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Only Russia and Ukraine can decide when war will end

Detailed News On Page-07

Baku launches 'anti-terror op' in Karabakh

Detailed News On Page-07



Shoigu in Tehran for security talks

Detailed News On Page-08



78th session UN General Assembly

Joe Biden urges world to stand with Ukraine

King Abdullah has questioned why the international community is not supporting Palestinians as Israel continues to expand its illegal settlements

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: US President Joe Biden has called for international cooperation to tackle global challenges, stressing that countries across the world share a common future. "The United States seeks a more secure, more prosperous and equitable world for all people because we know our future is bound to yours," he said. "Let me repeat that again: We know our future is bound to yours." During his remarks at the United Nations General Assembly, US President Joe Biden said supporting Ukraine in its defense against Russia's invasion is "not only investment in Ukraine's future, but in the future of every country" that values the basic UN rules of sovereignty and territorial integrity "that apply equally to all nations" big and small. "We strongly support Ukraine in its efforts to bring about diplomatic resolution that delivers just and lasting peace. Russia alone, Russia alone, bears responsibility for this war. Russia alone has the power to end this war immediately," Biden said. "And it's Russia alone that stands in the way of the peace. Because Russia's price for peace is Ukraine's ca-

Kakar attends UNGA opening session

NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday attended the 78th opening session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The prime minister will present Pakistan at the high level moot on Global Development Initiative and would address the participants, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Besides, he will also attend and address a high level meeting on Sustainable Development Goals. PM Kakar is expected to meet Iranian President Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi and President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the session. The prime minister will also attend a reception hosted by US President Joe Biden in the honour of the global leaders. - DNA

pitulation, Ukraine's territory and Ukraine's children," Biden added. The US president said Moscow "believes that the world will grow weary and allow it to brutalize Ukraine without consequence." Biden suggested that no member states of the United Nations would feel secure if Ukraine is allowed "to be carved up." "We have to stand up to this naked aggression today, and deter other would-be aggressors tomorrow. That's why the United States, together with our allies and partners around the

world, will continue to stand with the brave people of Ukraine as they defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity and their freedom," he added. President Joe Biden condemned Tuesday Russia's decision to suspend its participation in the New START, a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the two countries, which was the last remaining pact that regulates the world's two largest nuclear arsenals. Speaking at the

Continued on Page 06



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar is attending the opening session of the General Debate of 78th UNGA session at the UN headquarters. - DNA

Rupee surges Rs 1.04 against US dollar

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Tuesday witnessed the 11th consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs1.04 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 294.90 against the previous day's closing of Rs 295.94. The recovery of the Pakistani rupee comes on the back of strong support from administrative measures like a crackdown on currency smugglers and hoarders. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs295.6 and Rs 298.5 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 34 paisa to close at Rs315.28 against the last day's

Continued on Page 06

No level playing field PML-N enjoys support of 'hidden forces': Bilawal

Talking about the controversy surrounding the election date, Bilawal said that only the ECP has the authority to announce a date

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said that their concerns regarding the level-playing field are especially with a particular political party, which is Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). As the time of general elections drew nearer, the rift between the former allies grew with the PPP persistently voicing concerns regarding the absence of equal opportunities to prove itself ahead of the polls. "The demand of provision of a level-playing field is from the PML-N," the former foreign minister said while talking to media in Lahore on Tuesday. Bilawal contended that the principles for the acquisition of developmental funds and completion of projects are clear.

Continued on Page 06

PML-N's sacrifice prevented default

ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif Monday asserted that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition government had prevented the country from defaulting, averting a situation where petrol could potentially have been priced at Rs1,000 per litre today. His comments came during a consultative meeting of his party via video link from London during which he also emphasised that the PML-N has

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Govts trapped nation in IMF loans

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi leader, Hafiz Naeemur-Rehman, asserted that successive governments, including the PDM, have trapped the nation in IMF loans. He also emphasised that Jamaat-e-Islami's protest movement against the sharp rise in fuel and electricity prices, as well as inflation, continues nationwide. The JI Karachi Amir pointed out that these loans were granted by corrupt leaders due to their incompetence and corruption. The working class paid a staggering Rs 264 billion in taxes while Rs 4 billion were contributed by the rich. Furthermore, Hafiz Naeemur Rahman proposed that by also taxing the feudal class.

CM orders depts to remain alert

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has ordered Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), Rescue 1122 and local administration, from China, to remain alert on reports of heavy rain in Lahore and other cities. In his statement issued here, the CM directed the administration and other officers concerned to reach the field immediately. The chief minister said that drainage of water from all the low-lying areas of Lahore should be ensured as soon as possible.

US embassy to cut visa wait times for Pakistanis

Initiative marks a significant step towards enhancing the ease of travel between Pakistan and the United States

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In response to the overwhelming demand for US visas in Pakistan, the US Embassy in Islamabad and the US Consulate General in Karachi have announced a series of initiatives aimed at significantly reducing visa appointment wait times. These measures, announced in a press release by the US Embassy on Tuesday, mark a significant step towards enhancing the ease of travel between Pakistan and the United States. The most immediate relief for visa applicants is the expedited processing of appointments. More than 10,000 Pakistani visa applicants originally scheduled for 2024 at the US Consulate General in Karachi will receive notifications that their appointments have been rescheduled to 2023, with some appointments available as early as next week. This rescheduling is aimed at reducing the backlog of visa appointments and expediting the visa application process for thousands of Pakistani citizens. Applicants who currently have visa appointments scheduled for

Continued on Page 06

PTI demands JC to probe Intercept's stories

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Core Committee expressed serious apprehensions over the news story of "The Intercept" pertaining to Pakistan's alleged involvement in the Russia-Ukraine conflict in lieu of securing the IMF bailout package, demanding an empowered high-level judicial commission to probe into both the stories of the publication so as to bring the truth before the nation. PTI Core Committee in its meeting held on Tuesday termed the contents of the news by "The Intercept" as alarming because the report shed light on matters directly related to Pakistan's foreign policy,

Continued on Page 06

Registered voters Number rises by 21m in four years

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The number of registered voters in Pakistan has increased by 21 million over a period of four years, according to data released by the Election Commission of Pakistan on Tuesday. The data shows the total number of registered voters in the country in 2018 was nearly 106m, and the count rose to around 127m as of July 25 this year. According to the latest figures, the number of female voters has increased from 46.7m in 2018 to 58.5m -

Continued on Page 06

Eternal Brotherhood-II Multi-National Special Forces Exercise kicks off

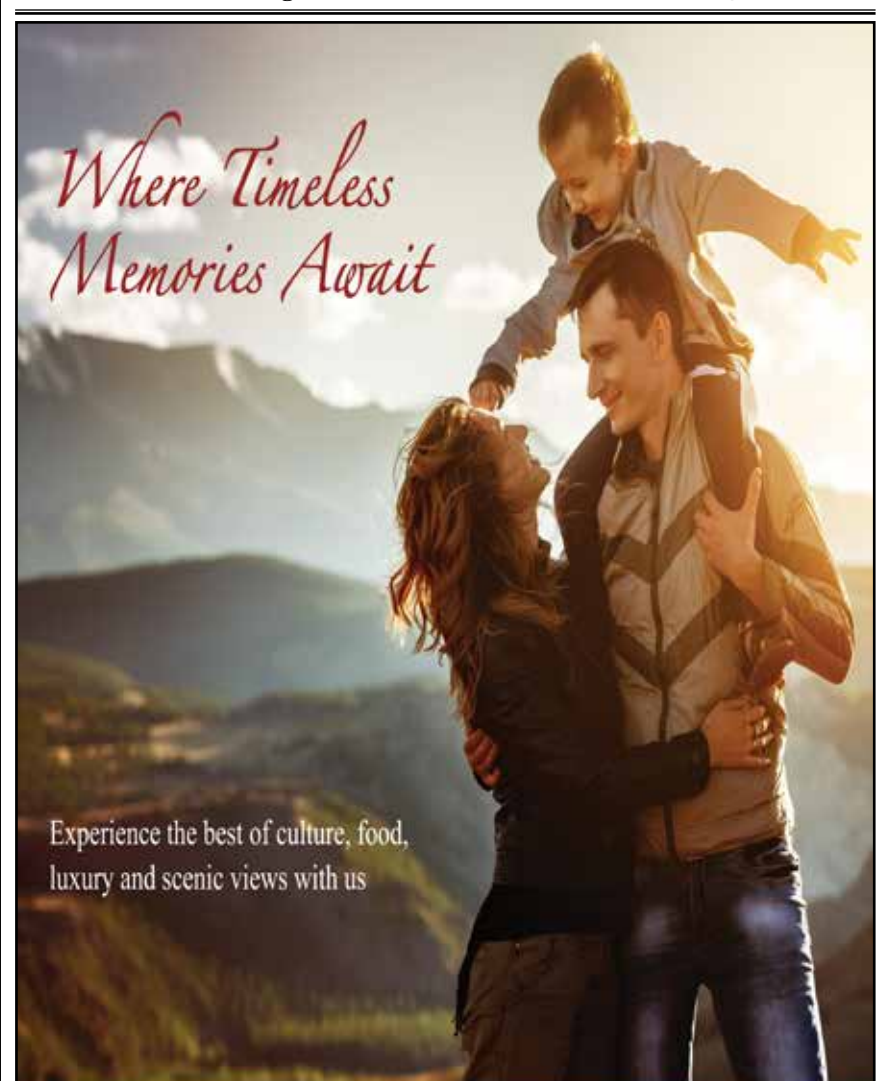
Our standard of professionalism, leadership par excellence to world's any modern army, said COAS General Asim Munir

STAFF REPORT



RAWALPINDI: Opening Ceremony of Multi-National Special Forces Exercise "Eternal Brotherhood-II" was held at Barotha. Special Forces contingents from Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Turkey and Uzbekistan are participating in two weeks long exercise. General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff visited Barotha Garrison and interacted with the exercising participants. Army Chief was briefed on scope/ conduct of the exercise by General officer Commanding Special Service Group. The exercise is aimed at further harnessing the historic military to military relations among the friendly countries, including nurturing of joint employment concept, while identifying areas of mutual interest for future military collaborations and benefiting from each other's experience against terrorism. Prior to visiting Brotha, COAS also visited Junior Leadership Academy (JLA)

Continued on Page 06



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NUST and S&P global Pakistan strengthen linkages with MOU

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Placement Office and S&P Global Pakistan has entered into a strategic Partnership to reshape research, industrial connectivity, training, and employment prospects for both institutions. This groundbreaking partnership between NUST and S&P Global was solidified through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at the NUST Campus in Islamabad. Pro-Rector NUST Research, Innovation & Commercialization (RIC) Dr.

Rizwan Riaz and Managing Director S&P Global Pakistan Mujeeb Zahur signed the MoU in a ceremony held on Friday. The ceremony was attended by HR, Marketing & Operations team of S&P Global and the NUST Placement Office team. Mr. Mujeeb Zahur emphasized the pivotal role of robust industry-academia alliances in providing students and graduates with invaluable hands-on experience. He not only reiterated S&P Global's resolute dedication to recruiting highly skilled candidates but also highlighted the additional benefits this collaboration will bring. This includes offering cutting-edge Final Year Project

(FYP) opportunities for students thus providing a unique platform for practical application of knowledge. Furthermore, the partnership will serve as a nurturing ground for identifying and cultivating extraordinary talent, equipping them with essential real-world skills that go beyond conventional academic teachings. Dr. Rizwan Riaz not only commended S&P Global's visionary approach but also showcased the exceptional strengths of NUST. He emphasized NUST's unwavering dedication to not only nurturing but also arming students with the skills to become the favored choice of employers. Dr. Riaz stressed that NUST alumni are distinguished by their comprehensive skill set, enabling them to excel on the global stage. He further emphasized the far-reaching impact of this collaboration, underscoring its pivotal role in fostering multifaceted development. Following the MoU, the delegation had the privilege of visiting the National Science & Technology Park (NSTP), a hub for pioneering research and innovation. This visit provided invaluable insights into the vibrant realm of innovation and the exchange of technology, underscoring the potential impact of this partnership on forthcoming technological progress.

Through this visionary alliance, NUST and S&P Global Inc. are set to cultivate a dynamic ecosystem that nurtures talent, propels innovation, and catalyzes industrial progress. The MoU stands as a testament to the shared vision of both organizations in establishing long-term, sustainable growth.



ISLAMABAD: Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George at his office. – DNA

Heavy rain lashes city, exposes arrangements

DNA

LAHORE: Heavy rain lashed the provincial capital on Tuesday early morning and inundated low-lying areas, disturbing the power supply and some infrastructure collapse incidents. The rain started early morning and continued for more than seven hours varying from light to heavy. Commuters faced difficulty travelling on roads as there were small and big puddles everywhere, however, Tajpura received the highest rainfall which was 183 millimeter while Airport, Nishar Town and Gulshan-e-Ravi poured with 180, 174 and 161 millimeter respectively.

City district government machinery remained active during and after the rain but could not succeed to clear most of the roads. Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa, along with Managing Director WASA Ghafran Ahmed visited Tajpura and other low-lying areas to check the arrangements for drainage. In many parts of the city and cantonment, traffic signals were out of order which led to chaos on the roads. The power supply remained suspended in many areas. This strong spell of rain exposed the performance of civic bodies. The sewerage system in downtown was choked and water entered in houses and shops.

CM orders inquiry and audit, expresses displeasure

NAZIR SAYAL

KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (rt) Maqbool Baqar during his surprise visit to the Sindh government Qatar Hospital ordered an overall inquiry and audit to ascertain the reasons behind the shortage of medicines, off-road ambulances, out of order some Lab machines and unsanitary conditions. The CM on Tuesday morning paid a surprise visit to the Sindh government Qatar Hospital and went ward to ward, OPD, emergency, pharmacy, pediatric wards, and inspected ambulance. The CM expressed his displeasure with the unsanitary

condition of various wards where stretchers had dirty stained bed sheets and a stench smell was felt everywhere. The CM noticed that the patients from two wards were ousted to clean them. Justice Baqar met with the patients and their attendants, and most complained about the non-availability of medicines. He visited the medicine store where he was told that an order to purchase medicines had been placed on August 25, 2023, but delivery was yet to be received. The CM personally checked the purchasing order and talked to the vendor on the phone about the provision of medicines within a week, otherwise, hold him that he

[the vendor] would be blacklisted. A woman met him in the pharmacy and told him she was making trips to the hospital for insulin, but it was unavailable. The CM directed the MS to arrange insulin for the woman and report him. The insulin was arranged during his visit. The CM noticed that some private medical stores were functioning inside the government hospital. On his inquiry, he was told that the hospital administration had issued them vacation orders, but they had got a stay from the court. The CM ordered the health dept to pursue the case and vacate the stay so that their position could be taken over by the hospital.

KU announces MBBS results

KARACHI: Controller of Examination of the University of Karachi Dr Syed Shahid Zaheer Zaidi on Tuesday announced the results of MBBS Final Professional (Modular) Supplementary Examination 2022 and MBBS Final Professional Supplementary Examination 2022. As per the gazette issued, 16 candidates were registered and appeared in the MBBS Final Professional Supplementary Examination 2022 of which 10 students were declared passed. The overall pass percentage was 62.50 percent. Meanwhile, the gazette shows that 10 students were registered and appeared in the MBBS Final Professional (Modular) Supplementary Examination 2022 and all of them cleared their papers. The overall pass percentage was 100 percent. – APP

Wapda House employee steals electricity

LAHORE: During its ongoing anti-power theft campaign, LESCO detected a connection belongs to a Wapda House employee stealing electricity in Rehmanpura area of provincial capital. According to LESCO spokesman here Tuesday, the SDO (Sub-Divisional Officer) Aleem Mustafa along with his team conducted a search operation in Rehmanpura Sub-Division and found that Taimur Ali, an Account Assistant in the Purchase and Disposal Section of WAPDA House, was stealing electricity by tampering with the meter. The inspection team disconnected Taimur Ali's electricity connection immediately and charged him with 3,000 detection units worth Rs 180,000, besides submitting an FIR application to the area police station. – APP

PBF urges transit trade via shortest Iran route

QUETT: Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) President Turbat, Maqbool Alam Noori, said on Tuesday that it is the right time to open transit trade via the 250 Border Iran, as it is the shortest route from Karachi to Central Asia. He expressed these views in a statement issued here, saying that opening the 250-border connection to Gwadar for transit trade would be a beneficial move. It would provide a number of benefits and the shortest route from Karachi to Central Asia, which would reduce time and costs for businesses and consumers in both regions. He said Gwadar is a deep-sea port located in Balochistan, Pakistan. It is the deepest port in the Arabian Sea and is strategically located at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz, a major shipping choke point. Gwadar is also the westernmost port in Pakistan and is close to the borders of Iran and Afghanistan. Central Asia is a landlocked region that is bordered by Pakistan to the south, Russia to the north, China to the east, and the Caspian Sea to the west. The

region is home to a number of countries, including Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan. Central Asia is a rich region in terms of natural resources, but it is also underdeveloped, he said. A PBF official said the 250-border connection to Gwadar for transit trade would provide a number of benefits for both Pakistan and Central Asia. For Pakistan, it would increase trade revenue and economic activity. It would also create jobs and boost development in Balochistan, which is one of the poorest provinces in Pakistan. For Central Asia, it would provide a shorter and more efficient route to access world markets. It would also reduce dependence on Russia and China for trade. However, opening the 250-border connection to Gwadar for transit trade has the potential to be a game-changer for both Pakistan and Central Asia. It would provide a shorter and more efficient route for trade between the two regions, which would boost economic growth and development. – Agencies

SABS University Jamshoro elects members of senate and academic council



JAMSHORO: Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritages Jamshoro conducted the election for Senate and Academic Council members from faculty. On the seats of Senate three faculty members Hina Marvi Khilji, Muhammad Zaman Bhutto and Rajkumar were elected by securing 21, 15 and 14 votes respectively. On Academic Council Muhammad Zubair Bhutto was elected by securing 11 votes. Vice-chancellor SABS Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto congratulated the elected members. – DNA

ICCI urges CDA to start development works in G-10 Markaz

Zafar Iqbal, Azhar Amin and others also spoke on the occasion and called on the CDA to focus on better development of G-series markets

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Traders Welfare Association, G-10 Markaz led by its President Akhlaq Abbasi visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and congratulated Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI for further one year extension in his tenure. Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that G-10 Markaz is one of the important business centers of the federal capital, but is neglected for development and urged that CDA should

start development works in this market to facilitate the traders in better growth of trade activities. Ahsan Bakhtawari said that G-10 Markaz needs construction of a filtration plant and wash rooms, carpeting of parking and roads, repair of footpath and emphasized that CDA should address these issues on priority. He said that markets in G-series are ignored for development and emphasized that the CDA should allocate specific funds for the upgradation of these markets. He said that ICCI had evolved a strategy with CDA to focus on the better development of markets, but frequent

change of Chairman CDA after a short period has disturbed all the plans for the development of commercial and industrial areas. He stressed that the Chairman CDA should be appointed at least for 3 years to ensure better development of the federal capital. He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with the TWA G-10 Markaz in resolving key issues of their market. Akhlaq Abbasi, President, Traders Welfare Association, G-10 Markaz, Islamabad said that Ahsan Bakhtawari was working actively to resolve the issues of the business community






and hoped that he would resolve the remaining issues of the business community during his additional term. He said that G-10 Markaz is one of the oldest markets of Islamabad, but the CDA was not paying due attention to its development and the traders are facing many problems. He said that a park has divided the market into two parts due to which people from one side cannot go to the other side of the market and stressed that the CDA should address this issue. He said that the CDA has earmarked a plot for a filtration plant, but has not made any further progress on this issue. He said that

washrooms and security cameras are needed in the market to ensure proper security of businesses. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that traders are playing an important role in the development of the economy and CDA should facilitate them in business development by addressing their development needs. He said that ICCI will try to play a role for the filtration plant to address this key issue of the traders. Zafar Iqbal, Azhar Amin and others also spoke on the occasion and called on the CDA to focus on better development of G-series markets.

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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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Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....561116
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
RMA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Serena Hotels and True Sight

Special persons feature in fashion show 'Beyond Labels'

Serena Hotels is committed to fostering inclusivity and representation, we have recently signed an MOU with ConnectHear to provide quality communication to guests with hearing impairment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels and True Sight Unite for Groundbreaking Fashion Show: 'Beyond Labels' celebrating Children with Disabilities Serena Hotels in collaboration with True Sight organized a groundbreaking fashion event called Beyond Labels. This inspiring fashion show aimed to celebrate and empower children with disabilities, redefining beauty transcending the boundaries of traditional fashion. True Sight founded by Atif Kayani is dedicated to ensure access and opportunity for children with disabilities. In a world where diversity and inclusion are becoming increasingly vital, Beyond Labels stands as a testament to the belief that beauty knows no bounds. This spectacular event took place on 18th September at Islamabad Serena Hotel, bringing together children with various abilities to showcase their unique talents and



personalities that transcends any perceived limitations. Ambassador of Denmark Jakob Linulf and Ambassador of Portugal graced the occasion with dignitaries in attendance from government, sports, corporate and diplomatic circle. Attendees had the opportunity to hear inspiring stories from children who have overcome challenges and embraced their uniqueness, serving as a source of inspiration and empowerment for all.

Talking to media, the team from Serena expressed that Serena Hotels is committed to fostering inclusivity and representation, we have recently signed an MOU with ConnectHear to provide quality communication to guests with hearing impairment. We will continue to provide platform to people from all groups to further their talent and potential.

The event engaged the local community to raise awareness about the importance of inclusivity and promoting acceptance and support for children with disabilities.

'Detaining Kashmiris grave human rights violation'

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that the detention of Hurriyat leaders, activists and ordinary people under draconian laws is a sheer violation of human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to Kashmir Media Service, an APHC spokesman said under the garb of Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Modi regime and its armed forces feel free to detain anyone and keep him or her in jails for years on flimsy charges. The APHC spokesman in

a statement said the authorities have adopted the lawless law against the detainees and take refuge in a formal court order that the "accused is released if not wanted in any other case" and hence the detainee is charge-sheeted repeatedly on fabricated grounds without taking consideration of provisions of justice and discourse of law.

He expressed his deep concern over this increasing lawlessness in the territory. The spokesman citing examples of Hurriyat leaders including its Chairman Masarat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik,

Aasiya Andrabi, Dr Abdul Hameed Fayyaz, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Naheeda Nasreen, Fehmeeda Sofi, Ayaz Muhammad Akbar, Peer Saifullah, Raja Mera-juddin Kalwal, Shahid-ul-Islam, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Syed Shahid Yousuf, Syed Shakeel Yousuf, Muhammad Yusuf Falahi, Muhammad Rafiq Ganai, Bilal Siddiqi, Maulvi Bashir Ahmed, Mushtaq-ul-Islam, Ameer Hamza, Zaffar Akbar Butt, Sharief Sartaj, Umar Adil Dar, Muzamil Fayaz Sofi, Bashrat Pampori, Moiez Riyaz Khan, Mudaris Poswal, Muhammad Ansar Khan, Sahil Manzoor, Hayat Ahmed Butt, Dr Muham-

mad Qasim Fakhtoo, Ghulam Qadir Butt, Muhammad Shafi Shariati, Malik Noor Fayaz, Shabir Ahmed Dar, Firdous Ahmed Shah, Jahangir Ghani Butt, Saleem Nanaji, Sajad Hussain Gul, Muhammad Yasin Butt and others said that they were being repeatedly detained despite their black law's being quashed by the court. He appealed to international human rights organizations to take cognizance of the matter and use their good offices for the immediate release of all illegally detained Kashmiris languishing in different jails of India and Kashmir.

PTA conducts successful raids against Illegal Internet

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) conducted two successful raids in Gojra City, in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

The raids against illegal internet service providers were conducted at Adeeb Plaza Main Bansan Wala Bazar and Mehdi Shah Bazar. One person was arrested and illegal ISPs equipment was also confiscated said a news release issued here on Tuesday. The successful raids against illegal ISPs were made possible

through PTA's continuous monitoring, commitment, and persistent efforts to combat the menace of illegal internet services, thus reducing losses to the national exchequer resulting from tax evasion and misreporting of revenues. The public is once again cautioned to avail telecom services from only PTA licensed operators to avoid sudden discontinuation of service. List of licensed operators is available at: <https://pta.gov.pk/en/industry-support/home/list-of-operators>.—APP

'PML-N to win upcoming elections'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N senior leader Rana Sanaulah Tuesday expressed confidence that his party would win the general elections on the basis of its commendable performance and demanded transparent elections in the country. Talking to a Private news channel, he said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will continue hopefully to play its role in the sustainability, promotion, and stability of democracy where every political party would participate in the electoral process without any discrimination.

The level-playing field should be available to all the political parties in the country, he added. He also reiterated his request for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce the election date under constitutional norms.

PM to highlight Pakistan's core issues

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to UN Munir Akram on Monday said Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar would highlight the country's core issues including Kashmir, Islamophobia and the economic situation in his address to the United Nations General Assembly on September 22. Talking to PTV, the ambassador said the prime minister would also talk to the US-Pakistani businessmen to bring investment into the country. During the week, the ambassador informed that Pakistan would also actively participate in the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, Climate Ambition Summit and three other separate summits on health as the country had a lot of interests relating to these

sectors. He said the world was passing through a critical time when the tensions among the big powers were increasing besides the developed countries were also facing deep economic challenges due to COVID, wars and climate change. Pakistan's immediate issue, he said was the revival and stabilizing of its economy and to bring foreign investment to boost its economic growth. In the climate action summit, the ambassador pointed out that Pakistan would stress the developed world to help countries like Pakistan which had minimal contribution in the emission expansion but were mostly affected by climate change. He said Pakistan would demand more financing and

to adapt itself to climate change. He said Pakistan would also stress to materialize the commitments and pledges made in the climate conference for Pakistan held in Geneva last year. The pledges made during Pakistan's climate conference were over \$10 billion, he said adding that out of the total pledges, half were being materialized as some projects of reconstruction in Pakistan were being financed according to the pledges. Further, he said there were 60 countries including Pakistan in the world which were falling into debt crisis. To help those countries, they informed that the UN Secretary-General had a proposal that a \$500 billion worth of stimulus package should be adopted.—APP

398 candidates pass CSS competitive exams 2023

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) announced the annual results of the CSS Competitive Examination 2023 yesterday in which 398 students remained successful. According to the details, around 28024 candidates applied for the CSS Competitive Exams 2023. FPSC informed that a total of 13008 candidates appeared in the exams, out of which 398 candidates passed the exams with a pass percentage w.r.t appeared candidates 3.06 per cent. Results of rejected candidates shall remain withheld as per Rule 16 (6) of CSS Competitive Examination Rules, 2019. The details of such candidates can be viewed at FPSC's website link www.fpsc.gov.pk (click here). Eligible candidates who have qualified for the written examination will be intimated about the schedule of the Medical Examination, Psychological Assessment, and Viva Voce in due course of time.—APP

PAF contingent lands back

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The PAF contingent landed back at an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force after successful participation in Shaheen-X air exercise in China. The contingent included PAF's J-10 C and JF-17 lead fighter aircraft, Combat Pilots, Air Defence Controllers, and technical ground crew, who remained actively engaged in the exercise.

The exercise was aimed at validating interoperability in the face of realistic contemporary air combat scenarios between the two strategic allies. Shaheen-X is the 10th in the series of Shaheen Air Exercises, annually held in both the countries on an alternate basis. The series of air exercises between Pakistan Air Force and People's Liberation Army Air Force are rooted in their enduring partnership. The collaborative endeavor has not only facilitated the exchange of

valuable insights and lessons learned but has also



served as a catalyst for enhancing inter-operability among the combat crews of both Air Forces. The combined efforts of PAF's crew coupled with the formidable air combat capabilities of J-10 C and JF-17 aircraft, have been instrumental in achieving remarkable success in this challenging exercise. The successful participation of PAF air and ground crew in Shaheen series air exercises is reflective of the sound foothold of operational training of PAF personnel in line with the latest developments in aerial warfare in the face of shared challenges.

IRSA releases 254,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 254,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 240,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarela Dam was 1548.02 feet and was 150.02 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 143,000 cusecs and 130,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1234.10 feet, which was 184.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 12,600 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 145,200, 118,900, 98,300 and 38,400 cusecs respectively.—APP

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Briefs

Commerce minister lauds Malaysian economic growth

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production Dr. Gohar Ejaz on Tuesday commended Malaysia's outstanding economic growth, noting its impressive 6.5 percent annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth over the past half-century, which led to the establishment of a robust \$400 billion economy. He expressed these views as a chief guest at a ceremony held to mark Malaysia's 66th national day and 90th Armed Forces day here, hosted by Malaysian Ambassador to Pakistan Mohamad Azhar Mazlan, a news release said. Among others, the event was attended by diplomats, government officials, and representatives from both countries. Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz and Ambassador Azhar Mazlan shared insights on the flourishing relations between Pakistan and Malaysia, highlighting the immense potential for cooperation and collaboration in various sectors.—APP

15 Hunza students received Chinese Ambassadorial Scholarship

ISLAMABAD: As China continues to bolster its support for education in the northern regions of Pakistan, fifteen students from the Karakoram International University (KIU) Hunza campus have been granted financial assistance through the 'China-Pakistan Friendship-Ambassadorial Merit-cum-Need Scholarship' program. The students were presented with scholarship checks during a ceremony held at the KIU Hunza campus, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. The event featured Dr. Safdar Ali Shah, Director General of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Cell at the Higher Education Commission (HEC), as the chief guest. He distributed the checks among the students. "Spend the money on your education to fulfill the purpose of the scholarship," advised Safdar Ali Shah to the deserving students who qualified for the scholarship. He also expressed gratitude to the Embassy of China for their generous contribution towards education in the northern region.—DNA

Change in Kashmir strategy urged

MEHTAB PRIZADA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad: Experts at a roundtable discussion at the Institute of Regional Studies on the role of leadership in freedom struggle stressed the need to revisit Kashmir strategy in the light of changing dynamics in the Indian Il-legal Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). They also urged to bring clarity and the consistency in the Kashmir policies which they argued had caused a lot of confusion among the people especially the youth. Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, a leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) said that the political leaderships in Kashmir were united under the banner of Hurriyat Party, and no differences of opinion existed between them on the resolution of Kashmir dispute, he added. While highlighting the role of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mr. Safi said that Geelani was the embodiment of Islam, Pakistan and the Kashmir. His legacy would remain unparalleled and his commitment to the cause of Kashmir freedom movement would remain a beacon of hope for all the Kashmiris, he further said. Dr. Arshi Saleem Hashmi, Professor at NDU said that currently there existed parallel leaderships in the Kashmir. There was a traditional leadership that stressed on the self-determination, the religious leadership inspired by the Pan-Islamism, and a political leadership that sought political autonomy in the IIOJK, she explained.



ISLAMABAD: Wives of diplomats posing for a picture on the occasion of the National Day celebrations of Malaysia, held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. Another picture on the Back Page.—DNA

COMSTECH organizes Int'l Workshop on Nuclear Medicine

The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants and said that this is important, timely, and very useful activity that aims to project the current developments in S&T in the fields of nuclear medicine

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH in collaboration with the Pakistan Nuclear Society (PNS) and Pakistan Society of Nuclear Medicine (PSNM) has inaugurated a two-day international workshop on 'Advances in Nuclear Medicine and its Applications' to be held during September 19-20, at COMSTECH Secretariat, on Tuesday. Prof. Dr. Naseem Irfan, Rector, Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) was the chief guest at the opening session of the workshop. In his address, Prof. Naseem briefed

the audience about the evolution of human resource development in the fields of nuclear medicine research and development in Pakistan. He said that PIEAS and PAEC train doctors and medical professionals in the fields of nuclear medicine and diagnostics. Prof. Naseem said that PAEC provides state-of-the-art cancer treatment to the patients all over Pakistan on their door step through its wide spread network of institutions on a very minimal subsidized cost. He informed that foreign students can also join PIEAS in the fields of nuclear medicine and diagnostics. The Coordinator General COM-

TECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants and said that this is important, timely, and very useful activity that aims to project the current developments in S&T in the fields of nuclear medicine. He thanked the speakers for sparing their precious time for the workshop from Turkiye, Bangladesh, Kuwait and Pakistan.

Prof. Choudhary said that the techniques such as the positron emission tomography, CT oncology, hybrid imaging as well as advanced radionuclide therapies as new cancer treatment procedures, are highly important and it is vital to familiarize the clin-

ical practitioners, the medical oncologists and the researchers in nuclear medicine with these latest developments. He said that COMSTECH channelizes resources towards the areas where S&T can be used to address the needs of OIC states in combating underdevelopment, addressing health and medicinal challenges, as well as educational and food security needs. International experts from Turkiye, Kuwait and Bangladesh, and local experts will give lectures during the workshop. Local faculty and researchers will share their research findings. Over 150 clinical practitioners, oncol-

ogists, researchers and students in nuclear medicine and medical technologists have registered to attend physically while about 500 practitioners from different OIC states are participating online. The ambassadors and diplomats of different OIC states also participated in the opening session.

Prof. Dr. S. Khurshid Hasanain, Advisor COMSTECH is the focal person of the organizing committee while Dr. Shazia Fatima, Director Karachi Institute of Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine (KIRAN) is head of the program technical committee of the workshop.

Gold imports increase by 44.13% in two months

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The imports of gold witnessed an increase of 44.13 percent during the first two months of current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Pakistan imported gold worth \$4.971 million during July-August (2022-23) as compared to \$3.449 million during July-August (2022-23), a positive growth of 44.13 percent, according to PBS data. In terms of quantity, the gold imports increased by 56.33 percent during the period under review by going up from 65 kilogram last year

to 102 kilogram this year. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the gold imports during August 2023 increased by 23.02 percent to \$2.985 million as compared to the imports of \$2.426 million in August 2022. In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 52 kilograms of gold during the month under review as compared to the imports of 49 kilograms in August last year, showing growth of 6.12 percent. On month-on-month basis, the gold imports during August 2023 increased by 50.30 percent when compared to the imports of \$1.986 million in July 2023. In terms of quantity, the gold imports increased by 4 percent when compared to the imports of 50 kilogram during July 2023. It is pertinent to

mention here that the trade deficit contracted by 40.29 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year. The Trade deficit during July-August (2023-24) was recorded at \$3.763 billion as against the deficit of \$6.302 billion in July-August (2022-23), showing negative growth of 40.29 percent. During the period under review, the exports declined by 6.38 percent to \$4.431 billion compared to the exports of \$4.733 billion during the corresponding period of last year. On the other hand, the imports narrowed by 25.75 percent and were recorded at \$8.194 billion compared to \$11.035 billion last year, according to PBS data.

China-ASEAN expo provides valuable platform to Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Acting Consul General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, Sardar Muhammad said that China-ASEAN Expo provides a valuable platform for Paki-

stan to showcase its products and explore new avenues of trade and business cooperation with relevant companies and investors. The Acting Consul General along with Trade and Investment Counsellor, attended the opening ceremony of the 20th China ASEAN Expo and visited

Pakistan's pavilion and stalls of Pakistani companies participating in the event, according to Gwadar Pro. Sardar said that the Expo is an annual event that facilitates economic and trade cooperation among the participating countries. The event attracts a wide range of participants including businesses, government officials, and industry experts from various sectors. He further said that Pakistan has been allocated a sizable area at the Fair where 23 Pakistani companies are participating.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information and Broadcasting Zahoor Ahmed chairs first meeting of the Fund Management Committee of the Film and Drama Finance Fund at Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications.—APP

ANF seizes 256 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover 256 kg drugs and rounded up three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 187 kg ketamine was recovered during a raid conducted at a warehouse in Maripur, Karachi. The recovered ketamine was concealed in salt bags for smuggling abroad. A resident of Karachi was arrested during the operation. In another operation, 50 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Shikarpur Road, Sukkur. Two accused residents of Balochistan and Dera Bugti were arrested during the operation. In third operation, 8 kg heroin was recovered from secret cavities of a vehicle stopped near Aminpur Road, Faisalabad. During the operation, two accused residents of Charsadda were netted. In fourth operation, 11 kg hashish concealed for smuggling was recovered from an uninhabited area of Zakhakhel Khyber. The spokesman informed that separate cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are under process.—APP

Renovations completed in China-Pak School Gwadar

DNA

GWADAR: The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan along with the China Overseas Port holding company (COPHC) has completed the renovations of China-Pakistan Government Girls Middle School Faqeer Colony Gwadar. Naseem Baloch, the

school administrator, told Gwadar Pro that two buildings of the school, which were built in 2016 and 2020 respectively, were repaired and renovated to give a better learning environment to the students. Some parts of the school were also installed with solar panels to provide uninterrupted electricity. He said the repair

and renovations will create a safe, functional, and inspiring space for children while promoting effective teaching and learning atmosphere. Naseem was hopeful for the school upgradation from middle to high school this year. He noted that the school has sufficient area and facilities to be converted into a higher secondary.

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FIA arrests three illegal money changers

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Anti-Corruption Circle Peshawar on Tuesday arrested three illegal money changers and two accused allegedly involved in selling fake medicines. According to an FIA official, a team of an anti-corruption circle acting on a tip-off conducted a raid on Banny road in district Kohat and arrested three suspects allegedly involved in the hundi business. The team recovered foreign and local currency worth Rs 3.27 million from the accused and after registering a case started an investigation. Similarly, in an intelligence-based operation in Namak Mandi here, an FIA team arrested two suspects involved in buying and selling fake and unregistered medicines in the market. FIA registered a case against the accused and started investigation.—APP

Police arrest 506 drug peddlers

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police under a grand operation launched against drug peddlers and bootleggers managed to net 506 accused and recovered over 447 kg drugs, 1296 liters liquor and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that Rawalpindi District Police on the directives of City Police Officer, (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani had launched a grand operation against drug peddlers and bootleggers. He said, the CPO had directed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Divisional Superintendents of Police and other senior police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against the drug peddlers and bootleggers. The DSPs should supervise the investigation process of drug cases, the CPO said adding, Police should also take strict action in accordance with the law against the networks involved in supplying drugs to the students of different educational institutions.—APP

Some western nations accused of distorting China-Russia relations

China believes that opposing hegemony and upholding a multipolar world order are in the best interest of all countries. Viewed from this perspective, it should be easy to understand that even though China has friendly cooperative relations with Russia, the two sides are not allies. China seeks to maintain mutually beneficial friendly and good-neighborly relations with Russia, and sincerely hopes that cooperation between the two countries will bring real benefits to the two peoples. Good relations between the two countries undoubtedly help add an element of certainty into the otherwise unstable global situation. As Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during his talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on Monday, China and Russia have independent foreign policies, and the cooperation between the two countries is not directed against any country, nor is it influenced by any country. This is a clear exposition of the nature of the bilateral relations between the two countries. Wang also said that China is ready to work with Russia on the formation of a multipolar world, and the two countries bear a "special responsibility" in terms of maintaining global strategic stability and peace. That he should have to clarify the nature of the two countries' relationship is because some Western countries and their media try to distort the relationship between China and Russia to shape a false perception of it. Thus they describe it as an axis, with all the historical baggage that word carries in such a context, and claim it poses a threat to Western countries. That Wang's visit took place days after the meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un, leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has added fuel to the malicious speculation of the West about what the three countries "may possibly be conspiring about". Through the prism of their stubbornly persistent Cold War perspective, those in the West can hardly be objective when they look at the development of relations between China and Russia. When Washington and its Western allies are seeking to form cliques with the geopolitical aim of containing the development of some countries or drawing an ideological line for their international relations, it is impossible for them to view Sino-Russian relations without bias. In a similar vein, they deny the fact that China has never refused to develop good relations with them. If they did not draw their ideological line or seek to contain the rise of China, they could have developed good relations with China as well. China is willing to develop relations with all countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. It is the ideological bias and ill intention of maintaining the hegemonic status of the world's sole superpower that gets in the way of healthy, cooperative and amicable relations between China and some Western countries.

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Swift action urged for achieving SDGs

In 2015, the United Nations member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, 17 wide-ranging development targets that are supposed to be achieved by 2030. Yet at the midpoint of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the world is "woefully off track" to achieve the SDGs, as progress has been slow and, in some cases, things are even worse now than they were eight years ago. The UN has already admitted the development goals "are in peril". Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, as well as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the world has returned to levels of hunger not seen since 2005. And at the current rate, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030. Moreover, more than 2 billion people still do not have access to drinking water, while 1.1 billion urban residents are still living in slums. Other development goals, such as ensuring quality education for all children, achieving gender equality, and the environmental targets, are also not going to be achieved at the current rates of progress. The dire situation in the developing world prompted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to lament at the Summit of the Group of 77 and China, held in Cuba last week, that "the world is failing developing countries". He called for a "fairer future" for the Global South. The two-day SDG Summit, which opened on Monday under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, offers a good opportunity for world leaders to give fresh impetus to efforts to realize the development goals. It is imperative that all countries set aside their differences and work together to seek a "global rescue plan" for the SDGs because such goals are "about righting historic wrongs, healing global divisions and putting our world on a path to lasting peace", as Guterres said. World leaders must make the best use of the UN meeting to make meaningful commitments that can be followed up with concrete and faster actions. They must focus on such key issues as development finance, the climate crisis and building a more just and equitable global governance system, rather than let rising geopolitical tensions hijack the summit. China, as the world's largest developing country and a leading advocate for the Global South, will play its due part in seeking to ensure that no country is left behind in the push to realize sustainable development. Based on the three pillars of people and prosperity, the planet, and partnerships, China is doing everything possible to make the country a best-in-class exemplar in pursuit of the SDGs. As part of its efforts, China has put forward the Global Development Initiative in a bid to encourage the input of greater resources into global development collaboration and provide a road map to accelerate progress to attain the SDGs while leaving no country and no one behind. The country will continue to seek to realize the full potential of its own role and contribution through expanding and strengthening its international engagements.

A new era, with new leadership

Qamar Bashir



Anwar ul Haq Kakar, our Prime Minister, has captivated the nation with his clear objectives. He is resolute in following the constitution and upholding the rule of law under all circumstances. His commitment extends to establishing the government's authority and the state's writ at any cost, prioritizing the interests of the people, and ensuring justice for the abhorrent events of May 9th, all while fearlessly confronting entrenched mafias. He advocates for truthfulness, shunning false promises

These truly are remarkable times in Pakistan, marked by an unprecedented alignment of leadership in all three pillars of the state, with each being helmed by individuals from Balochistan. It signifies a historical shift in governance and vision for the nation. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjarani, the Chairman of the Senate since his oath-taking on March 12, 2018, possesses a kind, straightforward, and affable demeanor. He excels at building friendships and is often the go-to negotiator to mediate between political factions. His tenure, during challenging times, has been marked by a non-controversial approach, efficiently handling the vital and sensitive role of Chairman of the Senate while keeping senators from both sides in good spirits. Anwar ul Haq Kakar, our Prime Minister, has captivated the nation with his clear objectives. He is resolute in following the constitution and upholding the rule of law under all circumstances. His commitment extends to establishing the government's authority and the state's writ at any cost, prioritizing the interests of the people, and ensuring justice for the abhorrent events of May 9th, all while fearlessly confronting entrenched mafias. He advocates for truthfulness, shunning false promises and providing the public with an honest view of the nation's economic and political landscape, even when it may appear unsettling. He is resolute about not interfering with the workings and mandates of constitutional bodies. Anwar ul Haq Kakar seeks to build upon the positive policies of previous governments, maintain equitable relationships with neighbors and international powers, all while safeguarding the nation's dignity and sovereignty. He is unafraid to make tough and unpopular decisions, exemplified by his crackdown on various mafias and his commitment to national interests. Qazi Faez Esa, another eminent Balochistani, hailing from Pishin, located in the vicinity of Quedda, has emerged as a dynamic Chief Justice. He boldly broke stereotypes by inviting his wife to stand beside him during his oath-taking, signaling gender equality and the equal status of women in society. His refusal to use a bulletproof car, close roads, or receive guard of honor underscores his commitment to simplicity and avoiding unnecessary pomp. In his very first address to his

staff, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Esa set a profound tone by emphasizing that litigants and the general public do not approach the Supreme Court with pleasure. He directed the entire Supreme Court staff to treat litigants and the public with respect and dignity, akin to how a good host treats guests. He made history by convening a full court session with 15 judges, sending a reassuring message to Pakistan's 240 million citizens that the judiciary, once perceived as divided, would now function in unison. He relinquished his power to take suo moto notice of public matters and mandated consultation with two other senior judges, transforming the process into an objective exercise rooted in consultation, deliberation, and consensus-building. This move reduced objections from affected parties who previously perceived it as subjective and aggressive. Chief Justice Qazi Faez Esa achieved a significant milestone by allowing the live telecast of court proceedings. This decision unequivocally communicates the judiciary's commitment to deciding cases based solely on merit and in strict adherence to constitutional provisions. These developments put a damper on the expectations of political players and establishments, as favorable decisions, which were elusive under previous chief justices, are now less likely to be influenced. Crucially, gray areas in legislation that were intentionally created to circumvent the law and the constitution are poised to be addressed, potentially quashed or nullified to reinstate the constitution's supremacy and the rule of law. The question arises: why can Mr. Anwar Kakar take bold decisions despite being a politician? Why can he crack down on unscrupulous elements stealing electricity, burdening those who pay bills on time, and depriving the national exchequer of revenue? Why did previous governments not act against electricity thieves despite having the capability to do so? Why were illegal exchange companies, Hundi, and Hawala dealers allowed to siphon off precious foreign exchange, devaluing the Rupee? The Rupee, at times, even lost value against the Afghan Afghani, not due to economic weakness, but because of the smuggling of Pakistan's foreign exchange to Afghani-

stan, facilitated by elements within our own security and regulatory agencies. Why could Mr. Kakar crackdown on sugar, flour, petrol, and manure mafias that deprived our people of essential goods while smuggling them to Afghanistan and Central Asia, causing hardship and even death to many Pakistanis? Why can Sadiq Sanjarani effectively lead the Senate, and why could Qazi Faez Esa unite a previously divided Supreme Court and allow live telecasts without hesitation? The answers to these questions lie in the core values of individuals, families, and tribes that prioritize truthfulness, loyalty, dignity, and honor, even at great personal sacrifice. They remain steadfastly sincere to themselves, their families, tribes, and the nation, always ready to defend their honor and dignity. They extend helping hands to the needy without expecting rewards or appreciation, and they possess an innate ability to sacrifice personal wealth and even life for the greater good of their family, tribe, and nation. Another answer lies in the fact that these prominent Balochistan figures who rose to power lack vested interests in large businesses or industrial conglomerates. They don't own sprawling business empires, sugar mills, flour mills, or vast agricultural lands. Their desires are modest, their greed is limited, their needs are humble, and they find contentment and immense satisfaction in what they have. Furthermore, these traits align seamlessly with the philosophy and approach of the current Army Chief. With his support, the crackdown on deeply entrenched mafias becomes more feasible. During their tenure in power, these leaders are likely to challenge and restrain these mafias, forcing them into dormancy or compelling them to find alternative ways to resurface. In the near future, Pakistan may benefit from a harmonious alignment of government, Senate, judiciary, and the military—a formidable force that aims to combat entrenched mafias and steer the nation toward justice and prosperity.

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

Restoring image of judiciary: a challenge for the new CJP

Waheed Hussain



Pakistan's political and judicial history is full of surprises and whatever is happening today is a surprise for public and rest of the world, especially those countries which have great interest in it. In May 2019, President Dr Arif Alvi on the advice of the then Prime Minister Imran Khan sent a reference to the supreme court against the justice Faez Isa

Justice Qazi Faiz Essa has resumed his duties as the Chief Justice of Pakistan. Surprising many, the country's Judiciary Chief invited his wife to accompany him during the oath taking ceremony in the presidency. Establishing a new precedent, he allowed the live TV coverage of full court hearing of "the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act, a legislation related to the powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan in constituting benches in the supreme court and taking Suo Motu action under the article 184(3) of the Constitution of Pakistan." Why did the new Chief Justice want his wife to stand beside him during oath-taking? What message did he want to convey and to whom? Why did CJP live broadcast the court proceeding? Whatever was the reason both the acts were welcomed by the public in the country. Live coverage of the full court hearing established transparency in the highest court about legislation related to the powers of the Chief Justice himself. Giving away or sharing authority with any other official or institution has always been either rejected or discouraged in the larger scheme of the statecraft. Words and the actions of the new Chief Justice of Pakistan are extremely encouraging. Will the Chief Justice Isa be successful in restoring the image of the judiciary, is a huge challenge? Pakistan's political and judicial history is full of surprises and whatever is happening today is a surprise for public and rest of the world, especially those countries which have great interest in it. In May 2019, President Dr Arif Alvi on the advice of the then Prime Minister Imran Khan sent a reference to the supreme court against the justice Faez Isa. The reference maintained that the properties/assets in the name of his wife Mrs. Sarina Isa belong to him. After hearing of the case, the court decided in justice Isa's favor, as no concrete evidence was available to support the reference. In its detailed judgment, the Supreme Court found that the reference filed against Justice Isa had been in "wanton disregard of the law"

with 'glaring lapses and procedural irregularities in the filing of the reference.' In April 2022, the former Prime Minister and Chairman PTI in a media interaction accepted that it was a mistake from the part of his government to file a reference against the present CJP. Anyways, in the power politics judges as well as judiciary as an institution had been used and misused by the ruling elite for their nefarious designs. Almost all the rulers, either civilians or generals, tried their level best to keep the judiciary on their side so that they could take any kind of decision disregarding the law or constitution. Although the constitution ensures the trichotomy of power. However, both the executive and judiciary always tried to undermine each other. There was a famous quote that judges speak through their judgements and orders. In our case many times, the court's decisions were termed as politically motivated, benefiting certain individuals. Former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar was accused by the Sharif family for favoring Imran Khan during his tenure as Chief Justice of Pakistan. Former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryum Nawaz were sent to jail before the 2018 general elections leaving the field open for the PTI chief. The Panama Papers proceedings against the former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter were a well-planned conspiracy to keep them out of the elections' race. No doubt, it was a miscarriage of the justice. PML (N) claims that former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar was the part and parcel of achieving the "Project Imran." He openly facilitated the PTI chief to win the election and become the prime minister. The N league is of the opinion that Umer Atta Bandial and some of his brother judges in supreme court as well as in high courts fully supported the former PM in various cases. Leaked audios of the judges and their family members were uploaded on the social media generating a debate that former PM was favored against the spirit of the law and justice system. Imran Khan's opponent have been pro-

moting this idea that a selective justice system was practiced by the superior judiciary between 2017 to end of the Justice Bandial tenure. The PML (N) leadership believed the selective justice system and so-called accountability under former chairman NAB Javed Iqbal targeting only Nawaz Sharif and other family members were backed by certain elements in the established at that time. The outgoing chief justice Umer Atta Bandial "good to see you" remarks to Imran Khan in the supreme court were bitterly castigated and ridiculed by the PML (N) leadership expressing its total displeasure. The Sharif family and other members of the PML (N) continuously attacked the court benches which were headed by the former CJP Bandial. He was called as Imran's man. Judges are supposed to be very careful in the legal and personal conduct. When one person is facilitated against the other being personally and politically victimized through selective justice and controversial decisions the criticism and questioned must be raised. Impression of favoritism in the superior judiciary fractures the very concept of justice. The judges must be very careful when they deal with the constitutional or political cases. Full court hearing by the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday has sent a positive message to the nation that the new CJP will uphold the law and Constitution. He will not divide the judiciary as was done in the past, rather take all the honorable judges along with him to provide relief to the masses. It has been reported that around 60 thousand cases are pending in the superior judiciary and the CJP has also mentioned them in the full court hearing. We hope those cases will be taken up as the top priority, so that the public can get justice as early as possible. Many political and legal analysts are talking about the role of judiciary in conducting free and fair elections in the country. Will the Chief Justice Isa direct the ECP to announce the date of the general elections? I doubt.

Briefs

Joe Biden urges world to stand...

FROM PAGE 01
United Nations General Assembly, he said cooperation and partnership are the keys to global challenges and the baseline for leadership on these issues. "After more than 50 years of progress under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Russia is shredding the longstanding arms control agreements, including announcing the suspension of New START," he said. "I view it as irresponsible, and it makes the entire world less safe." He noted the United States has destroyed its last remaining chemical munitions in its stockpile this year in its efforts to lead in keeping the world free of chemical weapons. Biden has voiced support for the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as they push against recent coups in Niger and Gabon. "We will not retreat from the values that make us strong. We will defend democracy, our best tool to meet the challenge that we face around the world," he said.

Multi-National Special...

FROM PAGE 01
Shinkari, which is the Center of Excellence for training of Non Commissioned Officers. He laid floral wreath at Yadgaar e Shuhada and addressed the participants of the Academy. COAS remarked that "Junior Leaders are the backbone of Pakistan Army and are key to success in Conventional and Unconventional Warfare." "Our standard of professionalism and leadership is par excellence compared to any modern army of the world. Junior leaders of Pak Army have proven their mettle in the fields of training, operations and world class competitions across the world", COAS concluded. On arrival at JLA and Brotha, COAS was received by Inspector General Training & Evaluation.

Number rises by 21m in four years

FROM PAGE 01
comprising around 46pc of the total registered voters. Male voters, on the other hand, comprise 54pc or 68.5m of the total voters. Meanwhile, an age-wise analysis of the data shows that youth, aged between 18-35, at around 57.1m, making up 45pc of those who are eligible to vote. The same percentage for the 2018 elections was 43.8pc. The elderly – aged 56 and above – who have witnessed the country's politics for a considerable time, amount to almost 24m or 18.9pc of the total voter count. A district-wise breakdown of the data shows that Punjab residents make up the largest chunk of eligible voters – 72.3m or 56.9pc of all voters. Sindh ranks second, contributing 26.6m voters that comprise 21pc of the total. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which now also includes the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas, is not far behind with almost 21.7m potential voters, who amount to almost 17.1pc of the voter count.

Rupee surges Rs 1.04...

FORM PAGE 01
closing of Rs 315.62, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Read more: Anti-smuggling drive lifts rupee further The Japanese Yen came down by 1 paisa to close at Rs1.99, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.09 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs365.32 as compared to the last closing of Rs366.41. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal declined by 28 and 27 paisa to close at Rs 80.29 and Rs 78.62 respectively. The Express Tribune earlier quoted Topline Securities as saying that the caretaker government, along with SBP, took several measures to cool down demand in the open market which resulted in appreciation of the Pakistani rupee.

Wilhelm raises \$170,000 for children of deceased porter

Muhammad Hassan, the porter fell off a ledge and reportedly died a few hours later at a narrow path known as the bottleneck at K2, some 8,200 meters high

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Austrian mountaineer Wilhelm Steindl, who came to Pakistan to climb K2 but ended his summit midway due to the death of his local porter Muhammad Hassan, raised funds of 1,70,000 US \$ for the deceased's children and their mother. Muhammad Hassan, the porter fell off a ledge and reportedly died a few hours later at a narrow path known as the bottleneck at K2, some 8,200 meters high. After his death, one of the mountaineer Wilhelm Steindl ended his summit midway and returned to his home country where he started a campaign "Give me Fund for them" to financially help Hassan's family and collected 1,70,000 US \$ for them. He was warmly received by Inter-Minister for Tourism Wasi Shah in his office on Tuesday. At this, the minister talking to the media said that the government of Pakistan has also assured to cover all expenses of Muhammad Hassan's

family, widow, children, and mother. Additionally, the government would fully support the education of Muhammad Hassan's three children and secure a job for his widow besides comprehensive medical treatment for his asthmatic elderly mother. However, despite these efforts, my heart remains heavy because my organization couldn't do everything that should have been done for Muhammad Hassan and his family, said Wasi Shah. Wilhelm Steindl said there was no formal arrangement for porters however after he assumed charge of the Ministry of Tourism, PTDC made significant progress in establishing a mountain training center in collaboration with Gilgit-Baltistan University, with Wiley's full support. He said, previously, there was no provision for insurance of porters in case of accidents, leaving families like Muhammad Hassan's without any financial support however after extensive meetings with stakeholders in Islamabad and Skardu, the government agreed on a minimum

insurance coverage of 30 lakhs for porters, but he is still working towards increasing it to 50 lakhs. The minister of Gilgit-Baltistan said that all these efforts were born out of the tragic loss of Muhammad Hassan, however, what truly amazed and inspired him was Wiley's selfless dedication to Muhammad Hassan and his family, despite not being Pakistani. He appreciated Wiley, on behalf of every Pakistani and humanity, and said "Your actions exemplify the best of what humans can achieve when they come together for a common cause". Steindl, who came to Pakistan to climb K2 but ended his summit midway due to the death of his local porter Muhammad Hassan, raised funds of 1,70,000 US \$ for the deceased's children and their mother. Additionally, The government would fully support the education of Muhammad Hassan's three children and secure a job for his widow besides comprehensive medical treatment for his asthmatic elderly mother.



PML-N enjoys support...

FROM PAGE 01
It couldn't be that Sindh doesn't have permission to use the developmental budget, he added. The scion of the Bhutto family said that work on developmental schemes is underway in Punjab and Centre but the trend for the use of development funds should be constant everywhere. "The level-playing field in the Centre and all provinces should be same for development [works]." Bilawal went on to say that everyone realised his party's argument regarding the level-playing field. "It would have been better that the matter of level-playing field was addressed by the parties [which were part] of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)." Talking about the controversy surrounding the election date, Bilawal said that only the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has the authority to announce a date. He called upon the election regulating body to announce the election schedule immediately.

PML-N's sacrifice...

FORM PAGE 01
made a sincere sacrifice to rescue Pakistan from economic collapse and has borne the consequences for the nation's sake, expressing confidence that his party would achieve success in the upcoming elections. Furthermore, the PML-N supreme accused former army chief General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa, ex-Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief General (retd) Faiz Hamid, and former chief justice Mian Saqib Nisar of being responsible for the current state of affairs in the country. Nawaz acknowledged that while some damages could be overcome in life, others remained insurmountable. "Today, the poor is craving for bread. Who brought the country to this state," the senior politician questioned, regretting how people were worried about putting two-time meals on their table.

US embassy to cut visa...

FROM PAGE 01
the upcoming months at the US Consulate General in Karachi are encouraged to check their email and log in to their accounts on the official website, ustraveldocs.com/pk, to confirm their newly expedited appointment times. In a bid to provide more flexibility to Pakistani travelers, visa applicants will now have the option to reschedule their appointments at either the US Consulate General in Karachi or the US Embassy in Islamabad, depending on what suits their needs best. This dual location scheduling aims to empower applicants to find a convenient date, time, and location for their visa interviews. This flexibility is anticipated to reduce the pressure on both facilities and make the visa application process more accessible to applicants from across Pakistan.

PTI demands...

FROM PAGE 01
international agreements and national security. The participants of the meeting said: "After publishing the alleged text of the CIPHER, the latest news of 'The Intercept' warrants immediate attention to identify the facts in this regard because in alarming claims have made regarding the IMF financial deal with Pakistan in the news story. They went on to say that PTI Chairman Imran Khan's assumptions pertaining to the regime change conspiracy and its motives appeared to be true, as the country's economy, politics, governance, state structure and society are in total decline since April 2022, exposing the role, characters and competence of the decision-makers before the nation. The PTI core committee expressed alarm over giving the control of the country's affairs into the hands of a group completely devoid of the constitution, law, values and national interest, as it would put the future of the state in jeopardy. They demanded that the contents of both news of 'The Intercept' should be investigated through an empowered high-level judicial commission and the facts should be brought before nation so as they could know about reality.

Amid rift rumours, Shaheen shares picture with Babar



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Amid rumours of a rift with the skipper, Pakistani pacer Shaheen Afridi posted a picture with captain Babar Azam to end the speculation by terming him as his "family". There have been various reports claiming that the duo are not on the same page and had arguments after Pakistan's loss to Sri Lanka in a knockout

fixture of Asia Cup 2023 last week. In a picture posted by Shaheen Afridi on social platform X with Babar Azam, the left-arm pacer

wrote "family" with a heart emoji. He shared the picture on photo sharing site, Instagram, as well. After missing out on the final of the Asia Cup, the Pakistan men's team now shifted their focus to the World Cup in India. The selection, committee led by Inzamam-ul-Haq, has finished consultations with Babar Azam and the announcement of the 15-man squad will be made soon. The Men in Green will travel to India on September 25. They will first travel to Hyderabad via Dubai and will reach on September 27, as per Cricbuzz. Pakistan is set to play a total of eleven matches in the World Cup, with four of them, including two warm-up matches and two group games, scheduled to take place in Hyderabad. The day matches will start at 10:00 am Pakistan Standard Time (PST) while all other matches will be day-night fixtures starting at 01:30 pm (PST). If Pakistan qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Kolkata. If India qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Mumbai unless playing against Pakistan, in which case they will play in Kolkata.

Here is Pakistan's schedule for the ICC World Cup 2023:

October 6 - vs Netherlands in Hyderabad

October 10 - vs Sri Lanka in Hyderabad

October 14 - vs India in Ahmedabad

October 20 - vs Australia in Bengaluru

October 23 - vs Afghanistan in Chennai

October 27 - vs South Africa in Chennai

October 31 - vs Bangladesh in Kolkata

November 4 - vs New Zealand Bengaluru (Day match)

November 11 - vs England in Kolkata

Pak-NZ WC warm-up fixture to be played behind closed doors

NEW DELHI : The warm-up fixture of the ICC Men's World Cup 2023 between Pakistan and New Zealand will be played without spectators, Indian media reported Tuesday. According to the Indian media, the Hyderabad city police expressed concerns regarding their inability to provide adequate security for the match, scheduled for September 29, which consequently led to the decision to hold the warm-up fixture without the spectators. Notably, the Ganesh Visarjan and Milad-un-Nabi festivals, which are expected to draw sizable crowds and necessitate a significant police presence, coincide with the date of the warm-up game between Pakistan and New Zealand. "The processions will go on late into the night and the local police would not be able to provide adequate security for a match of this scale," a BCCI official said. "There will continue to be full security for both the teams during their stay and transit to the stadium." Consequently, the tickets for spectators will be refunded by the Board for Cricket Control in India (BCCI), in coordination with the hosting association and ticketing partners. Last month, the highly-anticipated India-Pakistan fixture at this year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup was rescheduled to October 14, while details of eight other matches had also been changed. The high-octane clash India-Pakistan World Cup fixture was originally slated to take place on October 15 but the date coincided with beginning of Navratri, a festival celebrated with mass participation across Gujarat. – Agencies

Pak women's team kicks off training for Asian Games

HANGZHOU: Pakistan women's cricket team on Tuesday, began their preparations to participate in the upcoming Asian Games 2023, scheduled to commence on September 28. According to the details, the Pakistan Women's cricket team conducted a robust training session at Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket field here. The national players were engaged in rigorous fielding drills and also participated in the net sessions. Pakistan Women's team will start their Asian Games 2023 campaign in the quarter-final on September 21. Pakistan last participated in in 2010 and 2014 Asian Games and returned with the gold in each edition. – Agencies



LAHORE: Chairman PCB Management Committee Zaka Ashraf met with Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi at NCA, to discuss matters of mutual interest. – APP

Pakistani footballers hit by 'financial crunch'

Pakistan football players face tough financial circumstances ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier after being left unpaid for past four months

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

KARACHI: Pakistan football players face tough financial circumstances ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier after being left unpaid for the past four months. The players who featured in the four-nation cup in Mauritius in June, followed by the SAFF Championship in India and the recent AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers in Bahrain are yet to be paid with their dues amounting to approximately Rs1 million each. Despite the FIFA ban being lifted recently, players and fans had hoped to see some positive developments with regards to the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalisation Committee (NC), players and support staff who participated in the four-nation cup in Mauritius in June, followed by the SAFF Championship in India and the recent AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers in Bahrain have not been paid. The players are yet to be paid their dues amounting to approximately Rs1 million each. With the FIFA Men's World Cup 2026 Qualifier against Cambodia scheduled to



take place next month, on October 12 and 17, the players and support staff have not been paid for the past four months. When the players asked the PFF to clear their payments, they were told that it would be done by mid-July. When the first deadline passed, the players were informed that the

payments had been delayed till mid-August. However, the dues were not cleared even after more than a month had passed since the August deadline. The players were not even reimbursed for travelling to different cities of Pakistan for camps. There also came a time when some of the players had

to chip in to pay for their teammates' travelling expenses in order to ensure that all of them were able to attend the camps. "Whenever we approached the PFF about releasing payments, we were told that there was a funding issue. We were also told that the payments for Mauritius and India tour will be done by September 15 but that was also not the case," a source familiar with the situation told GeoSuper. tv on condition of anonymity. "Recently, when the team went for AFC U23 Qualifiers to Bahrain, no meal was offered to the players at the airport since the officials told them that there was a funding issue due to an audit of PFF accounts. "Despite all the issues, the players were asked to cooperate by the PFF but for how long could they have done that? "I know that FIFA did send the PFF funds recently but the players and officials were still not paid. I spoke to some of the permanent employees of PFF, who said that their salaries were released in August so it was certain that the national squad would be paid as well. But when I asked the finance department, they said an audit had started.

Briefs

Kenyan military plane crashes, kills all onboard

NAIROBI : A military helicopter crash in Kenya near the border with Somalia has killed at least eight people, officials have said. It was not immediately clear on Tuesday what caused the crash in the county of Lamu in coastal Kenya. Kenyan defence forces operate in the area to help deter al Qaeda-linked militants from the al Shabab terrorist group, based across the border in Somalia. The Department of Defence said the Air Force helicopter crashed while on night patrol. It said a board of inquiry has been sent to the scene. A defence and a police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to reporters, said all military personnel and crew on board the helicopter died. Kenyan troops are also in Somalia under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia to help in fighting al Shabab terrorist group. The Kenyan forces deployed to Somalia in 2011, but there are now plans to withdraw the multinational forces as Somali troops take over responsibility for their country's security. Al Shabab has increased attacks in Kenya in recent months, killing dozens of people in the border region as the militants feel pressure from a Somali military offensive that was launched last year.—APP

Taiwan buys 160 UAVs from Turkish company

TAIPEI: Taiwan has signed a deal to purchase 160 "Jackal" UAVs from a Turkish company, Fly Bvlos Technology, at the Taipei Aerospace & Defense Technology Exhibition (TADTE). The deal was signed last week. Previously, through British Flyby Technology, the U.K. was the first country to acquire this particular drone from Türkiye. Jackal has a special design that can be used in cargo and logistics services in the aviation industry. Since it is a UAV capable of vertical take-off and landing (VTOL), Jackal can land and take off in any area without a runway. The UAV is also designed to fly in harsh weather conditions, in all kinds of scenarios, for tasks such as delivering humanitarian aid, monitoring and observation and sensitive data logistics. Türkiye's defense industry breakthrough and localization drive have prompted the development of multiple homegrown air, land and marine platforms, which eventually helped Türkiye seal billions of dollars worth of deals in recent years. The capabilities of its vehicles, spearheaded by its combat drones, triggered unprecedented demand that saw Türkiye's defense industry exports hit a record of more than \$4.4 billion in 2022.—APP

OECD raises 2023 global GDP growth forecast

ANKARA : The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Tuesday raised its world economic growth forecast for 2023, but lowered it for 2024. The world economy is expected to grow by 3.0% this year, said the Paris-based organization in its September global economic outlook report. This was 0.3 percentage point upward from the previous projection in June. The global gross domestic product (GDP) growth is foreseen to come in at 2.7% next year, revised downward by 0.2 points. "With monetary policy becoming increasingly visible and a weaker-than-expected recovery in China, global growth in 2024 is projected to be lower than in 2023," the OECD said. The GDP in the US is expected to increase 2.2% this year, revised upward by 0.6 points. The growth is expected to slow to 1.3% in 2024 as tighter financial conditions soften demand pressures. The OECD cut China's growth forecast by 0.3 points to 5.1% for 2023 and 0.5 points to 4.6% for next year.—APP

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense

Armenian forces continue acts of terrorism in Karabakh region

Anti-terrorist activities aim to neutralize Armenian illegal armed groups: Hajiyev

DNA

BAKU: Systematic shelling of positions of the Azerbaijan Army by the formations of Armenia's armed forces using weapons of different calibers, continued mining of our territories, enhancement of engineering support for battle positions, as well as an increase in the number of trenches and shelters in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in the past few months have further escalated the tensions. In this regard, we have also registered fortification of battle positions with military personnel, armored vehicles, artillery gun mounts, and other firepower, bringing units to a high level of combat readiness, creation of additional mobilization units, expansion of reconnaissance activities against units of the Azerbaijan Army, as well as penetration in-depth of our positions to carry our reconnaissance-subversion acts by re-planting mines across already demined areas and the roads used for civilian purposes. On September 19, a vehicle belonging to Azerbaijan State Agency for Automobile Roads exploded hitting a land mine previously planted by the reconnaissance-subversion



groups of Armenia's armed forces in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, with the purposes of committing terror act, on the Ahmdayli-Fuzuli-Shusha Road that killed two civilians. The same day, the explosion of vehicle carrying the military personnel of the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Inter-

nal Affairs on the mine, installed by the reconnaissance-subversion groups of Armenia's armed forces led to fatalities and injuries among our military servicemen. Such facts are the testimony to the ongoing deliberate and planned policy of terror by Armenia against Azerbaijan. The Ministry of Defense of Azer-

baijan has repeatedly stated that contrary to the provisions of the Trilateral Statement signed on 10 November 2020, the continued presence of Armenia's armed forces formations in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan is the source of grave threat to regional peace and stability. Therefore, local anti-terrorist

activities have been launched to ensure the provisions of the Trilateral Statement, suppress large-scale provocations in the Karabakh economic region, to disarm and secure the withdrawal of formations of Armenia's armed forces from our territories, neutralize their military infrastructure, provide the safety of the civilian population returned to the territories liberated from occupation, the civilians involved in construction and restoration work and our military personnel, and ultimately restore the constitutional order of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

As part of the measures, positions on the front line and in-depth, long-term firing points of the formations of Armenia's armed forces, as well as combat assets and military facilities are incapacitated using high-precision weapons. We reiterate that the civilian population and civilian infrastructure facilities are not targeted. Only legitimate military targets are being incapacitated. The command of the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Turkish-Russian Monitoring Center are informed about the ongoing activities.

EU foreign ministers to hold meeting in Kyiv

"It is no longer an issue of lifting restrictions or sanctions since they do not affect Russian exports (...) those are excuses or false arguments," Borrell said

NEWS DESK

KYIV: EU foreign ministers will soon hold a meeting in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, the bloc's foreign policy chief said Tuesday. Earlier this year, the EU side had already once visited the war-torn country for a meeting, including European Commission-to-Ukrainian government consultations and an EU-Ukraine summit. "We will convene a meeting of foreign affairs ministers in Kyiv soon," Borrell told reporters, speaking on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York about preparations for the visit that should happen in October. Euractiv un-

derstands the main topics would be Ukraine's EU integration, a show of support as the country finds itself in a critical phase of its counteroffensive against Russia and taking stock of some critical measures, such as military aid and further tightening of sanctions. His comments came as EU foreign ministers met informally in New York on Monday to discuss Ukraine and the wider Sahel regions and coordinate their position for the UN General Assembly. "We have coordinated our outreach to three countries — among all [EU] ministers — and I can tell you that, all together, we are going to have meetings with 133 partners here in New York

during this week," Borrell said. His comments come as eighteen months into Russia's war on Ukraine, Kyiv's Western allies are struggling to court countries of the Global South and cope with a changing world order. Speaking to reporters in New York, Borrell defined the common European position as the search for "peace, but a just peace" for Ukraine, based on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's peace plan, for which Europeans intend to gather "the biggest number of support" throughout the week. "The UN General Assembly is the most important forum to generate international momentum to advance the peace efforts to support

Ukraine (...) and here is the moment to do it", Borrell said. Regarding Russia exiting the Black Sea grain deal, which allowed the export of Ukrainian grain and Russian fertilisers through a safe passage in the Black Sea, Borrell said he "believes deep down that [Russia] does not want this agreement". "It is no longer an issue of lifting restrictions or sanctions since they do not affect Russian exports (...) those are excuses or false arguments," Borrell said. "Who's going to pay for this? Apart from the Ukrainians itself — the ones who are going to be most receptive people in the most vulnerable countries in the world, in Africa and the Middle East and Latin America," Borrell said.

Kharkiv children seek education in metro due to war

KHARKIV: While the war between Russia and Ukraine continues, classrooms have been set up in some metro stations for primary school students in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, which is a frequent target of Russian missile attacks. The classrooms located on the upper floor of the metro became operational with the start of the academic year in September. More than 1,000 children from different schools in the city attend lectures and do sports in the classes organized by the Kharkiv Municipality. Food is also provided for students here. While some of the children are dropped off here by their parents, some are brought by public buses and delivered to their families by the teachers at the end of their lessons. Following the start of the war, schooling across Ukraine switched to online and schools were not opened due to safety concerns for children, Olga Demenko, director of the Education Department of the Kharkiv City Council. She said that education in metro stations started in September with the beginning of the new school year. "Some 1,080 children receive education in five metro stations in Kharkiv. There are 64 classes in total. Middle school and high school students are used to online education and know how to use this system," she said. "Young children need socialization. Of these 64 classes, 26 are first years. It is important for children who start school after the kindergarten to integrate," she added. Demenko said the children attending the classes are from different schools and in addition to teachers, security and health personnel and psychologists also work at the metro schools.—DNA

UK offers \$300m guarantee for Asia-Pacific climate fund

LONDON: Britain will provide guarantees of up to \$300 million to a climate funding facility designed to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build infrastructure resilient to the impact of climate crisis in Asia and the Pacific.

The guarantee will go to the Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific (IFCAP), a leveraged guarantee mechanism for climate finance which was announced in May by the Asian Development Bank. Britain said the guarantee could unlock \$1.2 to \$1.8 billion in climate financing and would help achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. Those goals — a global 'to do' list set out in 2015 — are a focal point for the UN General Assembly, taking place this week against a backdrop of geopolitical tension as Russia and China vie with the US and Europe to win over developing countries. British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly will make the guarantee announcement at the assembly in New York. He will also announce further funding and guarantees worth 180 million pounds to support education through the International Finance Facility for Education.—Agencies



BRUSSELS: Ambassador Amna Baloch called on the Ambassador of Nepal Gahendra Rajabhandari to exchanged views on latest regional and initial developments. Agreed to capitalize on the traditional goodwill between both nations and continue coop in future.—DNA

Only Russia, Ukraine can decide when war will end

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Only the Russian and Ukrainian presidents can determine when the war in Ukraine will come to an end, said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In an interview with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), an American public broadcaster, President Erdogan emphasised that he could not provide a timeline for the war's conclusion. "It's impossible for me to give you a calendar about when this war will end or how long it will go," he said. "Only the leaders of both parties will be able to tell you." He was referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Asked about his discussions with Putin regarding the war's progress, President Erdogan noted that the conflict is expected to continue for "a long time." "And for the war to end as soon as pos-

sible, we would like to be very hopeful. And Mr. Putin is actually on the side of ending this war as soon as possible," he said. The president also said that Russia is as trustworthy as the West. "I have no reason not to trust them. To the extent the West is reliable, Russia is equally reliable. For the last 50 years, we have been waiting at the doorstep of the EU. And at this moment in time, I trust Russia just as much as I trust the West," he said. When asked about recent remarks he made on parting ways with the European Union if necessary, the president said that Türkiye attaches great importance to decisions made by the EU and will welcome any positive step forward. "Türkiye has been lingering at the doorstep of the EU for the last five decades. And we were always self-sufficient. We never relied on contributions or support we received from the EU, so it's not even necessary for us," he added. EU accession

talks, Sweden's NATO issue President Erdogan also reiterated that Sweden's NATO bid and Türkiye's current position within the EU accession negotiations are two separate issues. "We have repeatedly stated that we were ready to support Sweden to join NATO. But Sweden is supposed to rise up to the occasion and keep their promises because on the streets of Stockholm, we still see terrorists wandering around freely," he said. The Turkish leader was referring to supporters of the PKK and FETO terrorist groups in the Nordic country. He has repeatedly urged Stockholm to take measures against these supporters who, he said, were roaming freely. Finland and Sweden applied for NATO membership shortly after Russia launched its offensive in Ukraine in February 2022. Although Türkiye approved Finland's NATO membership, it is waiting for Sweden to fulfill its commitments not to provide shelter to terrorists or

supporters of terrorists and not to facilitate their actions. The president said that Sweden's bid to join NATO is being assessed by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (Turkish Parliament) and it is the place where, he said, the accession would be eventually ratified. "This is part of the agenda of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye. The Assembly will see the situation within the framework of its own calendar. This proposal will come to a vote by the lawmakers," he said. However, he reiterated that Sweden should keep its promises. "Terrorist organisations should immediately stop their demonstrations on the streets of Stockholm and they should stop their activities. Because seeing this actually happen is going to be very important for the Turkish people. Sweden seemingly carried out legislative amendments, but it's not enough," the president added. Sale of F-16 jets and Sweden's

NATO bid. President Erdogan also said he believed the US sale of F-16 fighter jets to Türkiye and Sweden's NATO bid should not be related. "I believe these two topics shouldn't be related, because while, primarily, President (Joe) Biden said that this issue was tied to the Congress, we would always say, OK, we have the Turkish Parliament," he said. If the parliament doesn't make a positive decision about this bid, then there's nothing to do," he added. Joining EU for sanctioning Russia The president was also asked why he did not join the EU members for sanctioning Russia over its war in Ukraine. Are we supposed to do what the EU members are doing?" he said. Saying that Türkiye has a different position in the world and the EU member states have their positions, the president described Russia as one of the closest neighbors of Türkiye and said that both nations have a common history.

Bosnia charges 6 suspects with war crimes

SARAJEVO: Six former Bosnian soldiers and policemen were charged on Monday with war crimes against Serb detainees at a camp near Sarajevo during the 1992-1995 civil war that killed nearly 100,000 people. They include Zijad Kadric, 72, who was described by witnesses as the commander of the camp in Visoko, about 30 kilometers (18 miles) northwest of the capital Sarajevo. Hundreds of civilians were detained here for around eight months in 1992, according to prosecutors. The six are accused of "acts of torture, inhuman treatment, pillaging and physical and mental abuse" in the Visoko region, "in a systematic and continuous manner." The indictment also says they committed "particularly humiliating acts against women and adolescents." According to a victims' associations, nearly 600 people — including around 40 women and a dozen children — were detained at the Visoko camp. "The torture of women... was not very different from that of men" said a report published in 2012 by the War Crimes Research Center based in the country's Bosnian Serb entity. The report also said that at least "eight Serb women were raped there," including "one of whom succumbed to her injuries."

Around 90 witnesses will be called by the prosecution to testify in the trial. Hundreds of detention camps were set up across Bosnia during the war that saw brutal fighting among the country's three major ethno-religious groups. The most notorious centers included a string of detention camps in the Prijedor region, where more than 6,000 people — mostly ethnic Muslims and some Catholic Croats — were detained between April and August 1992 by Bosnian Serb forces.—Agencies

China's august capital outflow hits record

BEIJING: China's economy took a massive hit in August after registering a capital outflow of \$49 billion, straining the yuan and its growth prospects. Despite an uptick in inflows, the country saw the largest outflow in its capital account since December 2015, mainly caused by \$29 billion in securities investments in August, according to Bloomberg, citing data from China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange. Moreover, the country saw a deficit of \$16.8 billion in direct investments during the month, the steepest decline since 2016. China has been facing economic issues since mid-2022 as the country's COVID-19 restrictions and a slowdown in the private sectors have created a notable barrier for investors.—APP

X platform moving to monthly charges for users

DNA

ANKARA: Elon Musk has said that X, previously known as Twitter, is moving to introduce a "small monthly payment" for users of the social media platform in a bid to "combat vast armies of bots." In a conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday broadcast live on X at the Tesla factory in Fremont, California, Musk explained his solution to avoid bots on the platform. "A bot costs a fraction of a penny, call it a tenth of a penny. But if somebody even has to pay a few dollars or something, some minor amount, the effective cost to bots is very high," he said. Musk stressed that the X has 550 million monthly users and sees 100 million to 200 million posts per day excluding reposts. Twitter's blue tick, now called X Premium, currently costs \$8 per month in the US.

Briefs

Govt clarifies position on judges loans

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government has clarified that a negative impression was created in media while publishing a news item regarding giving loans for houses to judges of the Lahore High Court including its chief justice. According to a press release issued by the Punjab government spokesperson on Tuesday, the rules and regulations of the all the judges including Chief Justice have been determined under the Article 205 of the Presidential Decree, 1997. Under the General Financial Rules (GFR), a government officer of the rank equal to secretary is eligible to take house building advance which will be equivalent to his 36 months basic salary. He is entitled to take the loan and bound to repay this amount in 120 installments. The Punjab government has approved the loan for construction of houses for judges by keeping in view all necessary rules and regulations. Judges will be bound to return all the loan amount. This amount will be deducted from the monthly salary of judges in installments. The Finance Department has made a separate demand/grant under the title of "Loans to High Court Judges" for the Schedule of Authorized Expenditure for Allocation of Funds and Accounting. The Punjab Finance Department released some Rs358.5 million interest-free loan to 11 judges of the Lahore High Court for the construction of houses. The approval for the grant of loan was initially granted by the Standing Committee of the Cabinet on Finance and Development in its meeting on March 18.

SC orders release of prisoners on probation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday ordered immediate implementation of the rules on the release of prisoners on probation. The SC ordered the federal and provincial governments to ensure the release of all persons eligible for probation and said the prime minister and chief ministers should ensure the implementation of the laws on this regard. The apex court said the prisoners would have all constitutional rights except freedom of movement. Justice Athar Manullah issued a five-page decision and said serious violations of human rights were taking place in prisons across the country, due to the overcrowding of prisoners in prisons. "Provision of constitutional rights has become impossible," he observed. The court declared the majority of the people suffering from lack of facilities in the jails were the poor and the state was not playing a role in providing cheap and quick justice for the poor people. The SC said the criminal system has some flaws that encouraged exploitation of the weak at the hand of powerful.



ISLAMABAD: Artists perform traditional Malaysian cultural dances on the occasion of the National Day of Malaysia. Federal Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz was the chief guest. Another picture on Page 4. – DNA

India expels Canadian diplomat

India-Canada row deepens further over Sikh's murder

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that India has become a rogue Hindutva terrorist state. He encouraged Pakistan to stand with the people of Canada in front of international community and drew attention to India's misdeeds

NEWS DESK



OTTAWA: The diplomatic row between New Delhi and Ottawa worsened further on Tuesday over a Sikh leader's assassination as India – in a tit-for-tat move – expelled a Canadian diplomat, triggering an international response on the matter. The ties between the two nations fell to a new low after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused the Narendra Modi government of a role in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June. Nijjar, who was shot dead outside a Sikh temple in June, had been designated a "terrorist" by India in July 2020, following his support for a Sikh homeland in the form of an independent state of Khalistan. The Canadian high commissioner, or ambassador, in New Delhi had been summoned and told of the expulsion decision. India's foreign ministry said in a statement. "The decision reflects the government of India's growing concern at the interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities," the ministry added. "The concerned diplomat has been asked to leave India within the next five days." Earlier, PM Justin Trudeau took his closest

allies on board regarding the involvement of the Indian government in the incident. Canadian media, citing a senior government source, stated that PM Trudeau has briefed UK PM Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron, and US President Joe Biden about the progress made in the killing of Khalistan leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Canada also expelled India's top intelligence agent in the country. Pavan Kumar Rai, the head of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), in Canada, was operating from the Indian High Commission. The shocking revelation about the Indian role in the incident was exposed by the Canadian PM in a speech at an emergency of the assembly. Canada was "actively pursuing credible allegations" linking Indian government agents to the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, PM Trudeau told the House of Commons on Monday. Trudeau said he had raised the issue of the murder directly with Modi on the sidelines of last week's G20 summit in New Delhi, and urged his government to co-operate with Canada to resolve it. Modi, in turn, conveyed strong concern to Trudeau over recent demonstrations in Canada by Sikhs calling for an independent state. Canada has the largest population of Sikhs outside the Indian state of Punjab, with

about 770,000 people reporting Sikhism as their religion in the 2021 census. In response, the Indian foreign ministry rejected allegations of involvement in any kind of violence and termed these as absurd and motivated. Similar accusations made by Trudeau to Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been "completely rejected", it added in a statement released after bombshell allegations. "We urge the government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil," the ministry said. Such "unsubstantiated allegations" sought to shift the focus away from "Khalistani terrorists and extremists who have been provided shelter in Canada", it added. Meanwhile, White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson has expressed deep concerns about the allegations raised by Canada. "We remain in regular contact with our Canadian partners. It is critical that Canada's investigation proceed and the perpetrators be brought to justice." In a statement, a UK government spokesperson said they are in close touch with Canadian authorities about these serious allegations. "It would be inappropriate to comment further during the ongoing investigation by the Canadian authorities."

Govt advises to 'refrain from' using 'Indian' AI products

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has advised all informational technology (IT) and financial institutions, including regulators, to "refrain from collaboration, installation and use of Indian origin" artificial intelligence (AI)/information and communication technology (ICT) products as it may pose a "constant, concealed and force multiplier threat" to Pakistan's critical information infrastructure (CII). The government informed the authorities concerned of the threat via a "cyber security advisory" – which was obtained by Geo News – shared with federal and provincial ministries including sectoral regulators. It noted that globally AI products and services are being used by various industries including financial and banking sectors to accelerate enterprise growth. "It has been learnt that [the] fintech sector of Pakistan including a few banks are engaged with Indian-origin companies who are offering them IT products, Cyber Security and AI solutions, etc," the document stated. It added that the "use of Indian security products/solutions" was a constant, concealed and force multiplier threat" to Pakistan's CII, including banking sector, for two reasons.

CJP disposes of cases in a flash

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice QaziFaez Isa heard routine cases on his second day as the chief justice, and a three-member panel headed by him disposed of three out of the first five cases. A petition of the Pakistan Post was disposed of in the employment case. A petition for cancelling bail in a murder case was disposed of on withdrawal. An accused was granted pre-arrest bail in the CDA Land Department case. A time of two weeks was given at the request of the lawyer in the appeal for job restoration. An interesting conversation also took place between the chief justice and a lawyer in a land dispute case. "Pakistan are the best of people. You will not find people more hospitable than them."

Pak-Norway agree to enhance coop

NEW YORK: Pakistan and Norway, while appreciating 75 years of their friendship, have agreed to work towards enhancement of bilateral cooperation. The understanding to the effect reached during a meeting between caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and his Norwegian counterpart Anniken Huitfeldt on the margins of the 78th UN General Assembly Session in New York. The two sides expressed satisfaction on the exchange of ministerial visits between both countries during first half of 2023 and emphasised on increasing volume of exchange of visits and regular interactions to give further impetus to the momentum of existing relations between the two countries. Besides reviewing bilateral cooperation in various fields, the two foreign ministers discussed regional and international issues of mutual concern including risks to global peace, and agreed on importance of multilateralism and rule-based approach to address regional and global challenges. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and his Danish counterpart Lars Løkke Rasmussen met in New York on the sidelines of the 78 session of the UN General Assembly and agreed to implement the Green Framework Engagement agreement through joint action plan. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the growing bilateral ties between Pakistan and Denmark, in the wake of recent ministerial-level interactions and in the context of the European Union. He also thanked the Danish government for their support for the flood victims. – Agencies

Court sends Elahi on judicial remand

DNA

LAHORE: A Lahore court rejected the Punjab Anti-Corruption Establishment's (ACE) request for PTI President Parvez Elahi's physical remand in two cases pertaining to illegal appointments on Tuesday and instead sent him on 14-day judicial remand. Elahi is among several PTI leaders and workers who have been arrested amid the state's crackdown on the PTI leadership following the violent riots in the country after Imran's first arrest on May 9. He has been arrested multiple times since June 1 in several cases, with the count of his arrests exceeding 12 since then, according to the tally provided by one of his lawyers. His latest arrest was made yesterday by the Punjab ACE in a case involving the appointment of Muhammad Khan Bhatti as his principal secretary during his tenure as the chief minister. The ACE alleged that the appointment of Bhatti was not in accordance with the law.

Iran ready to help UN promote global peace

Appreciating the UN endeavors, he said the world body is tasked to pay attention to calls by nations for the exercise of justice, as well as the establishment of sustainable security, and the elimination of discrimination and poverty

Shoiguin Tehran for security talks

TEHRAN: Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, at the head of a high-ranking military delegation, has arrived in Tehran to hold talks with senior Iranian officials aimed at further bolstering bilateral relations and counter-terrorism cooperation. Shoigu's visit to Tehran on Tuesday afternoon came after an official invitation by Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri in June. The Russian defense minister is scheduled to meet with Baqeri, with media reports saying discussions will revolve around advancing defense diplomacy, expanding bilateral cooperation, and addressing shared threats, particularly international terrorism. Shoigu will also meet with the senior commanders of Iran's Armed Forces during this visit to Tehran. Iran and Russia, as two close and strategic allies, have over the past years deepened their relations in various fields, including military and defense, despite being under heavy Western sanctions. – DNA

the elimination of discrimination and poverty. People expect the UN to avert excessive demands and warmongering by the world powers and the domination system, he added, warning that such dangerous procedures disrupt global peace and stability. The Iranian chief executive further highlighted concerns about the political and social future of Afghanistan, Yemen, and Syria, as well as separatism in Africa, saying the UN has an important mission to prevent oppression against the people of these countries. Meanwhile, Raeisi asked the UN chief to follow the Iran news directly and through the correct channel as Western media do not present a true image of the country. He also hailed the unique gender justice and attention to women's rights in the Islamic Republic, citing the presence of Iranian women and girls in scientific, sports, social, and cultural fields as an example. Guterres, for his part, voiced his keenness to develop cooperation between the United Nations and the Islamic Republic. He further welcomed positive steps in relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, saying the two countries can influence regional stability. Praising Iran's constructive role regarding developments in Yemen, Guterres also emphasized the UN support for Tehran's initiatives to end the crisis gripping the impoverished state. – Agencies

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