



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

China sends top envoy to Russia for security talks

Detailed News On Page-08

Ukraine war could be long: NATO Chief

Detailed News On Page-07

Misbah backs Pakistan team despite mistakes

Detailed News On Page-06

HISTORIC LIVE TELECAST

SC hears pleas on law limiting CJP's powers

The apex court vacates stay order on benches formation; CJP along with two senior judges forms benches for the current week; SC to again take of practices and procedures case on October 3

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Monday observed that parliament's SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 was not an attempt to clip the top judge's rights by devolving the suo motu powers to a three-member committee. The new CJP passed the remarks during a full court hearing on the petitions challenging the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023. The historic hearing, which was held almost throughout the day, has been adjourned till October 3. The hearing was seen as historic because, for the first time in the country's judicial history, the Supreme Court allowed live telecast of proceedings on the petitions challenging the contentious law seeking to regulate suo motu powers of the country's top judge. During the hearing, CJP Isa said arguments in the case will begin afresh because the new bench has been formed. There were three applications to make a full court, which had been approved, CJP Isa observed.

Ahead of the hearing today, the Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan submitted the federal government's response in the matter, requesting the court to reject the petitions against the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act. "Petitions against acts of parliament are inadmissible. [Therefore,] the petitions against the Practice and Procedure Act should be dismissed," the response submitted by the government contended. Sources confirmed to Geo News that the decision was made in the full court meeting ahead of the proceedings. To this end, five cameras were installed in the courtroom number one. Four cameras were installed in the visitors' gallery and one was installed for the lawyers' rostrum in front of the judges' docks.

The full court was constituted by newly-appointed Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and includes Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Mumib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Sayeed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal

Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Musarrat Hilali. Prior to this, a full court meeting was held to consider live broadcasting of today's proceedings and ponder over guidelines for effective hearing of cases. According to the sources, instructions for the live broadcast were issued yesterday (Sunday) - hours after Justice Isa took oath as the CJP. Upon his arrival, CJP Isa - who reached the apex court in his personal car without protocol - said to the SC staff: "People come to the Supreme Court to solve their problems. Treat visitors like guests." He further said that the doors to justice should be kept open. There are nine applications, the CJP remarked at the outset of the hearing, requesting Advocate Khawaja Tariq Rahim to begin his arguments. The CJP asked counsel Rahim to read the Act and "forget the past". Justice Ayesha asked

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Federal Commerce Minister Gohar Ijaz, High Commissioner of Malaysia Azhar Mazlan and others cutting cake to celebrate the Independence Day of Malaysian. - DNA

National Day of Malaysia

Pakistan greatly values its ties with Malaysia: Gohar

Malaysia takes pride in its relations with Pak, says High Commissioner Azhar Mazlan

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Gohar Ejaz the Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry has said Pakistan greatly valued its relations with Pakistan adding this relationship has witnessed an upward trajectory over the years. The Minister expressed these views while speaking as chief guest on the occasion of the 66th National Day and 90th Armed Forces Day of Malaysia. A large number of guests hailing from various walks including the civil and military officials attended the reception. Gohar Ejaz further said there were strong trade and economic links between the two brotherly country adding these links shall further be cemented. He further said there were a number of areas where both countries can cooperate with each other. High Commissioner of Malaysia Azhar Mazlan in his speech said this year the theme of the National Day celebration is Malaysia Madani: Tekad Perpaduan Pe-

nuhi Harapan'. In English it means Determination in Unity, Fulfilling Hope'. He said Malaysia takes pride in its unity in diversity blessed with a rich tapestry of cultures, languages and traditions. We progress ahead, we have forged a strong sense of nationhood based on our aspiration, shared values and mutual respect among our diverse ethnicities. He added, his country takes pride in its relationship with Pakistan. Malaysia and Pakistan have been enjoying years of strong bilateral cooperation that has greatly contributed to our expanding partnership. In March 2019 Malaysia and Pakistan elevated bilateral relationship to strategic partnership. Mr. Azhar Mazlan further said both countries share similar positions at the Non-Aligned Movement, OIC and G 77. Pakistan, he said is a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN and member of ASEAN Regional Forum. He added, over the years

Continued on Page 06

Kakar writes letter Pakistan-Afghanistan should work for common goals

"Pakistan has close fraternal relations with Afghanistan as we are neighbours and brothers"

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar wrote a letter to his Afghan counterpart, stressing the need to work together to achieve common goals. PM Kakar's letter to Afghanistan's interim Prime Minister Mullah Muhammad Hasan Akhund comes amid the heightening tension

Continued on Page 06

US dollar drops further against PKR

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The US dollar (USD) dropped further against the Pakistani rupee (PKR) as it closed at Rs295.95 in the interbank trading. Pakistani rupee (PKR) gained Rs0.90 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs295.95 as compared to the September 15 rate, 296.85. According to the forex dealers, the greenback is being traded at Rs297 in the open market whereas, the banks traded the greenback to importers at Rs296.45. It is pertinent to mention here

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Pakistan not providing weapons to Ukraine

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Responding to media queries on the latest Intercept story alleging sale of Pakistani weapons to Ukraine to get IMF bailout package for Pakistan, the Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, rejected the story as baseless and fabricated. She said: "the IMF Standby Arrangement for Pakistan was successfully negotiated between Pakistan and the IMF to implement difficult but essential economic reforms. Giving any other colour to these negotiations is disingenuous. Pakistan maintains a policy of strict neutrality in the dispute between Ukraine and Russia and in that context, does not provide any arms and ammunition to them."

Bilawal demands for polls date

DNA

OKARA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reiterated his request on Monday for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce the election date. Bilawal restated his party's demand for the election date announcement during a press conference held in Okara. When questioned, Bilawal took a job at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) for incorporating Raja Riaz, the former National Assembly opposition leader, into their party.

Defence ministry denies role in audio leaks case

Federal govt must provide answers to court's queries, or sensitive institutions will be directly summoned," Justice Babar Sattar added

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Defence on Monday informed the Islamabad High Court (IHC) that it had no role in recording the calls of citizens nor was it involved in any such activity in a plea pertaining to audio leaks. The court, however, termed the replies from the Ministry of Interior and Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) 'unsatisfactory', seeking a detailed response. The development came during the hearing of a plea filed by former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar's son Najam Ali Saqib against a special committee of the National Assembly tasked with probing his purported audio leaks. Justice Babar Sattar, who is heading the bench, remarked that the replies suggest that no one can record any conversations, and no one has the facility

Continued on Page 06

Cipher case Court puts FIA on notice

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court Monday issued a notice to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's petition seeking post-arrest bail in the cipher case. The court's notices came during the hearing of Khan's bail petition challenging the special court's decision in the said case last week. The plea was filed by the PTI chairman on

Continued on Page 06

Illegal measures continue in Punjab

The caretaker govt cannot take major policy decisions except on urgent matters to run the affairs of the govt, ECP noted in the letter

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Neither the caretaker government in Punjab nor the election body is willing to provide any clarity on the projects the former is authorising in the province, despite it being contrary to its role under the law. On August 17, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) wrote to the chief secretary of Punjab advising it to avoid taking measures which were illegal. "As you are aware that under Section 230(2)(a) of the Election Act 2017 and subsequent guidelines...issued by the Elected Commission," the special secretary of the ECP noted in the letter, which was also posted by the commission on the microblogging website, X. "The caretaker government cannot take major policy decisions except on urgent matters to run the affairs of the government on a day-to-day basis." The ECP's letter then details some of these unlawful decisions, being taken unfettered in the province. It has been observed, writes the ECP, that the interim Punjab government was green-lighting "major steps to change land use" in various districts. "The deputy commissioners are issuing NOCs for housing societies, green areas are being compromised and by doing so agricultural land is being sacrificed," the letter cautions, "This will lead to mushroom and haphazard growth of residential areas." Not only that, the ECP further adds that the element of corruption cannot be ruled out in certain areas.

Continued on Page 06

ECP directs committee to complete work

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has directed its delimitation committee to complete work by September 26, state-run Radio Pakistan reported on Monday. This will enable the election watchdog publish preliminary delimitations on September 27, according to a spokesperson of the ECP. According to details, the commission reviewed the pace of work of the delimitation committees and expressed its satisfaction in this regard. It may be noted that the ECP has decided to publish the list of final constituencies by November 30. The election watchdog decided to shorten the time frame after consultation with political parties. The previous date was December 14, 2023. In a statement earlier

Continued on Page 06

TURKISH AIRLINES

BEST PART OF THE JOURNEY

Stopover IN ISTANBUL

EASY VISA

FREE ACCOMMODATION

Economy

Business

TIKA empowers Pakistani scouts in disaster response

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) holds a seven-day training programme in Karachi to equip local scouts and rescuers with latest emergency rescue and disaster management techniques

NAZIR SAYAL

KARACHI: Türkiye's state-run aid agency has launched a seven-day programme in the southern port city of Karachi to train Pakistani scouts and rescuers in the latest techniques and ways of rescue and disaster management. Under the programme billed "Emergency Rescue and Disaster Management" and launched on Monday by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), several training sessions will be held across the country's commercial capital over the next week. Speaking at the programme held

at Sindh Scouts Gulshan Training Center, Turkish Consul General Cemal Sangu said that the disasters experienced in Pakistan, Türkiye and recently in Libya and Morocco further increased the importance of search and rescue activities. He stated that this training programme is very important for both Türkiye and Pakistan and thanked all the institutions that contributed to the organisation of the activity. Recalling the assistance of Pakistani and Turkish relief agencies during last year's unprecedented floods in Pakistan and massive earthquakes in southern Türkiye in February this year, Sangu said the two countries have stood

beside each other in testing times. Deputy Commissioner of Sindh Boys Scouts Association Hassan Feroz said the local rescuers will learn from the experience of Turkish rescue and relief agencies through this programme. TIKA's Karachi Coordinator Halil Ibrahim Basaran said the programme is the continuation of similar trainings imparted by the agency in Bosnia, Bangladesh, and Libya in recent months. Pakistan is among the top 10 countries vulnerable to climate crisis. Unrelenting rains-triggered floods last year inundated a third of the country, aside from killing over 1,700 people and causing whopping losses of \$32 billion.



Police rescues abductee, gang leader arrested

Relatives of the abducted individuals expressed their heartfelt gratitude and praised the swift and effective response of the Capital City Police and the special team involved in the rescue operation

DNA

PESHAWAR: Peshawar's Cantt Division Police in a significant operation has successfully rescued two abducted individuals who had been kidnapped with a ransom demand of 100 million rupees. The prime suspect, a resident of Koki Khel in district Khyber, was apprehend-

ed during the operation. The victims, a transport trader and friends were abducted on September 6 from the jurisdiction of the Sarband Police Station jurisdiction. The abductors forcibly transferred the victims from their vehicle to another and took them to an undisclosed location. The incident came to the attention of CCPO Syed Ash-

faq Anwar and SSP Operations Aftab Abbasi when a report of the abduction was filed with Sarband Police Station and a special team was constituted. In a joint operation involving law enforcement agencies and intelligence units, the victims were safely recovered from the kidnappers' hideout in Khyber district. The prime sus-

pect, a resident of Koki Khel, district Khyber was arrested. He confessed to his involvement in the crime during initial interrogations. Relatives of the abducted individuals expressed their heartfelt gratitude and praised the swift and effective response of the Capital City Police and the special team involved in the rescue operation.

PESCO removes illegal connections

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Monday continued its crackdown against power pilferers and defaulters in the provincial capital and removed dozens of illegal connections. According to a PESCO spokesman, several illegal connections and direct hooks were removed during operations in Duranpur, Manzoora and Vihargoi areas here and complaints were registered against the pilferers in Shahpur police station for registration of FIRs and legal action. During the operation more than Rs 200,000 were recovered from defaulters, said the official, adding that despite a deficiency of 70 per cent staff in PESCO, the task force was conducting operations day and night against illegal consumers. - APP

Sindh Minister allowed to buy Rs 31 million bulletproof car

KARACHI: Sindh caretaker cabinet, in its very first meeting, has allowed the purchase of a new bulletproof car worth nearly Rs31 million for the caretaker home minister Brigadier (r) Haris Nawaz. In this connection, the summary of the home department had sent to the caretaker chief minister a few days ago read that the car, which the minister presently had, was not enough to protect him from any terror attack. "So, therefore, in view of the position he holds in the Sindh government and threats which he could face in future. - APP

46 passenger vehicles impounded on violation

Rana Mohsin announced a plan to hand over bus terminals to different reputable transport companies

MULTAN: The district administration took decisive action on Monday in a remarkable display of commitment to road safety and the rule of law, impounded 46 buses and wagons operating from illegal bus stands. This move comes as part of an ongoing effort to streamline the transportation system and promote safer travel within the district. According to official sources, four illegal bus and wagon stands were sealed by the district administration on Sunday. However, upon inspection, officials discovered a staggering 46 passenger vehicles continuing to operate from the unauthorized locations. In response to this blatant violation, Secretary RTA Rana Mohsin promptly imposed fines on the owners of these vehicles. Notably, Rana Mohsin emphasized the district's commitment to reducing environmental pollution by ensuring that vehicles comply with modern emission standards. He highlighted that the authorities were utilizing state-of-the-art systems to monitor and enforce these regulations, contributing to cleaner air and a healthier environment for all residents. Rana Mohsin announced a plan to hand over bus terminals to different reputable transport companies. This decision aims to improve the quality of services and ensure the efficient operation of passenger vehicles, providing residents with a safer and more reliable transportation system. - Agencies

US diplomat highlights strong partnership with Sindh

US-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework was highlighted as a shared commitment to sustainability and climate resilience

DNA

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

shipping practices in mitigating the impact of climate change. The Green Shipping roundtable stakeholders discussed opportunities to reduce carbon emissions in the port, shipping and logistics sectors in Pakistan. Port authorities, industry, and other key actors in the ports and shipping value chain discussed how to promote environmentally friendly and sustainable shipping practices and ways to support the Green Shipping Challenge at COP28. Andrew Schofer stated, "Through events like the one today, we are encouraging bilateral dialogue on climate action and exploring innovative solutions to strengthen Pakistan's climate resilience." He praised the attendees' commitment and engagement to support a sector-wide transition to more sustainable shipping practices. The visit included a stop at Lincoln Corner Karachi, where Schofer met with students, entrepreneurs, and volunteers, applauding their dedication and crea-

tivity. He highlighted the significance of youth-led innovation in driving progress and fostering strong US-Pakistan relations. The Deputy Chief of Mission also underscored the importance of religious tolerance during a meeting with religious minority leaders, reaffirming the United States' unwavering support for the rights of Pakistani religious minorities. The visit wrapped up with a visit to Port Qasim. Productive meetings with Qasim Port Authority Chairman Shah, and Cargill and Engro Corporation leadership focused on green shipping, port operations, energy solutions, and other innovative approaches aimed at enhancing Pakistan's trade competitiveness and increasing ways to connect with Pakistan's largest export market - the United States. The US-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework was highlighted as a shared commitment to sustainability and climate resilience.



PESHAWAR: Dr. Qibla Ayaz Chairman Islamic Ideology Council of Pakistan delivering key note speech at a seminar Sino Pakistan Relations New Avenues organised by Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & China Study Centre at CSC University of Peshawar. - DNA

IG visits Police Service Centre

8,506 power thieves booked this year. Lahore police registered 7,899 cases against 8,506 electricity thieves during the current year

DNA

LAHORE: IG Punjab visited Police Service Centre at Liberty Market Gulberg and reviewed the upgraded facilities and services under the expansion plan. He said that the number of service delivery counters at Police Service Center Liberty has been increased from 10 to 30. He said that social services are being provided to the neglected sections, including transgender in the protection centre. Similarly, minority police officers are posted in the Meesaq Centre and services are being provided to all minorities, including the Christian community. 8,506 power thieves booked this year. Lahore police registered 7,899 cases against 8,506 electricity thieves during the current year. Around 1,596 cases were registered against 1,641 thieves by City Division, 1,988 FIRs against 2,157 people by Cantt Division, 656 FIRs against 779 people by Civil Lines, 1,117 FIRs against 1,271 people by Saddar Division, 1,417 FIRs against 1,510 people by Iqbal Town Division and 1,122 cases were registered against 1,148 people by Model Town Division.

PU ORIC website launched

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab University Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (ORIC) has launched its official website to facilitate teachers and promote industry-academia linkages. In this regard, the inaugural ceremony was held at PU Vice Chancellor's office here on Monday. PU VC Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Director ORIC Dr Shakil Ahmad, Director General IT Dr Kamran Abid, Deputy Director ORIC Dr Aqil Inam and others were present. In his address, Dr Khalid shed light on the importance of website and appreciated the efforts of the ORIC and IT staff for designing a comprehensive website.

Rabi-ul-Awwal celebrated as month of Rahmatul-ul-Alameen in Pakistan

MEHTAB PIRZADA

LAHORE: In the auspices of Pakistan Ulama Council, the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi adding that Islam is a religion of peace and security and all religions teach peace, affection and tolerance. Pakistani society requires that we should all work together for the development, stability and prosperity of Pakistan, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi. Commenting on the visit of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar to US, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said that all those elements who has announced to stage protests against Pakistan in America during the speech of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, cannot be friends of Pakistan. We appeal to Pakistanis in

invited to participate in the conferences and gatherings organized by the Pakistan Ulama Council during the month of Rabiul Awal, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi adding that Islam is a religion of peace and security and all religions teach peace, affection and tolerance. Pakistani society requires that we should all work together for the development, stability and prosperity of Pakistan, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi. Commenting on the visit of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar to US, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said that all those elements who has announced to stage protests against Pakistan in America during the speech of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, cannot be friends of Pakistan. We appeal to Pakistanis in

America to stay away from anti-Pakistan activities, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi adding that expatriate Pakistanis in USA should raise their voices for the oppressed Kashmiris and Palestinians. Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi while addressing a press conference in Lahore was also flanked by Maulana Mubasher Rahimi, Maulana Abdul Ghaffar Farooqi, Maulana Ibrahim Hanafi, Mufti Syed Naseem Islam, Mufti Falak Sher, Mufti Rahmat Din, Qari Kifayatullah, Maulana Nasir Haqqani, Qari Faisal Amin and others. Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi also said that there should be a reduction in extremist attitudes in Pakistan, adding that tolerance, harmony and brotherhood needs to be promoted.

3.93M cotton bales: Good omen for Pak economy

LAHORE: Pakistan's cotton industry has experienced a remarkable surge in cotton bales production till September 15, 2023, as with the fresh arrival, Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has released yield figures, indicating a robust performance in the sector. The PCGA official sources told APP with figures that till September 15, 2023, cotton arrivals soared to 3.933 million bales, which is signifying a remarkable 79.87 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase, compared to the same time period last year when arrivals stood at 2.187 million bales.

The substantial growth in cotton arrivals is a promising sign for Pakistan's cotton industry, which plays a pivotal role in the nation's economy. Cotton and textile exports have remained pillars of Pakistan's economy, the sources said. It is worth mentioning here that cotton arrivals from Sindh have increased by a staggering 2.15 times YoY, reaching 2.389 million bales. This surge reflects a growing focus on enhancing cotton production in the province, they said. Likewise, the Punjab province, being another significant critical cotton-pro-

ducing region, has shown considerable yield. Cotton arrivals from Punjab surged by 44 per cent YoY, with outcome of total 1.544 million bales. This impressive number marks a 44.57 per cent increase compared to the 1.068 million bales reported just two weeks earlier, the PCJA data reveals. It is pertinent to mention here that globally, Pakistan has long been recognised as one of the top ten cotton producing countries, and the timely growth in cotton arrivals, reinforces its significant position in international cotton market. - APP



Murree Brewery Company Limited located in Rawalpindi is an icon reflecting the past and the present history of the subcontinent.

Murree Brewery Company is pleased to invite friends from diplomatic missions to visit us and share the experience of our efforts towards keeping it afloat for over 160 years of operation.

We cordially invite diplomatic missions to visit us on any Saturday from 10 am to 1:30 pm to enjoy our hospitality and our products tasting. However, since, we are located in the Red Zone / Prohibited area and it will be mandatory to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs well in advance of the intended visit date. We look forward to welcoming you all soon.

For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

National Days and Armed Forces Days

September

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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

Enquiry

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

ICCI calls for ecosystem to promote entrepreneurs

Many other Keynote Speakers spoke on many important topics including human resource development, finance, technology, product development, entrepreneurship and others

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the government should take policy measures to create an ecosystem for entrepreneurship and startups that would help promote businesses and revive the economy. He said that Pakistan is a country of young population with over 60 percent share of youth in our total population. Therefore, every possible effort should be made to develop this huge pool of human capital by providing them business education so that they could be equipped with the right knowledge for business-startups and be enabled to play a more effective role in the economic development of the country. He said this while addressing as keynote speaker at Business Summit 23 organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with The Career Class in its auditorium.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the government cannot provide jobs to all educated youngsters and the best option to absorb youth



in productive activities is to facilitate and encourage them towards entrepreneurship so that instead of becoming job seekers, they could start business ventures and become job creators for others. He said that ICCI has taken many initiatives for youth entrepreneurship and economic empowerment of women and reiterated that the Chamber would continue to work with universities and educational institutions to foster a culture of entrepreneurship in youth so that

many of them could become tomorrow's owners of many national and multinational companies and make significant contribution to the economic development of the country. He stressed that all stakeholders including the government, academia and the regulators should play their part to create a conducive environment for entrepreneurs and startups in Pakistan. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that there is a strong corre-

lation of startups with economic growth of a country as when entrepreneurs and startups flourish, economy flourishes. He said that Pakistan has yet to evolve an ecosystem for entrepreneurs and startups as no high potential breakthroughs have been seen so far which can put Pakistan on the map as an entrepreneurial country. He stressed that Pakistan should move fast to evolve a healthy ecosystem for entrepreneurs so that our youth

could be facilitated in business enterprises. Kamran Z. Rizvi, Executive Coach and Organization Development Consultant in his keynote speech highlighted the importance of optimizing the operations in business enterprises. Many other Keynote Speakers spoke on many important topics including human resource development, finance, technology, product development, entrepreneurship and others.

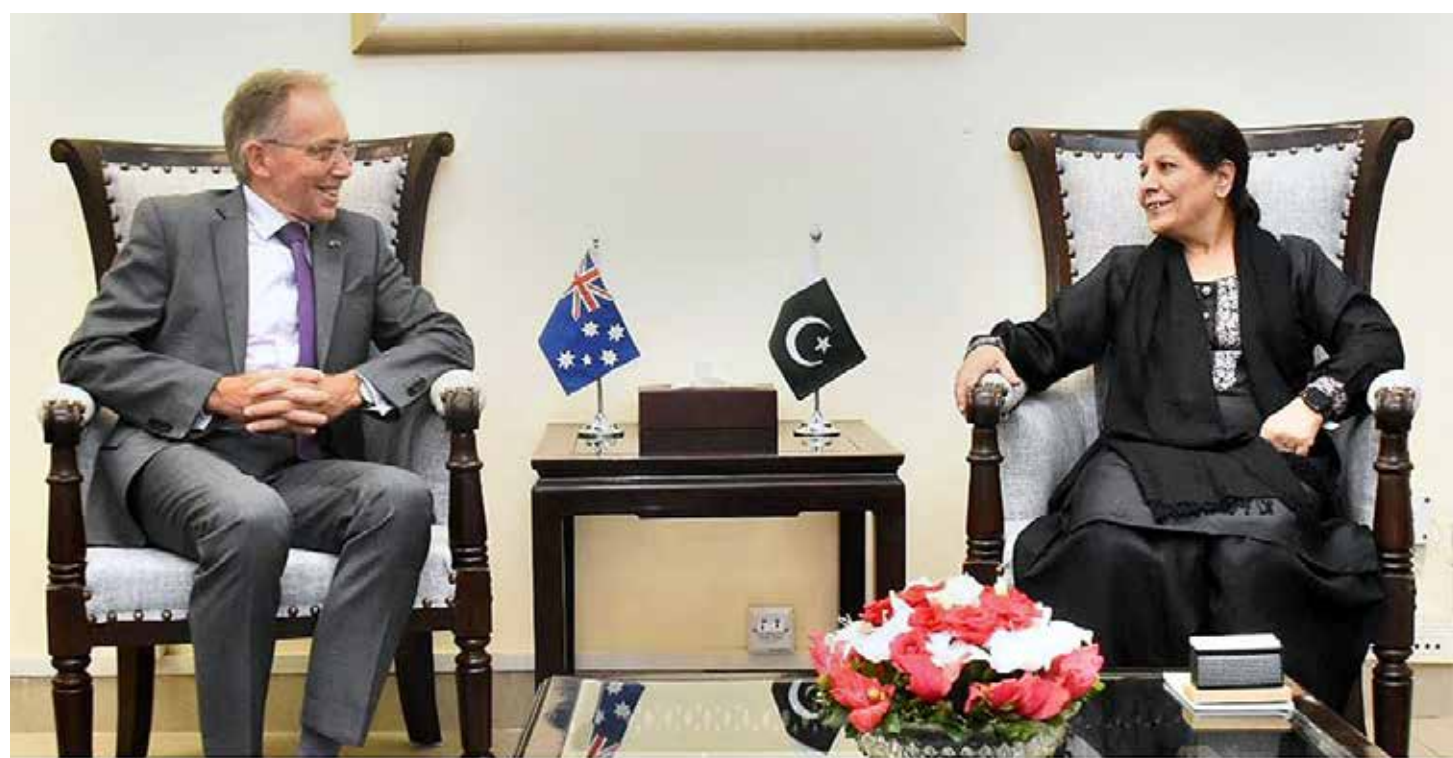
Turkmen Ambassador calls on Jamal Shah

DNA

ISLAMABAD: September 18, 2023 Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan/ Dean of Diplomatic Corps Atadjan Movlamov called on Jamal Shah, Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture here at his office. During the meeting, they discussed mutual interest issues particularly cultural relations between the two countries and expressed the resolve to further strengthen ties in various fields particularly cultural heritage. The minister emphasized the potential for collaboration in various artistic domains to further enhance the strong people-to-people bonds between the two nations. Jamal Shah also proposed that Pakistan and Turkmenistan should initiate co-film production as film is very effective means for promotion of art and culture. The minister also said that Central Asian States would be specially invited to be part of second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Cultural Caravan. The Ambassador and Minister agreed to enhance cooperation in cultural exchanges and to continue discussions on topics of mutual interest.

Govt committed to put country's economy on track

ISLAMABAD: Country Director World Bank, Njay Benhassine called on Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Monday. Njay Benhassine was accompanied by his team including Gailius J. Draugelis (Operations Manager) for Pakistan at WB and Kamran Akbar, (Senior Social Development Specialist), Chief Executive Officer CEO, P3A Board, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Member (Infrastructure & Regional Connectivity) at Planning Commission, Dr Waqas Anwar and Member (Social Sector & Devolution) Rafiullah Kakar were also present in the meeting. The Planning Minister appreciated the role of the WB as one of the major development partners of Pakistan. He appreciated the WB for its decades-long assistance, which has been playing a vital role in the socioeconomic uplift of Pakistan. He also appreciated the WB's continued support and commitment for the ongoing development projects in the country particularly for the flood-affected areas. "The Planning Ministry is committed to play its constructive role in facilitating the WB for the implementation of development projects to make Pakistan climate resilient," remarked Sami Saeed, while reiterating that government's efforts for the country's economic revival. It is noted that in last year, Pakistan faced an unprecedented devastation due to torrential rains.



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Neil Hawkins called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. The meeting served as a platform for fruitful discussion on bilateral relations, economic cooperation and regional issues of mutual interest.—DNA

Advancing minority rights through legislative action

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Incidents like Jaranwala symbolize our failure in protecting Pakistan's minorities, and preventing extremism that continues to claim precious lives," stated Senator Shery Rehman while speaking with representatives of the National Lobbying Delegation for Minority Rights at Jinnah Institute. "I personally witnessed the devastation in Jaranwala; it had the hallmarks of a planned attack that was meant to inflict maximum damage and desecration," she added. In amplifying support for religious minorities, Sen-

ator Rehman stated that minority representatives in parliament had a critical role to play and must be made aware of the challenges faced by their community members, especially those who are farthest removed from public entitlements, and have little ability to negotiate with their systems. Political parties can push for progressive change for minorities in their manifestos, including greater job quotas and political representation, but more complex issues like marriage registration should be spearheaded by minorities themselves. She also cautioned that parliaments should not be seen as venues for legislative experimentation on sensitive religious

issues, as that can spiral out of control. Representatives from the National Lobbying Delegation stated that the protection of minorities is part and parcel of the right to full citizenship. They identified legislative interventions that have come after decades of policy advocacy and helped address long-standing legal challenges for minority communities. At the same time, several other areas undermine citizenship rights for minorities and need renewed political attention. They highlighted the Hindu Marriage Bill that had not been enacted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, nor had Rules of Business been settled in

the provinces where the law had passed. Participants explained that no legal procedure existed to register a Hindu marriage before the current law was enacted. The Hindu community would get their marriages recognized through a variety of institutions, including the local panchayat, the Pakistan Hindu Council, or the local union council. NADRA commenced the registration of marital unions, but these must be solemnized by pundits in their respective communities. There are very few officially recognized pundits in certain districts, and this continues to limit the number of marriage registrations and divorces.

5 stolen motorcycles recovered

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two members of a gang involved in motorcycle theft and recovered five stolen motorcycles from their possession during the crackdown here on Monday. According to a police spokesman, the arrested gang was identified as Asif and Ali Haider. Rata Amral police have registered separate cases against both of them and started an investigation. SP Rawal Town Faisal Saleem appreciated the performance of the police team, adding that the arrested accused will be challenged with concrete evidence and will be punished. The accused, who deprive the citizens of their valuable assets, cannot escape from the grip of the law, he added.—APP

China's booming travel consumption drives up car rental orders

ISLAMABAD: China's car rental services have seen robust business growth thanks to a strong recovery in the tourism market. Domestic car rental services giant CAR Inc. said the total orders for its car rental services during the July-August period surged some 50 percent year on year and exceeded that of 2019, as many people chose to travel during the summer vacation. The orders from new users climbed nearly 80 percent, logging a record high, and cross-city orders made up over 80 percent of the total orders, it added. The company also saw a boost in long-period car rental services, with orders for rental periods of five days or more rising 70 percent year on year. As the country's new energy vehicle (NEV) infrastructure, like charging stations, improves, rental service orders for NEVs skyrocketed over 150 percent year on year, data from CAR Inc. showed. The summer tourism market posted a strong recovery that surpassed that of 2019. Domestic tourist trips this summer surpassed 1.8 billion in number, generating a total tourism revenue of 1.21 trillion yuan (about 137.6 billion U.S. dollars), according to the China Tourism Academy. The company said bookings during the Aug. 17-Sept. 15 period for car rental services for the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holiday gained over 200 percent year on year and over 30 percent compared with 2019.—DNA

Pakistan urged to transition from suggestions to actions: IPS forum

MUHAMMAD ADIL

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan faces deeply ingrained governance challenges that require moving beyond suggestions to concrete and sustained actions. The knowing-doing gap necessitates a proactive stance where solutions are implemented in the form of tangible actions to address the challenges faced by the nation. The country urgently needs to address major concerns such as poor governance, internal strife, corruption, a flawed education system, moral turpitude, environmental challenges, and healthcare difficulties. This requires consistency in government policies, addressing disparities, utilizing youth as a resource, building narrative and national emotions, and pushing constructive change through research. This was observed by

prominent intellectuals, academics, technocrats, and religious scholars at the annual meeting of the National Academic Council of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). The yearly gathering aims to garner intellectual input from a cross-section of veteran practitioners for IPS' research activities and realistic ideas regarding national issues. Chaired by IPS' Chairman Khalid Rahman, the meeting was addressed by Prof. Dr Anis Ahmed, Vice Chancellor, Riphah International University; Vice Admiral (r) Ifkhar Ahmed Rao, special assistant to the PM on maritime affairs, Prof. Dr. Qibla Ayaz, chairman, Islamic Ideology Council of Pakistan; Dr. Syed Mohammad Anwer, Justice, Federal Shariat Court, Razia Sultana, member, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission; Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS; Dr. Anwar-ul-Hasan Gilani,

Chairman, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology; Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal cabinet secretary; Mohammad Bashir Jan Mohammad, chairman, Westbury Group of Companies, Karachi; Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary, water and power; Dr. Syed Tahir Hijazi, former vice-chancellor, Muslim Youth University; Saima Hamid, vice chancellor,

Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi; Syed Irfan Hyder, vice chancellor, Ziauddin University, Karachi; Dr. Syed Junaid Zaidi, former rector COMSATS; Dr. Masood Mehmood Khan, Curtin University, Australia; Dr. Shahida Wizarat, dean, College of Economics and Social Development, IoBM, Karachi; Prof. Jaleel Aali, former HoD Urdu, F.G. Sir Syed College; Dr. Naveed Butt, senior

physician, Federal Government Services Hospital; Dr. Noreen Sahar, associate professor and chairperson, Department of Anthropology, IUI; whereas Prof. Dr. Fakhru-Islam, director research and academic outreach at IPS moderated the session.

While emphasizing the importance of intellectual and policy-level unpacking of important national challenges, the speakers addressed the critical issue of poor governance as the source of national concerns. They said that overemphasizing immediate fixes at the expense of addressing deeply embedded governance challenges through long-term solutions is problematic. As problems cannot be solved in isolation, it necessitates systematic and sustained actions, with immediate as well as short-term and long-term solutions, to reform governance. The speakers called for comprehen-

sive education reforms to build a solid foundation for the nation's future. They said mandatory IT, technological, and vocational education, focusing on character development and moral values, is the practical solution. This is important as the quality of graduates directly impacts the nation's resilience, ability to address challenges, and leadership quality. Additionally, there should be a single national curriculum to counter the increasing polarization and educational disparities because of the different parallel education systems. Lamenting the current education system's negative impact on youth's research and innovation potential, the speakers emphasized that young people must be empowered as the drivers of potential change. For that, youth-centric policies and change in the curriculum through relevance audits and accreditations are essential.



Briefs

Cutlery exports increase 1.55% in 2 months

ISLAMABAD: The country's cutlery exports witnessed an increase of 1.55 per cent during the first two months of the financial year 2023-24 as compared to the corresponding months of last year. The country exported cutlery worth US \$9.485 million during July-August (2023-24) against the exports of US \$9.340 million during July-August (2022-23), showing growth of 1.55 per cent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the cutlery exports also rose by 11.73 per cent during the month of August 2023 as compared to the same month of last year. The PBS data revealed that the cutlery exports in August 2023 were recorded at \$5.161 million against the exports of \$4.619 million in August 2022. On a month-on-month basis, the cutlery export witnessed an increase of 19.36 per cent in August 2023 compared to the exports of \$4.324 million in July 2023. It is pertinent to mention here that the overall merchandise exports from the country witnessed a decline of 6.32 per cent during the first two months of the FY 2023-24 as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The exports of the country during July-August (2023-24) were recorded at \$4.434 billion against the exports of \$4.733 billion during July-August (2022-23), according to the latest PBS data. The imports during the period under review decreased by 25.39 per cent declining from \$11.035 billion last year to \$8.233 billion during the first two months this year.—APP

21 drug peddlers netted with 20 kg charras, over 1 kg heroin

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 21 accused on recovery of over 20 kg charras, over 1 kg heroin and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Dhamial police held Shehbaz Bibi for carrying 1300 grams of heroin and Noreen Bibi for possessing 2030 grams of charras. Race Course police also recovered 1600 grams of charras from the possession of a female drug smuggler namely Mehnaz Bibi. Gujjar Khan, Sadiqabad, Race Course, R.A. Bazar, Airport, Saddar Baroni, Rawat, Bani, Taxila Naseerabad and Saddar Wah police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and rounded up Sadaqat, Danish, Zeeshan, Hamid, Gulzar, Shabbir Ahmed, Ahmer, Tanveer, Javed, Rehman and others and recovered over 17 kg charras. Separate cases have been registered against all accused while further investigations are underway.—APP

Power suspension schedule

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 19th September 2023, From 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, Tufail Shaheed, Charah, Frash Town, Karpa Feeders, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Islamabad Circle, I-8/4, Service Road, Muslim Town, FHS, Jinnah Camp, KRL, Margalla Tower, F-9 Park Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, IST, New Rawat, Kahota City-II, Hanif Shaheed, Abrar Shaheed, Panjar, Khawaja, Nar feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Pindhoon, I-14/3, Noon, I-16/1, HPT Radio Pak, Lakh Road, Ameer Hamza, Officer Colony, New Milpur, Shaheed Mohammad Deen, Zafarul Haq, Committee Chowk, Arya Mohalla, Dhok Khaba, Bajinial, Chakra Feeders, Attock Circle, Ghorghashti.—APP

Turkish students complete Urdu language course at AIOU

Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, presided over the certificate distribution ceremony, with the Academic Attaché of Turkish Embassy in Pakistan, Mehmet Toyran

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Urdu, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) concluded a month-long Urdu Language Course for its second batch of students from the University of Istanbul. The Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, presided over the certificate distribution ceremony, with the Academic Attaché of the Turkish Embassy

in Pakistan, Mehmet Toyran, as the chief guest. Director of Yunus Emre Institute Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Halil Tokar, all the deans of AIOU, principal officers, faculty members, and Director of International Collaboration and Exchange, Dr. Zahid Majeed were also present at the event. Turkish students introduced themselves in Urdu and mentioned that they were able to learn how to write and speak the language in just one month.

They proudly spoke in Urdu during their visits to various places throughout the course, without using a single word of English. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, expressed his admiration for the students and their teachers for their dedication and hard work. Dr. Nasir Mahmood also emphasized the importance of language and culture, and how completing this course will enable these students to become

ambassadors and contribute to strengthening the relationship between Turkey and Pakistan. The educational attaché of Turkey expressed gratitude towards the Vice Chancellor and teachers of AIOU for teaching Urdu to their students. The Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, commended the teachers for their efforts in teaching Urdu to Turkish students. He added the Turkish students

were able to use Urdu during their visits to Islamabad's Sunday Bazaar, buildings, gardens, markets, Taxila's archaeological sites, and Lahore's historical and cultural sites. Dr. Zahid Majeed and Dr. Arshad Mahmood, both faculty members of the Urdu Department, also gave speeches at the ceremony. Certificates were distributed to the Turkish students and their teachers by Vice Chancellor AIOU at the end of the ceremony.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used for construction work of Margalla Road during development work in Federal Capital.—APP

China ready to provide chemical fiber raw materials

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese chemical fiber suppliers can provide the most suitable chemical fiber raw materials for unique textile categories to match needs," said Xing Pingping, Overseas Sales Manager of Ningbo Runhe High-tech Materials Co., Ltd, a Chinese leading manufacturer specialize in textiles auxiliaries and organic silicone products. According to Xing, recently, his company joined hands with Pakistani agent FairChem International to hold a textile seminar in Faisalabad, in which China and Pakistan partners jointly discussed the future direction of local textile printing and dyeing industry. As the pillar industry of Pakistan, textile industry is currently facing two major constraints, namely energy and cotton yarn shortage. The fabric categories of some local printing and dyeing factories are gradually transitioning to a large

proportion of polyester. More than 60 percent of Pakistan's textile companies are concentrated in Punjab Province, and Faisalabad is the core textile industrial city here, with nearly 300 dyeing factories of all sizes. According to data released by Pakistan Customs, in fiscal year 2022, Pakistan's total exports of textiles reached USD19.32 billion, a year-on-year increase of 25.3 percent from the previous fiscal year, and accounted for nearly 61 percent of Pakistan's total merchandise exports. Pakistan, which has a relatively complete industry chain, owns more than 2,000 cotton binding, spinning, and textile factories. However, "Pakistan's textile category structure is obviously different from other countries in South Asia. Many major fabric categories use larger amounts of cotton, yet have lower profit margins," Xing told Gwadar Pro "Which has largely affected the competitiveness of Pakistani textiles in the international market. "In response

to the energy shortage I mentioned earlier, growth in the coming years will be driven largely by the digital textile printing market," Xing emphasized, "the market for digital textile printing in Pakistan is increasing as it offers better and high-definition textile print design possibilities, lower water, effluent, emissions and energy use. Besides, the technological level of Pakistani textile enterprises is increasing day by day, thus some small-scale factories also have advanced textile materials and technologies, such as polyurethane coating, aramid finishing, waterproof finishing, etc. There are also many printing and dyeing factories that have digital printing machinery. Regarding current shortage of cotton yarn, local companies have generally increased the proportion of polyester applications. For these chemical fiber materials, our cutting-edge chemical fiber silicone emulsion can come in handy. In addition, professional chemical fiber finishing solutions and polyester cotton-like and wool-like finishing solutions can also provide assistance to our local partners." The Sales Manager pointed out that after officially starting to deeply expand Pakistani market in 2021, they have established a strong partnership with two chemical traders, FairChem, which specializes in dyes, and Biochem, a printing paste expert. Sometime later, an agreement was signed with Farbstoffe Intl, a comprehensive manufacturer and marketer of textile chemicals. "In the next step, we will establish a laboratory in Pakistan, equipped with basic chemical property testing, fabric finishing, application R&D and warehouse modules. On the whole, our purpose is to not only establish testing and warehouse functions, R&D and local talent cultivation also will be our programme, by which we look forward to bringing technological innovation to Pakistan's textile industry through joint efforts between the two countries."

48th Int'l Seerat-un-Nabi Conference helps to promote religious harmony

This event promises to be a significant platform for exchanging ideas and promoting a harmonious society based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is all set to host the 48th two-day International Seerat-un-Nabi (Life of the Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH) conference on the of Rabi-ul-Awwal 11 and 12 (September, 28 and 29) in the federal capital. This conference will feature the distribution of awards for Seerat-related articles and books. The theme of this year's competition for articles and books is "Practical Wisdom for Economic Prosperity in the Light of the Life of the Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him." Notably, all submitted articles and books are rigorously reviewed by a committee consisting of at least three experts, including professors with Ph.D. degrees. Subsequently, their reports are handed over to a high-level apex committee, which makes the final decision on

which publications deserve recognition. This year, a total of 137 books and 94 articles on Seerat were received, resulting in 31 individuals receiving awards for books and 35 for articles. The 66 fortunate recipients will be honored with shields, certificates, and cash prizes. Furthermore, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony plans to print and provide standard articles to libraries in universities across the country, as well as research institutions focusing on Seerat-un-Nabi Peace Be Upon Him. The International Seerat-un-Nabi Conference will consist of two main sessions. In the first session, awards will be presented to authors and poets who have participated in the Seerat-related competition. The second session will explore various aspects of the Prophet's life, with scholars and orators discussing topics related to economic concepts in light of Seerat-un-Nabi. The

conference aims to bring together renowned religious scholars, both national and international, to bridge intellectual gaps and promote understanding among scholars. It is expected to have a positive impact on religious harmony and moral values. Additionally, a Naat (eulogy) gathering will be held to celebrate the beloved Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him, during the opening session of the conference. The second day of the conference will feature the illumination of various facets of the Prophet's life, with scholars and orators discussing topics such as economic stability, state's role, charity, and women's participation in economic growth, all in the light of Seerat-un-Nabi Peace Be Upon Him. This event promises to be a significant platform for exchanging ideas and promoting a harmonious society based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Riphah University organizes successful Expo Jawan

ISLAMABAD: Riphah International University has organized 'Expo Jawan' to create awareness and promotion of modern departments of higher education among the youth. According to the details, this expo is a unique and first of its kind education event in twin cities held here yesterday. The expo was held at IFQ Hotel Club Road, which was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Ms. Syeda Shafaq Hashmi (Deputy Secretary Ministry of Culture and Heritage). On this occasion, she inspected the stalls of various departments of Riphah International University and appreciated its efforts for promotion of education. A large number of educational experts, intellectuals, young students and parents of the twin cities participated in the Expo Jawan and benefited from the career counseling provided by Riphah. It is pertinent to mention here that Riphah International University is one of the leading universities in Asia offering more than 148 different programs. The aim of this expo was to aware the youth to new fields.—APP


PFC to take part in Dusseldorf-Germany expo

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in the 4-day Dusseldorf-Germany Expo starting from November 13 to discover business opportunities and explore new market access for Pakistani products. In a press statement, Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that PFC along with Chenone will be participating in this mega event. He said Chenone will also exhibit its high-quality international standards products to capture their share in the global market. He said it's an excellent opportunity to showcase Pak products and develop business deals with international buyers. He said PFC and Chenone have already attended several other international fairs in the US, China, Italy, Sri Lanka etc. and introduced their products which are in great demand. He hoped to get orders from foreign buyers. TDAP is facilitating the manufacturers of export products. He said he would also hold a series of marathon meetings with tycoons for investment to avail the government unprecedented special package for foreign investors.—APP


Minister calls for organizing book gala

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Madad Ali Sindhvi met with the MD of National Book Foundation Dr. Raja Mazhar Hameed, Minister of Federal Education and Professional Madad Ali Sindhvi praised the efforts of Ch. Rehmat Ali and Qazi Muhammad Isa in the independence movement. He said that these leaders have played a critical role in the independence movement. He said that their contribution towards the formation of Pakistan could never be forgotten. He said that they are the heroes of Pakistan that should be honored and remembered to continue their legacy. Madad said that they serve as an inspiration to the future leaders of the country. Madad Ali Sindhvi said that the culture of book reading is imperative in creating an enlightened youth of the country. Madad ordered the National Book Foundation to organize a National Book Gala in Islamabad to spread the culture of book reading. He said that all the stakeholders should be involved including all the universities, colleges and schools. He said that the purpose should be to bridge the gap between books.



10 Minutes Drive From The Monal



☎ 051 8770065 / 66 / 67 📞 0300 8881811 / 0300 5221018 / 0345 5555335
UAN: 051 111 777 778 📱 @dinovalleypk 🌐 dinovalley.pk

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 04 Issue: 346

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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

No room for militarization in Asia-Pacific

The US military is planning to establish a subordinate command in Japan for its Space Force as part of its efforts to enhance cooperation with allied countries in the domain of space. The US Space Force and Japan's Air Self-Defense Force held their first-ever space domain discussions at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo in July, and activities in Japan have reportedly already begun with a small team. The US Space Force established its first subordinate command in the Far East in the Republic of Korea in December at Osan Air Base, one month after it activated its "Indo-Pacific" Space Forces field command at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. The purpose of founding the Osan command was to coordinate "space operations and services such as missile warning, position navigation and timing, and satellite communications within the region", US Forces Korea said at the opening ceremony. There has been no such beating around the bush in relation to the command post in Japan, which is aimed at strengthening cooperation between Japan and the US in response to China's "military use" of space and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's development of nuclear weapons and missiles. The news comes hard on the heels of the US-Japan-ROK summit at Camp David on Aug 18, in which the leaders of the three countries agreed to "enhance trilateral dialogue on space security cooperation". The provocative and aggressive nature of these moves is self-evident. The command post of the US Space Force in Japan will not only provide the necessary infrastructure for the US to upgrade its combat capacity to a new level in the region, but also give Japan easy access to align its Self-Defense Forces with the cutting-edge front of space warfare in a short time. This represents a further expansion of the US' military alliance network into the space domain and another move by the US to accelerate its militarization of the Asia-Pacific. Over the past one year, it has agreed to build nuclear-powered submarines for Australia, opened several new military bases in the Philippines and provided large amounts of weapons to its regional allies. While China is making utmost efforts to stabilize the situation in the region and maintain peace and stability through talks and consultations, the US has never stopped pouring oil on fire on various regional issues by sowing the seeds of discord, cultivating proxies and muddying the waters to hijack the security and development of the region. The latest move shows the US is continuing its efforts to ramp up the arms race in the region.

Watchful eyes needed on cyber activities

In May, the United States' National Security Agency published a report, technically supported by Microsoft, claiming a cyberattack orchestrated by China had targeted the critical infrastructure of Guam, a strategically important US territory in the Pacific. According to Microsoft and the "Five Eyes" intelligence-sharing group, the attackers breached computer networks on the Pacific island used for both civilian and military purposes. This is part of a collective disinformation operation being conducted by the "Five Eyes" Anglo-Saxon countries for geopolitical purposes. In response to the allegation, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said that it was neither the first nor the last time they would fabricate such an attack. She was right, as they continue to repeat the same lie. A recently released Microsoft Threat Intelligence report claims that the US defense industrial base on Guam is one of the most frequent targets of Chinese cyberattacks, particularly the satellite communications and telecommunications entities housed there. The supposedly ballooning threat to Guam drew a bipartisan group of US House of Representatives members, including the leaders of the House Armed Services Committee, to Guam this summer. And this month, House Natural Resources Chair Bruce Westerman visited the island claiming it is on the front line of the fight against cyber threats. Guam naturally is making the most of being the focus of attention. In December 2022, NSA Deputy Director Rob Joyce said sharing declassified information with partners who can then take action on it would be a "game changer". With this in mind, the US Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs awarded \$500,000 to Guam's Office of Technology to create a cyber resilience project in late July. This provides a clue into the Joe Biden Administration's security strategy, namely to pay anybody that claims to be a "victim" of attacks from China. Esther Aguiqui, Guam's homeland security adviser, said the government has nearly completed a cyber security strategy to manage cyber risks from cyber criminals and nation states alike. If Guam wants to defend itself against genuine cyberattacks, it would do better to look at shoring up its defenses against the scattergun cyber activities of the US. The National Defense Authorization Act amended Title 10 of the United States Code, which outlines the role of the US military, to expand the authority of the US Cyber Command to conduct traditional military activities in cyberspace and in nonhostile environments, or outside of hostile areas. This expansion makes it easier for the Cyber Command to conduct cyber operations because it has eliminated interdepartmental friction. It is the cyber activities of the US that bear keeping a watchful eye on.



Pak-Russia entente

Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Pakistan also has an eye of Russian military equipment supply and technology assistance that is better than China's. Pakistan wants to gain much commercial incentive from Russia, for example, the Karachi to Lahore Pipeline, and Russia is also interested in the renovation of the Pakistan Steel Mills. According to some reports, Russia may join the CASA-1000 energy project providing electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan. On the other hand, today Russia is interested in Pakistan because of its strategic location being right next to Afghanistan and close to the Central

Pakistan and Russia have a past of being adversaries, but today both are welcoming the idea of building and stimulating a strategic relationship. Pakistan wants to build a better relationship with Russia to reduce dependency on the United States. Islamabad wants to prove to Washington that it has another strategic option if any tension happens between Pakistan and United States. Washington never liked Moscow's influence in Islamabad. There are differences between Pakistan and the United States over drone attacks. According to some analysts, American hegemony is about to end in the region and Pakistan does not want to become too close of an ally with the United States and dependent on it. In fact, the increasing relationship between India and America motivates Pakistan to look for new friends and alliances. Pakistan also likes to drive a wedge between India and Russia by improving relations with Moscow.

Pakistan also has an eye of Russian military equipment supply and technology assistance that is better than China's. Pakistan wants to gain much commercial incentive from Russia, for example, the Karachi to Lahore Pipeline, and Russia is also interested in the renovation of the Pakistan Steel Mills. According to some reports, Russia may join the CASA-1000 energy project providing electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan. On the other hand, today Russia is interested in Pakistan because of its strategic location being right next to Afghanistan and close to the Central Asian states. Although both the countries do not share borders but have same geopolitical space between them, Moscow has long considered Islamabad as a troublemaker for Russia and a supporter of terrorism in the region. The Russian motivation is to convince Pakistan to be moderate and subdue Islamic radicalization and militancy in the region. Pakistan is a Muslim state which has great influence in the Muslim world and Russia also has a large Muslim population. Russia thinks that Pakistan can play a vital role for stabilizing Afghanistan. Moscow hopes, after the withdrawal of American forces, that Russia will find strategic place in the region and then it will be able to play a better role in the Indo-Pacific region. Russia also hopes that its understanding with Pakistan will decrease terrorism in Afghanistan and the region. It is also building relations with Pakistan to counter alignment between India and United States. The Pak-Russia relationship can impede India from getting close to the United States. The Indian tendency toward Israel and the United States for advanced weapons and technology encourages Russia to look for new markets for her arms sale. In Moscow's proposition to Islamabad, Pakistan can be a part of Russian strategy by playing a significant role in the region. On the issue of Ukraine, Russia is being isolated and has few friends in the international sphere. In the aftermath of the Ukraine issue, Russia is looking for new friends who may help her challenge the West. Islamabad and Moscow noticed each other for the first time in 2009 when Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, and Tajikistan floated the idea of promoting regional security and economics. This quadrilateral idea held three meetings but did not take off due to the cancellation of Putin's expected visit to Pakistan for the fourth meeting in 2012. President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari had visited

Russia in 2011 and the Army Chief visited Moscow during 2012. There were reciprocal visits continued by ministers and high-level officials of both the countries. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visited Pakistan in 2014, which was the first time that someone of his position had done so in the last 45 years. During this visit, both countries agreed on information exchange on political-military issues; cooperation for promoting international security, counterterrorism, and arms control activities; collaboration in various military fields and other areas of education, medicine, topography, hydrography, and culture; and sharing experiences in peacemaking efforts. In August 2015, Moscow agreed to provide Mi-35M helicopters to Pakistan. Pakistan wished to buy 20 Mi-35Ms over the next year and got four helicopters in 2017. In addition, both countries enhanced military relations and joint military exercises were made between the two armies under the slogan of Druzhbha (Russian word meaning friendship). Russian naval forces also participated in the Aman-17 international exercise in the Arabian Sea hosted by Pakistan in 2017. Further, both countries agreed about coordination against terrorism and drug trafficking. Russia had already cooperated in outer-space exploration and helped in launching the Pakistani telecommunication satellite AlBadar in 2001. It also had refurbished the only Pakistani steel mill. An agreement of \$2 billion for the North-South gas pipeline was signed in October 2015, which would connect Lahore to the Karachi terminal. This agreement was signed on the first visit to Pakistan by a Russian Energy Minister. The 1100kilometer pipeline was anticipated to be completed in 2018, but construction has yet to begin because of unexpected disagreements over the project. According to the original plan, the Russian company will complete this project and use it for 25 years. In the energy sector, both states are collaborating as well and have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Moscow between Russia's Gazprom International and Pakistan's Oil and Gas Development Company Limited on July 3, 2017. The project will fulfill the energy requirements of Pakistan. This understanding was for mutual cooperation and joint ventures and use of state-of-the-art technology that would aid exploration and development in Pakistan. This is the beginning of commercial ties between these two countries. The increasing cooperation between Pakistan and Russia should be viewed in the context of the Afghan scenario which had created challenges for Moscow. Pakistan is considered an important country for the stabilization of Afghanistan.

Without the constructive involvement of Pakistan, stability there is a dream. During the last six decades, very few Pakistani leaders and officials visited Russia. Whenever whoever visited, it yielded positive results such as the Tashkent Declaration in 1966 and the agreement on the Pakistan Steel Mills in the 1970s. Pakistan has revisited her foreign policy during the 21st century and gave impotence to neglected states. When the President of Pakistan visited Russia in 2002, a joint working group on strategic stability, counterterrorism, and an inter-governmental commission was established. Regular meetings of these groups have been held since then. Russia also seems to be accommodating Pakistan. Russia condemned the Salala attack by NATO on November 26, 2011 and issued a friendly public statement, and it also supported Pakistan on

its decision to stop supplies to NATO in Afghanistan through its territory at the time. Russia has supported Pakistan becoming a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and being part of this Russian security mechanism. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an important initiative to counter American influence and to bring peace and stability in the region. Membership in the SCO will enhance the strategic and regional importance of Pakistan. There is a strong potential of Pak-Russia relations in steel production, communication, space technology, and the energy sector. Pakistan should embrace these choices because it has much learned from past errors and mistakes. There is common perception in Pakistan that its policy of ignoring nearer countries and aligning with distant ones cost her politically, economically, and strategically.

These alliances could not become successful in achieving all the goals of Pakistan such as politically resolving the Kashmir issue and ensuring security against India. Washington has enhanced its relationship with India and is projecting it as a regional power. It did not fulfill the promise which it had made in the beginning of the relations. It also did not make Pakistan a progressive and modern society, but turned it into a radical and fragmented one. In fact, the ideal of choosing the democratic west against the authoritative east resulted in a long and consistent spell of dictatorship in Pakistan. Comparatively, India chose the other way around and has always had a stable and functional democracy in the country. Although Pakistan and Russia are becoming close, Pakistan will never jeopardize its relations with Washington. Washington is providing military aid and financial assistance to Pakistan but is getting concerned by the Pak-Russia romance. Russia understands Indian concerns and believes that Moscow and Islamabad's rapprochement will normalize the hostile situation between India and Pakistan. The historical background of the India-Russia relationship is very strong and Russia would never like to lose India. However, it is expected that there will be a period of much more intensive and extensive interaction between these two countries. The Pak-Russia rapprochement should not surprise the regional powers due to the current geopolitical churn in global politics. The Pak-Russia relationship may become a true strategic partnership in the future. If Russia improves strategic relations with Pakistan, it might be able to influence Pakistan to play a constructive role in Afghanistan and not act against India. This would be a regional interest as regional powers like to see stability in Afghanistan. If Russia goes ahead with defense cooperation with Pakistan, it would be to the detriment of the Indo-Russia relationship, and Pakistan is a smaller market than India for Russia. Russia may lose some major contracts which it has made with India recently. Both India and Russia have a long history of relations and India has never openly criticized Russian policies over Ukraine. Both of the countries are also members of several multilateral organizations like BRICS, RIC, and the SCO. Although India has expressed its concerns about growing cooperation between Pakistan and Russia several times, Russia believes that this rapprochement will normalize the hostile Indo-Pak attitude. It seems that Pakistan and Russia are going to forge a true strategic partnership.

—The writer is PhD Political Science akramzaheer86@yahoo.com

G-20 Summit and Pakistan's isolation

Gul.i.Ayesha Bhatti



The European-Middle Eastern and Indian corridor is a proposed plan that offers an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative. Its aim is to provide economic and technological benefits to India, the Middle East, and Europe. The African Union's recent inclusion in the G20's membership has increased it to 21 nations

The 18th summit of the Group of Twenty (G20) concluded on Sunday, September 10th in New Delhi. The summit's main focus was to prioritize inclusive development, address climate change, and find solutions for issues impacting the global South. The summit's declaration reflected a consensus, particularly with regards to Ukraine, which received praise from Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. Despite the absence of Chinese President, Xi Jinping, and Russian President, Vladimir Putin, their positions were filled by the Chinese Prime Minister and Russian Foreign Minister. The summit was attended by numerous world leaders, including the U.S. President. The 2023 presidency of both SCO and G20 in New Delhi marks a pivotal moment for Indian diplomacy, offering a prime opportunity for India to showcase itself as a representative of the global South. To maintain and expand its influence in international relations, however, India must strive to avoid internal political divisions, particularly in communal politics. The upcoming G20 summit, themed "One Earth, One Family, One Future," aims to promote unity in diversity, addresses global issues, and encourages international cooperation. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's innovative ideas were lauded during the summit, including inviting the African Union (AU) to join the G20 and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and the European Union to establish a trade and communication corridor connecting India and Europe via the Middle East.

The European-Middle Eastern and Indian corridor is a proposed plan that offers an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative. Its aim is to provide economic and technological benefits to India, the Middle East, and Europe. The African Union's recent inclusion in the G20's membership has increased it to 21 nations, and with the addition of the EU's 27 member states and the AU's 55 members, the G20 will soon encompass roughly 100 nations. Brazil will take over the G20 presidency from India in December, ensuring continued leadership by the global South. While non-G20 countries such as Bangladesh, Comoros, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria,

Oman, Singapore, Spain, and UAE were invited to attend the Summit, India's neighbor and the world's fifth most populous state was not in attendance. According to a report from the Christian Science Monitor, the 2023 summit will commemorate India's remarkable achievement in emerging as a global leader and promoting the interests of non-G20 nations.

India organized the Voice of the Global South Summit in January of this year. This two-day virtual conference provided developing countries a platform to articulate their perspectives on economic expansion, development objectives, and their aspirations for India's presidency as the G20's head. As we analyze the recent G20 Summit, it's crucial to take into account three essential elements. Firstly, the African Union, which consists of 55 member states and is the world's largest regional organization, was welcomed into the group's expanded membership. This results in the G20 representing around 100 nations, which account for 85 percent of the globe's population and economy. With North and South countries represented, the G20 faces the challenge of enhancing its performance. However, the Delhi Summit faced obstacles in agreeing on critical issues such as the climate crisis and Ukraine. India utilized its persuasive skills to create the impression of a unified voice in the Delhi Declaration. At one point, the French president threatened not to sign any G20 declaration unless Russia's invasion of Ukraine was condemned. However, he had to accept a compromise formula regarding Ukraine, in which members pledged to safeguard the territorial integrity of a state and follow a non-intervention policy. The decision to exclude Russia from the Delhi declaration regarding Ukraine was appreciated by the Russian foreign minister, but criticized by Kiev. The BRICS aimed to create an alternative to the US-dominated world order, while the G20 summit aimed to address the concerns of developing nations through compromise.

The Indian Prime Minister and other world leaders, including Brazil's President who will lead the group from December, deserve credit for ensuring that the G20 summit remained conflict-free. Their message was straightforward: the G20 will work towards improving humanity and will

not be a divisive organization. Secondly, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, a massive project characterized as a modern "Spice Route" designed to connect India to Europe via the Arabian Peninsula, was also an important announcement. The project is viewed as a competitor to China's Belt and Road Initiative, which entails transcontinental transportation, energy, and data links. Joe Biden referred to it as a "real big deal". Even though a few voices have questioned the economic viability of the proposed route, its geopolitical significance cannot be refuted. The corridor will have regional and international consequences. According to the majority of experts, it is an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and, therefore, a significant success for the US and India. Nevertheless, given the complexity of the new international geopolitics, it cannot be ruled out that the new economic corridor will converge with the BRI rather than supplant it. Currently, it appears that India has been able to keep both Russia and the United States satisfied, while also limiting China's influence. The process has minimized the significance of Chinese President Xi Jinping's decision not to attend the meeting. Thirdly, the G20 summit has further strengthened India's credibility in global affairs. In contrast, Pakistan's non-participation in the event was not unexpected, given its absence from the list of non-G20 nations invited. Earlier this year, India voiced strong opposition to Pakistan's participation in BRICS. Additionally, virtual meetings of SCO leaders have seemingly been utilized as a means for India to distance Pakistan from international events. India's current efforts to isolate Pakistan from significant international events are noteworthy. However, Pakistan's undeniable significance cannot be disregarded, as it holds a crucial geostrategic location in the region and ranks among the world's most populous countries. Pakistani decision-makers must reflect on why Pakistan remains marginalized and isolated in the global arena. While Pakistan's frail economic, political, and social circumstances may impede its ability to counter India's strategy, we must not overlook our foreign policy shortcomings.

—The writer is PhD scholar International Relations guleayeshbhatti@gmail.com

Briefs

Kurdish group attack in north Syria claims 14 lives

BEIRUT: A Syrian Kurdish armed group attacked an area controlled by pro-Turkish fighters in rebel-held northern Syria on Monday, killing at least 14, a war monitor and a factional leader said.

The Kurdish Afrin Liberation Forces took advantage of factional fighting that broke out after midnight on the outskirts of Al-Bab in Aleppo province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. With artillery support, the Kurdish group infiltrated the area, leaving "at least 14 dead" and others wounded in the attack, all pro-Turkish fighters, Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman reported.

The groups had been fighting over "control and influence" when the ambush happened, Abdel Rahman said. The factional leader in the rebel-held area confirmed the death toll but told AFP the fighters were from a formation that had defected from pro-Turkish groups. The Afrin Liberation Forces are made up of Kurdish fighters who were forced out of northwest Syria's Afrin area in a Turkish offensive several years ago and are now mainly present in northern Aleppo province. Ankara has launched successive military offensives in Syria, most of them targeting Kurdish militants that Ankara links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state. Its troops and their Syrian proxies hold swathes of the border, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has long sought to establish a "safe zone" 30 kilometers deep the whole length of the frontier. — Agencis

UN warns of disease threat in Libyan city

DERNA: UN agencies warned Monday that Libya's flood-stricken city of Derna, where thousands were killed a week ago, faces the threat of disease outbreaks that could bring "a second devastating crisis." The massive flash flood that has killed over 3,000 people and left thousands more missing came as the war-torn North African country was lashed by the hurricane-strength Storm Daniel on September 10. Traumatized residents, 30,000 of whom are now homeless, badly need clean water, food and basic supplies amid a growing risk of cholera, diarrhea, dehydration and malnutrition, UN agencies warn. "Teams from nine UN agencies have been on the ground delivering aid and support to those affected by Storm Daniel and the flash flooding for the last few days," said the UN Support Mission in Libya. But it warned that local officials, aid agencies and the UN World Health Organization "are concerned about the risk of disease outbreak, particularly from contaminated water and the lack of sanitation." "The team continues to work to prevent diseases from taking hold and causing a second devastating crisis in the area," UNSMIL said in a statement. Rapidly rising waters burst two upstream river dams in Derna, sending a late-night tidal wave crashing through the center. — APP

US, Iran to complete prisoner swap deal in \$6bn

There are widespread fears in the West that Moscow could use Belgrade to reignite ethnic conflicts in the Balkans, which experienced a series of bloody conflicts in the 1990s during the breakup of Yugoslavia, to draw world attention away from the war in Ukraine

PRISTINA: Kosovo's prime minister on Monday accused the European Union special envoy in the normalization talks with Serbia of not being "neutral and correct" and "coordinating" with Belgrade against Pristina.

Prime Minister Albin Kurti said EU envoy Miroslav Lajcak had coordinated with Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic in the EU-facilitated talks held last week in Brussels. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, who supervised the talks in Brussels, blamed the latest breakdown on Kurti's insistence that Serbia should essentially recognize his country before progress could be made on enforcing a previous agreement reached in February. From left, Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, EU Special Representative Miroslav Lajcak and Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti meet together in Brussels, Thursday,

Sept. 14, 2023. The leaders of Serbia and Kosovo are holding a fresh round of meetings on Thursday aimed at improving their strained relations as calls mount for a change in the Western diplomatic approach toward them amid concern that their tensions could spiral out of control. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

Talks between Serbia and Kosovo break down again. The EU says their hopes of joining are at risk in this photo provided by the Serbian Interior Ministry, Serbian police officers detain migrants at an undisclosed location close to the country's border with Hungary, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023. Serbian police have rounded up hundreds of migrants and found automatic weapons in a raid along the border with Hungary where frequent clashes have been reported between groups of smugglers exploiting the hardship of people trying to reach Western Europe. (Serbian Ministry of Interior via AP)



Serbia and its former province of Kosovo have been at odds for decades. Their 1998-1999 war, which ended after a 78-day NATO bombing forced Serbian military and police forces pull out of Kosovo, left more than 10,000 people dead, mostly Kosovo Albanians. Kosovo declared independence in 2008 - a move Belgrade has refused to recognize. In February, the EU put forward a 10-point plan to end months of political crises. Kurti and Vucic gave their

approval at the time, but with some reservations that have still not been resolved.

On Monday, Kurti said Kosovo had offered a step-by-step proposal for the implementation of the agreement reached in February. Serbia has never offered any proposal while Lajcak brought out an old Serbian document they had turned down earlier.

"These are divergent negotiations due to the asymmetry from the mediator, who is not neutral," said Kurti at a news conference. "We do not need such a unilateral envoy, not neutral and correct at all, who runs counter to the basic agreement, which is what is happening with the envoy, Lajcak," he said. Kurti also criticized Borrell and Lajcak as EU representatives for not reacting to what he described as Serbia's continuous violation of the February agreement with statements against Kosovo. It was time for consultations with Brussels, Washington and other main players to bring

"the train (i.e. talks) back to the rails," he said. "We should return to the basic agreement, how to apply it," he said. "Serbia's violation has been encouraged and not punished as the agreement states."

In August, senior lawmakers from the United States - the other diplomatic power in the process - warned that negotiators weren't pushing the Serbian leader hard enough. They said that the West's current approach showed a "lack of evenhandedness." In May, in a dispute over the validity of local elections in the Serbian minority-dominated part of northern Kosovo, Serbs clashed with security forces, including NATO-led KFOR peacekeepers working there, injuring 93 troops. There are widespread fears in the West that Moscow could use Belgrade to reignite ethnic conflicts in the Balkans, which experienced a series of bloody conflicts in the 1990s during the breakup of Yugoslavia, to draw world attention away from the war in Ukraine.

US military seeks help locating missing f-35

WASHINGTON: A stealth-capable US fighter jet vanished, not from prying eyes but rather from the American military, prompting an unusual call to the public to help locate the missing multimillion-dollar plane. After what authorities labeled a "mishap," a pilot flying an F-35 in the southern state of South Carolina on Sunday afternoon ejected from the craft. The pilot survived, but the military was left with an expensive problem: it couldn't find the jet, leading Joint Base Charleston to ask for help from local residents. "If you have any information that may help our recovery teams locate the F-35, please call the Base Defense Operations Center," a post from the base read on X, formerly known as Twitter. Base authorities said they were searching, in coordination with federal aviation regulators, around two lakes north of the city of Charleston. The planes, manufactured by Lockheed Martin, cost around \$80 million each. — APP

Taiwan reports record 103 Chinese planes

ISTANBUL: China sent 103 warplanes toward Taiwan over the past day in what the island's Defense Ministry said Monday was a daily record in recent times. The Defense Ministry of the island nation said it also detected nine naval vessels of the People's Liberation Army "around Taiwan." Some 40 of the detected Chinese aircraft "crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait or entered Taiwan's southwest, southeast ADIZ," the ministry said on X, referring to the air defense identification zone. China neither recognizes the median line nor ADIZ. It said Taiwanese armed forces "monitored the situation and tasked CAP (combat air patrol) aircraft, navy vessels, and land-based missile systems to respond to these activities." In April, Taiwan said the Chinese military sent 91 warplanes toward the island in a 24-hour period. China considers Taiwan as its "breakaway province" while Taipei has insisted on its independence since 1949. — Agencies

20 mine staff killed in SA road accident

JOHANNESBURG: At least 20 employees of mining giant De Beers have been killed in a road accident in South Africa, local officials said Sunday. The bus involved was ferrying staff from the Venetia mine, one of the biggest diamond mines in the country, said a transport official in Limpopo province, in the north of the country. "The bus came into collision with a lorry," said Vongani Chauke. Chauke told AFP the accident happened at around 1600 GMT, some 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the mine, at the village of Musian on the border with Zimbabwe. The cause of the accident has not been established. South Africa has one of the most developed road networks on the continent, but also has one of the worst road safety records. The Venetia mine, which lies near the borders with Botswana and Zimbabwe, has been run by the De Beers group for more than 30 years. — APP

Prepare for a long war in Ukraine: NATO chief

WEB DESK

BRUSSELS: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has warned that the war in Ukraine could be long, as Kyiv's counteroffensive against Russia continues to make only marginal gains. Ukraine's allies have sought to accentuate campaign gains in recent weeks, but it has been underway for months with no major breakthroughs. The fall will bring changing conditions on the ground and the possibility that Russia will once again try to pummel Ukrainian energy infrastructure. "We are all wishing for a quick peace. But at the same time, we must recognize: If President Zelensky and the Ukrainians give up the fight, their country would not exist anymore. If President Putin and Russia laid down their weapons, we would have peace," the NATO chief said. "The easiest way to end this war would be if Putin withdrew his troops," he added.

On the possibility of Putin using nuclear weapons in Ukraine, Stoltenberg said: "Putin's nuclear rhetoric is dangerous and ruthless, but NATO is prepared for every threat and challenge. Ukrainian servicemen load shells into a RAK-SA-12 small multiple launch rocket system near the front line town of Bakhmut. Ukrainian servicemen load shells into a RAK-SA-12 small multiple launch rocket system near the front line town of Bakhmut. The NATO chief reiterated that it is just a matter of time before Ukraine joins the alliance. "Ukraine will become a member of NATO - all allies have made that clear," he said, adding that Ukraine will need safety guarantees when the war ends, otherwise "history could repeat itself." Addressing the idea of a possible nuclear threat by the Russians, Stoltenberg said: "We have sent a clear message to Russia: A nuclear war cannot be won and must

never happen. Moscow must understand that the use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable. "We are observing very closely what the Russian



army is doing. Until now we have not noticed any changes to Russia's nuclear forces that would prompt us to react." Clock is ticking. Ukraine has made only incremental gains against Russia in its counteroffensive so far and the wins have come at great cost. On Friday, Ukrainian troops announced they had retaken the village of Andriivka, south of the city of Bakhmut, the first such announcement of a recaptured settlement for several weeks. The clock

is ticking for Ukraine to make a significant gain, with the fall bringing worsening weather and even more challenging fighting conditions. The United States' top general believes Ukraine has just six weeks left before changing weather hampers its counteroffensive. "There is still a reasonable amount of time, about 30 to 45 days' worth of fighting weather left," Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley told the BBC. After that, mud and rain would likely have an impact on battlefield maneuverability, he said. Ukraine though has signaled it is prepared to fight on regardless of the weather. Kyrylo Budanov, head of military intelligence, acknowledged the counteroffensive was moving more slowly than he would like. Russia's defensive lines were well-planned, he said, and heavily laid with mines, which made the situation on the battlefield "complicated."

Tuareg rebels seize more mali bases

BAMAKO: Fresh fighting broke out between Mali's army and northern Tuareg rebels, with the rebels claiming to have taken control of two army bases in the central town of Lere. The rebel alliance, called the Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA), has been fighting the army since August, a conflict unleashed in part by the departure of a United Nations peacekeeping mission that for years had helped maintain a fragile calm. But clashes appear to be intensifying as both sides seek to control territory in the desert center and north of the West African country, just as UN peacekeepers withdraw. Last week, CMA, formed by semi-nomadic Tuareg people, said it had attacked four army positions around the town of Bourem and made away with vehicles, weapons and ammunition. Lere is about 500 km (315 miles) west of Bourem. "CMA took control of the two camps in Lere," said CMA spokesman Mohamed Elmaouloud Ramadan. Mali's armed forces said in a post on social media platform X late on Sunday that an attack had taken place in Lere and that a response was under way, without providing details. Neither side said whether anyone had been killed or injured in the clashes. The Tuaregs have long complained of government neglect and sought autonomy for the desert region they call Azawad. A Tuareg uprising in 2012 was taken over by Islamist groups that continue to attack civilians and the army. The CMA signed up to a peace deal with the government and pro-government militia in 2015. But tensions have resurfaced since the military consolidated power in two coups in 2020 and 2021, teamed up with Russian military contractor Wagner Group, and kicked out French forces and UN peacekeepers. —DNA

Ukrainian government dismisses 6 deputy defense ministers

KYIV: The Ukrainian government decided to dismiss six deputy defense ministers on Monday following the appointment of a new defense minister earlier this month. The government gave no reason for the dismissals. Those removed from their post included Hanna Maliar, who has frequently issued public updates on Russia's war against Ukraine. Rustem Umerov was appointed defense minister less than two weeks ago to replace Oleksii Reznikov. The ministry had been dogged by media allegations of corruption while Reznikov was in the post although he faced no corruption allegations himself. "Rebooting. We (have) started. We continue. (The) Ministry continues to work as usual," Umerov said in a Facebook post. When he took up his post, Umerov said his priorities would include making the ministry the main institution for the coordination of defense forces, enhancing the value attached to individual soldiers, developing Ukraine's military industry and fighting corruption. Maliar, a war crimes lawyer, had served as a deputy defense minister since 2021 and her latest update on the war in Ukraine appeared on Monday morning. She faced criticism last week after initially reporting that Ukrainian forces had recaptured an eastern village from Russian forces, but later saying her report was inaccurate and that fighting was still raging around the village. — Agencies



JAKARTA: Pakistan Ambassador Ameer Khurram Rathore, Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific) co-chaired the 7th ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee meeting with ASEAN Deputy Sec. General and ASEAN Council of Permanent Representatives. —DNA

Mitsotakis stresses importance of resuming Greek-Turkish dialogue

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Reopening communication channels and promoting a positive agenda with Türkiye is really important, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said as the rival nations near a rapprochement. "Greece has not changed its strategy toward Türkiye, but my desire was to be able to talk with Türkiye for our issues to be resolved on the basis of international law and for things not to be taken to extremes when we disagree," Mitsotakis said during a news conference in the northern port city of Thessaloniki on the sidelines of the 87th Thessaloniki International Fair. He added, however, that the only problem Greece is willing to discuss with Türkiye is the delimitation of maritime borders. Issues of sovereignty will not be topics of negotiation, nor issues concerning the islands of

the Eastern Aegean, Mitsotakis noted. His remarks follow a recent thaw in ties between the pair, who are at loggerheads over numerous issues, particularly competing claims to jurisdiction in the Eastern Mediterranean, overlapping claims over their continental shelves, maritime boundaries, airspace, energy, the ethnically split island of Cyprus, the status of the islands in the Aegean Sea and migrants. Tensions flared in 2020 over exploratory drilling rights in areas of the Mediterranean Sea - where Greece and Greek Cyprus claim exclusive economic zones - leading to a naval standoff. Athens has also been carrying out an ambitious rearmament program, building a military presence on the disputed Aegean islands in violation of postwar treaties, something Ankara has warned against, arguing that the continued militarization could lead to Türkiye questioning their ownership. But since earlier this year, a

friendly climate emerged between the pair, triggered by Greece sending assistance to Türkiye following two devastating earthquakes and Türkiye offering condolences after a deadly train crash in Greece in February. President Recep Tayyip Erdo and Mitsotakis met in July during a NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, and the meeting was hailed as a positive milestone by both countries. The leaders will again meet on Sept. 20 in New York City on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. After hosting his Greek counterpart Giorgos Gerapetritis in Ankara earlier this month, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan also said the sides agreed to "maintain dialogue with Greece without preconditions." He also confirmed a fresh round of talks of the Türkiye-Greece High-Level Cooperation Council would be held in Thessaloniki in December.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk

www.dnanews.com.pl

www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

Briefs

FIA seizes local, foreign currencies worth billions

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Commercial Banking Circle conducted a successful raid, uncovering a whopping amount of foreign and local currency, totalling billions of rupees, at an under-construction residential property in Shamsabad. The raid is a part of the nationwide operation against hundi and hawala businesses by exchange companies. This operation was followed by meticulous evidence collection regarding illicit trading activities. A subsequent raid in Rawalpindi targeted a house, leading to the seizure of 13 computerised iron lockers consisting of substantial sums of foreign and local currency in cash. Two individuals were apprehended in connection with these operations. The FIA wing conducting the raid surveilled the location for a week before beginning their operation. A small iron gate was found in the parking area of the double basement of the plaza. Spare construction equipment was also kept there. The agency's team crashed the outer walls and heard a booming sound, which proved an empty space behind. On breaking the wall, they found a small secret door behind which lay 13 large iron lockers. Security systems and cameras were also installed on the premises. According to reports, the FIA team and the plaza owner engaged in a bitter tiff over the uncovered money.

Elahi handed over to Punjab ACE

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Parvez Elahi Monday found himself embroiled in yet another case, as he will now be headed to Lahore with the Punjab's Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) following an approval of their request seeking his transitory remand. After an ATC ordered to send him to jail on judicial remand in the case pertaining to the attack on the Federal Judicial Complex (FJC), the Punjab ACE stepped in seeking the senior politician's remand in a new case filed in Lahore for misusing his power and position to shuffle provincial bureaucracy. According to a FIR, Elahi has been booked under section 5(2)(d)47 of the PCA for illicitly misusing his position and power as the then-chief minister of Punjab and transferring Muhammad Khan Bhatti, an employ in a special department of the Punjab Assembly, to a principal secretary. ATC judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain approved the Punjab ACE request to issue Elahi's one-day transitory remand after reserving its verdict in the wake of arguments presented by anti-graft department.

Five Americans freed in Iran-US prisoner swap deal

Doha hosted at least eight rounds of talks with Iranian and US negotiators sitting in separate hotels, speaking via shuttle diplomacy, a source previously told media. The transfer of Iran's funds under the agreement has drawn criticism from US Republicans who say President Joe Biden, a Democrat, is in effect paying a ransom for US citizens

NEWS DESK

DOHA: Five US detainees flew out of Iran on Monday in a swap for five Iranians held in the US under a rare deal brokered by Qatar between the arch enemies that also unfroze \$6 billion of Tehran's funds. A Qatari plane took off from Tehran carrying the five with two of their relatives, shortly after the US and Iran received confirmation that the funds had been transferred to accounts in Doha, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters. Iran's Press TV said two of the five Iranians to be released in the exchange had landed in Doha. There was no independent confirmation, though Iranian officials had said three of those to be freed by the US were not returning to Iran. The funds' release triggered an exchange sequence agreed after months of talks between the United States and Iran, who are at odds over Tehran's nuclear ambitions and other issues.

The five Americans with dual nationality are due to fly to Doha and then on to the US "They are in good health," an Iranian official briefed on the process said. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said two of the Iranians being released would return to Iran while two would stay in the US at their request. One detainee would join his family in a third country, he added. Kanaani said the funds, blocked in South Korea after US sanctions on Iran were hardened in 2018, would be available to Tehran on Monday. Under the deal, Qatar will ensure the cash is spent on humanitarian goods and not items under US sanctions. The deal will remove a major irritant between the US, which brands Tehran a state sponsor of terrorism, and Iran, which calls Washington the "Great Satan". But they remain deeply divided on other issues ranging from Iran's nuclear programme and its influence around the region to US sanctions and America's military presence in the Gulf. Qatar, a tiny but

hugely wealthy Gulf Arab energy producer, has sought to raise its global profile, hosting the soccer World Cup last year and carving out a role in international diplomacy. The Sunni Muslim nation hosts a big US military base but has also forged close ties with Shi'ite Muslim Iran. Doha hosted at least eight rounds of talks with Iranian and US negotiators sitting in separate hotels, speaking via shuttle diplomacy, a source previously told Reuters. The transfer of Iran's funds under the agreement has drawn criticism from US Republicans who say President Joe Biden, a Democrat, is in effect paying a ransom for US citizens. The White House has defended the deal. The US dual citizens to be released include Siamak Namazi, 51, and Emad Sharqi, 59, both businessmen, and Morad Tahbaz, 67, an environmentalist who also holds British nationality. They were released from prison and put under house arrest last month. A fourth US citizen was also released into house arrest, while a fifth

was already under house arrest. Their identities have not been disclosed. Iranian officials have named the five Iranians to be released by the US as Mehrdad Moin-Ansari, Kambiz Attar-Kashani, Reza Sarhangpour-Kafarani, Amin Hassanzadeh and Kaveh Afrasiabi. Two Iranian officials previously said that Afrasiabi would remain in the United States but had not mentioned others. Ties between Washington and Tehran have been boiling since Donald Trump, a Republican, pulled the US out of a nuclear deal between Iran and global powers when he was president in 2018. Reaching another nuclear deal has gained little traction since, as Biden prepares for the 2024 US election. As a first step in the deal, Washington waived sanctions to allow the transfer of \$6 billion in Iranian funds from South Korea to Qatar. The funds were blocked in South Korea, normally one of Iran's largest oil customers, when Washington imposed sweeping financial sanctions on Tehran and the cash could not be transferred.

LHC issues arrest warrant of Islamabad IG

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Monday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for Inspector-General of Islamabad police for failure to produce former chief minister Parvez Elahi before the court despite order. Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf issued the warrant during the hearing of petition of the wife of Parvez Elahi. The Attack DPO and the Rawalpindi CPO appeared before the court while the IG failed to turn up. Justice Rauf told the DPO and the CPO that "you have appeared before the court second time." Both the officers submitted their response to the show-cause notice issued by the court. Justice Rauf asked the public prosecutor where the IG was. He replied that the IG had sent his reply to the show-cause notice. The judge remarked that the court had summoned the IG and where he was. The judge told him that the official was taking the court orders easy. The court had earlier taken a lenient view and issued bailable arrest warrant. The public prosecutor replied that the IG had official engagements in Islamabad.

Ji threatens to bring Karachi to a standstill

KARACHI: Calling the current caretaker administration "a continuation of the legacy of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government", the Jamaat-Islami (JI) on Sunday announced to stage citywide protests on today (Tuesday) against the exorbitant rise in prices of petroleum products and growing inflation. Addressing a press conference at the party's headquarters Idara Noori-Haq, JI Karachi chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman while sharing details of the plan of the protest said "it would be a different kind of activity" and appealed the Karachiites to join the "struggle of the JI" for the accountability of the past and present rulers. "I appeal the Karachiites for an all-out protest in the city on Tuesday by jamming all major arteries in the megalopolis," he said. "Let it be very clear to our rulers - reduce the petroleum products prices or face the music." - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov meets with Jamal Shah, Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture of Pakistan. - DNA

Indus Waters Treaty

Neutral expert to hold hearing on Pak-India water dispute

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank's neutral expert will hold a hearing on Pakistan and India's dispute over the controversial designs of 330-MW Kishenganga and 850-MW Ratle hydropower projects from September 20 to September 21 in The Hague. "Pakistan's delegation comprising Pakistan's commissioner of Indus Waters, top officials of the Attorney General's Office, and a team of international lawyers hired by the Government of Pakistan would advocate the country's case for justice," a top official at the Attorney General office told, reported a newspaper. Earlier, neutral expert court proceedings were held on February 27-28, 2023 to finalise the rules of procedures on how to advance the legal fight on the designs of both the projects being built on Pakistan's rivers by India. India has built the Kishenganga project on Jhelum River and is in the process of building the Ratle project on the Chenab river. Pakistan is fighting its case in the two forums - neutral expert constituted by the World Bank as desired by New Delhi and Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) desired by Islamabad. India was evasive in fighting its case in the PCA as it feared that Pakistan would certainly win its case in the seven-member PCA. Now, India is left with no option but to attend the PCA proceedings. On July 7, 2023, the PCA had rejected India's six objections challenging the ongoing court's

jurisdiction to hear the case, declaring the court is competent to consider the disputes set forth in Pakistan's request for arbitration. The court, in its detailed Award de Ederer on July 7, accepted Pakistan's stance and rejected India's objections, and affirmed its competence. In relation to India's non-appearance before the court, the PCA concluded that a party's non-appearance did not deprive the court of competence, nor did it have any effect on the establishment and functioning of the court, including the final and binding nature of its awards. At the same time, India's non-appearance does not lessen the court's standing duty to verify that it is competent and that it has jurisdiction over the dispute before it. Pakistan desired to have its disputes resolved through the court of arbitration. India opposed it and scuttled the process by filing a parallel request for the appointment of a neutral expert. After filing a parallel request, India challenged the court of arbitration's empanelment by saying that parallel proceedings cannot take place under the treaty. India wanted the court to declare the PCA illegal. "Now the court has accepted Pakistan's stance and rejected India's six objections, paving the way for the court of arbitration to start hearing Pakistan's claim on merit to the effect that the two said projects' designs are in breach of the Indus Waters Treaty of 1961." - DNA

Arrested PTI leader's minor son dies in Lahore

LAHORE: Ammar, the son of arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) ticket holder Ibad Farooq, died. As per details, the PTI leader Ibad Farooq is under arrest in connection with the May 9 violence. The brother of Ibad Farooq said that Ammar was suffering from mental illness. The seven-year-old Ammar died yesterday (Monday) and his funeral will be offered tonight. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic death of the minor son of PTI ticket holder Mian Ibad Farooq, demanding the Chief Justice of Pakistan to conduct a high level probe into the political murder in order to bring all visible and invisible killers to justice. PTI spokesperson said that the fascist and ruthless system prevalent in the country is responsible for the merciless murder of the little soul Ammar, as the Pakistan is currently in the grip of the worst state oppression and fascism. He said that life has been made a hell for the political workers and their families after abolishing the supremacy of the constitution and law in the country. "Affiliation with PTI has been made now one of the most serious offenses under the law in the country, as all legal and constitutional rights including safety of life and property of PTI's loyalists are being revoked without any judicial proceedings," PTI spokesperson remarked. PTI spokesperson went on to say that the families, friends, businesses and even employees of PTI are all facing the brutal fascism. He demanded that the CJP should conduct a high-level probe into the political killing of the minor along with all the related facts, adding that Punjab's illegal and unconstitutional caretaker chief minister, health minister and inspector general of police should be specially investigated in this regard. PTI spokesperson stressed that the high level probe in the merciless murder is inevitable in order to identify the visible and hidden murderers of Ammar in the ranks government so as they could be held into the account. He demanded that the political workers in the country, especially PTI workers and their families should be provided shelter of the constitution and the law in the country. - DNA

China sends FM Wang Yi to Russia for security talks

DNA

BEIJING: China's top diplomat Wang Yi is visiting Russia for security talks, as Moscow seeks continued support for its war on Ukraine. A close ally of Moscow, Beijing is accused of supporting Russia indirectly during the war, which it denies. His visit comes after Vladimir Putin met North Korea's Kim Jong Un amid US fears they could strike an arms deal. Russian media said Mr Wang's trip would also lay the ground for Mr Putin to make a landmark visit to Beijing soon. Earlier this month Mr Putin said he expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping, but did not say when. He has not travelled abroad since the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for him in March over war crimes in Ukraine. Mr Putin last ventured onto foreign soil in December 2022 when he visited Belarus and Kyrgyzstan. China's foreign ministry said Mr Wang is in Russia for four days for "strategic security consultations". Russian news agency Tass, citing the Kremlin, said he would meet his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and the Ukraine war would be a key topic of their talks. They will also discuss "the expansion of Nato forces and infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region" and strengthening their coordination in international groupings such as the UN, it said. Mr Wang's visit comes days after Mr Putin's highly contro-



versial welcome of Mr Kim, which the US alleged was to discuss the selling of North Korean arms to Russia. Moscow is thought to be facing a shortage of weapons and ammunition. Russia and North Korea said they talked about "military cooperation" and aid for Pyongyang's satellite programme. When asked about Mr Kim's trip last week, China's foreign ministry declined to comment saying it was "something between their two countries". But some analysts believe that any mutual North Korea-Russia support is happening with China's knowledge or even implicit consent, given Beijing's close ties

with the other two countries. Those relationships extend beyond socialist ideology and their shared distrust of the US and the West. Beijing has long been Pyongyang's economic lifeline through trade, and in the past year it has started becoming Moscow's as well through ramped-up purchases of Russian oil and gas. "Whatever's happening with Russia and North Korea cannot be happening without China knowing about it... I don't think they would cooperate militarily without Beijing's approval," said Alexander Korolev, an expert on China-Russia relations with the University of New South Wales in Australia. China could even see North Korea as a useful proxy to help Russia in the Ukraine war, he added. "Simply by greenlighting North Korea to have military cooperation with Russia is a way to help Russia with very low reputational costs. It could blame North Korea's rogue regime [whose actions have] nothing to do with them. It would be a smart move, if this is the case," he said. Mr Wang's visit to Russia also comes a day after he met US national security adviser Jake Sullivan in Malta. Besides the US-China relationship, the two men had also discussed regional security and the Ukraine war, according to statements put out by the US and China. While the US may be talking to China to put pressure on North Korea to stop any cooperation, it may be unlikely China would do this, said Mr Korolev.

Advertisement for DNA newspaper featuring the text 'DON'T SPREAD DISINFORMATION. SPREAD VERIFIABLE' and '#READNEWSPAPERS'. It also includes logos for APNS and National Newspaper Readership Day.