



# Islamabad POST

Monday, September 25, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

**Thailand keen to cement ties with Pakistan: envoy**

Detailed News On Page-06

**Hungarian FM slams 'lecturing' Biden admin**

Detailed News On Page-08

**EU condemns attack on Kosovo police**

Detailed News On Page-07



## Israel relations depend on national, Palestinian interests

The statement came in response to Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen's remarks regarding normalisation of Israel's relations with the Muslim world

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani maintained that Pakistan's decision regarding establishing relations with Israel would be determined with consideration of both Pakistan's national interests and those of the Palestinian people. The statement came in response to Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen's remarks regarding normalisation of Israel's relations with the Muslim world. Cohen, as reported by Israeli media outlet Kan News, suggested that "six or seven" Islamic nations were likely to normalise ties with Israel, following Saudi Arabia's potential inclusion in the Abraham Accords, which already involved the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan. The Israeli minister also claimed to have met with leaders from several Muslim countries who have not recognised Israel yet. Jilil, in response to the Israeli FM's assertion, clarified that Cohen has not met with any Pakistani official in recent times. In 2005, during the tenure of former president General Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's then-foreign minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri met with his then-counterpart Silvan Shalom in Turkey, Istanbul. This was the first meeting that took place publicly and was a result of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's efforts. However, no such meetings at the level of foreign ministers or higher have been reported in the media since then. A senior Pakistani diplomat, on the condition of anonymity, hoped that



Continued on Page 06

## 2 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces

NEWS DESK

WEST BANK: Two Palestinians were killed in an Israeli forces' incursion in the West Bank early on Sunday, Palestinian news agency said. The two were killed by gunshots to the head during the operation that occurred in Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm, according to Wafa. AP adds: Earlier, Israel continued to pound a militant site in Gaza on Saturday for the second time in as many days, the Israeli army said, after Palestinian militants sent incendiary balloons into Israeli farmland and Palestinian protesters threw stones and explosives at soldiers at the separation fence. There were no reported casualties from the strikes in Gaza. Earlier on Saturday, the Israeli military shot and wounded three Palestinians who were rallying at the separation fence along the Israeli frontier with the crowded enclave. It's a familiar tactic for Palestinians in Gaza protesting a 16-year

Continued on Page 06

## National Day of China



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman, Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, Chinese Consul General Cao Ke, Federal Privatization Minister Fawad Hassan Fawad, Punjab Information Minister Amir Mir and others cutting cake to celebrate 74th Anniversary of the National Day of People's Republic of China. - DNA

## PM Kakar in London after UNGA session

PM likely to meet key UK officials

DNA

LONDON After attending the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwarul Haq Kakar reached London from New York. According to details, the caretaker prime minister was received by Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan at the London airport. During his stay, the prime minister will be interviewed by various UK media outlets.

Continued on Page 06

## At least 31 injured in trains collision

Station Master, others suspended

STAFF REPORT

SHEIKHUPURA: In the latest train collision, at least 31 passengers were injured on Sunday after two trains collided near Qila Sattar Shah Station in Punjab's Sheikhupura district. According to sources, the Lahore-bound passenger

Continued on Page 06

## PML-N weighs in on Nawaz Sharif's retaliatory narrative

'Narrative committee' to garner public feedback, communicate public pulse to leadership about aggressive rhetoric

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: As PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif reintroduces aggressive rhetoric ahead of his return to Pakistan, a 'narrative committee' has been established within the party to weigh in on the retaliatory narrative of the former prime minister which, according to an insider's personal reckoning, had little traction in the general populace. The PML-N insider expressed personal doubts that this aggressive narrative would prove to be counter-productive for the party and particularly for Nawaz Sharif himself.

Continued on Page 06

## PML-N advised not to poke the bear

NAZIR SIYAL

SUKKUR: Former opposition leader Syed Khurshid Shah has advised the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) against seeking action against former army chief Gen (ret) Qamar Javed Bajwa and ex-ISI chief Lt-Gen (ret) Faiz Hameed and to avoid such confrontations. The remarks from

Continued on Page 06

## Substandard eye injections Vision impairment cases reported in several cities

Lahore's private hospital involved sealed; cases registered

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: A day after it was revealed that the eyesight of as many as 40 diabetes patients was affected due to substandard

injections in Lahore, cases of vision impairment were also reported in other cities of Punjab. Punjab caretaker Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Nasir Jamal revealed on Sunday that separate dealers were selling fake injections in Lahore, Kasur, Multan, and Sadiqabad. He added that data on those selling fake injections in different cities of the province was being gathered. "None of the operatives of the fake injection-selling network has been arrested yet," he said. However, he added that a request to file cases against those who make fake injections had been put forward. Moreover, he added:

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### Siraj assails govt over inflation

STAFF REPORT

QUETTA: Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) Ameer Sirajul Haq demanded the government that the properties and assets of those who have taken loans from the IMF should be sold and paid. Sirajul Haq addressed the participants of a sit-in at Quetta on Sunday and said loans from IMF have been taken by Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari and Imran Khan but these loans are being paid off by squeezing the blood of the people. Siraj said despite the passage of 76 years, the British system still exists in the country. He said it is difficult for 250 million people of Pakistan to run their kitchens and pay utility bills easily.

### Naqvi inaugurates corridor project

ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: In a significant move to address the pressing traffic issues plaguing Lahore's bustling Ring Road, Punjab Chief Minister Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone 'Controlled Access Corridor' facility from Niazi Interchange to Babu-Sabu In-terchange. The project comes at an estimated cost of Rs 10.842 billion and is expected to bring significant relief to commuters grappling with the daily gridlock at Ring Road. The 'Controlled Access Corridor' project garnered approval after meticulous evaluation, considering valuable insights from the chief economist, members of P&D Board, provincial secretaries, and representatives of relevant provincial departments, as well as PDWP.

## Iran foils major bombing plot

The 30 "terrorist explosions" were meant to go off in crowded city centres, but all were prevented and 28 individuals were arrested

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Iran says it has thwarted 30 explosions that were planned to go off simultaneously in the bustling capital, Tehran, to create chaos. The 30 "terrorist explosions" were meant to go off in crowded city centres, but all were prevented and 28 individuals were arrested in connection with the planned attacks during raids in Tehran, Alborz and West Azerbaijan provinces, according to a statement by the Ministry of Intelligence carried by state media on Sunday. "The explosions were planned with the aim of breaking the country's security authority, creating an unstable image of the country, sowing despair and fear in the society,

Continued on Page 06

## FVEY informed India allegation

DNA

LONDON: U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Cohen confirmed that "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners" had informed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of the possible involvement of Indian agents in the murder of a Canadian citizen in June. Intelligence-sharing network Five Eyes (FVEY) includes the U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Continued on Page 06

# Still many a slip between the cup and the lip

ANALYSIS

ANSAR M BHATTI

WHILE the enigmatic circumstances surrounding Shehbaz Sharif's sudden departure to London continue to perplex, Nawaz Sharif, the supreme leader of PML-N, has unequivocally announced his return to Pakistan on October 21. His intention is not only to participate in the upcoming general elections slated for January 2024 but also to reinvigorate the waning popularity of the party. Nawaz Sharif remains in the spotlight for his audacious remarks regarding the accountability of former military figures, including the former chief of the army staff, former ISI chief, and the future chief justice of Pakistan, should he assume the prime minister's role for the fourth time. Analysts speculate that Shehbaz Sharif may have been approached by certain factions, urging him to discuss Nawaz's stance on these influential figures with his elder brother. Ostensibly, the purpose was to persuade the PML-N leader to reconsider his position, as it could potentially lead to complications upon his return to Pakistan. However, as reports suggest, it appears that this advice has been entirely disregarded. Nawaz Sharif, along with his daughter Maryam Nawaz and other prominent figures within their political camp, holds a sincere belief that adopting an anti-establishment stance could potentially assist them in regaining popularity. It is undeni-

able that during their tenure as leaders of the PDM government, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) faced significant challenges and criticism from the general public due to their performance. Given this context, it became imperative for the party to construct a robust narrative capable of rehabilitating its image, which subsequently led to the adoption of an anti-establishment stance. Whether one approves or disapproves, it is evident that in Pakistan, two narratives can quickly capture public attention and garner substantial support: the anti-America narrative and the anti-establishment narrative. Nevertheless, it's important to remember that public opinion is diverse, and not everyone in Pakistan may subscribe to these narratives. The Cipher issue serves as a quintessential illustration of an anti-American narrative. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan strategically constructed his case for removal primarily around the contentious Cipher, almost convincingly asserting that the United States played a role in his ouster—an assertion he later chose to distance himself from. By and large, the prevailing sentiment among the people of Pakistan is a steadfast belief that the United States consistently aligns itself with corrupt and unscrupulous elements within Pakistan's political landscape and beyond. This perception significantly contributes to the overall unpopularity of the American administration in Pakistan. Historically, there have been scarce instances in Pakistan's political history where a politician has boldly confronted the superpower head-on. However, Imran Khan's willingness to do so has resulted in his narrative garnering sub-

stantial public support and earning him widespread accolades. At the same time, it's an undeniable reality that politicians who cling to such narratives often face severe consequences. The question of why Nawaz Sharif is so optimistic about his party's return to power in Pakistan is a complex one that demands a thorough examination. Pakistan's political landscape is dominated by three major parties: PML-N (Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz), PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf), and PPP (Pakistan Peoples Party). In summary, Nawaz Sharif's optimism about the PML-N's return to power can be attributed to a combination of factors, including the challenges faced by rival parties, their assessment of the establishment's preferences, their vote bank in key provinces, and strategic political maneuvering. According to the PML-N's assessment, the Establishment is unlikely to lend its support to PTI. They believe that relations between the Establishment and PTI have deteriorated significantly. Additionally, the PPP is perceived to have a limited voter base outside of Sindh. However, it's important to note that Pakistan's political landscape is dynamic and subject to change, and the outcome of future elections will depend

on various unpredictable factors. Even within the PML-N ranks, there is a diversity of opinions, with some staunchly believing that Nawaz Sharif's anti-establishment narrative could further exacerbate the party's challenges. Amongst these members, there is a prevailing sentiment that while the narrative might have its merits, the timing of its assertion appears poorly chosen. Enhancing the confrontation with the Establishment at this critical juncture, just as Nawaz Sharif is poised to make a comeback, might prove detrimental to the PML-N's interests. If this standoff persists in the days ahead, it could possibly force the Establishment to reevaluate its 'relationship' with the PML-N. Under such circumstances, the primary beneficiary would likely be none other than the PTI. It is indeed disheartening that Nawaz Sharif, instead of focusing on fostering an economic revival and promoting a corruption-free Pakistan, opted to confront the Establishment. The core issues facing Pakistan stem from its persistent struggle to eliminate corrupt practices and establish good governance. Additionally, the disregard for the Constitution further compounds the challenges within

the system. Unfortunately, there seems to be a reluctance among the elite class to tackle these pressing issues. One potential explanation is that a significant portion of this ruling elite is entangled in the very problems that need to be solved, rather than being part of the solution. It is disheartening to observe that everyday citizens are shouldering the burden of power struggles between political and non-political stakeholders. The skyrocketing electricity tariffs and the soaring prices of essential goods have made them unaffordable for both the impoverished and the middle to upper-middle classes. Corruption remains a pervasive issue in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. There was a widespread hope that the interim government would alleviate these problems, but so far, it has proven to be less effective than even some of the previously elected administrations. In the current circumstances, the most viable solution seems to be a return to an elected government through the upcoming general elections. Despite lingering doubts about the January election's feasibility, the Election Commission of Pakistan and various political parties, have geared up for the electoral process. However, it's disheartening to note that key PTI leaders are currently in custody, and party members are being actively pursued to prevent their participation in the elections. This situation is regrettable and does not bode well for a stable political landscape. It's unequivocal that every political party should be granted unfettered access to the electoral process. This inclusivity is paramount if we are to chart a course toward both political and economic stability for our country.

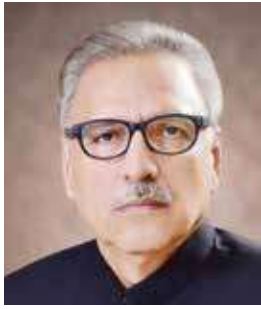
“ Even within the PML-N ranks, there is a diversity of opinions, with some staunchly believing that Nawaz Sharif's anti-establishment narrative could further exacerbate the party's challenges ”



# NATIONAL NEWSPAPER READERSHIP DAY



M E S S A G E S



**Dr. Arif Alvi**  
President Islamic Republic of Pakistan

I extend my sincere congratulations to all newspaper readers and the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on the occasion of 'National Newspaper Readership Day. Reading newspapers has a greater educative value as they provide us knowledge and information about the social, economic, and political issues as well as sports, culture and entertainment. They educate the readers about the developments taking place in the national and international arena and broaden the mental horizon of the readers. Besides, newspapers play important role in shaping public opinion and influencing and guiding the decision-makers by providing their input and insight.

It is an established fact that newspapers are effective means of communication and can change perceptions and opinions of the society. So, they should play their role in reformation of society by bringing positive changes and behavioral improvement. The world is facing multiple economic and social challenges, including health issues and the scourge of fake news. In order to address these challenges, newspapers need to educate the readers and raise awareness among them about the social issues such as the growing population, women's rights of inheritance and their socio-economic empowerment, apart from guiding the people about breast cancer and mental health and disability issues. Additionally, the society is facing the dilemma of moral and ethical degradation and it is the responsibility of all means of communication to promote good values, tolerance, mutual respect, brotherhood and unity among the people.

In today's world, fake news is the greatest challenge being faced by the world and it requires the collective efforts of all segments of the society, including media, scholars, writers and religious leaders to discourage the menace of fake news. Furthermore, the journalistic ethics demands to avoid biased reporting and publish news stories with truthfulness, accuracy and impartiality. We must preserve this important source of information that keeps us informed about the important events and developments taking place across the globe.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) for their commitment to celebrating National Newspaper Readership Day. I am confident that this initiative will significantly contribute to nurturing the habit of reading among our people, empowering them with the knowledge and insight to make informed decisions for a better future.



**Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar**  
Caretaker Prime Minister

Today, we celebrate the "National Newspaper Readership Day" to recognize the importance and the utility of reading newspapers as a reliable source of news and information. Newspapers have long been a cornerstone of democracy, which provides us with valuable information, diverse perspectives, and a platform for public discourse.

Despite the growth of electronic and digital media, newspapers still play a significant role in creating awareness and educating the people about various economic and social issues. Currently, the world is facing the challenge of fake news. The role of newspapers has become even more important to discourage the spread of fake news. By objective reporting and adhering to the principles of responsible, impartial, truthful, impartial and accountable journalism, newspapers are the best tool to fight disinformation and fake news.

Newspapers also provide an in-depth analyses, investigative reporting, and thought-provoking opinion pieces that contribute to a reasonable understanding of the world around us. The news stories are filed after proper research that are once more filtered through a rigorous editorial check for accuracy before publication. This feature distinguishes newspapers and make the print medium more credible source of information.

On this special day, I would like to express my gratitude to all the journalists, editors, and newspaper staff who work tirelessly to bring us the news every day. Their dedication to the pursuit of truth and their commitment to upholding the principles of journalism are commendable.

I encourage my fellow citizens to support the newspaper industry through subscription to newspapers. Through this gesture, we would not only gain access to reliable sources of information but would also contribute to the sustainability of this important institution of our society.

I deeply appreciate the remarkable initiative of the All Pakistan Newspaper Society to celebrate 25 September as the National Newspaper Readership day.



**Murtaza Solangi**  
Caretaker Minister of Information & Broadcasting

I feel honoured to congratulate the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on declaring 25th September as the National Newspaper Readership Day which is certainly indicative of the priority that the industry accords to the newspaper readership. I am of the opinion that in the era of fake news and after the advent of social media, the newspaper readership has attained even more importance for authentic reporting. If put in comparison with other media of information, the print media still possesses unequivocal significance in terms of the veracity of information and news.

With the advent of social media, it was speculated that newspapers would become obsolete and redundant. However, with the dissemination of fake news and misinformation, newspapers became more important and relevant than ever, because the print media is based on facts, and the newspapers still have the system of editorial control to check fake news.

In addition to fake news and the storming of social media, the electronic media, too, is scrambling for breaking news and complaints of providing and promoting fake news with little factuality. Therefore, I believe that the habit of newspaper reading should be instilled in our people once again. Taking recourse to history, the newspaper echoed the voice of our people that imbued the spirit of freedom and independence which eventually culminated in the establishment of Pakistan in 1947. Those newspapers were at the forefront to fight for our independence and helped to unite the nation towards the single aim of achieving our separate homeland. Today, I take pride in stating that our newspapers have grown and developed themselves over the years, and can stand any competition whatsoever, with any international newspapers across the globe.

On behalf of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, I appreciate the efforts of the APNS for observing the National Newspaper Readership Day in acquainting the nation with the significance of newspaper reading. There is no gainsaying that the newspapers are a source of reliable and authentic information in an era of massive proliferation of fake news and it is encouraging to see that the newspapers have upheld their authenticity, credibility, and reliability, despite the advent of digital media. Moreover, the newspapers also helped in effectively putting Pakistan's stance across the globe. Lastly, I reiterate the Government's resolve to promote freedom of expression and urge the print media fraternity to join hands with the Government to develop an educated and enlightened nation.



**Mohsin Naqvi**  
Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab

Newspapers are the most authentic source of accurate information, and therefore have been, are, and will remain an important part of every society. The importance of newspapers in raising public awareness is unquestionable.

Newspapers have played a pivotal role in every society in promoting free democratic values. In the Pakistan Movement, newspapers played a crucial role in raising awareness among the people of the importance of a separate homeland.

In developed societies, newspapers are still printed and sold with great enthusiasm. The habit of reading newspapers has declined in the digital age, but it cannot be completely eradicated. Newspapers provide easy and affordable access to accurate and authentic information. Despite the rise of electronic and digital media, newspapers remain a great source of information for readers.

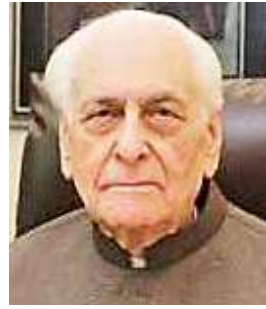
By reading newspapers, one can gain awareness of various economic and social issues. Reading newspapers also expands the reader's exposure to language and vocabulary.

Newspapers are the most authentic source of accurate information, therefore newspapers were, are and will remain an important part of every society. The importance of newspapers for raising public awareness is unquestionable. Newspapers have played an unforgettable role in every society for the promotion of free democratic values. In Pakistan movement, newspapers played an important role in raising awareness of the importance of a separate homeland among the people. In developed societies, newspapers are still being printed and sold with full gusto. The habit of newspaper reading, has diminished in the digital age, but it cannot be eradicated by any means. Newspapers provide easy and affordable access to accurate and authentic information. Despite electronic and digital media, newspapers are still a great source of information for readers. By studying newspapers one gets awareness of various economic and social issues. The reader's access to the language and vocabulary is also widened by reading newspapers.



**Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar**  
Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) for celebrating National Newspaper Readership Day, highlighting the importance of newspaper readership in the country. National Newspaper Readership Day is an extremely relevant day to establish and promote the habit of reading in Pakistan. In this digital age and time, one cannot deny the importance of newspapers as they provide us with news with facts and information with sources. The Government of Sindh wholeheartedly supports the National Newspaper Readership Day and urges the entire nation to develop a habit of reading newspapers and checking facts before falling prey to fake news and rumors. Let's just join hands for this cause of combatting fake news. We should also instill the habit of reading newspapers in our children as well so that they grow up to become responsible and socially aware citizens of Pakistan. With this, I would like to once again appreciate the step taken by APNS and acknowledge their efforts for the said cause. Here's wishing to celebrate National Newspaper Readership Day for years and years to come.



**Muhammad Azam Khan**  
Caretaker Chief Minister KP

It is a shatter of pleasure that the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) has declared 25th September as "National Newspaper Readership Day"; and has been celebrating the day since 2019 for which it deserves appreciation.

The initiative will help highlight the importance of newspaper readership, and promote the habit of reading in the country which is, unfortunately, declining due to the mushroom growth of social and digital media. Social and digital media have changed the very dynamics of communication and dissemination of information, resulting in manipulated and out-of-context messages, news, and information, causing fears, conflicts, and controversies.

In view of the above facts, the relevance of Print Media can hardly be underestimated. The new media might have brought about revolution, but the Print Media still remains the most credible and authentic source of information when it comes to disseminating news and information. Promotion of reading habits among citizens will effectively, combat the challenges posed by the unchecked onslaught of fake news.

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa firmly believes in the fundamental and constitutional right of freedom of the press and considers an independent and free media absolutely imperative for a developed and civilized society.

We also believe that without freedom of the press and ensuring people's right to know, our cherished goal of a strong and democratic Pakistan cannot be materialized.

I appreciate the initiative of the APNS, and I am confident that celebrating this day would encourage more and more people to opt for reading and have a shared understanding of issues of national importance.



**Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki**  
Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan

We are living in a dynamic world, which is, at the pinnacle of the technological advancement where mobile phone has replaced number of things that used to be integral part of everyone's daily life.

In addition to affecting variety of other things, the latest technological innovations have caused a dramatic fall in newspaper readership, one of life's essential necessities.

It has become more challenging to distinguish between true, credible and factual reporting and misinformation falsehood with the introduction of new trends in digital media.

The rapid development of social media and technology, particularly widely available mobile phone technology, unfortunately, has led to a significant fall in newspaper readership.

The phoney and negligent social media platforms have filled the void left by the decline in newspaper readership and accurate reporting of events, wreaking havoc on society. The general public needed to be made acutely aware of the sensitive nature of the problems that were putting the entire society in danger.

The All Pakistan Newspapers Society deserves praise for picking up the reins and embarking on a protracted campaign to revive the once-common practise of newspaper reading.

I, appreciate the efforts of APNS for the revival to the newspaper readership habits. However, it is our collective responsibility that we need to encourage and educate our people about developing reading habits as it contributes greatly towards the intellectual development of the nation.

I commend APNS for honouring "National Newspaper Readership Day" in order to educate the public about the value of reading newspapers on behalf of the Balochistani government. Newspapers are unquestionably a source of trustworthy and accurate information in a time when fake news is widely disseminated.

To mark the occasion, I call upon every segment of the society to contribute to APNS's noble cause and help spread the habit of reading newspapers.

Instead of relying on phoney and irresponsible news, let's turn to real, thoroughly researched, and well-informed content.

I sincerely hope that our serious attempts to revive newspaper reading habits would put an end to the fierce rivalry of false information and fake news.

## Crucial Role of Newspapers in Combating Fake News & Upholding Democracy

Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan stands as a beacon of hope, guaranteeing fundamental freedoms that underpin a thriving democracy. It highlights the rights to freedom of speech, expression, and a free press, safeguarding these rights against reasonable restrictions imposed by the law. This provision constitutes the bedrock upon which the democratic edifice of Pakistan stands, allowing its citizens to be well-informed and active participants in the nation's growth.

Article 19-A of the constitution further strengthens the right to information. It affirms that every citizen shall have the right to access information on all matters of public importance, subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by the law. Together, these constitutional provisions underscore the critical role of newspapers and journalism in a democratic society.

The cornerstone of a robust and vibrant democracy lies in the unfettered freedom of expression and a free press. Independent newspapers with unwavering editorial policies and steadfast adherence to journalistic ethics play an indispensable role in strengthening the democratic fabric of any nation. The significance of newspapers has become even more prominent in the face of the recent proliferation of digital media platforms and social networking

sites, many of which grapple with issues of credibility, truthfulness, and relevance in the dissemination of news and information.

Newspapers, in particular, occupy a unique and irreplaceable space within a democratic system. They serve as catalysts for constructive debate, offering a platform for diverse segments of society to voice their opinions on matters of political, economic, religious, social, and other policy concerns. In a media landscape comprising television, radio, print, and online sources, newspapers have established themselves as paragons of accurate and robust reporting, independence, and accountability.

Intergraf, a prominent European printing industry association, underscores the democratic importance of printed newspapers within the European Union. Printed newspapers reach an estimated 30% of people in the EU-27, encompassing more than 130 million individuals. This outreach ensures the participation and informed decision-making of all citizens in public debates and elections, preserving their right to choose how they consume news and information.

In a democracy, principles such as the rule of law, citizens' rights, fair and free elections, and the protection of individual rights can only be upheld and safeguarded through a free press. Newspapers also serve as

educators for voters, providing them insights into politics, parties, politicians, and their policies so the citizens can make well-informed and well-thought decisions. This becomes even more important in view of our own general elections scheduled for January 2024.

Journalists employed by newspapers possess a formidable array of skills, including research acumen and critical thinking. The best journalists know which questions to ask, which leads to pursue, and how to rigorously fact-check their findings. Another pivotal role of a free press is to serve as a watchdog over governments and powerful institutions, exposing instances of corruption and violations of human rights that is indispensable for the health of democracy.

The enduring confidence expressed by readers in the factual content of newspapers underscores their continued relevance, even in the digital age.

According to the Eurobarometer survey on fake news and disinformation, the traditional media including print, television and radio remains the most trusted source of news at 60% + for each media. In contrast, online sources of news are the least trusted at 26%.

In an age dominated by social media, where misinformation and sensationalism often run rampant, newspapers stand as bastions of authenticity, well-researched reporting, and fact-

based journalism. They adhere to rigorous editorial standards and invest in thorough investigations, ensuring that the stories they publish are backed by verifiable facts and statistics. This commitment to accuracy and reliability not only bolsters democracy by providing citizens with trustworthy information but also contributes to the de-



velopment of a more informed and responsible society. In the battle against fake news, newspapers remain a beacon of truth, serving as a vital counterbalance to the unchecked spread of misinformation on social media platforms.

Research conducted over the last four years by the European E-Read on the impact of digitization on reading practices, known as the Stavanger Declaration, suggests that detailed and research-based stories in newspapers offer superior benefits for comprehension,

concentration, and critical thinking compared to reading from screens. The transition from paper to digital is not neutral; comprehension and concentration are often stronger when reading from paper, particularly when time constraints apply.

Furthermore, a meta-study involving 54 studies with over

170,000 participants indicates that comprehension of long-form informational text is consistently more effective when read on paper than on screens. Reading newspapers, whether in print or digitally, has far-reaching effects beyond mere information consumption, including fostering mental focus, patience, discipline, enhancing linguistic knowledge, and contributing to personal well-being.

Newspapers, as the oldest mass communication medium, have the unparalleled ability to reach a wide audience, regard-

less of income or educational background. They have traditionally served as invaluable sources of information about local, regional, national, and international events. Beyond merely presenting facts, newspapers excel at interpreting and explaining complex issues, offering readers a nuanced understanding of various topics.

Newspapers also play a vital role in raising public awareness. They have been instrumental in educating the masses on health, commerce, education, social responsibilities, public safety laws, environmental concerns, hygiene, labor rights, disaster management, and civic issues. Newspapers have consistently defended citizens' rights, especially during times of military dictatorship or civilian government challenges.

Beyond their role in information dissemination, newspapers facilitate social activities, such as matrimonial and personal advertisements, becoming an indispensable part of daily life. Classified advertisements, community announcements, and communal notices constitute significant components of newspaper content. Features on sports, education, campus news, cultural events, music, dance, drama, literature, and fine arts enrich the reading experience, offering comprehensive insights into the happenings in the community.

Modern newspapers allocate

space for readers to voice their opinions through letters to the editor sections. This should be considered as the initial example of citizens journalism that allows readers to express their grievances or appreciation concerning reports or incidents within society. Additionally, newspapers inform readers about political activities, new laws, rules, and regulations that impact society.

For students, reading newspapers is particularly advantageous. It exposes them to a wide range of topics, enhances their oratory skills, and fosters active participation in speeches, debates, and conversations. Daily newspaper reading not only broadens students' understanding but also improves their vocabulary and familiarity with various writing styles and reporting techniques, which they may not find through social media news formats.

Given the pivotal role newspapers play in fostering an informed citizenry and preserving democratic values, it is imperative that the government extends its support to print industry by providing special grants, concession on printing paper and material, reasonable advertisements as compared to other communication media as it is the easiest, most accessible and less cost medium for creating awareness in the masses besides providing education, information and entertainment to the citizens.

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### September

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

### Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949
------------------------------



### Emergency

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



### Enquiry

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



### Hospitals

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



### Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480
----------------------------

To promote Environment consciousness

# Serena hotels launches green impact cleanup drive

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of Kuwait to Pakistan, H.E. Nassar AbdulRahman Almutairi and President of Ismaili Council for Central region , Dr. Nadir Anjum along with other dignitaries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels launched its sustainable initiative "Green Impact Cleanup Drive," which is aimed at promoting environmental protection, sustainable practices along with raising awareness against littering and use of single use plastic. This inspiring event took place at F-9 Park Islamabad and Saidpur Village simultaneously and was made possible through a collaborative effort between Serena Hotels, the UAE Embassy, Ismaili Civic Pakistan, and the Capital Development Authority (CDA). The activity was organized simultaneously across all Serena Hotels' units in Pakistan. Quetta Serena Hotel and Rotary International carried the cleanup drive activity. Faisalabad Serena Hotel joined hands with WWF, whilst Gilgit Serena Hotel, Serena Shigar Fort, Serena Khaplu Palace and Serena Altit Fort Residence collaborated with schools, NGOs and local governments to conduct the activity. Serena Hotels is taking a proactive stance by organizing this Green Impact Cleanup Drive due to the recent climate and environmental disasters. The event not only served as a practical



demonstration of their commitment to sustainability but also provided an opportunity for the community to get involved in a meaningful environmental initiative. A diverse group of volunteers united to restore the natural beauty of F-9 Park by removing litter and waste. CEO, Serena Hotels, Aziz Boolani highlighted the need for environmental protection, recycling, sustainable practices and waste reduction by educating the participants at the opening ceremony. The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of Kuwait to Pakistan, H.E. Nassar AbdulRahman Almutairi and President of Ismaili Council for Central region , Dr. Nadir Anjum along with other dignitaries. This initiative by Serena Hotels' is expected to catalyze change, motivating communities to take proactive steps towards preserving the environment and reducing litter. Members of the diplomatic corps, corporate sector including GIZ and UNDP, civil society, and the general public attended the event and joined the effort to create a cleaner, more sustainable Pakistan.

# Devcom peace day posters exhibition

Youth paint 100 peace hopes in meaningful images

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Over 100 posters depicting hope for world peace, social justice and equal human rights put on display at the Government Polytechnic Institute for Women (GPIW), H-8, Islamabad on Saturday to mark the International Peace Day. Themed on 'actions for peace', the art works are mostly designed, painted and prepared by the girl students from different schools and colleges of the twin cities of Rawalpindi-Islamabad. The poster exhibition was organised by the Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) in collaboration with the Dazzler, Islamabad Crescent Lions Club (ICLC), Islamabad Devcom Centennial Leo Club (ID-CLC) and Government Polytechnic Institute for Women H-8 Islamabad. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed while introducing the peace poster exhibition said: A competition was organised among the students

to inculcate passion to understand the concepts of peace in society and globally. They have painted many meaningful images of hope through their creative expression in different mediums including oil on canvas, acrylics on canvas, charcoal, pastels, watercolours and sketching with colour-pencils. Munir Ahmed said "We believe the emerging youth is the only future hope in maintaining peace and tolerance if educated and groomed on the actual philosophies of living and working together. Peace is not the absence of conflicts but the acceptance of difference of opinion, diversity of ethnic and religious identities. The older generation has segregated the society based on the conflicting thoughts of the so-called socio-religious leadership for their vested interests instead of integrating different factions on the common discourse. The youth need to understand the realities and connotations of the actual social and religious theories and practices." Well-known artist and the senior teacher Cambridge Art and Design at the

Westminster Riffat Ara Baig was the chief jury. She said the students have shown their creative skills and thoughts in meaningful compositions. The strong visuals quite effectively communicate the message of peace and tolerance. The youth have successfully highlighted the peace disrupting elements and forces too that shows their understanding level of the issues in depth. The GPIW principal Kausar Parveen highlighted the initiatives that the government has taken to empower young girls to narrow down the economic disparity. Several steps have been taken to enhance vocational education and youth grooming through a variety of initiatives and programmes, she said. Youth cannot be engaged in peace restoring activities until they are taught the actual meaning of peace that may be derived out of our religion. The creative pursuits would certainly lead the youth to well-groomed citizens. The president ICLC Brig (ret) Muhammad Aslam Khan said without ensuring the fun-

damental human rights to every citizen, peace cannot be restored and maintained in our society. He said our religion Islam has defined the rights of every citizen and the same are reflected in the universal charters, we only need to implement these charters and practice the actual Islamic teachings. Separately, the ICLC and partners organized a national peace conference the other day to mark the International peace day. Caretaker Federal Minister Human Rights and Women Development Khalil George was the chief guest. The speakers included former MNA Asiya Nasir, CEO Economy Watch Dr. Murtaza Mughal, Pir Azmat Sultan, CEO Dazzler Adnan Saeed, ICLC Secretary Sibtain Raza Lodhi, Mahrukh Shaikh, chairman National Peace and Justice Council Mian Waheed and others. The speakers urged for national interfaith harmony through developing understanding among the communities and promoting tolerance for diverse and conflicting opinions.

# Pak membership in expanding BRICS alliance urged

However, Pakistan must first pull up its own economy and consider opening its door to east-west connectivity, which would complement north-south connectivity well

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik on Sunday said Pakistan is an ardent supporter of multilateralism and now must be a member of the expanded BRICS, which is a rising multilateral organisation within the Global South. Talking to a delegation of industrialists, he said within the context of geopolitics, it is an admitted fact that the rise of China, and other Asian economies has brightened prospects for the Global South to challenge Western dominance in the prevailing world order, said a press release issued here. He said an expanded BRICS, which represents a sizable percentage of the world's population and economic growth, seems better poised to represent the interests of the Global South. He said de-dollarisation may be an aspiration of some BRICS countries, but the actual shift towards other currencies would require more time and effort. Nearly \$5 trillion is held in overseas central banks, including almost \$1 trillion in the Bank of China. Likewise, global supply chains remain critical for the economic health of all countries. While concluding he said Pakistan is situated at the centre of the expanded BRICS' economic geography. Pakistan can become a genuine hub connecting South Asia with Western and Central Asia. However, Pakistan must first pull up its own economy and consider opening its door to east-west connectivity, which would complement north-south connectivity well—APP

# Rising cost alarming: PIAF

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has warned the record inflation and high cost of doing business continued to hurt economic growth, demanding a careful policy to keep it in control, as weekly inflation has surged to new highs for the third consecutive week. Quoting the data, PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol revealed a year-on-year increase of 38.66 percent in short-term inflation for the week ending on Sept 21, marking an alarming trend in rising prices. The ongoing depreciation of the Pakistani rupee, coupled with soaring petrol prices, sales tax burdens, and mounting electricity bills are identified as the primary contributors to the persistent inflationary trend. But the most important factor contributing to inflation is the steep increase in petroleum products. During the week under review, the retail price of petrol witnessed an 8.51 percent increase, while diesel prices rose by 5.54 percent.

# Saudi Arabia—A Story of Success

HAFIZ MUHAMMAD TAHIR MAHMOOD ASHRAFI



We congratulate King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, and the entire nation on the Kingdom's 93rd National Day. The day comes at a moment when the country has successfully parted ways with outdated governance and legal infrastructure to build a modern and progressive country. Achieving these milestones may not have been possible if King Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud had not placed trust in his son's abilities to manage the affairs of the government

at a time when the Western hold and sectarian divisions within the Middle East had put the sustainability of the Kingdom at risk. MB, as the crown prince is famously referred to, having followed the foreign policy of regional peace and development, reduced the influence of the US-led Western countries by taking ownership of political skirmishes and sectarian divisions in the region. While looking inward to weed out an archaic governance model, the Kingdom sensed that it would have to neutralize hostile elements in the neighborhood for sustainable progress. It was in this spirit that MBS extended a hand of friendship towards Iran, listened to the rogue Yamani forces to end the civil war, reinstated Syria's membership in the Arab League, facilitated ceasefires in Sudan, hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during the Arab League Summit in Jeddah in mid-May and in his latest move is going full force to find a permanent solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. The Muslims also look up to MBS to play a similar role in resolving the Kashmir issue,

without which a cordial relationship cannot happen between Pakistan and India. Even for regional peace in Asia, the solution to the Kashmir issue in the context of the United Nations resolution is essential. Talking to Fox's Special Report program about the Palestinian issue, MBS said it was "very important" to Riyadh. "We need to solve that part," he said when asked what it would take to get a normalization agreement. "We got to see where we go. We hope that will reach a place, that it will ease the life of the Palestinians, get Israel as a player in the Middle East." For many decades, until MBS took the reigns of the Kingdom in his hands, despite a windfall of wealth generated from oil and tourism, the country depended on the outer sources for human resources, entertainment, and academic successes. Women were seen far and few between on important positions, men in many fields discriminated against them, they could not drive cars, and their morality was judged merely by their outfits. MBS dismantled this status quo paradigm and allowed

women to participate fully in the economic and financial development of the Kingdom. As a result, the proportion of Saudi women engaged in the workforce has doubled over the past four years, reaching an impressive 33 percent. This surpasses the 30 percent target set in the 2030 plan and the 27 percent regional average for the Middle East and North Africa. The decision to open the country for foreign investments in sports, entertainment, and academia led to the establishment of sports complexes, cinemas, and institutions for research and development. These efforts have borne fruit through monumental projects such as NEOM, Diriyah, Qiddiya, and Red Sea Global. The country's opening up to the outside world will eventually reduce Saudi Arabia's dependence on petroleum, which neither is an infinite resource nor a viable option to depend upon in a climate change-conscious world. In pursuant to the Kingdom's Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia, as a responsible member of G20, has pledged to reduce annual carbon emis-

sions by 130 million tons by 2030. In line with this mission, in November 2016, the country officially embraced the Paris Agreement to participate in the collective endeavor to minimize the fallouts of climate-related changes. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 stands on three pillars. The first pillar is the Kingdom's status, which places it at the heart of the Arab and Islamic world. The second pillar is the country's determination to become a 'global investment powerhouse.' The third pillar hinges on the country's strategic location that connects it with three continents, Asia, Europe, and Africa, making the Kingdom an epicenter of trade. The arrival of foreign investment and the opening up of the private sector for employment opportunities, along with reforms in labor laws and market-led legal initiatives, have made doing business and establishing industries an easy affair. According to the IMF projects, the country is on its way to registering a remarkable GDP growth of 7.6 percent in the 2022-23 financial year.

The people of the Kingdom are enthusiastic about hosting Expo 2030. They have lent complete support to MBS, laying in him unwavering trust and determined to help him realize his vision of 2030 that would take Saudi Arabia's growth trajectory to a level where it would become a power to reckon with in the Middle East. At this juncture, we thank Saudi Arabia for its long association with Pakistan. Saudi Arabia and its counterparts in the Gulf States have been available to deliver Pakistan from economic hardships and financial moorings. Pakistan's nuclear arsenals and its security forces act as a deterrent against regional security challenges. Muhammad bin Salman is no passive ruler of a rich country. He is a vibrant enthusiast with a clear vision to work in peace and harmony with his partner countries and neighbors. As a defender of peace and development and an important stakeholder in the matters that shape and reorder the global governance system, MBS is destined to reshape the contours of the Islamic World for the better. —The writer is the Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council

## Briefs

## 126 new cases of dengue reported in Punjab

ISLAMABAD: A continuous surge in dengue fever cases has been witnessed as 126 new confirmed cases were reported from various parts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. The latest update from the Health Department, as of Sunday, revealed a total of 3,522 confirmed dengue cases spread across 36 districts in Punjab this year. Notably, Lahore leads with 1,417 cases, followed by Rawalpindi, Multan, Faisalabad, and Gujranwala, documenting 854, 462, 173, and 144 cases, respectively. Lahore reported 42 new dengue cases, Rawalpindi 48, Multan 16, Faisalabad 06 while Gujranwala 04 during the last 24 hours. Additionally, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Attock, Bahawalnagar, Jhang, Khushab, Chinot and Mianwali each reported 01 new case. Currently, 120 dengue patients are under treatment in various hospitals across the province with 42 of them in Lahore district. Secretary Health Punjab, Ali Jaan Khan, has appealed to the citizens to maintain clean and dry surroundings as a preventive measure against dengue fever and urged them to cooperate with the health department teams. For dengue treatment, information, or complaints, citizens can contact the health department's free helpline at 1033. Vigilance and proactive measures are pivotal in curbing the dengue spread in Punjab.—APP

## Crackdown on price gouging

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon has directed all Assistant Commissioners to conduct daily operations against price gouging, encroachments, and professional beggars in their respective areas. On Sunday, Assistant Commissioners conducted inspections at 138 places regarding price hikes. A fine of Rs. 12,000 was imposed on violators, one shop was sealed, one person was arrested and transferred to the police station, and 34 professional beggars were also arrested and transferred to the police station, ICT spokesman Dr Muhammad Abdullah Tabassum said. Meanwhile, action was also taken against illegal clinics and shisha cafes, with two illegal clinics being sealed. The operations were also carried out against encroachments, price gouging, and the seizure of more than 6 kg of polythene bags. Action was also taken against illegal petrol filling agencies and illegal LPG filling stations, with one of the illegal petrol filling agencies being sealed. Moreover, seven shops were sealed for violating anti-dengue SOPs, and two people were arrested. The Deputy Commissioner has warned all violators that strict action will be taken against them. He has also appealed to the public to cooperate with the administration in its efforts to make Islamabad a clean and livable city.—APP

## 21 absconders involved in heinous crime held

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have arrested 21 absconders involved in heinous crime during the last week, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, special tasks were assigned to all seniors' police officials to ensure the arrest of proclaimed offenders and absconders involved in heinous crimes. During the crackdown, the Islamabad Capital Police Kirpa, Noon, Shahzad Town, Karachi Company, Kohsar, Industrial Area, Aabpara, Koral, Sihal, Golra, Tarnol and Bhara Kahu police stations teams have arrested 21 absconders involved in heinous crime during the last week. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the Islamabad Capital Police is taking all possible steps to eradicate the crime from the city and those involved in heinous crimes and illegal activities.—DNA

## World Bank Launches 'Reforms for a Brighter Future'

## Time to contribute to development priorities

Pakistan has been facing numerous economic hardships including inflation, rising electricity prices, severe climate shocks, and insufficient public resources to finance development and climate adaptation: World Bank

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has launched a new program to foster debate on the critical development policy issues facing Pakistan. 'Reforms for a Brighter Future: Time to Decide' is intended to engage in discussions with a broad range of stakeholders on what fundamental policy shifts are most needed to durably steer the economy towards stronger, more climate-resilient and sustainable growth and development. This consultation program includes the publication, today, of a series of draft Discussion Notes. These will be progressively enriched by feedback received from a broad range of stakeholders. The Notes, which draw on international experience as well as a large body of evidence on Pakistan, propose fundamental policy shifts that are needed to move away from the current low-growth, anti-development status quo: • From underfunded, inefficient, and fragmented service delivery and social protection systems towards coordinated, efficient, and adequately financed service delivery, targeting the most vulnerable—in particular to reduce abnormally high child stunting rates and to increase learning outcomes for all children, especially for girls. • From wasteful and rigid public expenditures benefiting a few, towards tightly prioritized spending on public services, infrastructure,



and investments in climate adaptation, benefiting populations most in need. • From a narrow, distortive, and inequitable tax system towards one that is broad-based, efficient, progressive, and equitable—generating sufficient revenues to significantly increase public investment in human development, infrastructure, and climate adaptation. • From a protected, stagnant, and unproductive economy with a large state presence towards a dynamic open economy driven by private investment and exports. • From agriculture sector policies that lock farmers into a low-value,

low-productivity farming towards a more market-driven, productive agricultural system, including value chains that are resilient to climate change impacts and water scarcity. • From energy sector policies that drive high energy costs, environmental harms, and unsustainable accumulation of debt, towards efficient, sustainable, and resilient generation and distribution, based on accurate price signals, increased competition and private participation, and a cleaner energy mix. • From a public sector that is inefficient, often ineffective, and vulnerable to capture by vested interests to

wards accountable, efficient, and transparent government, including at the local level. "Pakistan has been facing numerous economic hardships including inflation, rising electricity prices, severe climate shocks, and insufficient public resources to finance development and climate adaptation—when the country is among the most vulnerable to climate change impacts. It is also facing a "silent" human capital crisis: abnormally high child stunting rates, low learning outcomes, and high child mortality," said Najy Benhassine, Country Director for the World Bank in Pakistan.

"These discussion notes contribute to debates on long standing policy issues that are mulling Pakistan's high economic and development potential. There is reasonable consensus on priorities and challenges. Determining specific solutions requires open debates on concrete, fundamental policy decisions. We hope this program of discussions will help build a consensus around a path towards inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient development". As part of the 'Reforms for a Brighter Future' engagement program, the World Bank together with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, conducted extensive consultations across the country to seek inputs and feedback on the recommendations included in the draft Discussion Notes. These have included discussions with students across 21 universities and provincial roundtables with thinkers from academia, and the public and private sectors. Participants in all four provinces have shared insights and perspectives that have helped shaped the understanding of what it would take to put Pakistan back on a path towards sustainable, climate-resilient, and inclusive growth. The 'Reforms for a Brighter Future' program will continue over the following months both online and in-person events across the country, including the national conversation that will take place in Islamabad today and tomorrow.

## Thailand ready to finalize FTA with Pak: Ambassador

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chakkrid Krachaiwong, Ambassador of Thailand said that his country is ready to finalize a free trade agreement with Pakistan as negotiations on it have reached the final stage and it is now up to Pakistan to expedite it. He revealed that Thai Air is resuming its flights from Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. He said that many Pakistani visit Thailand and stressed that they should also play a role to increase bilateral trade between the two countries. He said that both countries should focus on promoting bilateral investment to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. He said that the Pakistani business community should display its products in Thailand Industrial Fair 2024 in January next year, which

would help them to improve their business prospects. He said that many Thai investors want to invest in Pakistan, but they don't know where to invest.

He identified seafood, mangoes, the halal food and halal cosmetics as potential areas for two-way trade. He expressed these views during an interaction with the business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). Ms. Kamolwan Siriposil, Thai Economic Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Khamath Archawathamrong, Thai Counsellor and also accompanied him on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that ICCI would take up the issue of FTA with relevant Pakistani authorities for swift pro-



gress on it as it would help increase bilateral trade between Pakistan and Thailand. He said that Thailand's annual exports in 2022 were over US\$ 285 billion and imports were around US\$300 billion, but its bilateral trade with Pakistan in 2022-23 was less than US\$ 1 billion. He said that both countries are doing trade in limited items and stressed that they should diversify trade to achieve better results. He said that Pakistan can export many other

products to Thailand including value-added textiles, leather goods, sports items, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments and food products. Similarly, Pakistan can import more products from Thailand. Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the government has established a Special Investment Facilitation Council to facilitate new investments in defense, agriculture, minerals, IT & Telecom, energy and other sectors and stressed that the Thai investors should take advantage of these opportunities in Pakistan. He said that tourism sector is another promising area of mutual cooperation as Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and diverse landscapes offer great attractions to Thai tourists. He said that learning from Thailand's successful tourism industry, Pakistan can also develop its tourism sector along modern lines.

## High cost of doing business discourages investment

FAISAL SHIEKH

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum has said that the high cost of doing business has proved to be dangerous for Pakistan's economy, discouraging investment both in capacity and capability, calling for lessening the burden of heavy taxes on energy sector. APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the industry has been overburdened due to recent increase in electricity tariffs which is aggravated by the extraordinary upsurge in petroleum prices, triggering severe anxiety not only amongst the masses but also the business and industrial community. He urged the government to shut down all costly oil-fired power plants in order to ensure consumers had access to cheaper energy. He lamented that the previous administration did not prioritize the rehabilitation and maintenance of older power plants, resulting in multiple system constraints and significant losses. He observed that the government's inability, ill planning and financial woes had multiplied the miseries of businesses which were facing unscheduled power outages across the country. At the same time, the industry was already paying heavy electricity bills of up to Rs50 per unit, including surcharges and other taxes, he added. Shocked by the unprecedented fourth consecutive jump in petroleum product prices, he said the move would worsen the economic crisis, multiplying cost of production and intensifying miseries for the trade and industry. APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said that it has become almost impossible to run the industries at such a high cost. This was the fourth consecutive hike in petroleum prices while, in the tenure of the caretaker government alone, the petrol prices have been raised by almost Rs60 per litre, which was going to create a lot of problems for the already ailing economy as the production has been curtailed by many industrial units to a great extent due to high cost. Ibrahim Qureshi criticized the caretaker government that it should have kept the prices of petroleum unchanged due to the falling landing cost of imported crude on account of the persistent rise in the rupee strength against the dollar in the last eight interbank sessions despite rising crude oil prices in the world market. Syed Maaz Mahmood said that it is fact that the given economic crisis being faced by the country, the government has to take harsh steps to generate the required revenue for overcoming expenditures and fulfilling international commitments. However, instead of taking these steps back-to-back, the government should devise some kind of an effective strategy to ensure some sigh of relief to the masses and the industry who will not be able to bear the brunt caused by consecutive price hikes. The APBF President stressed that the emerging situation has to be efficiently addressed and handled very carefully otherwise, the rising petroleum prices and electricity tariffs would continue to increase the cost of doing business, which would terribly affect the industrial performance, raise unemployment and open the floodgates of inflation, particularly for the middle and lower segments of the society, besides making the poor poorer due to unbearable inflation.

## Minister assures retailers of full support

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister of Industries & Production Gohar Ejaz, in a meeting with the delegation of Chainstore Association of Pakistan, has reiterated the government pledge of continuing its consultation process with the organized retail sector and Chainstore Association to facilitate the formal sector and enhance its exports. The Minister's comprehensive discussion with CAP team, which took place on Thursday, regarding the strategies and initiatives aimed at bolstering domestic commerce in order for it to foster export-led growth and enhance the overall business environment in Pakistan in close consultation with the private

sector. Dr. Gohar Ejaz has assured the government's full commitment, providing them maximum policy support, as the retail sector has announced to play its role to boost the country's exports through e-commerce and by setting up their outlets abroad. Federal Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz was accompanied by Commerce Secretary Sualah Ahmad Faruqi, Additional Secretary Industries Asad Rehman Gilani, Special Secretary Commerce Sarah Saeed and Secretary Board of Investment Sohail Rajput while the CAP delegation consisted of its top leadership, including, CAP Vice Chairman Asad Shafi, CAP Co-Founder Asfandyar Farrukh, Shamooun Sultan, S.M. Nabeel, Ahmed Hussain, Nabeel Abdullah, Altaf Hashwani, Kamran Sal-

eem, Wasif Butt, Wahaj Tariq, Shehryar Buksh, Junaid Dandia and Huzaifa Siddiqui, representing the leading chainstores of the country. The Minister expressed his unwavering commitment to sustained economic growth and facilitating trade. He called on the leadership of CAP and organized retail to strive for higher export volumes through exceptional value-addition of branded products and 'Made in Pakistan'. In the meeting, the Minister asked the Chainstore Association's office-bearers to strive for higher exports volumes. He assured the retailers of the government's full support in the endeavor of revitalizing the organized retail sector and expanding the country's access to the global markets.

## Ningxia, Punjab govts signs two sister cities agreements

ISLAMABAD: Ningxia province, China and Governments of Punjab have signed two agreements during visit of Punjab's caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi to China. These agreements established Sahiwal & Wuzhong, as well as Bahawalpur & Zhang Wei, as sister cities. The signing ceremony took place in Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia province, with Minister for Industry and Agriculture SM Tanvir representing the Punjab government, according to Gwadar Pro. The ceremony was attended by provincial ministers Azfar Ali Nasir and Ibrahim Hasan Murad, as well as Secretary Finance Mujahid Sherdil, alongside senior officials from Ningxia. These agreements are aimed at fostering strong and friendly ties between Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, and their Chinese counterparts. Under the terms of the agreement, mutual understanding and collaboration will be promoted through the exchange of delegations and cooperation efforts. Additionally, the sister cities will extend support to each other across various sectors, including the fields of economy, trade, science, and technology. Furthermore, senior officials and line departments from these sister cities will share expertise.—DNA

## PAF contingent returns Triumphant

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force contingent has landed back at an operational air base after successful participation in the multinational tri-services air exercise Bright Star 2023, held in Egypt. The exercise brought together 30 nations from across the globe, fostering camaraderie and showcasing the prowess of participating armed forces. The distinguished event showcased the remarkable performance of PAF's contingent, consisting of skilled combat pilots, proficient air



defence controllers, and adept technical ground crew, who demonstrated pride and professional excellence as a unified team while operating advanced JF-17 Thunder fighter jets. The primary objective of the Bright Star Exercise was to

promote interoperability and facilitate knowledge sharing among participating countries. Throughout the exercise, PAF's air and ground crew consistently demonstrated exceptional air combat capabilities, effectively highlighting the impressive strengths of Pakistan's esteemed asset, the JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft. Engaging in rigorous training and immersive, realistic aerial warfare scenarios, the PAF contingent reaffirmed its preparedness to address contemporary air warfare challenges, underlining its unwavering commitment to serving the

cause of global peace and security. The resounding triumph of PAF's crew in the Bright Star exercise within the realm of aerial warfare serves as a testament to their unwavering dedication and operational proficiency. Pakistan Air Force's participation in the exercise underscores its ability to adapt to cutting-edge advancements in air combat and its willingness to establish strong partnerships with the international community in order to effectively address the evolving challenges of aerial warfare in the modern world.

## Energy affordability must for growth

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has assailed the NE-PRA to approve another electricity rate hike of up to Rs3.5 per unit under quarterly adjustments, leading to an additional burden of Rs136 billion on power consumers, as energy affordability for industry is critical to boost economic growth in the country.

FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar, calling for charting out a viable way forward to promote renewable energy transition under worsening global and domestic energy inflation for sustainable economic development and providing relief to the industry from external price shocks, he said that until now, consumers were paying an additional Rs1.25 per unit due to ongoing quarterly adjustments. He added that out of the total increase, the new Rs1.25 per unit will remain, while an additional Rs2.03 per unit will be imposed for the next six months. The BMP chairman remarked that the energy sector's success depended on reliability, affordability and accessibility. Mian Anjum Nisar said that the increase in electricity tariffs will have varying impacts on different categories of consumers as for households consuming between 1-100 and 101-200 units, there will be a tariff increase of Rs3.2814 per unit. This rate will continue for households consuming 201-700 units, while those using more than 700 units will face an additional charge of Rs3.2814 per unit.

In the case of commercial consumers with a sanctioned load of less than 5kW, they will encounter a uniform rate increase of Rs3.2814 per unit. For commercial consumers with a sanctioned load of 5kW and above, the same rate will apply, along with the introduction of a Time of Use (TOU) category for peak and off-peak consumption, also set at Rs3.2814 per kWh. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations will be billed at the same rate. He revealed that the major recovery would come from capacity payments amounting to Rs145 billion, to be collected from consumers who had consistently paid their bills. These payments will be disbursed to power plants that remained idle and out of operation. He also stressed the need for improvement in forecasting mechanisms to ensure return on investments for renewable energy projects.—DNA

## China-built power plants using high-quality imported coal in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: All coal-fired power plants built by Chinese companies in Pakistan have been consistently using high-quality coal imported from other countries, officials said. Commented on a news item raising a question about the coal quality, the officials said basic knowledge about the power industry based on facts can clearly show and prove that the Chinese power plants cannot run on low-quality coal like a fighter jet cannot start and run on regular fuel. There is no classification of coal as "superior" or "inferior" based on the difference in thermal energy. "If less than 6000CV" is the definition of "inferior coal" according to an ignorant bureaucrat, then the coal mines in Thar of Pakistan have only 2000CV coal. So, under their parameter, should it be defined as extremely inferior coal," sources said. At the hearing site, the Chinese company had carried out detailed science popularization and explanation and introduced the correct and scientific concepts in the industry to the NEPRA officials who raised this issue. The Chinese engineers and experts have briefed the Pakistani side about a clear scientific definition of the coal thermal zone set by the agency itself. According to the scientific design of the boiler, different power plants need to adapt to different calorific value zones of coal.—APP

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 04 Issue: 350

Email: [dailyisbpost@gmail.com](mailto:dailyisbpost@gmail.com)

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



## Hangzhou Games showcase for the Asian Spirit

The 19th Asian Games commenced on Saturday night in Hangzhou, East China's Zhejiang province, presenting not just another China-hosted sports gala to the world, but also an opportunity for Asian countries to shore up peace, solidarity and inclusiveness through the spirit of good sportsmanship. State leaders and dignitaries from Asian countries and international organizations attended the opening ceremony at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium, which was a display celebrating the depth of Chinese culture and history and emphasizing unity in diversity in different countries and regions. China has earnestly fulfilled its commitments to deliver "a great event that is distinctly Chinese, uniquely Asian and spectacular", and made every effort for the preparation of the Games. With the 45 members of the Olympic Council of Asia sending over 12,000 athletes to the Games, the Hangzhou Asiad is the largest and most comprehensive Asian Games in history. As well as sporting powerhouses such as Japan and the Republic of Korea, nations with a small population such as Mongolia and countries suffering from wars such as Syria, have sent large delegations to Hangzhou, for many it is their largest sports delegation ever. The Hangzhou 19th Asian Games, which was postponed for a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is the third time China has hosted the Asiad, after Beijing in 1990 and Guangzhou in 2010. Over the past eight years, the organizers have prioritized hosting a green and smart event. Of the 56 competition venues for the Asian Games and Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, only 12 are newly constructed, with the remainder being renovated or temporarily erected. Hangzhou's meticulous preparation work and the impressive opening ceremony have won wide recognition, and the Games will also enable the city to showcase its appeal as a picturesque cosmopolis and its role as a thriving business and innovation hub. Beyond highlighting sports' role in fostering unity, friendship and cooperation, the Hangzhou Games are also significant as they provide a venue for deepening mutual learning among different civilizations and mutual understanding among nations with different social backgrounds and cultures. In recent years, in contrast to other crisis-ridden regions, Asia has largely maintained peace and stability and achieved eye-catching achievements in economic development. The ongoing Asian Games can help reinforce the spirit of unity and cooperation that is a hallmark of the region. From Sept 23 to Oct 8, the Hangzhou Games will feature 40 sports, 61 disciplines, and 481 events. It is our sincere hope that participating athletes will display good sportsmanship and do their best to jointly promote Asian sports to a higher level, and that the Games will help build an Asian community with a shared future.

## EU urged to avoid de-Sinicization amid 'de-risking'

It was positive that European Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis vowed to strengthen the European Union's relationship with China to jointly solve global crises such as food security and climate change in his speech in Shanghai, ahead of the 10th China-EU High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue that opens on Monday. That he also spoke of the need for the EU to "de-risk" was not. Despite saying that the EU doesn't seek "decoupling", he complained that the EU has a trade deficit of 400 billion (\$426.1 billion) with China. He has long insisted that the EU's trade deficit with China is too big and he reportedly plans to call for China to ease the limits on the EU's exports at the Shanghai dialogue. But in saying so, Dombrovskis and those EU politicians holding similar views ignore the fact that the trade deficit is the comprehensive result of industrial structure, division of labor and other factors. The EU produces high technology, luxury goods and high-end agricultural products compared to China, which is lower down the value chain. This constitutes the basic scenario of their bilateral trade, namely the EU exports designer clothes and accessories, wines, and high-end electronic products to China while buying automobiles or parts and solar panels from the latter. Besides it is quite common for EU enterprises to run businesses in China for higher profit, which, statistically, is added to China's exports to the EU, even though it is European companies that make the money. However, it is the EU's blind following of Washington and its curbs on high-tech exports to China, such as lithography machines, that is the major reason for the trade deficit. It is natural that the EU should end up paying more than it receives when Europeans enjoy the convenience of Chinese products and refuse to send China high-tech products in exchange. In an interview, Dombrovskis said that "On one hand we must discuss how we advance our relationship, but also we need to be able to discuss if there are some issues or trade barriers to be addressed." If he hopes to narrow the EU's trade deficit with China, he can call for the easing of the curbs on its high-tech exports to China. There are some trade barriers visible to all. The European Commission launched a probe against electric vehicles imported from China on Sept 13 claiming that subsidies from the Chinese government have made their prices artificially low. From all kinds of definitions, the EU's move is trade protectionism. Leading German automakers' executives have expressed that competition leads to innovation while German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that "Competition should spur us on, not scare us." Those are topics that should be discussed at the dialogue on Monday.

## A Row costing \$ 9 billion to India & Canada

Qamar Bashir



This condemnation was accompanied by a critique of what was described as India's "intolerance" towards minority communities. It's worth noting that historical tensions between India and Canada have roots dating back to the 1980s. Since then India has been expressing its concerns about Canada allegedly harboring Sikh separatist elements and facilitating the promotion of the Khalistan issue. Canada is home to one of the world's largest Sikh populations outside India, comprising nearly 770,000 people, or approximately 2.1% of the

During his address to the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), caretaker Prime Minister Mr. Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar raised concerns over the Hindutva ideology in India while citing the recent killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar of Khalistan Tiger Force, on June 18, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He asserted that this ideology is being employed to justify the persecution of religious and ethnic minorities in India. In a call for international action, he urged the global community to hold India accountable for its alleged human rights abuses while characterizing Mr. Nijjar killing as "extrajudicial." This condemnation was accompanied by a critique of what was described as India's "intolerance" towards minority communities. It's worth noting that historical tensions between India and Canada have roots dating back to the 1980s. Since then India has been expressing its concerns about Canada allegedly harboring Sikh separatist elements and facilitating the promotion of the Khalistan issue. Canada is home to one of the world's largest Sikh populations outside India, comprising nearly 770,000 people, or approximately 2.1% of the country's population. In 2015, relations between Canada and India faced heightened tensions when Justin Trudeau assumed power as Prime Minister and appointed four Sikh ministers to his 30-member cabinet. These appointments raised concerns in India, which had previously expressed apprehensions about Sikh Canadians who openly support the Khalistan movement seeking a separate Sikh homeland in India. Additionally, incidents such as the vandalism of a Hindu temple in Canada with graffiti reading "death to India" in Urdu and "Khalistan," as well as local referendums organized by Sikh Canadians advocating Sikh independence from India, further strained diplomatic ties. In February 2018, during Justin Trudeau's address to the Canadian Parliament, he delivered a presentation, complete with graphics, pictures, and videos, in which he described his official visit to India. Trudeau recounted how, despite the Indian Prime Minister's outward politeness and warm photo opportunities, carefully planned and orchestrated events appeared to be aimed at insulting, humiliating, and disrespecting the Canadian Prime Minister. Notably, India neither issued an apology nor expressed regret for these perceived slights. Justin Trudeau's trip was also marred by several controversies and criticisms. One notable issue was related to the attire worn by

him and his family throughout the visit. They chose to don elaborate traditional Indian outfits, which some observers perceived as excessive and politically tone-deaf. This choice led to accusations of cultural appropriation. Later, in June 2023, India's Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, expressed concerns during a press conference about Canada's accommodation of Sikh separatists, warning that it was detrimental to the bilateral relationship. He termed Canada's approach to the Khalistani issue as driven by domestic politics and vote-bank considerations. Ten days after Jaishankar's warnings, Hardeep Singh Nijjar was fatally shot at a Sikh temple in Vancouver. Canada reacted to this incident by taking significant diplomatic measures. On September 1, just eight days before the G-20 Summit, Canada paused trade negotiations with India and canceled a planned trade mission to India, affecting the US\$9 billion trade relationship between the two countries. Tensions escalated further during the G-20 Summit in New Delhi, held from September 9th to 10th, 2023. Unlike other Western leaders, Prime Minister Trudeau did not engage in formal bilateral talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Instead, the two leaders expressed their serious concerns on the sidelines of the summit. Modi raised issues related to "anti-India activities of extremist elements in Canada" and accused Canada of fostering sympathy for a Sikh separatist movement. Canada, in turn, accused Indian officials of interfering in its domestic politics. The relationship between the two nations deteriorated significantly on September 18, 2023. Prime Minister Trudeau made a sensational statement before the Canadian Parliament, disclosing that Ottawa was actively pursuing "credible allegations" from Canadian intelligence regarding New Delhi's involvement in the assassination of prominent Sikh Canadian leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil in June. In response to Trudeau's comments, the Canadian government expelled a senior Indian diplomat. India swiftly denied any involvement in Nijjar's death and issued a statement to that effect. In retaliation, India also expelled an unnamed senior Canadian diplomat. The combination of increasing Sikh activism in Canada, but also in the U.K., U.S., and Australia, including widespread protests held in March over the manhunt for another Sikh separatist leader, Amritpal Singh. "The stepped-up activism has sharpened New Delhi's concerns while Canada, citing freedom of speech, has held back, and its unwillingness to address Indian concerns has plunged bilateral rela-

tions into a deep crisis. On Tuesday 19 Sept, 2023, U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said the White House was "deeply concerned" about the Canadian allegations. "It is critical that Canada's investigation proceed and the perpetrators be brought to justice," Watson said in a statement. Derek J. Grossman, a senior defense analyst at the RAND Corporation, says it will be interesting to see how the Biden Administration handles the situation. "Taking a stand either way—for India or for Canada—would anger the other," he says. "Regardless, I think the Biden Administration wants to keep India at its side at all costs to help counter China through the Indo-Pacific strategy. The United Kingdom said it is in close touch with its Canadian partners about "serious allegations" from Ottawa that the Indian government was involved in the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia province earlier this year. The spokesperson for Australian foreign minister Wong said Australia is "deeply concerned by these allegations and notes ongoing investigations into this matter." "We are closely engaged with partners on developments. We have conveyed our concerns at senior levels to India," said the Australian official. India has faced criticism for its human rights record, particularly in the context of its handling of the situation in the illegally occupied region of Jammu and Kashmir. In this region, there have been concerns about the restriction of the Kashmiri population's movements and liberties, leading to claims that it resembles one of the largest human incarcerations in the world. India has also faced criticism for its treatment of religious and ethnic minorities, as well as issues related to its treatment of low-caste Hindus. Some observers argue that India has not faced sufficient international scrutiny or accountability for these alleged violations. They believe that geopolitical factors, such as the Western world's concerns about China's rise, have led to a strategic alignment with India. This alignment, they argue, has sometimes resulted in a lenient approach toward India's human rights issues. Critics argue that this approach can, in the long run, prove detrimental, as the same nation being supported today may pose challenges in the future. If you feed a crocodile, it will eventually eat you.   
—The writer is Former Press Secretary to the President Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC

## Taiwan: Beijing's pressure and Washington's support

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



China sees itself as the main government of China, and they want Taiwan to be a part of that. China believes in this idea called the One China principle. They also say Taiwan agreed to a deal in 1992, but Taiwan doesn't agree on what that deal really means. The two sides don't agree about whether Taiwan is its own country or not. This deal was never meant to solve the question of what Taiwan's status is

Taiwan is an island that sits apart from China, with the Taiwan Strait between them. China thinks of Taiwan as a new part of their land and wants to bring Taiwan and China together. But Taiwan has its own elected government and about two million people living there. The leaders in politics have different thoughts about how Taiwan should be related to China. The situation has gotten more tense since Tsai Ing-wen became Taiwan's President. She doesn't agree with the ideas of the previous leader, Ma Ying-jeou, on how Taiwan and China should cooperate. China has been more aggressive, even sending fighter planes close to Taiwan. Some experts worry that if China attacks Taiwan, the United States might get involved. China says there is only one China and that Taiwan belongs to it. China sees itself as the main government of China, and they want Taiwan to be a part of that. China believes in this idea called the One China principle. They also say Taiwan agreed to a deal in 1992, but Taiwan doesn't agree on what that deal really means. The two sides don't agree about whether Taiwan is its own country or not. This deal was never meant to solve the question of what Taiwan's status is. China says the deal means both sides should work together as part of one China. Taiwan's side thinks it means "One China, Different Ideas." Taiwan's rules recognize China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Tibet, and the South China Sea as part of Taiwan. The people in the main political group, KMT, don't want Taiwan to be separate from China. They want to have good relations with China forever. But some leaders in KMT have been talking about changing their ideas from the 1992 deal. The other big political group, DPP, doesn't like the 1992 deal from the start. Tsai Ing-wen, who is the President and leads DPP, really doesn't like that deal. She's been trying to find a way that both Taiwan and China can agree on. In 2016, she said she's the President because of Taiwan's own rules, which talk about one China. She also said she will follow Taiwan's rules when it comes to dealing with China. But China didn't like this and stopped official relations with Taiwan. China's leader, Xi, said in 2019 that he wants Taiwan to be part of China, using a plan called 'one country, two systems.' This plan was also used for Hong Kong, where they kept their own rules and had some freedom.

But people in Taiwan don't like this idea. China's actions in Hong Kong made Taiwan's leaders say no to that plan. China doesn't want Taiwan to join big groups like the UN. Taiwan complains about this. The US supports Taiwan in these groups. The US also sells weapons to Taiwan and lets its officials meet with Taiwan's officials. Even the President of Taiwan was invited to a special event by the US President. The US also trains and talks about the military with Taiwan. Taiwan has lots of support in the US Congress. They want Taiwan to be part of the world and have a good relationship with the US. China's military is getting ready to bring Taiwan under its control, even if other countries try to help. But experts don't agree on when this might happen. Some think 2049 could be a key year, as China's leader Xi says he really wants Taiwan back by then. China tries to attack Taiwan's computer systems every day. This has been happening more in recent years. In 2020, Taiwan said China tried to get into its government data and personal info. China has also done things to make life harder for Taiwan, like stopping official talks in 2016 and reducing tourism. China has threatened other countries that have connections with Taiwan. For instance, in 2021, China stopped trading with Lithuania because they opened an office representing Taiwan in their capital. China has also tried to influence Taiwan's elections by spreading false information on social media and controlling Taiwanese media more. Even with these threats from China, Taiwan has managed to keep its democratic way of governing. In 2020, a group called the Economist Democracy Index said Taiwan was a "full democracy" for the first time. In 2021, Taiwan was ranked the eighth most democratic country in the world. This was higher than its Asian neighbors South Korea and Japan, and even higher than the United States. Most people in Taiwan want things to stay the same, and only a few want Taiwan to be independent right away or join with China. But the way they trade and do business together has been having problems recently. Part of the reason is that China is putting pressure on Taiwan, and Taiwan's leaders are worried about relying too

much on trading with China. From 2008 to 2016, the president at the time, President Ma, made it easier to trade between Taiwan and China. They even opened direct paths for ships, airplanes, and mail to go back and forth between the two places. They also allowed banks, insurance companies, and other financial businesses to work in each other's countries. But when President Tsai took over, she and her Democratic Progressive Party tried to make deals with more countries, not just China. They had some success. Their plan to focus more on countries in Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific helped Taiwan trade more with eighteen places. Over five years, they traded over \$50 billion, and Taiwan invested more money in these countries too. In 2021, Taiwan sold a lot of things to China, even though China tried to stop other countries from making trade agreements with Taiwan. Some countries, like New Zealand and Singapore, still made those agreements. China also tried to keep Taiwan out of big trade groups like the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. But Taiwan isn't part of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework led by the Biden administration either. Taiwan is really good at making computer chips. These chips are super important for lots of electronic things like phones, computers, cars, and even smart weapons. In 2020, companies in Taiwan made more than 60% of the money that all the world's chip makers earned. One of the biggest reasons for this success is a company called Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. They make more chips than anyone else and give them to big companies like Apple in the U.S. There are only two companies in the world that can make the most advanced, tiny chips, and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. is one of them. They make over 90% of these chips. Some experts think that the U.S. wants to protect Taiwan from China because it needs these chips so much. President Biden wants to make the chip industry in the U.S. stronger. In 2022, the people in charge passed a law that gives \$280 billion to help with this. China also needs Taiwan's chips, but not as much as the United States does.

## Briefs

## Israel relations depend...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan would not have to make a decision on this matter in the near future. In his address at the 78th United Nations General Assembly this week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said peace with Saudi Arabia means peace between the Muslim world and Jews. Netanyahu also claimed Israel is "on the cusp" of normalising ties with Saudi Arabia while holding maps showing the West Bank, Gaza, and Golan Heights as part of Israel. His statement has since sparked a new debate about which Muslim countries, after the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan, will establish relations with Israel.

## 2 Palestinians killed by...

FROM PAGE 01

blockade imposed by Israel with Egypt's help. Israel says the blockade is needed to prevent the ruling Hamas militant group from arming itself. It was the latest in a series of violent protests over the past week that has raised the specter of an escalation for the first time since a brief round of conflict last May between Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group. It comes at a fraught time, just before the Sukkot festival in Israel next week. During Sukkot, large numbers of Jews are expected to visit Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site, revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. The compound, home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, is often a focal point for violence.

## Iran foils major...

FROM PAGE 01

and instigating chaos and protests exactly during the anniversary of last year's riots," it said. That was a reference to months-long protests and unrest across Iran, which began in mid-September 2022 after 22-year-old Mahsa Amini died in police custody following her arrest for alleged non-compliance with Iran's dress code. The Intelligence Ministry said the unnamed arrested individuals were all linked with ISIL (ISIS), and some of them had a history of cooperating with "takfiris in Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Kurdistan region in Iraq". Takfiri is a term used to describe a Muslim who accuses other Muslims of being apostates or infidels, with the implied death sentence that that entails.

## FVEY informed...

FROM PAGE 01

Trudeau said on Monday that Ottawa had credible intelligence linking Indian agents to the murder of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Vancouver, prompting an angry reaction from New Delhi, which denies the allegation. "I will say this was a matter of shared intelligence information. There was a lot of communication between Canada and the United States about this, and I think that's as far as I'm comfortable going," Cohen told CTV News in an interview to be aired on Sunday. The Canadian government amassed intelligence from both human and electronic sources in a months-long investigation into the murder, CBC News reported separately on Thursday.

## PML-N weighs in...

FROM PAGE 01

Meanwhile, the 'narrative' committee constituted by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz leadership that has held two meetings thus far is weighing in on the narrative. A well-placed source, privy to the development, on the condition of anonymity said that a 'narrative committee', comprising around ten people had been constituted by the leadership to garner public feedback and communicate the public pulse to the leadership regarding the workability of the retaliatory narrative.

## Pakistan Whites wins Save Tomorrow 7 Basketball event

A Commemorative Basketball Event to Raise Drug Overdose Awareness won by Pakistan Whites by defeating Pakistan Greens by 56-54 points at Liaquat Gymnasium

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: A Commemorative Basketball Event to Raise Drug Overdose Awareness won by Pakistan Whites by defeating Pakistan Greens by 56-54 points at Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad on Saturday. According to the details, After a thrilling contest witnessed by fully crowded local audience, Dr. Yousef Filali Meknassi UNESCO Country Representative - Ambassador Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Andrea Ferrarese and Mrs. Albana Ferrarese, KKAWF Christian von Frenz, Country head of USEFP Rita Brunn-Fullbright, Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) Associate Secretary Ouj E Zahoor, Pakistan basketball team coach Malik Muhammad Riaz among other dignitaries were present during the event. Tomorrow 7 Sports event organised by the Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation (KKAWF), in collaboration with the Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF), United States Educational Foundation



in Pakistan (USEFP) and Serena Hotel Islamabad. This is the seventh event of its highly successful "Save Tomorrow" series of KKAWF's programme 'Sports is the Answer'. Save Tomorrow 7 showcase the best of national basketball team players. The event was about raising awareness of overdose and reducing the stigma

surrounding drug-related deaths, in honour of International Overdose Awareness Day. Save Tomorrow series of events, is a hope that brings together youth, communities, sports enthusiasts, diplomats and supporters to promote healthy living, remember those lost to drug overdose, and prevent future tragedies. Save Tomorrow 7 featured thrilling basketball matches between national teams, both male and female, showcasing the talent and sportsmanship of our athletes. In mens match Pakistan Whites emerged victorious against strong Pakistan Greens team by 56 points against 54. Muhammad Shiraz showcased his talent and determination, securing 19 points while Mehtab

scored 16 points for winning side. In a womens match Pakistan Army beat Islamabad by 30-21 points. Anna Mohsin scored 12, Zobia Bibi 6 and Imad Ahmed scored 4 points to play their vital role for team Army victory. The winning and runners up teams awarded prestigious trophy and all participating players received gold and silver medals.

## Arsenal, Tottenham play out thrilling derby draw

LONDON: Tottenham came from behind twice to secure a hard-earned point in the north London derby against Arsenal in a thriller at Emirates Stadium. In a relentless encounter, Arsenal took the lead after 26 minutes when Bukayo Saka's shot was deflected into his own goal by Spurs defender Cristian Romero. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta had made the big decision by keeping David Raya in of goal ahead of Aaron Ramsdale and he justified that faith with two fine saves from Brennan Johnson as Spurs went in pursuit of an equaliser. Raya should have done better, however, when Spurs levelled three minutes before half-time. He could only claw away a cross allowing an attack to continue, ending with James Maddison crossing for Son Heung-min to equalise with a deft finish. Arsenal restored their lead after 54 minutes when Romero was penalised

for handball following the intervention of the Video Assistant Referee, Saka scoring from the spot. Spurs, illustrating their new positive approach under manager Ange Postecoglou in his first north London derby, were back on terms almost instantly when Jorginho, as a half-time substitute for the injured Declan Rice, lost possession to Maddison, who played in Son for another cool finish. The headline news before kick-off was Mikel Arteta's decision to stay with Raya in goal, a move that surely ends the debate about who is Arsenal's number one keeper, the Spaniard getting the nod ahead of England's Ramsdale. It was a mixed afternoon for Raya, who made two important interventions but was also culpable for Spurs' first equaliser when he should have held a cross, allowing Spurs to maintain pressure and score.

For Arsenal, there will be real frustration in being held to a point and one of the key moments came when they were leading 1-0 and Gabriel Jesus caught James Maddison in possession, only to shoot wildly over the top with just Spurs keeper Guglielmo Vicario to beat. Arsenal were never at their most fluent, not helped by losing Declan Rice to injury at half-time, and paid the price when his replacement Jorginho was robbed by Maddison for Spurs' second goal. The Gunners staged a late show to beat Manchester United but there was no repeat here, even in 10 minutes of added time, and Arteta's side had to settle for a point against their great rivals. Tottenham's positive and entertaining start to the season under new manager Postecoglou has sparked real optimism but this was the biggest test of the post-Harry Kane era so far. - Agencies

## First Pakistani couple conquers Nepal's eighth peak

GILGIT: Pakistan's Ahmed Uzair and Anum Uzair became the first husband-wife duo from the South Asian country to summit Nepal's towering Mount Manaslu, Nepalese commercial adventure operator Seven Summit Treks confirmed on Sunday. Mount Manaslu is the eighth-highest mountain in the world at 8,163 meters and is located in the west-central part of Nepal. Pakistani mountaineers Naila Kiani, Sirbaz Khan and Shehroze Kashif summited the mountain earlier this month. Ahmed and Anum Uzair, both parents to two children, summited the mountain on Sunday. Seven Summit Treks wrote on social media platform X. "Congratulations to Ahmed and Anum Uzair who successfully climbed the eighth highest peak, Mt. Manaslu (8163m), this morning," the company wrote. "They are the first Pakistani couple to achieve (climb 8,000m peak) this feat." Kashif took to X, formerly Twitter, to congratulate the couple on the feat. "What a piece of news to wake up to! It's truly an outstanding achievement," he wrote. The couple are based in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore. Speaking to Arab News, Kashif said Uzair is a barrister by profession while Anum is a forensic doctor. "They are my clients. Under my mentorship, they have also climbed Minglik Sar (6,050 meters) and Hisper (5,246 meters) peaks in the past," he told media reporters. - Agencies

## Ali Zafar to make ICC WC 2023 anthem

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani singer Ali Zafar announced on Sunday that he is going to make an anthem for the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023 amid public criticism over the official anthem titled 'Dil Jashn Bole' released by the International Cricket Council (ICC) last week. Ali Zafar announced the creation of an anthem on his official account on the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter). "Hello all, firstly thank you for the love and faith. Keeping in mind your thoughts and wishes for the World Cup cricket anthem, I have an idea on how we can create a masterpiece together. Check out the link below. It's an exciting experiment that can work wonders if done right. It's also a chance for new music composers, writers, and producers to showcase their talent in the most democratic way possible. But here's the best part: creativity knows no bounds, so anyone can share their ideas! So, hear me out and let me know your thoughts. If you have something to share, please provide a link or video. Peace and love," he posted. Ali Zafar invited 'new music composers, writers, and producers' to come forward and showcase their talent to 'create a masterpiece'. This announcement came after fans requested Ali Zafar to make an anthem for the ICC World Cup 2023 of his own as the official anthem, which was composed by renowned composer Pritam failed to live up to the hype and met with massive criticism on social media. - DNA

## Hangzhou Games venues showcase green, high-tech

As per official announcement, most of the competition venues either are repurposed or temporary, with only 12 being newly built

ISLAMABAD: As the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games ceremoniously unfolded at China's east city of Hangzhou, the attention is on Hangzhou's mission to orchestrate the first-ever "carbon-neutral" Asian Games. This commitment resonates through-out the games' preparations in the venues' construction and technology integration, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. As per official announcement, most of the competition venues either are repurposed or temporary, with

only 12 being newly built. Among the 44 reused or temporary venues, modular construction and sustainable materials are in the limelight, exemplifying resource conservation and a green ethos. For instance, Hangzhou University of Electronic Science and Technology's gymnasium, set to host fencing events, exemplifies sustainable adaptation. Seats and LED screens, despite years of use, were refreshed and reintroduced for the games. Low carbon and technological brilliance are also evident in newly built competition venues. The Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium - an architectural wonder built with 55 steel petals to form a lotus-shaped roof - greatly saves the amount of steel used. Adopting a similar lotus-shaped design, the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Tennis Centre has pioneered the use of a computerised rotating roof, which allows for the flower petal-like structures to open and

close based on weather conditions, thus providing a flexible playing environment. The Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Aquatic Sports Arena is another marvel. Shaped like a butterfly, its rooftop light tubes illuminate the interior with natural light, offering an eco-friendly, energy-saving alternative to traditional fluorescent lighting and saving an estimated 100,000 kWh annually. Each pool within the centre features an advanced water treatment system, which not only filters and disinfects but also decomposes uric acid, optimising energy use by over 15%. Notably, all of the 56 competition venues are powered by green power. This is sourced from diverse power grids, photovoltaic generation from northwest provinces of Qinghai and Gansu, and wind power from northwest inland autonomous region of Xinjiang and coastal province of Zhejiang. - DNA

## PML-N advised...

FROM PAGE 01

the senior PPP leader came after PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif recently held the two retired officials responsible for his 2017 ouster and the country's ongoing crises. "(Former) chief justices Saqib Nisar and Asif Saeed Khosa were tools [of the former army chief and his spy chief]. Their crime is bigger than a murder offence. Giving them pardon will be an injustice to the nation. They don't deserve pardon," Nawaz said, vowing to hold them accountable.

## Vision impairment..

FROM PAGE 01

"A list of the people affected by fake injections is also being prepared." Yesterday, meanwhile, the Punjab Health Department constituted a committee headed by ophthalmologist Dr Asad Aslam to probe the matter, after Pakistan Peoples Party leader Chaudhry Manzoor revealed that his brother and a friend's eyesight was affected when they received the shot inside their eyes. "The injections caused infections in their eyes and later vision problems," he added.

## PM Kakar in London...

FROM PAGE 01

He will also address a session at Oxford University. PM Kakar will return to Pakistan on September 27. PM Kakar arrived at London after concluding on a five-day visit to the United States, where he attended the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Kakar also addressed the UNGA on Friday, Sept 22. He also held meetings with global leaders and interacted with the international media and visited prominent US think tanks. On the sidelines of the UNGA, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister Office Media Wing, the key engagements of Prime Minister Kakar, included his participation in a conference on climate-change.

## At least 31 injured in...

FROM PAGE 01

train - coming from Mianwali - was travelling on the same track where a freight train was already present, resulting in a crash. The train driver attempted to avoid the crash but to no avail. According to the rescue personnel, 31 passengers onboard the train were injured in the accident. Five injured passengers have been transferred to the district headquarters hospital, they added. The railway officials said that rescue work is underway at the site of the accident, and an investigation into the crash was launched.

## Thai embassy keen to cement ties with Pakistan thru sport diplomacy

Thai ambassador disclosed that next month Thai Women Cricket team will travel to Lahore to participate in the cricket events

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan Chakkrid Krachaiwong has said Royal Thai Embassy earnestly believes in sports diplomacy to strengthen the friendship between Thailand and Pakistan as well as international community in Islamabad. A friendship that goes beyond state to state relations and focuses on people to people interaction He expressed these views while speaking as chief guest on the occasion of a football match played between the Thai Thunder and All Stars Islamabad.

The ambassador said 'we are very fortunate to have coach Adul, a former National football player, who is here with the support of Hitkub Thailand. His visit is a starting point for cooperation and exchange of knowledge and skills in football between Thailand and Pakistan. Coach Adul also comes to train Thai student from IUI to provide career in sports business as part of Thai Embassy duty in taking care and empower Thai community abroad. The Thai ambassador further said, he was happy to have with them Pakistani friends, as well 4 Trends from the Embassy of Spain, Japan, Romania, Kazakhstan, United States and Algeria. This reflects not only the relationship between Thailand and Pakistan through sport, but also the friendship among international community residing here in beautiful and friendly country of Pakistan.



He thanked Pakistani friends especially Mr. Mubasher who helped organize this event as well as friends from the diplomatic community and our staff from Thai Embassy. He said they will have more events like this in future so that we can come together and strengthen our relations.

Ambassador Chakkrid further said Thai and Pakistan have ties through sport. Rubber and latex imported from Thailand are used to produce world famous Pakistan football export to countries around the world. Thai quality product and Pakistan's craftsmanship is a symbol of our friendship and synergy. The ambas-

sador disclosed that next month Thai Women Cricket team will travel to Lahore to participate in the cricket events. He hoped more Thai and Pakistani sports team will have more chances to visit each other country more as we have many direct flights between our two countries by the Thai Air.



## Briefs

**Only 1.3mn Afghans living in Pakistan are registered**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Out of total 3.7 million Afghans living in Pakistan, only over 1.3 million are registered, while 775,000 are still to be registered. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) statistics compiled up to June 2023, 68 per cent Afghan migrants are living in Pakistan's urban and semi-urban areas while the remaining 32 per cent are settled in villages and tribal areas. Out of total 3.7 million, 700,000 Afghan nationals are settled in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP); 300,000 in Balochistan; close to 200,000 in Punjab, 73,000 in Sindh, 41,000 in Islamabad and over 4,000 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The Afghans, living in Pakistan illegally, are involved in the smuggling of narcotics and other prohibited items. If we look at history, we find out that Pakistan suffered immensely by letting the Afghans in since it was after their arrival that Pakistani markets were flooded with foreign products. The Afghans benefited a lot from that as their businesses flourished. But they refused to pay taxes, which badly affected the country's economy.

**Journalist sent on 14-day judicial remand**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad on Sunday sent journalist Muhammad Khalid Jamil to jail on a 14-day judicial remand in a case pertaining to spreading "provocative narrative against the state institutions through social media platforms". The journalist was presented in an Islamabad district and sessions court today after completion of a two-day physical remand. During the hearing, the FIA sought more physical remand of Jamil which was rejected by Islamabad court. After hearing arguments, he was sent to jail on 14-day judicial remand. Khalid Jamil, the bureau chief of a private news channel, was taken into custody from his residence at Media town, Islamabad. According to the First Information Report (FIR), the accused was found "sharing and spreading highly intimidating content/tweets on social media platforms, including X". The FIR invoked Section 505 (statement conducting to public mischief) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). It also included Section 20 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca). The FIR asserted that the journalist was found to cause "harm to Pakistan".

**SC orders for compiling conflicting decisions of HCs**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has ordered to compile lists of conflicting decisions of the High Courts. The Registrar Office of the SC has issued an important circular in the matter of discrepancies in the judgments of the five high courts and the circular has asked to prepare lists of judgments based on discrepancies. According to the circular, appeals against the decisions of the high courts are pending in the SC. A number of inconsistencies have been identified in the challenged decisions of the high courts. In the circular issued by the Registrar's Office, the concerned office is directed to prepare and submit a list of conflicting decisions of the high courts within 15 days.

# Saudi FM calls for peaceful solutions to world crises

"The Kingdom affirms its keenness on the security and stability of the Republic of Yemen and supports all efforts aimed at resolving the crisis in Yemen, and alleviating the human suffering of the Yemeni people"

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Saudi Arabia's foreign minister called for peaceful solutions to multiple world crises during his address to the 78th UN General Assembly in New York on Saturday. Prince Faisal bin Farhan stressed the importance of human rights to Saudi Arabia, saying: "Our country has enacted a number of laws, and has also amended existing laws, in order to promote the dignity of the citizen and protect livelihoods and decent living while ensuring protection for all." He reaffirmed the Kingdom's support for a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict "that allows the Palestinian people to have an independent state within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital." Prince Faisal also called for solutions to the conflicts and crises in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, Libya, Ukraine and Sudan. "The Kingdom affirms its keenness on the security and stability of the Republic of Yemen and supports all efforts aimed at resolving the crisis in Yemen, and alleviating the human suffering of the Yemeni people," he said. He called for de-escalation in Sudan, saying Saudi Arabia hosted ceasefire talks between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Jeddah earlier this year with the participation of the US. "Saudi Arabia is working actively to protect civilians and to guarantee delivery of aid to the population," he said. "We have, since the beginning of the crisis, constantly taken humanitarian action by conducting evacuation operations by sea of thousands of Sudanese and citizens of neighboring and brotherly countries."

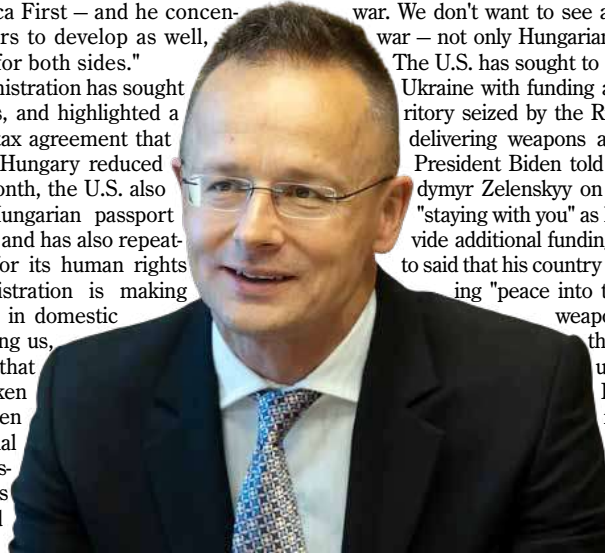
## Kiev peace plan not feasible: Russian FM

NEW YORK: Russia's foreign minister has denounced the West as "an empire of lies," whose overbearing attitude has become intolerable for the rest of the world. Sergei Lavrov made the remarks in an address to the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Saturday. The top diplomat cited examples of Western officials' past and present deceitful behavior to prove unreliability of Western states. Emphasizing that the West is "truly an empire of lies," Lavrov said Americans and Europeans "make all sorts of promises...and then just don't fulfill them." He added that even during the battle against Nazism in World War Two, Western countries plotted an offensive against their Soviet allies. Lavrov added that Soviet and then Russian leaders "were given concrete political assurances regarding the non-expansion of the NATO military alliance to the east," which turned out to be pure deception. The top diplomat then censured the West for its globally divisive methods. "The US and its subordinate Western collective are continuing to fuel conflicts, which artificially divide humanity into hostile blocs and hamper the achievement of overall aims," Lavrov said. The Russian foreign minister condemned Western countries for doing "everything they can to prevent the formation of a genuine multipolar world order," adding, "The rest of the planet is sick of it... They don't want to live under anybody's yoke any more." Following his address to the UN General Assembly, Lavrov took part in a press conference, dismissing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's global peace summit proposal as unfeasible. He also lashed out at Ukraine's 10-point plan to end the war with Russia, saying, "It is not possible to implement this. It's not realistic and everybody understands this, but at the same time, they say this is the only basis for negotiations." The plan calls for cessation of hostilities and Russian military's withdrawal from those Ukrainian regions that have joined Russia through referendums. Moscow has rejected ceasing its operations while its forces are under attack by Ukraine, which is being fed with state-of-the-art Western weapons on a near-daily basis. Elsewhere in his remarks, Lavrov said through their support for Ukraine, Western countries are directly fighting against Moscow. "You can call it anything you want, but they are fighting with us, they are straight-up fighting with us," Lavrov told journalists, adding, "We call it a hybrid war, but that doesn't change things." - Agencies

# Hungarian FM slams 'lecturing' Biden admin

NEW YORK: The Hungarian foreign minister says his country is hoping for a return of former President Donald Trump to the White House, as he says the relationship between the U.S. and Hungary has deteriorated due to the "lecturing" and interference in policy by the Biden administration. Foreign Minister told during an interview with American news channel that his country, which is led by a conservative government, had strong relations with the U.S. during the Trump administration, but that it has soured with the new Biden administration. "We had the best ever political relationship with the United States during the term of President Trump, the best ever political relationship. And I think the reason for that was that President Trump has based this bilateral relationship on mutual respect, and he did not have the intention to judge, to lecture or educate us," he said. "He concentrated on America to develop - America First - and he concentrated on the relationship of ours to develop as well, which can bring mutual benefit for both sides." He says that now, the Biden administration has sought to interfere with domestic issues, and highlighted a move in 2022 to end a bilateral tax agreement that prevented double taxation after Hungary reduced its corporate income tax. Last month, the U.S. also restricted visa-free travel for Hungarian passport holders, citing security concerns, and has also repeatedly criticized the government for its human rights record. "The Democrat administration is making continuous attempts to interfere in domestic issues in Hungary, they are judging us, they are lecturing us. The fact that they have terminated and broken the bilateral tax agreement between the two countries is a clear signal that they tried to put political pressure or economic pressure on us to change policies," he said. "And this is unacceptable." He said

there is no longer "mutual respect" that was there during the Trump era, and suggested that political factors are at play. "We understand that the U.S. establishment is very unhappy with the fact that a conservative, right-wing, patriotic Christian Democrat government has been in office in Hungary for such a long time, and it is not enough that we have been in office for a long time, but we have proven to be successful, and I think this is very uncomfortable for many liberal forces around the world. So we do hope that our relationship will come back to the level where it used to be under President Trump." As for specific disagreements, he highlighted the war in Ukraine. He estimates that there are 150,000 ethnic Hungarians living in Ukraine, some of whom have been conscripted into the army and deployed. "So we Hungarians are losing our nation mates, let's put it this way, and we do not want to lose any more Hungarians in this war. We don't want to see any more casualties in this war - not only Hungarians, none of them," he said. The U.S. has sought to end the conflict by backing Ukraine with funding and weapons to retake territory seized by the Russians, but Hungary sees delivering weapons as prolonging the conflict. President Biden told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday that the U.S. is "staying with you" as he pushes Congress to provide additional funding for the war effort. Szijaró said that his country wants to see the U.S. bringing "peace into the neighborhood, and not weapons." He said he believed that would be more likely under former President Donald Trump, who is running to retake the White House in 2024 and has said that he would launch peace talks to bring the conflict to an end if re-elected. - Agencies



# Pakistan's hockey team bamboozle Singapore

DNA

HANGZHOU: Pakistan's hockey team started their Asian Games journey with a thumping 11-0 win against Singapore on Sunday. The Green Shirts showed no mercy to the Singaporean side and battered them by 11 goals and got off to a flying start as they will face Bangladesh on Tuesday. Pakistan started the game slowly, Mohamad Ahammad opened the scoring for the Green Shirts in the seventh minute but the score remained the same for the remainder of the first quarter. It was during the second quarter that the Men in Green charged themselves and pushed the already-struggling Singaporean side to the wall. Pakistan scored five goals during the second quarter - making it 6-0 - and ended all of Singapore's hopes to come

back in the game. The third quarter was no different than the second one, Pakistan put the ball four more times in the box and extended their lead to 10-0. Pakistan, who decided to dominate the entire game, played the last quarter with low intensity, saving themselves for their next match, and only scored one goal. The match ended with Pakistan recording an astounding 11-0 win. Ahammad, Arshad Liaquat, and Arbaz Ahmad scored two goals each. Mohammad Shahzaib Khan, Abdul Waheed Rana, Zikriya Hayat, Afraz, and Abdul Rehman all scored one goal. **Schedule of Pakistan's remaining matches**  
September 26 - vs Bangladesh  
September 28 - vs Uzbekistan  
September 30 - vs India  
October 2 - vs Japan



## Soldier martyred in NW IBO

DNA

RAWALPINDI: One soldier of Pakistan army embraced martyrdom in an intelligence-based operation in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district Mir Ali, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement late Saturday night. According to army's media wing, an intense exchange of fire took place between the troops and terrorists in Mir Ali where the soldiers effectively engaged with the terrorists. However, during an intense exchange of fire, Sepoy Shakil Shafiq fought gallantly and embraced martyrdom. "Locals of the area appreciated the operation," the ISPR said, adding that sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. On September 20, the security forces killed a terrorist in an intelligence-based operation conducted in the general area of Kulachi of Dera Ismail (DI) Khan District, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). "On September 20, 2023, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in general area Kulachi, Dera Ismail Khan district," the ISPR said. During the operation, an intense fire exchange took place between troops and terrorists, resulting one terrorist was killed while another got injured.

## India, certified exporter of terrorism

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while reiterating his call for holding an anti-India protest in New York on September 26, has said that India has become a certified exporter of terrorists and terrorism in the world. In a statement on Sunday, the AJK President urged the Kashmiri and Pakistani diaspora as well as the Sikh community to join the protest to expose the fascist Modi government's ugly face before the world. Terming Indian prime minister Narendra Modi as an international terrorist, Barrister Chaudhry said that all that the world needed to know was that the Modi government not only uses state terrorism as a tool to kill and subjugate Kashmiris and religious minorities within the country but it has been using terrorism as a weapon to achieve its ulterior motives outside the country. - APP

## Govt determined to take country out of economic crisis

KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Shamsad Akhtar said that the caretaker government was determined to take the country out of the economic crisis. She said this while talking to Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House in Karachi Sunday. Caretaker finance minister said remissions are offered to the investors to increase investment in the country. The Sindh governor, on the occasion, lauded the steps being taken by the government for the deal with economic challenges confronted to the nation. Dr Shamsad Akhtar, the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue on Friday said that the securities market can play a vital role in the development of debt market through the listing of Government debt securities on PSX. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Centralized Gateway Portal, Dr Akhtar said that the issuance securities through public auctions at PSX will facilitate retail participation, provide greater transparency, channelize savings and promote debt market in Pakistan. Said a press release issued by SECP here. The SECP, PSX and other stakeholders need to extend concerted efforts to enable efficient implementation of these reforms, the state news agency reported. The Minister formally inaugurated the Centralized Gateway Portal, a unique financial initiative that simultaneously onboard investors and customers in the securities market, the NBFC sector, and the insurance industry. - DNA

**MURREE SPARKLETTS**  
Bottled Drinking Water

**WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!**

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

330ml 750ml

For Sales & Supply Contact:  
Rizi Abbas 03325599169  
Qaiser Waheed 03325808422  
Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043