisioned a Pakistan where people of all religions would enjoy welfare of life, rule of law, freedom of expression, and a strong economy. However, these things are missing in Pakistan these days. He stressed that all should follow the principles of Quaid-e-Azam in letter and spirit to steer the country out of the current economic crisis.



Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain said that Quaid-e-Azam wanted an enhanced role for the private sector in Pakistan to make it a strong economy of the region and stressed that the government should take measures for ease of doing business in the country. He said that Quaid-e-Azam believed in rule of law and

protection of human rights of all communities in Pakistan, which should be ensured in the country. He stressed that the government should open borders to promote trade with neighboring countries that would bring progress and prosperity to the region. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber

of Commerce and Industry said that Quaid-e-Azam had stressed for concentrating on the well-being of the people to make Pakistan a happy and prosperous country, but the current situation was against his vision as the people are suffering from record high inflation and high cost of living. He stressed that all political parties

should sit together to find a way-forward for the economy to put it on the path of sustainable development. He stressed that the government should focus on promoting ease of doing business to make Pakistan a progressive and prosperous economy. Zafar Bakhtawari, member, General Council of Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan said that Quaid-e-Azam had envisioned a united Pakistan people of all religions would live with harmony, but unfortunately, the enemies of Pakistan have created polarization and hybrid war in Pakistan creating more divisions in society. He stressed that all stakeholders should play a role to promote political and economic stability in Pakistan to translate the vision of Quaid-e-Azam into reality.

Naheed Imran Gill Secretary General, Saifullah Ch. Additional Secretary, Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan, Ch. Akram Director Punjab Group of Colleges, Engr. Arif Sheikh, Abdullah Gul S/o General (Retd) Hamid Gul and others also spoke on the occasion and stressed for making Pakistan a welfare state with rule of law and economic stability.

## PIP eyes collaborations at Gastech 2023

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Shehryar Omar, Chief Executive Officer of Petroleum Institute of Pakistan (PIP) said that PIP is working to promote the development of the Oil & Gas sector in Pakistan through advocacy, capacity building, research, publications, conferences and seminars, and international engagement. Mr Omar stated this at an exclusive Leadership Roundtable session themed, 'Global Policy: How Governments Are Shaping the Future of Gas and LNG' here at the four-day Gastech 2023, recently concluded in Singapore. Gastech is an annual event

and is the largest global exhibition and conference for Natural Gas, LNG, Hydrogen, climate technologies, and low-carbon solutions. In his speech, Mr Omar said, "That global leaders need to develop policy and funding frameworks that allow developing countries to transition towards cleaner energy usage as different countries are at different starting points in this transition process and the same rules and policies cannot be applied to every country. Developing countries in particular face huge challenges in providing affordable and reliable energy to their citizens, and they need a great deal of help in ensuring energy reliability while transitioning

to a net-zero destination." While acknowledging the efforts of the host Mr Omar said that the Petroleum Institute of Pakistan (PIP), as a representative body of the entire Oil & Gas industry in Pakistan was proud to have been a part of Gastech 2023, and the opportunity to talk about Pakistan's challenges and, more importantly, opportunities for investment. On the sidelines of the Gastech 2023, CEO PIP met some of Singapore's top institutions including the Nanyang Technological Institute (NTU) and Energy Studies Institute at the National University of Singapore. During these meetings, the entities agreed to move ahead for extended

research collaborations and knowledge exchange. The institutes identified common research areas and ways to facilitate academic exchange and organize joint workshops and seminars, and also discussed sharing of best practices related to carbon emissions reduction strategies. PIP was also offered a membership of NTU for access to their workshops, webinars, and research. While the ESI offered to assist PIP in the finalization and formulation of Pakistan's Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) policy which is a PIP initiative as part of the continuing thought leadership efforts by PIP to help and support the Ministry of Energy.

## Minister vows to end polio this year

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr Naadeem Jan has claimed that his ministry is providing and utilizing all available resources to eradicate polio permanently till the end of the year 2023. "Polio-free Pakistan" is a national goal which is now close to our mission of ending polio", he said while talking to a Private news channel on Saturday. Pakistan is among a few countries which still faces the polio problem and several cases have also been reported this year. The caretaker government is making all out efforts to root out the polio virus from the country and these endeavors will produce positive results, he assured and urged the citizens to cooperate with polio teams for the complete eradication of the crippling disease from the country. "The Health Ministry has been actively involved in the Polio Programme in the past few months and we will ensure that the focus on polio remains unwavering. We are regularly holding awareness drives and religious workshops in which we are collectively working with religious scholars to build community trust and convey vaccine safety and efficacy in communities around Pakistan," he added. The minister also called upon the federal, provincial and district administrations to address the challenges of persistently missed children and also encourage the people by raising awareness about the gravity of the situation.—DNA

## ADC Islamabad holds review meeting

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) East Usman Ashraf chaired a review meeting on anti-dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and fever prevention on Saturday. The meeting was also attended by Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates and other stakeholders, an ICT Spokesman said. ADC Ashraf emphasized the importance of preventive measures against dengue fever, stating that it is not a dangerous disease but can be fatal if not treated promptly. He directed officials to improve sanitation arrangements and prevent water accumulation in all areas of the city, including workshops and tire shops. He also called for an awareness campaign to educate the public about dengue fever and its symptoms. The meeting discussed a range of measures to control the spread of dengue fever in Islamabad, including; increased surveillance and monitoring of dengue hotspots, regular vector control activities, such as fogging and larviciding; public awareness campaigns to educate people about dengue fever and its prevention, improved sanitation and waste management. The ADC reassured the public that all possible resources would be used to control the deadly virus in Islamabad, with a special focus on rural areas. The Islamabad administration is taking proactive steps to prevent the spread of dengue fever. The review meeting and the measures discussed are a testament to the administration's commitment to protecting the health and well-being of its citizens.

## Chinese Consulate donates stationary, grants to orphan students



## DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a humble show of philanthropy, the Chinese Consulate Karachi has kickstarted 1st package of donations of educational stuff as well as a special grant to 1202 orphan students of Gwadar district in a ceremony held

at Gwadar Business Center. The Consulate earmarked RMB360,000 for the donation drive. The initial package was disbursed to 150 students, whereas the remaining will be distributed to the students at their respective schools. A ceremony of stationary and grant distribution for the deserving

students of Gwadar has been organized by the Consulate General of China in Karachi in collaboration with Chinese Overseas Port Holding Company, CCCC Pakistan Investment Company Ltd, GPA and GDA, and local.

## Hike in petroleum prices condemned

ISLAMABAD: Political parties have condemned a massive increase in petroleum products and demanded its immediate withdrawal. According to a notification issued by the Finance Division, the price of petrol has been increased by 26.02 rupees to 331.38 rupees per liter and that of High Speed Diesel by 17.34 rupees to 329.18 rupees per liter. Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf Saturday condemned the latest hike in petrol and diesel process and said the caretaker govt has adopted anti-masses policies. A PTI statement said the caretakers have adopted the policies of the PDM government. Jamaat e Islami Ameer Siraj ul Haq said his party will not remain silent after the increase in the prices.—APP

## Court Notice

In the Court of Mohsin Ali Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Mohabat Ali. Versus Nouman Mehmood etc.  
Notice to:  
Ahsan Ullah, S/o. Mukhtar Ahmad Cast Gujrat R/o. Mararian Khaspur Tehsil Kharian District Jhelum.

Suit for Declaration with consequential relief Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 30-09-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## Security personnel briefed for effective duty

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the security personnel deputed at Prime Minister House were briefed to perform effective duties and be ready to deal with any untoward incident in a timely manner, a police public relations officer said. He said that, SP security/Prime Minister House briefed the Islamabad capital police personnel who were deputed on Prime Minister House security. The security personnel were briefed and directed to be ready to deal with any untoward incident in a timely manner. Officials should remain alert during duty and keep a close watch on suspicious vehicles and individuals, he added. The officials performing squad duty were directed to remain alert during the movement and keep a close watch on suspicious people. Orders were also issued to strictly enforce discipline.

## Search & combing operation conducted at Sangjani, Golra

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a search and combing operation at Golra and Sangjani police stations jurisdiction, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the search and combing operations are being conducted in different areas of the city, to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad citizens. Following these directives, a search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Sangjani and Golra police stations by CTD and local police teams. During the search and combing operation 05 motorcycles and 16 suspicious persons were shifted to the police station for verification purpose.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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## Biden-Zelenskiy Talks: Maintain strong support for Ukraine

This week's White House visit by Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, comes at a critical juncture in the devastating 19-month war that has followed Russia's illegal, full-scale invasion. The recent, unsatisfactory Nato, Brics and G20 summits have heightened the perception that the international community may be nearing a fateful tipping point in the developing global contest between the western democracies and aggressive authoritarian powers, principally China and Russia. When Zelenskiy sits down with President Joe Biden on Thursday, there will be no disguising that Ukrainian progress on the battlefield this summer has been disappointing. High expectations in western political and military circles about Kyiv's counter-offensive now appear over-cooked. After a late start, advances have been painfully slow and costly in terms of lives lost. Some territory has been regained, through the heroic efforts of Ukrainian ground troops, but there is no definitive breakthrough as yet. A winter stalemate looms. For his part, Biden may warn Zelenskiy that while he remains committed to helping Kyiv free its territory from Russian occupation, his administration faces an uphill task in maintaining current, high levels of US military aid. Republicans in Congress critical of Biden's policy, and eyeing next year's elections, have seized on a CNN poll indicating that 55% of Americans oppose more funding for Ukraine on top of the \$43bn in US security assistance already provided. The same poll found that 51% of Americans believe the US has already done enough, while 48% say it should do more. On this, as on so many other issues, public opinion is split down the middle. But the trend is not in Ukraine's favour. That was evident during the Republican presidential TV debate, when several candidates echoed Donald Trump in questioning continued US support. Biden is proposing a new \$24bn package of military aid. This must be approved if Ukraine is to maintain forward momentum. Kyiv has also suffered recent disappointments on the political and diplomatic fronts. Zelenskiy's passionate plea to be given a firm timetable for Nato membership was ill-advisedly rebuffed at the alliance's July summit. Shamefully, this month's G20 summit, under pressure from Moscow, failed to condemn Russian aggression or directly mention the war at all. Although Rishi Sunak and others pretended otherwise, this was a startling defeat for Ukraine and its partners. Ukrainian worries about potential backsliding extend to Britain and Europe, where the flow of advanced weapons to Kyiv seems to be slowing. It may be unfair to imply, as Boris Johnson did last week, that Sunak's government has taken its eye off the Ukraine ball, but the appointment of the ill-qualified Grant Shapps to replace Ben Wallace as defence secretary does not inspire confidence. In France, meanwhile, former president Nicolas Sarkozy caused dismay – but may have spoken for many – when he insisted Europe had to work with, not against, Russia and urged Ukraine to surrender territory and become neutral. On top of all this, Ukrainians and their western supporters have had to endure the sight of the insufferable Vladimir Putin, an indicted war criminal, courting China and the “global south” by video at the Brics summit and hosting a fellow mass murderer, North Korea's Kim Jong-un, for talks on illegal arms deals.



## Sunak's AI Summit: Beijing questions involvement

UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly's visit to Beijing on Aug 30, during which the top UK diplomat said isolating China would be a mistake, was widely seen as an effort by the Rishi Sunak government to repair ties with Beijing, and make preparation for a possible meeting between the two sides on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi. However, that positive momentum has proved to be short-lived, as there are anti-China forces within the political circle in London that are always ready to nip in the bud any improvement in relations with Beijing. It is probably no coincidence that almost immediately before the meeting between UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Chinese Premier Li Qiang in the Indian capital on Sept 10, a UK parliamentary researcher was arrested on suspicion of spying for China. The Chinese side has denied the accusation, telling the Sunak government the incident was “completely fabricated” and “nothing but malicious slander”. Yet the incident still provided the China hawks with an excuse to pressure Sunak to dedicate considerable time of his first in-person meeting as the UK leader with the Chinese side raising strong concerns over China's “potential interference” in the UK's democracy. The Sunak government's lack of autonomy in handling issues related to China is pathetically self-evident. It is always ready to subject its China policy to either domestic pressure or influence from Washington, even if it knows that is not in the UK's interest. Its flip-flopping over whether China will be invited to attend the Artificial Intelligence Safety Summit that the United Kingdom will host in early November, which is set to become an annual or biannual event for the drafting of rules and regulations for AI, shows how it has caught itself in a bind. Initially, the Sunak government suggested that only “like-minded” governments would be invited to attend the summit. But it now appears to have backed away from this position, saying that “AI knows no borders” and emphasizing the need for the UK to engage with China on issues including AI. But due to the objection of Washington, it says China's presence will be “in some capacity”, potentially on the sidelines of the conference. That a Chinese delegation will attend the event to await decisions made by “like-minded” countries is ludicrous considering its leading role in the sector. Yet given Washington's objection to China's meaningful involvement, the summit seems intended to enable the US-led club to impose their own rules. Instead of abusing the UK's identity as host to try and politicize technological issues and the global agenda, the Sunak government should show some backbone and invite China to take part as a full participant. If not, the summit will simply be a tool to help Washington enforce its “rules-based order” in the AI sector, rather than a meaningful means to address the risks posed by AI.

# Confusion and uncertainty shape debate about US Gulf policy

James Dorsey

The skewing has fuelled uncertainty about US policy as well as Gulf attitudes in an evolving multi-polar world and fuelled misconceptions and misunderstandings. The confusion is all the more disconcerting given that the fundamentals of US Gulf relations are beyond doubt. The United States retains a strategic interest in the region, even if its attention has pivoted to Asia. Moreover, neither China nor Russia is capable or willing to replace the US as the Gulf's security guarantor. “None of the Gulf states believe China can replace the United States as the Gulf's security protector,” said Gulf International Forum Executive Director Dania Thafer

Debates about the US commitment to Gulf security are skewed by confusion, miscommunication, and contradictory policies. The skewing has fuelled uncertainty about US policy as well as Gulf attitudes in an evolving multi-polar world and fuelled misconceptions and misunderstandings. The confusion is all the more disconcerting given that the fundamentals of US Gulf relations are beyond doubt. The United States retains a strategic interest in the region, even if its attention has pivoted to Asia. Moreover, neither China nor Russia is capable or willing to replace the US as the Gulf's security guarantor. “None of the Gulf states believe China can replace the United States as the Gulf's security protector,” said Gulf International Forum Executive Director Dania Thafer. The recent US military build-up in the Gulf to deter Iran with thousands of Marines backed by F-35 fighter jets and an aircraft carrier helped reassure Gulf states in the short term. So has the possibility of the US putting armed personnel on commercial ships traveling through the Strait of Hormuz. The build-up followed the United Arab Emirates' withdrawal from a US-led, 34-nation maritime coalition in May because the US had not taken decisive action against Iranian attacks on Gulf shipping, including a vessel traveling from Dubai to the Emirati port of Fujairah. Even so, the United States has allowed confusion and uncertainty to persist. In addition, the US as well as the Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, appear to pursue contradictory goals. “The US...did not formulate a very clear approach to how the US wants to work with the GCC as a whole” instead of cooperating with individual Gulf states, said analyst Nawaf bin Mubarak Al Thani, a former Qatari brigadier general and defense attaché in Qatar's Washington embassy. The Gulf Cooperation Council or GCC groups the six Gulf monarchies – Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman. “Unless the US becomes clear in its intentions about how it wants to proceed with its future defense relationship with the GCC as a whole, I think we will be going in circles,” Mr. Al Thani added. The United States has unsuccessfully tried to nudge the GCC to create an integrated air and missile defense system for several years. Former Pentagon official and Middle East scholar Bilal Y. Saab suggests that the US has moved in the case of Saudi Arabia to enhance confidence by helping the kingdom turn its military into a capable fighting force and developing a first-ever national security

vision but has failed to communicate that properly. “Our geographical command in the region, also known as the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), has been conducting a very quiet...historic transformation from being a war-time command to something of being a security integrator...to activate partnerships to attain collective security objectives,” Mr. Saab said. “This is not just about having confidence in the US role; it's also about the United States having confidence in the willingness and ability of those Gulf states to buy into this new mission of doing things together,” Mr. Saab said. “My biggest problem is that we're not communicating this stuff well... There's a lot of confusion in the Gulf about what we're trying to do,” he added. Analysts, including Mr. Saab, caution that the United States' recent willingness to consider concluding defense pacts with Gulf states like Saudi Arabia and the UAE is at odds with its revamped security approach to the region. Saudi Arabia has demanded a security pact alongside guaranteed access to the United States' most sophisticated weaponry as part of a deal under which the kingdom would establish diplomatic relations with Israel. The UAE initially made similar noises about a defense pact but has since seemingly opted to watch how the US talks with Saudi Arabia evolve. A defence pact “is incredibly inconsistent with what we are trying to do with CENTCOM... The moment you provide a defence pact to the Saudis or, frankly, any other country in the region, this is where you go back to the old days of complacency, of dependency on the United States as the guardian and as doing very little on your own to promote and advance your own military capabilities,” Mr. Saab said. His comments may be more applicable to Saudi Arabia than the UAE, which has long invested in its military capabilities beyond acquiring sophisticated weaponry. The roots of confusion about the US commitment to the Gulf lie in evolving understandings of the US-Gulf security relationship based on the 1980 Carter Doctrine, the United States' response to Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, and that year's Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. President Jimmy Carter laid out the doctrine in his 1989 State of the Union address. “An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such an

assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force,” Mr. Carter said. Robert E. Hunter, then a National Security Council official and the author of Mr. Carter's speech, insists that the doctrine was intended to deter external powers, notably the Soviet Union, rather than defend Gulf states against Iran or secure shipping in strategic regional waterways. “The often-misquoted Carter Doctrine...did not refer to the ‘free flow of commerce.’ I wrote almost all of the speech... it was designed to deter Soviet aggression against Iran, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which began a few weeks earlier,” Mr. Hunter said. The Reagan Doctrine, enunciated five years later by Mr. Carter's successor, Ronald Reagan, reinforced his predecessor's position. “The US must rebuild the credibility of its commitment to resist Soviet encroachment on US interests and those of its Allies and friends, and to support effectively those Third World states that are willing to resist Soviet pressures or oppose Soviet initiatives hostile to the United States, or are special targets of Soviet policy,” Mr. Reagan said. President George W. Bush's development of US doctrine after the 9/11 Al Qaeda attacks on New York and Washington proved more problematic for the Gulf states. Mr. Bush defended the United States' right to defend itself against countries that harbor or aid militant groups. His doctrine justified the US invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Gulf states saw the Iraq war as destabilizing and problematic, particularly with some on the American right calling for a US takeover of Saudi oil fields. Nonetheless, Gulf states had plenty of reasons to reinterpret the Carter Doctrine to include a US commitment to defend Gulf states against regional as well as external threats. “The Gulf states' reinterpretation resulted from a US lack of clarity and actions that seemingly confirmed their revised understanding. These included the United States leading a 42-nation military alliance that in 1991 drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait, establishing bases in the Gulf in the wake of the Iraqi invasion, US interventionism following the 9/11 assaults, and the ongoing protection of Gulf shipping against Iranian attacks. As a result, a lack of clarity and confusion in Washington and the Gulf's capitals continue to dominate the debate about the US-Gulf security relationship. Said Mr. Saab: “I would like to understand from the Gulf states whether what we are selling, they are actually buying. What we are selling is...a very real partnership. No longer guardianship, but actual partnership. I don't know where individual countries stand on these proposals... Until we get common ground on this, there is nothing in the Middle East that we do that is really going to work.”

## Bridging the literacy gap in Sahiwal

Shazia Iqbal



The tenure of Madam Shazia Iqbal as the Literacy Officer of Sahiwal is characterized by an unflinching commitment and an unwavering dedication to her mission to serve the nation and state. She has implemented a diverse array of initiatives designed to invigorate the literacy environment.

In the realm of education and literacy, there emerge certain individuals who shine as exemplars of unwavering dedication and inspiration. One such luminary figure is Shazia Iqbal District Education Officer (literacy) Sahiwal, the esteemed Literacy Officer of Sahiwal. Her ceaseless endeavors, resolute commitment and remarkable administrative acumen have played a pivotal role in the amelioration of the literacy panorama in Sahiwal. She stands as a formidable presence and has devoted her life to the noble cause of elevating literacy rates in the District Sahiwal. Madam Shazia Iqbal, as the Literacy Officer of the District, transcends the mere role of an officer; she embodies the spirit of a dynamic and fervent advocate for education. Her relentless exertions have wrought a substantial transformation upon the literacy panorama of the district. She is an individual of visionary stature who firmly believes in the catalytic potential of education. Her journey as a literacy officer was initiated by an impassioned commitment to combat the inescapable illiteracy endemic to District Sahiwal. Her steadfast conviction lies in the belief that education is a master key that unlocks the latent potential of individuals and communities beyond the urban area. The tenure of Madam Shazia Iqbal as the Literacy Officer of Sahiwal is characterized by an unflinching commitment and an unwavering dedication to her mission to serve the nation and state. She has implemented a diverse array of initiatives designed to invigorate the literacy environment of the district. Madam Shazia recognizes the imperative of engaging the local community in the pursuit of enhanced literacy. She has orchestrated numerous awareness campaigns and workshops aimed at encouraging parents to enroll

their children in schools while extolling the virtues of lifelong learning. Acknowledging that the illiteracy is not confined to the younger generation, Madam Shazia has launched adult literacy programs in the district as well. With the support of civil society she has managed many programs and activities to solve their problems and empowers the adult populace of Sahiwal with indispensable reading and writing skills, enabling them to access superior employment opportunities and engage more actively in societal affairs. That's why the society and those who are associated with her office respect her. She has introduced innovative pedagogical methods within educational institutions to render the learning experience more captivating and efficacious. Encouraging educators to incorporate interactive and technology-driven teaching tools, she always seeks to ignite the imaginative teachers and students. Madam Shazia Iqbal is renowned for her boundless energy and indefatigable work ethic. She has toiled tirelessly to uplift the educational ground of Sahiwal and her enthusiasm for her vocation is contagious, galvanizing a shared sense of purpose within the entire community. Madam Shazia comprehends that education transcends mere numerical statistics; it is about effecting transformative change in the lives of Sahiwal's youth. Efficiency is the cornerstone of Madam Shazia's administrative approach. She possesses an unparalleled aptitude for strategic planning and the execution of initiatives that yield tangible results. Her acumen in identifying critical areas for enhancement and devising effective solutions has been instrumental in elevating the literacy rate in Sahiwal. Under her stewardship, literacy programs have been streamlined, resources judiciously allocated and educational institutions empowered to thrive. Madam Shazia's exceptional

ability to connect with the public and her subordinates is truly commendable. Her approachability, empathy and attentive listening have enabled her to cultivate robust relationships within the community, fostering a climate of trust and cooperation. Sahiwal residents feel at ease approaching her with their concerns and ideas, secure in the knowledge that they have a dedicated advocate in the person of Shazia Iqbal. She epitomizes administrative excellence in the literacy department of District Sahiwal. Her meticulous planning, scrupulous attention to detail, and adept management of complex processes have significantly enhanced the literacy rate and improved the operational efficiency of the education department in District Sahiwal. Under her guidance the administrative impediments of the department have been minimized and affording teachers opportunity to devote greater attention to imparting knowledge to their students in the deprived area. Madam Shazia Iqbal is not merely a Literacy Officer; she embodies a beacon of hope and progress for population of Sahiwal. Her tireless efforts, adept leadership and exemplary public relations have indelibly marked the educational system of the district. Through her unwavering dedication and visionary outlook, the literacy rate in Sahiwal has witnessed remarkable enhancements, positively impacting innumerable lives. The transformative endeavors of Shazia Iqbal District Education Officer literacy serve as a poignant reminder that dedicated individuals such as her constitute the driving force propelling the educational advancements that shape the future of our society. Her commitment to elevating literacy in Sahiwal stands as an inspiration to all, underscoring the incontrovertible truth that positive change is attainable when fervor meets purpose within the empire of education.

## Briefs

## Justice Qazi Faez becomes 29th CJP

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High Court and the Supreme Court. During this time, his assistance was sought in various important cases by different high courts and the Supreme Court, as well as for handling international arbitrations. For the past five months, Justice Isa — who took the oath as an SC judge on September 5, 2014 — has engaged in chamber work only. As a form of protest following his disagreement with chief justice on suo motu powers, he has refrained from participating in any cases. In March this year, Justice Isa and Justice Qazi Ameenuddin issued a ruling, stating that hearing of all cases under Article 184(3) should be suspended until the apex court first makes its rules with regard to the SC's Practice and Procedure Act. With a 45-year-long career in the legal field, Justice Isa possesses a rich background. Prior to his judicial appointment, he contributed articles on various topics, such as the Constitution, law, Islam, and the environment, to Pakistan's leading English news publications. He also co-authored a book, 'Mass Media Laws and Regulations in Pakistan', in 1997. Additionally, Justice Isa authored the report 'Balochistan: Case and Demand' published by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT) in 2007. Taking to X, senior journalist Mazhar Abbas described the new chief justice's decision to form full court to hear petition against Practice and Procedure Act as beginning of a new era. "Finally the full court was formed to hear an important case of Practice and Procedure Act, the first headed by new Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Monday. Beginning of a new era and one hope to see rule of law and supremacy of the Constitution," he wrote.

## Full court to hear SC practice...

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multiple purposes, including the delegation of suo motu notice-taking authority to a three-member committee composed of senior judges, including the chief justice. The bill aims to ensure transparent proceedings within the apex court and safeguard the right to appeal. It outlines the constitution of benches, specifying that a committee consisting of the chief justice and the two most senior judges will be responsible for constituting benches to handle cases, and decisions will be reached by majority vote. Regarding cases invoking the apex court's original jurisdiction under Article 184(3), the legislation stipulates that they must first be presented to the aforementioned committee for consideration.

## NAB chairman summons...

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participants on the apex court's decision to strike down some amendments in the NAB law, according to sources. The apex court restored all closed inquiries filed with the anti-graft body and ordered the restoration of all graft cases worth less than Rs500 million that were closed down against the political leaders belonging to different political parties and public office holders, declaring the amendments void. Furthermore, the court directed the NAB to return all records related to cases to relevant courts within seven days. However, issues may arise from Prosecutor General Accountability Justice (PGA) retd Syed Asghar Haider's resignation last week. To overcome the technical issue of the PGA's absence, the NAB chairman has given the acting charge to Additional Prosecutor General Akbar Tarar till the appointment of a new prosecutor general.



ISLAMABAD: Students of Christen Community hold national flags in their hands during a rally stands in front of closed gate at Agha Khan road, for attending in oath taking ceremony of new chief justice of Pakistan (CJP), in Federal Capital. — Online

## Finland scripts tennis history in Davis Cup

Country stuns United States 2-1 to reach Davis Cup last eight for first time

PARIS: Finland wrote a new page in their tennis history after beating the United States 2-1 in Split to reach the last eight of the Davis Cup for the first time. Australia and defending champions Canada also qualified while Novak Djokovic played doubles in a losing cause for Serbia against Czech Republic in a dead rubber with both teams already through to the final stages to be played in Malaga in November. Otto Virtanen set the Finns rolling in the winner-take-all match against the Americans with a 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 7-6 (9/7) win over Mackenzie McDonald. Emil Ruusuvuori then followed up with a 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 victory against world number 13 Tommy Paul on his fourth match point, sending Finland through with Netherlands from Group D. "You can hear it from the (fans). It means a lot for the whole country, for tennis in Finland. It's a huge thing," 24-year-old Ruusuvuori said post-match. "We're going to Malaga!" Alexis Galarneau saw off Alejandro Tabilo 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) to give Canada an early lead over Chile but the South Americans levered the tie when Nicolas Jarry strolled to a 6-4, 6-4 win over Gabriel Diallo. The Canadians won the tie when Galarneau teamed up with Vasek Pospisil to beat Tabilo and



Tomas Barrios Vera 6-4, 7-6 (9/7) in the doubles. Chile's hopes of progressing now depend on Italy, who are currently second in the group, losing 3-0 to Sweden on Sunday. Djokovic sat out the singles in Serbia's dead rubber against the Czechs but did not disappoint the crowd in Valencia as he partnered Nikola Peci in the doubles, losing 7-5, 6-7 (9/7), 10-3 to Tomas Machac and Adam Pavlasek. Australia booked their place with an emphatic 3-0 win over Swit-

zerland in Glasgow. Thanasi Kokkinakis and Alex de Minaur won their singles matches in straight sets to win the tie but Australia did not stamp their passage to Malaga until doubles duo Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell completed the sweep and guaranteed Australia a top-two finish in Group B. Britain or France will join the Australians in Spain in November. Three-time major winner Stan Wawrinka did not take to the court but his comments about the poor

crowds in Glasgow earlier in the week has stirred discussion over the future of the current Davis Cup format. Wawrinka posted contrasting videos on his social media of Switzerland's first match against France which showed the stands almost empty and their second against hosts Britain on Friday where the atmosphere was pumping. "We see the difference between today and three days ago — it's not normal," said Wawrinka. Since 2019, the historic competition has been converted to a World Cup-style event with group stages and matches on neutral soil, with many of the matches played out in front of low crowd numbers. Rising criticism has called for a return to the pre-2019 system of home and away ties in front of partisan crowds supporting their country. Mark Woodforde, who played for Australia in three Davis Cup finals, is chair of the Davis Cup committee and rejects the criticism. "We're fully aware that some players will say, 'Why don't we go back to that home-and-away format?'," he said on Saturday. "That format was not working. That's why the change came about. The old format was killing Davis Cup. We had nations telling the ITF they were unhappy, it needed to change." — Agencies

## Pakistan beat Indonesia 5-0 to qualify for playoff

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan outclassed Indonesia 5-0 in the Davis Cup World Group-II tie and qualified for the World Group-I playoff on Sunday. The playoff will be held in the first quarter of 2024, while the draws for that will be held on 20th of September. In the doubles match played at Aisam-ul-Haq Tennis Pavilion, Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad, tennis ace Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and the experienced Pakistan's No.1 Aqeel Khan beat Indonesian brothers David and Anthony Susanto in an exciting, 3-set match, which kept the crowd on the edge of their seats till the last point. The Indonesians won the first set 6-3, with the Pakistanis fighting back to take a closely fought second set 7-5. The Pakistani aces dominated the 3rd set to win 6-2, and emerged victorious in the tie. In another match, Muhammad Shoib beat Gunawan Trismuwantara 7-6(4), 6-4 in the reverse singles, to give Pakistan a clean sweep. Shoib was down in both the sets, but



fought back bravely to clinch the match. President Pakistan Tennis Federation Salim Saifullah Khan congratulated the Pakistan team for their remarkable victory and qualifying for the world group again. Earlier on Saturday, both Aisam and Aqeel had defeated their respective opponents in singles competitions. President Pakistan Tennis Federation Salim Saifullah Khan appreciated the top quality tennis.

## Shahzad presents Rs 1mn to Arshad Nadeem

ISLAMABAD: Test cricketer Ahmad Shahzad has presented a cheque of one million rupees to star athlete Arshad Nadeem for winning the silver medal at the World Athletics Championship in Budapest, Hungary. Ahmad Shahzad congratulated Arshad Nadeem on winning the medal and making Pakistan proud. "Arshad Nadeem has created a new history by winning this medal," said Ahmad Shahzad. "He will also win a medal for Pakistan in the Asian Games as well as in the Paris Olympics." Arshad Nadeem made history last month as he clinched a silver medal, at World Athletics Championship. —DNA

## Messi has 'muscle fatigue': Martino

Miami coach says striker won't be rushed back after missing 5-2 mauling by Atlanta

MIAMI: Lionel Messi is suffering from "muscle fatigue" and will not be rushed back, Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said on Saturday after his team's playoff hopes suffered a blow with a 5-2 thrashing at Atlanta United. Messi and his former Barcelona team-mate Jordi Alba both sat out the game with Martino saying it would have been "very reckless" for the Argentine to play in Atlanta. Martino said that his focus was on having his team ready for the September 27th final of the US Open Cup when Miami host Houston as they look for their second trophy of the season. "They will train tomorrow (Sunday) and we will see day by day. Nothing changes our outlook on how he (Messi) will train. We have no urgency," said the former Barcelona and Argentina coach. Miami face Toronto, the only team below them in the Eastern Conference, at home in MLS action on Wednesday. "If he is well and confident he can get to play and if this doesn't happen he will wait a few more days," Martino said. Miami's loss was their first in 12 games in all competitions since Messi and Spanish pair Alba and Sergio Busquets joined the team in July. The defeat makes it tougher for Miami to climb into the top nine in the East which would ensure qualification for playoffs. — Agencies

## India crush Sri Lanka to win Asia Cup title

FORM PAGE 01

Siraj got his fifth with the wicket of Sri Lankan captain Dasun Shanaka, equalling an ODI record for the fastest five-wicket haul from his first 16 balls of the match. Kusal Mendis hit three boundaries before becoming Siraj's sixth wicket, although Sri Lanka avoided the lowest-ever ODI total of 35 by Zimbabwe. After Virat Kohli's overthrow went for a boundary, and six more runs to the total, Sri Lanka pushed past their lowest ODI total of 43 scored against South Africa in 2012. Hardik Pandya took three wickets to wrap up the innings in just 90 minutes. Mendis' 17 and an unbeaten 13 by Dushan Hemantha were the only double-digit scores in an innings that featured five ducks. Shubman Gill, a centurion in the previous match, began with a boundary in the opening over on his way to an unbeaten 27 and fellow opener Ishan Kishan (23) soon joined the party. The left-handed Ishan smashed fast bowler Matheesha Pathirana for two successive boundaries, and three more in a row from Gill gave India victory in the tournament's shortest final.

## World leaders to address...

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the head of the Pakistan delegation to UNGA. He will address the Assembly on Sept 22, the first Pakistani caretaker premier to do so. Caretaker Foreign Jilil Abbas Jilani will also be here. In his address, the prime minister will outline Pakistan's perspective on a range of regional and general issues of concern, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He will also elaborate on the significant measures taken by his caretaker administration to consolidate the country's economic recovery and efforts to mobilize domestic and external investment. In addition, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with counterparts from various countries as well as with the heads of international organizations, philanthropic organizations and corporate leaders. He also has a number of media engagements.

## PM Kakar departs for US

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session on Sept 22. Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani will also accompany the PM. According to reports, the PM is likely to meet important countries heads including China, United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. The PM will leave for America in a special plane today afternoon. Apart from the UNGA meeting, he will also participate in an important conference on climate change. During his visit, PM Kakar will meet the representatives of the international media. He will also visit the prominent think tanks of the United States.

## FIA undertakes massive...

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total of 3 billion 540 million rupees in domestic and foreign currency. The recovered currency includes 3 billion 160 million Pakistani rupees, more than Rs 500,000 in US dollars and 230 million worth of other foreign currencies. Many of the arrested accused were involved in the illegal exchange of currency under the guise of various businesses. Ultimately, the FIA has compiled the data of agents involved in the illegal exchange of handi references and currency against whom intelligence-based operations have been initiated. More than that, agents' bank records, travel records, and data about relatives have also been collected. There has also been a crackdown on overseas handi-crafts and illegal currency exchange dealers.

## Ronaldo, Neymar, Benzema Trio Shines in Champions League

Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar and Karim Benzema have won a combined total of 11 UEFA Champions League titles. They lead the Saudi Arabian challenge in the Asian edition

SPORTS DESK

SEOUL : Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar and Karim Benzema have won a combined total of 11 UEFA Champions League titles and, starting Monday, they lead the Saudi Arabian challenge in the Asian edition. Neymar, who last week surpassed Pele's international goal tally for Brazil, arrived at Al-Hilal in August and made his league debut Friday as the four-time Asian champion thrashed Abha 6-1. Hilal lost the final to Urawa Reds of Japan last May. Since then, Saudi Arabian clubs have spent around \$950 million on some of the biggest stars in the world. The spending is being fueled by a move by the kingdom's sovereign wealth Public Investment Fund to take a majority ownership stake in four of the country's top clubs, Al-Hilal, Al-Ittihad, Al-Ahli and Al-Nassr. As well as Neymar, Al-Hilal have signed English Premier League stars Ruben Neves, Kalidou Koulibaly and Aleksandar Mitrovic as well as Moroccan goalkeeper

Yassine Bounou, Brazilian winger Malcom and Serbian midfielder Sergej Milinkovic-Savic. Mumbai City has been placed in the same group and the Indians are looking forward to a chance to take on Hilal and especially its Brazilian superstar. "I think anyone that's seen the movement in some of these teams, and Neymar being

the latest to arrive there, it's exciting," Mumbai's coach Des Buckingham said. "They're bringing that caliber and quality of player to India, which is going to be extremely exciting for us and for our club but also for the fans of India." In total, there are four Saudi Arabian representatives among the 40 in the group stage with

the 10 group winners and the six-best second-placed teams progressing to the second round. After years of games between Saudi Arabia and Iran being played in neutral venues, Ronaldo will lead Al-Nassr to Tehran on Tuesday to take on Persepolis. The visitor has never lifted the Asian trophy. Persepolis President Reza Darvish told local television earlier this month that Al-Nassr will be provided with full access to the internet, unlike the general public in the country. "I have spoken with the CEO of Irancell, and I told him we want to give players and personnel Irancell SIM cards with unrestricted internet so they can use it from the time they enter Iran till the time they leave," Darvish said. Al-Ittihad is Saudi Arabian champion and, as well as Benzema, has brought in past European winners such as N'Golo Kante from Chelsea and Fabinho from Liverpool. The two-time Asian champion starts against AGMK of Uzbekistan in Jeddah. Al-Fayha completes the Saudi quartet but is not owned, like the other three, by the Public Investment Fund and does not have the same star power. The team starts with a tough trip to Uzbekistan to take on Pakhtakor.



## Briefs

## Brazil opens first 'ExpoCannabis' amid pot debate

SAO PAULO : Bubbling with euphoria as thick as the haze in the air, marijuana enthusiasts flocked this weekend to Brazil's first "ExpoCannabis," amid a national debate over decriminalizing the drug for personal use. Launched in Uruguay a decade ago, the huge marijuana fair opened its first international edition Friday in Sao Paulo, complete with DJs, guest speakers, myriad pot products and a large outdoor space packed with hundreds of visitors, nearly all of them smoking up. Organizers said they expected 20,000 people to attend the three-day event, which aims to showcase cannabis in its many uses, and not just recreational and medicinal. "We want to show the public all the plant's capabilities. We're not just talking about the pharmaceutical industry. The plant can also work in the food and beverage industry, the construction industry, the textile industry and biofuels," organizer Larissa Uchida told AFP. "It's a plant that has been demonized for many years, so there needs to be a whole deconstruction of this idea." Uchida said the event respected Brazilian legislation, with vendors selling cannabis accessories, extracts and derivatives – but not the actual drug. Those smoking it at the fair likely purchased it illegally, but authorities appeared willing to turn a blind eye. Brazil's 2006 drug law imposes prison terms for drug trafficking, and lighter penalties such as community service for possession, but has faced criticism for a lack of clarity over the line between the two. — Agencies

## Nearly 40,000 people displaced in deluge Libya

UNITED NATIONS : Over 38,640 people have been displaced as a result of heavy rain and floods that hit the northeastern regions of Libya, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a Geneva-based UN agency, reported Saturday. In a report, IOM said that the cities of Derna (at least 30,000), Bayda (3,000) and Benghazi (2,195) have the largest number of displaced people. Some of them are temporarily living in old school buildings, others are staying with relatives or families who have agreed to take them in. It emphasizes that the numbers quoted appear to be understated due to "the limited data available." There is an acute shortage of drinking water and fuel in all the affected towns, as well as disruptions in communications and power supply, the report says. The situation in Derna is the most difficult. There is only one health facility in the eastern part of the city, but even there, shortages of staff, equipment and medicines (especially antibiotics and medications for chronic diseases) exist. Cyclone Daniel struck northeastern Libya on September 10, bringing gale force winds, heavy rain, and thunderstorms to cities along the Mediterranean coast, with the city of Derna most seriously affected. — Agencies

## Algeria struggles to contain wildfires

ALGIERS : Algeria continued to battle dozens of forest fires in several provinces on Saturday. In a statement, the Civil Protection Authority said its teams had managed to extinguish 37 wildfires in the northeastern Bejaia and Tizi-Ouzou provinces and a number of other provinces. Firefighters are also struggling to bring two more wildfires in Tizi-Ouzou province under control, the statement said. No injuries were reported in the fires. In July, wildfires killed at least 34 people and injured 194 others in northern Algeria, according to the country's Interior Ministry.—DNA

Kim's visit to Russia end  
N. Korea's Kim leaves  
Russia, given drones as gift

Kim's first official visit abroad since the coronavirus pandemic has fanned Western fears that Moscow and Pyongyang will defy sanctions and strike an arms deal

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW : North Korean leader Kim Jong Un left Russia on Sunday on his armoured train, Russian news agencies reported, wrapping up a six-day trip which has focused largely on military matters. Kim's first official visit abroad since the coronavirus pandemic has fanned Western fears that Moscow and Pyongyang will defy sanctions and strike an arms deal. The Ria Novosti agency published a video of Kim's departure, and said a "departure ceremony" was held at the Artyom-Primorsky-1 station, while TASS news agency said that Kim's train was headed around 250 kilometres (155 miles) towards the border. The footage shows Kim waving goodbye from his train to a Russian delegation led by Natural Resources Minister Alexander Kozlov, before the Russian march "Farewell of Slavianska" is played as the train departs. Earlier Sunday, TASS said Kim had been given five explosive drones, a reconnaissance drone and a bulletproof vest as gifts



from a regional governor. TASS said the "leader of the DPRK received five kamikaze drones and a 'Geran-25' reconnaissance

drone with vertical takeoff", using the official name of North Korea. TASS said the governor of the Primorye region, which

borders China and North Korea, also "offered Kim Jong Un a set of bulletproof protection" and "special clothing not detectable

by thermal cameras". On Saturday he met the Russian defence minister in Vladivostok, where he inspected state-of-the-art weapons including a hypersonic missile system. Kim's extended tour of Russia's far eastern region, which began on Tuesday, has focused extensively on military matters, as evidenced by his own officer-dominated entourage, a symbolic exchange of rifles with President Vladimir Putin and a tour of a fighter jet factory in Komсомolsk-on-Amur. Moscow is believed to be interested in buying North Korean ammunition to continue fighting in Ukraine, while Pyongyang wants Russia's help to develop its internationally condemned missile programme. The Kremlin has said no agreement has or will be signed. Kim also met with North Korean students studying in Vladivostok on Sunday. North Korean news agency KCNA has described the atmosphere during Kim's visit as "fervent and warm" and said a "new era of friendship, solidarity and cooperation" was opening between North Korea and Russia.

## Russian volunteers help Ukraine refugees

WEB DESK

SAINT PETERSBURG: For a year and a half Galina Artyomenko had been raising funds to help refugees from Ukraine after the Kremlin sent troops to the pro-Western country. Then in July the 58-year-old resident of Saint Petersburg in northwestern Russia discovered that one of her bank cards as well as those of two other volunteers had been blocked. "According to the bank, our 'collections' were for 'questionable purposes'," said Artyomenko, insisting that she can justify "every rouble spent". After President Vladimir Putin sent troops to Ukraine last year, the authorities ramped up a crackdown on dissent, with those criticising the assault facing

long prison terms. Like other volunteers helping Ukrainians, Artyomenko is careful not to express an opinion on the ongoing conflict as even humanitarian operations can sometimes be viewed with suspicion in Russia. Despite the obstacles she has faced, she collects donations online and uses the money to buy clothes, medicine and food for people forced to flee to Russia or Russian-controlled territory in Ukraine. She regularly welcomes Ukrainians arriving in Saint Petersburg by train, helping them find accommodation, work, or arrange for their onward travel to the European Union from Russia. "Prefer not to talk" - Artyomenko said that "thousands of people" in Russia were helping Ukrainians. "But they prefer not to talk about it, for

security reasons," she said. "Even if no law prohibits helping people who have fallen into misfortune." Many volunteers refuse to speak about Moscow's offensive in Ukraine or their help to refugees, for fear of attracting the attention of the authorities who regularly arrest people accused of collaborating with Kyiv or "discrediting" the Russian army. Lyudmila, a 43-year-old volunteer who preferred to withhold her last name, said many such people are "pacifists" who cannot openly express their position and ease their conscience by helping the victims of the conflict. "We cannot stand idly by, we must help those who are in a worse situation than us and who are suffering," said Lyudmila. Artyomenko added: "This is the only way left for us to exist. That's all

we can still do." - Millions of refugees - According to the United Nations, nearly 1.3 million refugees from Ukraine were recorded in Russia as of December, 2022. According to Russia's estimates - disputed by NGOs - the count stands at more than five million. Some of those people are in transit, particularly in northwest Russia, which borders the European Union. Others say they want to stay in Russia. Kyiv has accused the Kremlin of having deported Ukrainians to Russia and of pushing them to obtain Russian passports. In March, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and his commissioner for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, over the "unlawful deportation" of Ukrainian children.

## Egypt jails dissident amid pre-vote pressure

CAIRO : An Egyptian court has sentenced prominent dissident Hisham Kassem to six months in prison, his lawyer and political movement said, a move barring him from taking part in campaigning for next year's presidential election. It comes one day after Egypt's only candidate campaigning so far for the election, Ahmed al-Tantawi, revealed his phone had been bugged by authorities, according to a report by the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab. A day earlier, Tantawi had denounced harassment by the security forces against his teams and supporters. Kassem was also slapped with a 20,000-pound (about \$650) fine after being found guilty of defaming a former minister and "contempt of officials", Gameela Ismail, a member of his Free Current liberal opposition movement, wrote on X, formerly Twitter. His lawyer Nasser Amin wrote on Facebook that the verdict would be appealed in a court hearing set to take place on October 7. Kassem, 64, had begun a hunger strike, his supporters said earlier this month, after the opening of his trial, before ending it days ago. He was initially summoned after a former minister complained he had shared online articles suggesting the minister had embezzled funds. The opposition activist was later accused of "contempt" by officers during questioning at a police station. He has been in custody since August 20. Kassem's Free Current coalition, formed in June by opposition parties, advocates economic liberalisation and calls for an end to the army's stranglehold on the Egyptian economy.—DNA

## Maritime border casts shadow over Kuwait-Iraq ties

ISTANBUL : Maritime border between Kuwait and Iraq remains a point of contention between the two Arab Gulf neighbors. Kuwait lodged a letter of protests with Iraq over a recent court ruling pertaining maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah. Iraq's Federal Supreme Court ruled to invalidate the Khor Abdullah maritime border agreement, citing inconsistency with the Iraqi Constitution, which mandates approval through legislation passed with a two-thirds majority in parliament. Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 833 in 1993, which determined the land border between Iraq and Kuwait. However, the delineation of the maritime border was left to the two countries. After the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Iraq and Kuwait in 2003, negotiations began to determine their maritime border. In this context, an agreement regulating navigation in the Khor Abdullah region was signed in 2012 and approved by Iraq in 2013. However, the agreement had been criticized by some Iraqi politicians, lawmakers and experts who said that the deal removed Khor Abdullah from Iraq's sovereign territory. According to the world's leading geopolitical intelligence forum Stratfor, the Khor Abdullah is a narrow waterway that leads in from the Persian Gulf, curving around Kuwait's Bubiyan and Warba islands on one side and Iraq's Al Faw Peninsula on the other.—APP

## French ex-PM gearing up for presidency

PARIS : His physical appearance transformed but largely pledging continuity with the rule of President Emmanuel Macron, France's popular former premier Edouard Philippe is staking out the ground for a run for the presidency in 2027 against an increasingly stern challenge from far-right figurehead Marine Le Pen. Philippe has been omnipresent in France over the past week, giving a blitz of media interviews and publishing his latest book, outlining positions well beyond his current remit as mayor of the northern port of Le Havre. But the French have seen a man who is now almost physi-

cally unrecognisable from the premier who led the government from 2017-2020, notably including at the height of the first phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. Skin conditions have meant that Philippe, who used to sport a dark, bushy beard, is now almost completely bald. While the 2027 race is still far off, there has already been intense jostling among Macron's centrist faction given the president himself is not allowed to stand for a third consecutive term and polls indicate Le Pen has her best ever chance at winning the Elysee. A poll this week by Toluna's Harris Interactive for Challenges magazine showed that Le Pen



would win the first round of presidential elections under any scenario. Of the pro-Macron faction, only either Philippe or smooth-talking Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire would make the second round ahead of hard-left candidate Jean-Luc Melançon. "A politician

who comes up to you and says 'The next presidential election? We are not thinking about it at all!' is telling fibs," Philippe told TF1 television in one of his many interviews this week. Philippe, whose political party Horizons supports Macron but is not part of the president's own Renaissance party, has yet to confirm he will run. But he has left so many hints that commentators assume he plans to seek the top job. "I have a pretty clear idea, yes, of how things might go for me," he told France Inter radio. He warned in an interview with Le Monde that a victory by Le Pen, who was defeated by Macron in the past two elections in 2017 and 2022, was "possible".

## Turkiye aims to galvanize global climate action

As the impact of climate change grows, Erdogan is keen to tell world leaders of his country's ambitious contributions to the struggle, including green energy and zero waste, urging a 'common fight'

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA : After a summer of heat waves, wildfires and floods, the U.N. General Assembly is convening in New York this week where President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will take to the dais to shed light on Türkiye's commitment to countering the increasingly alarming effects of climate change and call for global solidarity "for humanity." As a Mediterranean nation facing worsening climate conditions, Türkiye boasts some of the highest contributions to the Paris Climate Agreement with its commitment to the 2053 net zero emissions and green development targets. Global contribution "These are vital for Türkiye's long-term climate strategies and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to be co-opted

with political tools and in seizing opportunities in the global green transformation and the fight against climate change," Mehmet Emin Birp nar, former deputy minister of environment, urbanization and climate change, told Daily Sabah. Türkiye believes the Paris Agreement is an essential opportunity for a green and sustainable world and supports the implementation of reduction and compliance policies, he said. According to Selahattin Incecik, professor of Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology and the head of the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations (IUAPPA), Türkiye is making strides in cutting off its carbon emissions and increasing its green energy, especially in solar and wind power, which together accounts to nearly 20% of its installed capacity. Incecik, also

partially a Nobel Peace Prize laureate for his contributions to the International Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) win in 2007, shut down any criticism of Türkiye over its carbon emissions as a country whose energy production relies 25% on coal and natural gas. "Türkiye is largely innocent in the grand picture," Incecik said. "Climate change needs a global effort not just Türkiye's individual efforts. China, the United States, India, EU countries, Russia and other world powers and then Türkiye come up on the long list of nations that must shoulder the responsibility." As he addressed the G-20 summit in India earlier this month, Erdogan boasted that Türkiye has prevented 90 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually thanks to energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts, for which the country ranks fifth

in Europe and 12th in the world in terms of installed capacity. The Turkish leader also hailed the zero-waste project, the first of its kind launched in 2017 under the auspices of first lady Emine Erdogan to highlight the importance of eliminating waste in the fight against the climate crisis. The project has since become a global movement, with U.N. chief Antonio Guterres expressing his gratitude to the first lady and the world body declaring March 30 as the International Day of Zero Waste last year. In five years, Türkiye's recovery rate surged from 13% to 30% in 2022. The goal is to bump it up to 65% by 2035. Since 2017, the project has safeguarded an area equivalent to 2,000 football fields, conserved water equaling the annual needs of over 2 million families and saved energy amounting to the annual needs of 200,000 families.

The project has also created thousands of jobs. Ankara believes a fairer world is possible and strives to strengthen global solidarity. Erdogan told the G-20 summit. Incecik stressed that the word about the project should be spread more, especially by the local media, to reach out and move people on a personal level "because it is going to take time to catch on to a larger scale." "It can only achieve success if big businesses are onboard and people are incentivized," he said. 2053 targets In the meantime, Turkish officials are working on what Birp nar described as "critical steps" for its green transformation and policies pivotal to achieving the 2053 Net Zero Emission target. "Additionally, Ankara closely follows EU policies like the Green Deal while drafting regulations on climate change and environment to comply with the relevant legal acquits.

## 14 killed in plane crash in Brazilian Amazon

RIO DE JANEIRO : Fourteen people were killed when a plane crashed in the Brazilian Amazon in the northern town of Barcelos, a popular tourist stop, the governor of Amazonas state said. Twelve passengers and two crew were killed in the accident, Governor Wilson Lima wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. Brazilian media reports said there were no survivors of the crash. State officials did not immediately respond to requests for further details. News site G1 said the plane was an 18-passenger EMB-110, a twin-engine turboprop manufactured by Brazilian aircraft-maker Embraer. It was reportedly on its way from the state capital, Manaus, to Barcelos, about a 90-minute flight. Located on the Rio Negro, an Amazon tributary, it is bordered by several national parks and other protected areas. News site UOL said the passengers were Brazilians traveling to the region for sport fishing, citing state security secretary Vinicius Almeida.—APP

## Climate activists in London rally against fossil fuels

LONDON : Hundreds of climate activists joined marches in London as part of a global wave of action demanding the rapid phase-out of fossil fuels. This weekend's demonstrations are part of a broader global movement, with over 400 anti-fossil fuel protests scheduled to occur from Cape Town to Tokyo, Karachi to New York. Coinciding with these protests, the United Nations Climate Ambition Summit, set for Sept. 20, will see UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres call on nations to cease approving new oil and gas production. The Fight Fossil Fuels website, which is dedicated to these protests, has issued a statement calling this mobilization "historic," emphasizing its role in renewing and strengthening globally coordinated efforts aimed at ending the fossil fuel era. "Across the globe, we are coming together to fight back against the fossil fuel industry and its enablers," the statement reads, echoing the sentiment of countless protesters worldwide. The UK government has recently granted hundreds of new North Sea licenses and expressed support for the development of the massive Rosebank oil field off the Scottish coast. Over 40 demonstrations are scheduled to take place this weekend in major cities, including London, Edinburgh, Manchester, and Plymouth. These protests follow a stark warning from the UN last week, stating that the world will fall short of addressing the climate crisis unless there is a swift reduction in fossil fuel use. "We are now watching the climate crisis unfold, whether its rising temperatures and wildfires or the heating up of our seas, and yet our government is choosing to throw more fuel on the fire," Stop Rosebank campaigner, Lauren MacDonald, said.—DNA

## IRSA releases 229,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 229,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 244,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1547.05 feet and was 149.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 146,000 cusecs and 120,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1235.40 feet, which was 185.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 18,300 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 134,400, 120,000, 91,800 and 42,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 27,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 22,200 cusecs released.—APP

## Briefs

### PIA secures Rs17bn loan to restore flight operations

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has finally received a cash injection of Rs17 billion for its survival, a private newspaper reported. The cash-strapped national carrier managed to get a bank loan, after which its administrative affairs are said to be running smoothly. According to PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez Khan, the airlines secured Rs17 billion bank loan following which salaries of employees have been paid and the flight operation are going normal. The spokesman earlier had claimed that the airline was releasing funds and fulfilling its national and international obligations. Payments will also be reportedly made to fuel companies and spare parts of the aircraft for immediate repair will also be purchased. The privatisation of the national carrier is under serious debate at the government level nowadays after reported loss of billions of rupees on monthly basis.

### WHO calls on China for 'full access' for Covid investigators

DNA

BEIJING: The head of the World Health Organisation told the Financial Times he was ready to send a new mission of experts to China to investigate the origins of Covid-19. "We're pressing China to give full access, and we are asking countries to raise it during their bilateral meetings - (to urge Beijing) to co-operate," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the FT.

He said the WHO had already written to China asking "to give us information" and for the organisation to send a team "if they allow us to do so". The international community has been unable to determine with certainty the origins of the Covid pandemic. The first cases were detected at the end of 2019 in Wuhan, China, suggesting two opposing theories: an escape from a laboratory in the city where such viruses were being studied or an intermediate animal that infected people at a local market. A team of specialists led by the WHO and accompanied by Chinese colleagues had investigated China in early 2021.

In a joint report, they favoured the hypothesis that the virus had been transmitted by intermediary animal from a bat to a human, possibly at a market. Tedros said after that all options remained "on the table". There has not been a team able to return to China and WHO officials have repeatedly asked for additional data.

### CM Naqvi leaves for China on five-day visit

DNA

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday left for a five-day visit to China. Caretaker Provincial Ministers SM Tanveer, Amir Mir, Syed Azfar Ali Nasir, Ibrahim Hassan Murad and Chief Secretary Punjab and Finance Secretary also accompanied him. During the visit, caretaker Punjab Chief Minister will meet with the Chinese business community, industrialists and Chinese officials. CM Mohsin Naqvi, in this regard, presided over a meeting being held at CM Office in which a detailed briefing was given about the upgradation plan of Lahore Zoo and Safari Park. Other animals and birds including Panda, Hippopotamus, Rhinoceros, African pigeon, Black Jaguar, Puma and Chiltan Markhor will be added in the Lahore Zoo and Safari Park.

# EU chief vows new migrant help for Italy after Lampedusa surge

The EU will also step up aid for transporting asylum seekers from Italy to other EU members, under a voluntary scheme for sharing responsibility for migrants - in particular women and unaccompanied minors

NEWS DESK

LAMPEDUSA: The European Union presented Sunday an emergency plan for Italy to help it handle migrant arrivals after a record number of people landed on its island of Lampedusa over the past week. The surge in asylum seekers on the Italian island of Lampedusa has rekindled a fierce debate in Europe on how to share responsibility for the tens of thousands reaching the Continent each year. "Irregular migration is a European challenge and it needs a European answer," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said during a visit to Lampedusa, offering a 10-point plan to help Rome deal with the crisis. Since Monday, around 8,500 people - more than the island's entire local population - have arrived in around 200 boats, according to the UN migration agency. Lampedusa, Italy's southernmost island, has long been a landing point for migrant boats from North Africa. But this week officials said its migration centre, built to house fewer than 400 people, was overwhelmed. "We are doing everything possible," Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said at a press conference with von der Leyen on Lampedusa. It is "the future that Europe wants for itself that is at stake here, because the future of Europe depends on Europe's capacity to



face major challenges," Meloni said. The Italian Red Cross, which runs the overcrowded Lampedusa migration centre, said Sunday that 1,500 migrants remained there despite having a capacity for just 400. Transfers of migrants to Sicily and the mainland have not kept up with the flow of new arrivals, although further transfers were expected to be made Sunday, the Red Cross said. Von der Leyen said her aid plan for Italy included increased support for the European Agency for Asylum (EAAA) and the EU's Frontex border control agency to register new arrivals. The increased measures include ensuring that finger-

prints are taken and conducting interviews to make sure people are directed toward the proper authorities. The EU will also step up aid for transporting asylum seekers from Italy to other EU members, under a voluntary scheme for sharing responsibility for migrants - in particular women and unaccompanied minors. But the EU programme for sharing the burden of new arrivals has met resistance in several bloc members, with right-wing governments in Poland and Hungary the most strongly opposed to the plan. This week, EU heavyweight Germany said it had stopped accepting migrants living in Italy

under the European solidarity scheme, saying Rome was failing to honour its obligations under EU rules. Under the bloc's so-called Dublin procedure, irregular migrants must be registered in the EU country they first enter. If they later travel to another nation in the bloc, they can be returned to their first EU port of call. "That is why we have sent a signal to Italy," a German government spokesman said Friday. But Mediterranean countries like Italy have argued that the rules place an excessive burden on border nations, particularly since new arrivals often want to move on and live in other EU countries.

More than 127,000 migrants have arrived on Italy's shores so far this year, almost double the number in the period last year. Ships operated by NGOs including Doctors Without Borders (MSF) have rescued nearly 500 migrants in 11 operations in the Mediterranean in recent days and are headed for major Italian ports. But dozens of small boats also continue to make the perilous sea-crossing to Lampedusa - just 90 miles (145 kilometres) off the coast of Tunisia. In July, von der Leyen - with Meloni's strong backing - struck an agreement with Tunisia aimed at curbing the flow of irregular migration from the North African country. Over 2,000 people have died this year crossing from North Africa to Italy and Malta, according to the UN migration agency.

### Antarctic sea-ice at 'mind-blowing' low

DNA

LONDON: The sea-ice surrounding Antarctica is well below any previous recorded winter level, satellite data shows, a worrying new benchmark for a region that once seemed resistant to global warming. "It's so far outside anything we've seen, it's almost mind-blowing," says Walter Meier, who monitors sea-ice with the National Snow and Ice Data Center. An unstable Antarctica could have far-reaching consequences, polar experts warn. Antarctica's huge ice expanse regulates the planet's temperature, as the white surface reflects the Sun's energy back into the atmosphere and also cools the water beneath and near it.

Without its ice cooling the planet, Antarctica could transform from Earth's refrigerator to a radiator, experts say. The ice that floats on the Antarctic Ocean's surface now measures less than 17 million sq km - that is 1.5 million sq km of sea-ice less than the September average, and well below previous winter record lows. That's an area of missing ice about five times the size of the British Isles. Dr Meier is not optimistic that the sea-ice will recover to a significant degree.



LAHORE: Acting Chinese Consul General Chow Ki saw off Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi at the airport for his departure to China. - DNA

## INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY

# Sudan's armed rivals fight on another front

US sanctions have thrust RSF into a legitimacy crisis, as its bid for political respectability is now in jeopardy; the army reassesses its own prospects

KHARTOUM: Abdelrahman Hamdan Dagalo - brother of Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commander Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo and his deputy - has had his assets frozen in the United States, while Abdul Rahman Juma, an RSF commander in West Darfur, was hit with a visa ban. With that, the paramilitary force has lost hope of acquiring political legitimacy after the duo were sanctioned on September 6, according to analysts and activists. Both were sanctioned over human rights abuses, specifically atrocities in Sudan's West Darfur province. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Juma was sanctioned for ordering the June 15 assassination of West Darfur's Governor Khamis Abdallah Abakar. "The sanctions really are a blow to the personal brand of the Dagalo family," said Kholood Kair, a Sudanese expert and founding director of Conflu-

ence Advisory. In 2019, the RSF started an extensive, and expensive, effort to rehabilitate its image from a violent militia responsible for numerous atrocities in the Darfur region to a benevolent force defending calls for democracy. A popular uprising had removed Sudan's former President Omar al-Bashir, and the RSF tried to ride the wave of popular discourse, co-opting human rights activists by paying them top dollar and hiring PR firms to transform its image. The RSF stepped up its reputation laundering after a civil war erupted between the paramilitary and the army on April 15. But with the sanctions, its effort and money may have gone to waste. "Abdelrahman and Hemedti have been very conscious about being sanctioned because they know that is the kind of thing that follows you around for the rest of your life," Jonas Horner, an independent expert on Sudan, told Al Jazeera. - Agencies

# UK refuses to say if spy claim raised with China

LONDON: Foreign Secretary James Cleverly has refused to say whether he spoke to the Chinese government about a researcher in Parliament who was arrested on suspicion of spying for China. Mr Cleverly said both he and the prime minister had spoken to Chinese leaders about "interference in our democracy". But, asked if he raised the allegations with Beijing, he said he would not comment on "security related matters". The researcher has said he is "completely innocent". Last weekend, the Metropolitan Police confirmed that two men had been arrested in March under the Official Secrets Act. Sources have told the BBC that one of the men had been a parliamentary researcher involved in international affairs issues. Throughout the interview, the foreign secretary said repeatedly it was impossible for him to say if he had raised the specific case of the researcher on his visit to China. The challenge for ministers is that keeping silent on the subject gives their critics room to claim that the government has not had the determination to do so. And that could include some in their own party who are continuing to push the leadership to be more strident about China. Senior Tory MPs - including former Prime Minister Liz Truss - have

urged the government to officially designate China a "threat" - a step the government has resisted taking. Asked about the criticism from his own party, Mr Cleverly said: "Pretending China doesn't exist is not a credible policy." He said there were a number of issues the UK wanted to discuss with China - including its sanctioning of British parliamentarians - but this was best done through "face-to-face conversations". Last month, Mr Cleverly became the first foreign secretary to visit China in five years. Asked if he knew about the arrest of a parliamentary researcher prior to the trip, he said he would not comment. Pressed on whether or not he had discussed the case with Chinese officials, he again refused to say. He added that both he and PM Rishi Sunak - when he met the Chinese premier Li Qiang at the G20 summit - had raised Chinese actions which "are seeking to undermine or distort our democracy". Earlier this week, Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer accused Mr Sunak of failing to "heed the warnings" about China and called for a "full audit" of relations between the two countries. China has rejected the allegations, with foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning calling it "malicious slander". - Agencies

# First grain ships arrive in Ukraine using new route

KYIV: Two cargo ships have arrived at a Ukrainian port after travelling through the Black Sea using a new route, Ukrainian port authorities said. They reached Chornomorsk on Saturday, and were due to load 20,000 tonnes of wheat bound for world markets. Officials said it was the first time civilian ships had reached a Ukrainian port since the collapse of a deal with Russia ensuring the safety of vessels. Previously the corridor had only been used by ships departing from Ukraine. Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said the ships - Resilient Africa and Aroyat - sailed flying the flag of the Oceanic island nation of Palau and that their crew consisted of people from Ukraine, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Egypt. The vessels will deliver the wheat to Egypt and Israel, according to Ukraine's agricultural ministry.

Kyiv unilaterally declared the maritime corridor - which hugs the western coast of the Black Sea - after Russia abandoned a UN-backed deal that facilitated grain exports from Ukrainian ports. Moscow said parts of the deal allowing the export of its food and fertilisers had not been honoured and complained that Western sanctions were restricting its own agricultural exports. Since then, Russia has threatened to treat civilian ships sailing to Ukraine as potential military targets. Earlier this week, the UK accused Russia of targeting one such vessel with multiple cruise missiles as it rested in the Ukrainian port of Odesa recently. Ukraine is one of world's biggest suppliers of crops such as sunflower oil, barley, maize and wheat. When Russia invaded in February 2022, its navy blockaded the country's Black Sea ports - trapping 20 million tonnes of grain which were meant for export. - Agencies

# 5 killed after Italian military jet crash

MILAN: An Italian military jet has crashed while taking part in an acrobatic exercise in Turin killing a five-year-old girl in a car on the ground. Video shows the pilot, who survived, ejecting moments before impact followed by a huge fireball near Turin Airport. The girl's nine-year-old brother was seriously hurt, while their parents suffered burns. Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini said the crash was a "terrible tragedy". Video filmed near Turin's main airport shows nine aircraft gaining altitude in two tight formations before one peels away and starts to fall out of the sky. As the plane crashes to the ground, thick black smoke billows as the pilot can be seen parachuting after ejecting from the aircraft. According to local Italian media, an initial investigation suggests the aircraft may have collided with a flock of birds, possibly causing an animal to enter the engine and leading to engine failure. - Agencies

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