



Islamabad POST

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King Charles begins state visit of France

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China, Pakistan are 'ironclad friends'

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Shehroze scales Mount Manaslu for 2nd time

Detailed News On Page-06



SDG summit

PM Kakar stresses adequate financing for poor nations

PM Kakar stressed that at the forthcoming CoP28, Pakistan will seek climate justice, including the fulfillment of the pledge to provide over \$100 billion annually

CENTRELINE REPORT

NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister AnwaarulHaqKakar on Tuesday called for providing adequate resources to the poor nations while achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Taking part in the SDG Summit Leaders Dialogue 6 on topic "Mobilizing finance and investments and the means of implementation for SDG achievement", he said that eight years after the adoption of Agenda 2030, only 12 per cent of the SDG targets were on track, with the poly-crises of Covid, Climate and Conflict having devastated the economies of developing countries. "This has been further exacerbated by a 'morally bankrupt' international financial architecture." The SDG Summit, taking place on 18-19 September, marks the half-way point for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. PM Kakar stressed that at the forthcoming CoP28, Pakistan will seek climate justice, including the fulfillment of the pledge to provide over \$100 billion annually in climate finance, allocation of half of this to climate adaptation and the urgent launch of the Fund for "loss and damage". The prime minister welcomed the inclusion of many proposals advanced by Pakistan and other developing countries in the SDG Summit Political Declaration, including endorsement of the Secretary General's SDG Stimulus, early capitalization of Multilateral Development Banks, re-channelling of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) for development, and reform of the international financial architecture. He proposed the creation of a Working Group of the General Assembly to ensure the immediate implementation of these

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UNGA

Zelenskyy urges global unity against Russia

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called on world leaders to show unity in the face of Russia's continued "aggression" in Ukraine, telling the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that Moscow is "weaponising" food and energy. Speaking from the UN headquarters in New York for the first time since the conflict broke out last year, Zelenskyy on Tuesday portrayed the Russian invasion of Ukraine as an existential threat to the global order akin to nuclear weapons. "We must act united to defeat the aggressor and focus all our capabilities and energy on addressing these challenges," he said in English. "It takes our unity to make sure that [such] aggression will not [happen] again." Zelenskyy criticised Moscow for what he said was an "attempt to weaponise [a]

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National Day of Nepal



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Mohammad Sami Saeed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari, Heads of Missions of the SAARC countries and others cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Nepal. - DNA

Terrorist killed in DI Khan

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: On 20 September 2023, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Kulachi, Dera Ismail Khan District. During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists, resultantly one terrorist was sent to hell while one got injured. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist, who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent civilians. Locals of the area appreciated the operation. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

IMF 'rejects' electricity relief plan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reportedly stopped Pakistan from giving relief to the power consumers using over 200 units, monthly, a private news channel reported on Wednesday. "Circular debt will not come down if relief is given on electricity bills," IMF said on Pakistan's relief plan, as per sources. The relief in terms of delayed payments of the bills will only be given to consumers, who are using under 200 units for six months continuously. The relief will be revoked, if the

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India's 'network of extrajudicial killings' has gone global

India has a "habit of implicating Pakistan in anything that happens under its watch", especially in the illegally occupied territory

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Foreign Office (FO) has slammed India for its alleged involvement in the murder of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar saying that the incident reflects India's global "extrajudicial" network of state-sponsored targeted killings. Addressing the media during the weekly press briefing in Islamabad on Wednesday, FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the news of Indian involvement in an extrajudicial killing in Canada reflects that New Delhi's "network of extra-territorial killings had now gone global". Responding to a question pertaining to



Not surprised by Canadian allegations

DNA

NEW YORK: Foreign Secretary SyrusQazi has said that Pakistan was not "surprised" by Canada's revelations that the Indian government was involved in the killing of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June this year. Qazi, who is accompanying caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on a

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Briefs

Conspirators can't face public

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-N chief organiser and senior vice president Maryam Nawaz said on Wednesday whoever conspired against Nawaz Sharif was scared of facing the public today. Speaking at a ceremony, Maryam said that in 100 days, the voice of the party leader had reached every nook and corner. What could be happier than that, she remarked. "We are happy that the children have gathered here," she said. Maryam said that during the Musharraf era, her father was kept in jail and her mother stepped out. "This path was not easy for me either. I have spent five months in death cell and attended about 200 summons. I was arrested in front of my father in Lahore," she added.

'Elections likely between Jan 15 to 25'

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Kanwar Dilshad, former secretary to ECP, has said that the election will likely to be held between January 15 to 25, on Wednesday. Dilshad, a special assistant to the caretaker chief minister of Punjab, has been on a visit of Rawalpindi along with caretaker health minister Jamal Nasir. Talking to media here, he said that the election commission has released lists of over 120 mln voters. "The process of delimitation will be completed before Nov 30 and a gazette notification with regard to delimitations and electoral rolls will be issued by the date".

ECP, political parties to discuss code of conduct

The October 4 meeting follows separate meetings between the ECP and political parties on the electoral roadmap amid disagreements over time frame for elections

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said on Wednesday it has scheduled a meeting with political parties next month to discuss the code of conduct for general elections, which it expects to hold in January - months beyond the constitutionally mandated cutoff date of November 7. The ECP announced the meeting in a statement that said the session was being held in accordance with Section 233 of the Elections Act 2017. It is scheduled for October 4 at 2pm at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad. "In this regard, a copy of the draft Code of Conduct has also been sent to the leaders of political parties so that they can provide

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Imran charged with 'criminal conspiracy'

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: In the latest development to the probe into the May 9 riots, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and all others nominated as suspects have been charged with "criminal conspiracy" under additional charges included to the related cases, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Investigation Anoush Masood said on Wednesday. While addressing a press conference in Lahore, she said

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CJP holds consultations with the bar councils

PBC representative in JCPurged the new CJP to notify a committee for evolving criteria regarding the appointment of superior courts judges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) QaziFaez Isa and Senior Puisne Judge Sardar Tariq Masood held discussions with members of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) and the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Wednesday, primarily to seek their input with regard to disposal of cases. In this regard, the SC registrar had written a letter to members of the PBC and the SCBA, inviting them to meet CJP Isa and Justice Masood today. "You will be informed of the expectations the Supreme Court has of you." The meeting will also provide you with an opportunity to make suggestions to improve the disposal rate of accumulated cases, determine the kinds of cases to be prioritized, make the Supreme Court efficient and administration of justice transparent," the letter seen by The Express Tribune says. This is the first time a CJP invited representatives of the superior bars for a discussion. Independent Lawyers

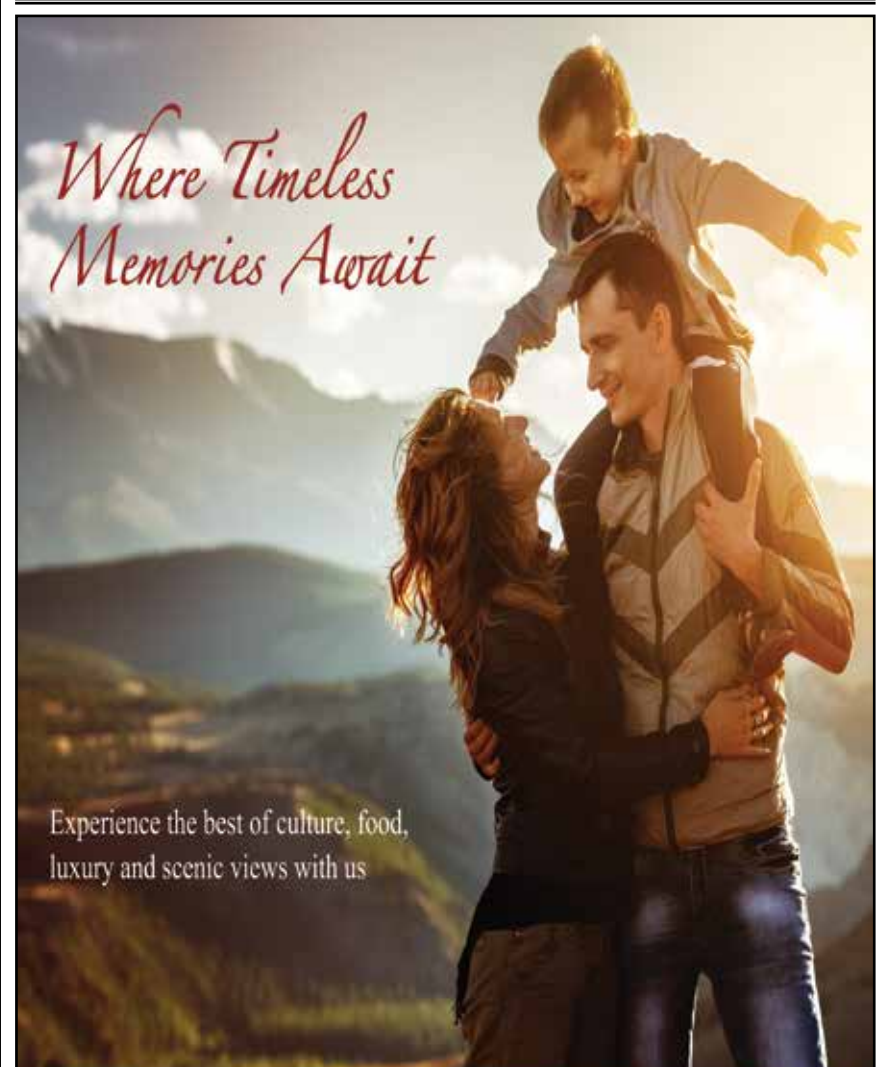
Continued on Page 06

80 to face reopened NAB cases

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In light of the Supreme Court's judgment last Friday annulling the amendments to NAB laws, the accountability watchdog has chosen to reopen the cases against at least 80 persons, including former president Asif Ali Zardari and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif. In this respect, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) authorities reportedly approached the Islamabad accountability court through a letter on Wednesday, seeking to reopen the cases against 80 individuals.

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ISSI joins hands with IDD Azerbaijan for research coop

Ambassador Bilal Hayee, Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan suggested that both Institutes should prepare a future roadmap to strengthen their relationship including mutual exchange of resident fellows

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) represented by its Director General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and the Institute for Development and Diplomacy (IDD) of ADA University, Azerbaijan, represented by Director, Dr. Fariz Ismailzade, signed an MoU in a virtual ceremony today. While speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Bilal Hayee, Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan suggested that both Institutes should prepare a future roadmap to strengthen their relationship including mutual exchange of resident fellows. He recommended that both sides could start research collaborations on topics of mutual interest, like regional connectivity, Islamophobia, climate change, regional security issues and disputes. While admiring the dedication and efforts on both sides, Ambassador Khazar Farhadov, Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan said that both Institutes could play pivotal role in initiating intellectual discourse and public debate to strengthen bilateral relations and regional prosperity. They could join hands to promote their shared history, culture and values. He emphasised organizing joint activities to anti-terrorism and misinformation. In his remarks on the

occasion, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI hailed the signing of the MoU. He stressed that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are extremely fraternal and present an example for interstate relationships. Both sides support each other in their national causes, like Kashmir and Karabakh. He appreciated Azerbaijan's support at the OIC contact group on Jammu and Kashmir. He added that bilateral relationship has grown appreciably, while there is a huge potential for future collaboration on subjects of vital interest including trade, energy, cultural and people-to-people contacts, anti-terrorism, and combating misinformation.

He reiterated ISSI's commitment to provide its platform for the promotion of the just cause and sacrifice of the Azerbaijani nation in safeguarding their sovereignty and territorial integrity. DG ISSI also thanked the two Ambassadors for their valuable support in the culmination of this initiative. Dr. Fariz Ismailzade, Vice Rector of ADA University, in his remarks, expressed his deep gratitude for ISSI. Pakistan and Azerbaijan are brotherly countries supporting each other politically, economically and diplomatically. Both countries are also trying to deepen and expand their relationship in humanitarian and educational fields, he said.



Commissioner assigned additional charge of DG PDA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has assigned the additional charge of Director General Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) to the Commissioner Peshawar Division, Muhammad Zubair. A notification issued from the Establishment Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday said the Additional Director General (Horticulture) Peshawar Development Authority, Riaz Ali Khan has been relieved from the Additional charge of Director General Peshawar Development Authority. Commissioner Peshawar Division, Muhammad Zubair will look after the responsibilities of Director General Peshawar Development Authority, the notification said.

CCPO Lahore expresses dismay over pending cases

LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana expressed disappointment over the pending cases and pending road certificates, and directed the officers concerned to resolve the cases on priority basis. He expressed this while presiding over a meeting held on the performance of divisional SPs at the conference room of CCPO's office here on Wednesday. In the meeting, a detailed review of the performance regarding the pending road certificates, the cases under investigation and the silent accused was reviewed. On the occasion, Bilal Siddique Kamyana said that negligence and lack of interest in duties would not be acceptable. - APP

Pesco to reduce load shedding in various areas

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Task Force on Power Theft in its second meeting announced reduction of load shedding in areas where recovery from consumers has been successful. The meeting was presided over by Muhammad Abid Majeed, Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs Department here on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Chief Executive Officer of PESCO, Deputy Commissioners and District Police Officers. The meeting was told that in 15 days the operation has yielded remarkable results. Over 7,454 electricity connections involved in power

theft have been disconnected and fines and arrears amounting to more than 150 million rupees have been successfully recovered. PESCO, district administration and the police have conducted more than 3,000 raids in various districts of the province, focusing on illegal power users. Connections of over 5,000 commercial and residential consumers involved in power theft have been disconnected. Cases have been registered against 3,000 individuals, leading to the arrest of hundreds of individuals involved in this unlawful activity. PESCO officials said in the meeting that the procedure for arrear payments in

instalments has been approved to facilitate the consumers. The meeting was informed that after September PESCO would distribute one lakh meters and streamline the electricity installation process for the consumers. Expressing his satisfaction with the performance of PESCO, the district administration and the police, Muhammad Abid Majeed emphasized the need to maintain momentum in achieving recovery targets and controlling illegal power usage. He urged the continuation of the public awareness campaign as a crucial component of the operation's success. - APP

Punjab expands 24/7 healthcare services

Caretaker government has supplied 300 ultrasound machines to enhance healthcare services at these primary health facilities

LAHORE: Punjab's Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir announced that more than 300 basic health units (BHUs) in remote and underdeveloped areas of the province are now offering round-the-clock medical services, following the directive of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi. Dr. Nasir, while presiding over a departmental review meeting on Wednesday, revealed that additional medical staff, including doctors and paramedics, have been deployed to ensure these BHUs remain operational 24/7. Additionally, the caretaker government has supplied 300 ultrasound machines to enhance healthcare services at these primary health facilities. Dr. Jamal Nasir outlined that these 24/7 BHUs are equipped to provide Basic Emergency, Obstetrics & Newborn Care (EMONC), Antenatal & Postnatal Care, family planning services, immunizations (BCG, OPV, Hep B, DPT, Measles, TT), laboratory services, ultrasound services, 24-hour ambulance services, and Mother & Child Healthcare counseling, going beyond the standard BHU functions. This initiative aims to extend access to quality healthcare services in underserved areas, ultimately relieving the burden on city hospitals. Furthermore, the government plans to introduce post-graduate programs for doctors at district headquarters hospitals in less developed districts, such as Attock, Bhakkar, Mandi Bahauddin, and Jhang, in collaboration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan through a signed MoU. This move is expected to make specialist medical services more accessible to the residents of these districts. - APP



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan. - DNA

FIA teams crackdown against hawala

PESHAWAR: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has constituted teams for each region to crack down on the illegal business of hundi and hawala. It has been decided that crackdown will be launched against the illegal trade of hundi and hawala. According to an FIA official, each team comprising five members will supervise and conduct operations in their respective regions against hundi and currency smuggling. The teams will submit reports to the higher authorities on a daily basis without any break even on weekly holidays. The higher authorities have cancelled all weekly holidays of the team members and asked them to take indiscriminate action against the illegal currency traders.

Over 1300 electricity thieves caught in 15 days

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has claimed to catch 1333 electricity thieves during 15 days of anti-power-theft drive in FESCO region. FESCO spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Wednesday that anti-theft drive was in full swings across the FESCO region and the special teams detected pilferage of electricity at 1333 points during last fortnight. Hence, the cases were got registered against 1174 thieves. The company also removed electricity supply meters of all power pilferers in addition to imposing a total fine of Rs.163.6 million under detection units of 3.733 million. As many as 135 power pilferers were sent behind bars in addition to recovering Rs.38.3 million so far from them, he added. Giving more details, the spokesman said that during house-to-house checking, the FESCO teams detected electricity theft at 487 points in Faisalabad district and imposed a fine of Rs.90.6 million on them under the head of 1.297 million detection units. In Jhang district, the FESCO teams caught 122 electricity thieves and imposed a fine of Rs.19.3 million under 359,000 detection units. - APP

Thai airways resumes flight services from Pakistan: Envoy

MEHTAB PIRZADA

LAHORE: In a significant development, the Ambassador of Thailand, Chakkrid Kraichaiwong, announced the revival of Thai Airways services from Pakistan, marking a promising step forward in strengthening bilateral ties. The Ambassador revealed plans to reintroduce five weekly flights from Karachi and Lahore, along with four flights from Islamabad. This announcement was made during the Ambassador's address here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) on Wednesday. The LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mehmood Ch, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, and Minister Counselor Bangladesh in Pakistan, Khemathat Archawathamong, Deputy Head of Mission Royal Thai Embassy Islamabad, Kamol Wan Sripossil, and former LCCI office-bearers and Executive Committee members were also present.

Ambassador Chakkrid Kraichaiwong commended Lahore as a vibrant and culturally rich city and expressed optimism that his visit would yield positive outcomes. He elaborated on the purpose of his visit to LCCI, emphasizing the objective of expanding activities between Thailand and

Pakistan. Highlighting the strategic significance of Pakistan, the Ambassador noted that Pakistan serves as a gateway to Central Asia and the Middle East for Thailand. He identified key areas of interest, including seafood, mangoes, the Halal industry and Halal cosmetics, underscoring the potential for two-way trade. He emphasized that trade between the two countries had experienced a decline after 2021.

Addressing concerns about repatriation of profits for investors in Pakistan and LCs opening, the Ambassador was reassured by President LCCI Kashif Anwar, who highlighted the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating investors through streamlined one-window services. Furthermore, the Ambassador proposed that Thailand could contribute to Pakistan's tourism sector, drawing on Thailand's extensive experience in tourism, hospitality, and restaurant management. He stressed the importance of preserving heritage while promoting sustainable tourism. He praised Pakistan for maintaining historical and cultural heritage in a winsome manner. Ambassador Chakkrid Kraichaiwong extended formal invitations to LCCI to participate in various exhibitions in Thailand, covering pharmaceuticals, food, auto parts, and other sectors. He also underscored the inclusion of women entrepreneurs in the working sector as a priority.

Sindh CM meets Ulema

KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar presiding over a joint meeting of Ulema and divisional administration of Karachi finalized the arrangements for 12th Rabi-ul-Awal. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, Mubeen Jumani, Omar Soomro, Mayor Karachi Muraza Wahab, Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, PSCM Hassan Naqvi, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, Commissioner Karachi Saleem Rajput, Adl IG Karachi Khadim Rind, Secretary Local Govt Manzoor Shaikh, MD SSWM Intiaz Shah, CEO KWSB Salahuddin and others. A 36-member delegation of Ulema of

different schools of thought, including Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman Zubair Ashraf Usmani Allama Razi Jaffer Naqvi. The CM thanked the ulema for promoting inter-sect harmony, peace, and tranquility in the province. He added that it was a collective effort of the ulema and the government that the people of different sects, faiths, and schools of thought were living here peacefully. The CM said that 12 Rabi-ul-Awal would be celebrated with full religious enthusiasm. He directed Mayor Karachi, Commissioner and Adl IG Karachi to make necessary arrangements, including foolproof security. He directed the Commissioner and Adl IG Karachi to make arrangements for Eid Milad un Nabi in consultation with the ulema. - APP

SBP grants IPA for 5 digital retail banks

NAZIR SAYAL

KARACHI: In a bid to foster innovation, financial inclusion and availability of affordable digital financial services, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has granted In-Principle granted (IPA) for establishing five digital retail banks, namely HugoBank Limited, KT Bank Pakistan Limited, Mashreq Bank Pakistan Limited, Raqami Islamic Digital Bank Limited and Telenor Microfinance Bank Limited. It may be recalled that SBP issued NoCs to five successful applicants for establishing digital banks in Pakistan in January 2023. After the fulfillment of the necessary requirements, these entities have now been granted in-principle approval to prepare themselves operationally to launch the digital financial services. Today, in a momentous ceremony at SBP Museum Building in Karachi, Governor SBP, Mr. Jameel Ahmad awarded IPAs to the five proposed digital banks. This event was attended by sponsors of pro-

posed DRBs, CEOs of incumbent banks, Payment System Operators (PSOs)/ Payment System Providers (PSPs), Electronic Money Institutions (EMIs), Fintechs and SBP's top management. During his keynote address, Governor SBP highlighted the significance of the initiative of introducing DRBs in the country, its profound benefits to the financial system and some of the key challenges faced by such genre of financial players. Mr. Jameel also mentioned a few other important regulatory initiatives in support of building a digital financial ecosystem and assured that SBP is fully committed to support various stakeholders for a bright, innovative, and digitally empowered future of banking in Pakistan. Mr. Jameel assured the financial fraternity of SBPs commitment to make financial system more inclusive, more innovative, and more responsive to the needs of the citizens of Pakistan. He also shared his expectations that post-operational commencement, digital banks will help developing a



digital eco-system, foster a new set of customer experience, provide affordable digital financial services including credit access to unserved and underserved segments of the society. Earlier, while welcoming the participants, Dr. Inayat Hussain, Deputy Governor, State Bank of Pakistan highlighted that these IPAs shall enable the proposed DRBs to proceed further with respect to achieving operational readiness in all their functions, including governance, risk management, capital requirements, compliance and audit, consumer protection, business continuity, cyber security, product development, deployment of technological infrastructure, formulation of relevant policies, processes & procedures. The sponsors of proposed DRBs also shared their thoughts during the program. While welcoming SBP's landmark initiative, proposed DRBs' sponsors highlighted that SBP's framework for digital banks served as a comprehensive guidepost throughout the required journey of setting up digital banks in Pakistan.



They were of the view that besides having its own challenges, Pakistan is full of investment opportunities wherein digital banks would offer a faster, cheaper and an efficient solution for meeting financial needs of the unserved and underserved segments of the society. They were confident that digital banks will become an essential part of the financial ecosystem, enhancing market efficiency, providing access to a wider range of financial services, and thereby, advancing the broader agenda of financial inclusion. Earlier this year, SBP issued "No Objection Certificate (NOC)" to the proposed DRBs mentioned above allowing them to incorporate as a Public Limited Company with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). These institutions were selected after a thorough and rigorous evaluation process based on a comprehensive set of parameters including fitness and propriety, experience and financial strength; business plan; implementation plan; funding and capital plan; IT and cybersecurity strategy and outsourcing arrangements.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

September

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

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Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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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 Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD : Students wearing traditional dresses are taking interest in books on stall during two days Literature Conference for kids entitled "Hum Jugnoo Tary Dharti Ky" Organized by Pakistan Academy of Literature in Federal Capital.—Online

REAP expects rice export of \$ 3 billion in Year 2023

Chairman REAP said that by increasing the export of rice, the exchange rate will be stable, but overall the country's economy will be strengthened

ISLAMABAD: Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) on Wednesday expected that this year, the export of rice will be above the record \$ 3 billion, which is very encouraging. Last year 2021-22 the rice crop was destroyed due to the floods, because of which the export of rice has decreased, Chairman REAP, Chela Ram Kewani told APP. Last year, he said the production of rice crops improved and there were also new opportunities in the emerging markets of different regions. He said that fa-

ilities are given to rice exporters by the government, but due to the high tariffs in different countries, the export of rice has become a problem, so agreements with these countries are needed. Kewani said that during the finalization of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with different countries, the rice sector should also be included so that the tariff lines will come down for rice exporters. He said that this would have a positive impact on rice export and new opportunities will be

created for the exports in the sector. Chairman REAP said that by increasing the export of rice, the exchange rate will be stable, but overall the country's economy will be strengthened. Meanwhile, talking to the APP, former Chairman Rice Export Association of Pakistan and Rice Exporter Ali Hasan has said that rice exporters in Pakistan are looking for global markets, but there are also some challenges facing them such as high tariffs and other

duties in the rice exporter markets. He said that rice should be included as a product for the export of rice in all free trade agreements so that the original potential of rice export can be achieved. Ali also expressed the hope that this year there will be an increase in rice production and stocks and a record increase in its exports. Replying to a question, he said that after the approval of the Global Indication (GI) law in the country, Pakistan will have significant opportunities to increase

its economic and trade activities in the international market. The rice exporter said that now after this legislation, a level playing field will be available for the export of various Agro-trade goods including rice in the international market. He said that Geographical Indication would serve as a potential economic tool to promote and increase national and international trade by attracting global demand and premium prices for Pakistani products in the international market.—APP

Senate standing body on Safron convenes

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on States and Frontier regions convened at the Parliament House, presided over by Chairman Committee Senator Hilar Ur Rehman, on Tuesday. Senators Bahramand Khan Tangi, Dost Muhammad Khan, Gardeep Singh, Sania Nishtar, Syed Mohammad Sabir Shah, Shamim Afridi, and Haji Hidayat Allah attended the meeting. The committee meeting also saw the participation of Secretary Safron, Special Secretary of Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and other relevant officials. During the meeting, a comprehensive discussion took place, focusing on the committee's recommendations concerning the operationalization of the type D hospital in village Shindad, Jawaki, FR Kohat. Senator Shamim Afridi expressed his strong discontent regarding the lack of implementation of the committee's recommendations. Committee members noted the health department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's failure to address this issue for almost three years. The Special Secretary Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, informed the committee about ongoing efforts to make Shindad hospital functional, including the posting of three medical officers and the conversion of the hospital to solar power, along with the installation of beds. Following deliberations, the committee directed the Special Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to ensure the hospital's full functionality within a week including installation of X-Ray machines, deployment of doctors and maternity home at the hospital. The meeting delved into a thorough discussion regarding the appointment of 492 nursing staff in the health sector under the AIP program in the merged districts. It was noted that out of 2390 applications received for 481 seats, 348 nurses are presently serving. The committee emphasized on merit-based appointments and urged the swift appointment of all the entitled nursing staff. Special Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa informed the committee of 80 remaining vacant seats under the project, prompting the committee to recommend appropriate measures for filling these positions.

PCT&VI, NRSP inked MoU to offer free diplomas to Gwadar Youth

ISLAMABAD: Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT&VI) of the University of Gwadar (UG) and the National Rural Support Program (NRSP) Turbat-Gwadar Region have joined hands, sealing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU offered the youth residing in the rural expanse of District Gwadar and its neighboring areas free-of-cost diplomas and short courses across a diverse array of trades. It was inked at the main Seminar Hall of UG, to empower the budding talents with skills paving the way for holistic development within rural communities, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. The agreement aims to provide youth in rural areas with demand-driven vocational training, equipping them with modern skills for employment and self-sufficiency. Executive Director PCT&VI and the Pro Vice-Chancellor UG Professor Syed Manzoor Ahmed and Regional General Manager of the NRSP Nabeel Ahmed signed the MoU. Registrar University of Gwadar Dolat Khan, NRSP Program Manager Gwadar Peer Jan Baloch and other officers of both organizations were also present on the occasion. As per the MoU, the NRSP will play a pivotal role in bolstering the training initiatives.— DNA

Minister takes notice of malpractices at Federal Directorate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Madad takes strict notice of teachers having charge of administrative positions under FDE institutions" "Madad orders FDE to seek consultation from secretary education and approval from Hon. Minister for any transfer/appointment/posting of all BS-19 and above positions" Federal Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhi in a strongly worded letter to FDE took strict notice of irregularities in the schools under FDE. Madad ordered FDE to provide an explanation for the miserable conditions of the schools that he discovered during his surprise visits. He ordered FDE to fix responsibility of this gross failure so that such conditions do not prevail in the future. Minister also ordered that henceforth, all appointments / transfers / postings of officers against administrative / academic positions (BS-19 and above) shall be made in consultation with Secretary M/o FE&PT and after approval of the Hon. Minister. The letter said that it is imperative that officers with spotless reputation and related / demonstrat-

ed experience are picked and recommended for such positions. Furthermore, Madad ordered FDE to give him a comprehensive briefing about administrative, academic and financial challenges in order to address such serious concerns. In an earlier letter, Minister had ordered FDE to ensure repair and maintenance of classrooms, toilets, playgrounds and lawn areas of all of the schools in addition with provision of cool and clean drinking water at all schools and colleges that fall under FDE. Minister had also ordered FDE to cater to the shortage of staff including teachers,

chowkidars and malis. Hon. Minister Madad Ali Sindhi had further ordered FDE to provide details of faculty members / principal (s) holding additional portfolios of administrative nature with reasons as to why the said arrangement was required at FDE together with details of administrative officers eligible to be posted against administrative positions currently being looked after by the teaching faculty. Minister had taken serious note of teachers holding administrative positions which adversely affects their contribution as teachers which is their primary job.

at his opening remarks that "with Dive into Heritage, we are entering a new digital era for World Heritage exploration and preservation. The endless potential uses of Artificial Intelligence will allow us to transform the way in which people can experience heritage. An innovative project such as Dive into Heritage demonstrates the various uses of AI, bringing heritage sites to life, like never before. The narratives and stories, this technology helps create, will resonate for generations to come, and enable people to live a piece of history." The event included a panel discussion where some key contributors to the project discussed how technology can contribute.—APP

Workshop on water quality monitoring funded by KOICA



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The workshop for the 'Enhancing SDG6 Water Quality Monitoring in Pakistan' project held at a local hotel in Islamabad place on September 20th, 2023. The event witnessed the participation of Deputy Director Jawad Rabbani from the Ministry of Planning Development and

Special Initiatives (MOPD&SI) and Country Director Je Ho Yeon from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The workshop was structured into four key sessions: Introduction to the KOICA Project led by KOMIR, Enhancing Water Quality Systems in Pakistan to Achieve SDG6 Reporting led by PCRWR, Suggestions for Improving Pakistan's Legal and Administra-

tive Systems related to SDG6 led by K-Water and MIS for KP & Enhancing Water Quality Systems to Achieve SDG6 in Pakistan led by PHED KP. Q&A and discussion sessions were followed by each session. This workshop provided a valuable opportunity to share the progress of this project and strengthen cooperation between MoCC and KOICA. This \$7.42 million project, spanning from 2019 to 2024,

aims to enhance the capacity of the Government of Pakistan to achieve SDG 6. KOICA has invited 31 government officials to Korea to observe the management of water quality in Korea. Additionally, KOICA is providing water quality testing equipment to 44 laboratories of the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) in Punjab and KP provinces, as well as 2 laboratories of Pak EPA and PCRWR. Recently,

the Management Information System (MIS) for KP province has been established and tested. Furthermore, this project will offer consultations on water quality management and suggestions for water-related policy and legislation in Pakistan. KOICA, a grant agency of the Korean government, has a successful track record of implementing various projects in the fields of water, energy.

Saudi Arabia, UNESCO launch "Dive into Heritage" initiative

ISLAMABAD: At the extended 45th session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO's) World Heritage Committee in Riyadh this week, Saudi Arabia and UNESCO organized a side event on the "Dive into Heritage" initiative. This groundbreaking project will leverage digital technologies to explore and conserve UNESCO World Heritage sites and their related intangible heritage. Dive into Heritage has been made possible through the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and has seen the team develop an online platform that will create unique ways to digitally experience World Heritage, according to a news report released by the Union of OIC New Agencies (UNA-OIC). The platform harnesses the power of digital technology such as 3D models, Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), interactive maps and geolocated narratives to recreate a truly accurate and immersive digital viewing experience. The 'Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Funds-in-Trust for Culture at UNESCO' was established in 2019, following a commitment of US\$25 million from the Government to fund UNESCO projects in support of the strategy and actions for the preservation of heritage. Phase I (2022-2024) of the Dive into Heritage initiative will see the development of a platform that allows people to digitally discover World Heritage sites in the Arab States region. A full public release of the platform is planned by the end of Phase I in 2024, when other regions will benefit from the Dive into Heritage programme, the report said. Mr Ernesto Ottone, Assistant Director General for Culture at UNESCO highlighted at his opening remarks that "with Dive into Heritage, we are entering a new digital era for World Heritage exploration and preservation. The endless potential uses of Artificial Intelligence will allow us to transform the way in which people can experience heritage. An innovative project such as Dive into Heritage demonstrates the various uses of AI, bringing heritage sites to life, like never before. The narratives and stories, this technology helps create, will resonate for generations to come, and enable people to live a piece of history." The event included a panel discussion where some key contributors to the project discussed how technology can contribute.—APP

Briefs

Excise staff
to facilitate
vehicle
registration

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to bring convenience to the public, the Islamabad Excise and Taxation Department will be present in the parking lot of Rose and Jasmine Garden today from 3 to 5 p.m. to facilitate vehicle registration, transfer, and token tax. The move comes on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, who is keen to make the process of vehicle registration and transfer as smooth and hassle-free as possible for citizens. In addition to the excise staff, the Facilitation Center Doorstep ICT Vehicle will also be present at the venue, offering a range of other services such as domicile certificates, birth certificates, power of attorney, international driving permits, and fuel permits. This initiative is a welcome step by the Islamabad Excise and Taxation Department, and it is expected to benefit a large number of people. The citizens of Islamabad are urged to take advantage of this opportunity and avail the services offered by the excise staff and the Facilitation Center Doorstep ICT vehicle today.—APP

Diabetes
medicines
supply to be
ensured

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan here on Wednesday directed to ensure progress in the supply of diabetes and epilepsy drugs to the masses. According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, following the instructions of the Minister for Health, the process of registration of insulin and heparin medicine has started on an emergency basis. He said that "Dr. Nadeem Jan is ensuring fast-track processing of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan's (DRAP) registration cases on a priority basis". The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DRAP has been instructed to ensure registration on the fast track and report to the minister on a weekly basis. Registration of drugs would help supply drugs in the market, especially for diabetes and epilepsy patients, Dr. Nadeem said. He said that "the most effective measures are being taken to increase the capacity of the pharma industry". He said that "the work is being done under a comprehensive strategy to promote the pharma industry in Pakistan". "We are working in consultation with the pharma industry." The DRAP registration board reviewed more than ten applications on a priority basis. The registration board approved several applications.—APP

ANF seizes
67 kg drugs
in four
operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover over 67 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that two suspects were arrested from a passenger van intercepted near Phagwari Bazaar in Murree. Eight kg hashish was recovered from the possession of the accused. 52.8 kg hashish and 6 kg opium were recovered from a truck intercepted near Wali Interchange Nowshera. The accused resident of Peshawar was trying to smuggle drugs to Punjab. On the pointation of the arrested accused, his accomplice, a car driver resident of Kohat, was also arrested. In third operation, 200 ecstasy tablets were recovered from two suspects riding a motorcycle near Haji Camp Adda Peshawar. The accused confessed to supply drugs to students of educational institutions. In fourth operation at Multan International Airport, 750 grams ice tactfully concealed in a bag was recovered from the possession of a Bahrain-bound passenger, resident of Dera Ghazi Khan, who was going on flight number GF-789. Separate cases have been registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process.—APP

Serena Hotels achieves
important milestone

Becomes First Hospitality Company in Pakistan to Acquire Institute of Chartered Accountants Accreditation as a Training Organization Outside Practice (TOoP)

DNA

ISLAMABAD]Tourism Promotion Services (Pakistan) Limited under the brand name of Serena Hotels, proudly announces a historic achievement in the hospitality industry. Serena Hotels has become the first hospitality company in Pakistan to be officially approved as a Training Organization Outside Practice (TOoP) by the prestigious Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP). This remarkable recognition reflects Serena Hotels' unwavering commitment to excellence, professional development, and its role as a leading institution dedicated to nurturing talent in the field of accounting and finance. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ali Latif President ICAP said that the TOoP Scheme has been launched by ICAP to enable businesses to build sustainable human capital; and has emerged as an international trend opening opportunities for students as well as existing employees for professional development and career advancement. Through this combined initiative, the two organizations will contribute to the hospitality industry's growth by training the next cadre of finance leaders. CEO Serena Hotels Mr. Aziz Boolani SI said 'Serena Hotels is breaking new ground in the hospitality sector by being the first company to receive approval as a TOoP from ICAP. This achievement underscores the organization's dedication to setting industry benchmarks. It is set to offer high-quality training programs that meet the rigorous standards set by ICAP, ensuring that professionals in the field re-



ceive comprehensive and practical training opportunities. As a TOoP, Serena Hotels will play a pivotal role in developing and nurturing accounting and finance talent, contributing to the growth and expertise of

professionals in Pakistan.' This collaboration between Serena Hotels and ICAP signifies a strong partnership that will foster knowledge sharing and expertise in the hospitality and finance

sectors. Serena Hotels' commitment to excellence extends beyond hospitality services and encompasses professional development, reinforcing its status as a thought leader.

China and Pakistan fostering
advantageous collaborations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Nong Rong stressed the importance of China and Pakistan fostering mutually advantageous collaborations that would positively impact the entire Pakistan's population, including those residing in the Balochistan province. During a meeting with a delegation of journalists from Balochistan, Minister Nong maintained that the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan, is marked by unwavering

support during challenging times. According to Gwadar Pro, he pledged China's dedication to advancing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, focusing on high-quality development and expressing a willingness to deepen industrial cooperation with Pakistan. He also emphasized the acceleration of projects aimed at improving the quality of life for the people. Nong Rong highlighted the rapid development of Gwadar Port in recent years, attributing its success to the benefits it has brought to the local populace. According to the

details officially released here, Nong Rong extended a warm invitation to the media, encouraging them to report extensively on these noteworthy developments. He underlined the necessity for both nations to collaboratively establish a secure and predictable business environment to facilitate a positive cycle of development and security. The visiting press corps concurred that friendship with China was a shared consensus across various sectors in Pakistan. They recognized the substantial impact of projects such as

Gwadar Port, roads, hospitals, schools, and more on regional connectivity and job creation. The journalists eagerly anticipated China's continued support for Balochistan province's development, foreseeing it as a source of greater prosperity for the local population. The press corps expressed their readiness to bridge the 'information gap' between Balochistan province's residents and the Chinese people, emphasizing their commitment to bolstering China-Pakistan relations through their reporting."

China boosts
Pakistan with
\$50.4 million FDI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The FDI from China into Pakistan has seen a significant increase, amounting to a total of \$50.4 million in the initial two months of FY 2023-24. Notably, Pakistan received an additional \$32.4 million in FDI from China during August, as per the latest figures issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), according to Gwadar Pro. Compared to the first two months of FY 2022-23, the current financial year has experienced a substantial increase in FDI from China, amounting to approximately 33.69%. In July and August of FY 2022-23, the total FDI from China was recorded at \$ 37.7 million. Similarly, Pakistan has also attracted \$16.1 million in FDI from China's Hong Kong, resulting in a total investment of \$33 million in the first two months of FY 2023-24. Notably, there has been a substantial surge in investment from Hong Kong during July-August 2024, compared to the same period when FDI from Hong Kong was a mere \$0.8 million in the previous financial year. As per data from the SBP, Pakistan garnered a total of \$ 150.4 million in FDI from various partner countries across the globe in August. Out of this, \$32.4 million originated from China, and an additional \$16.1 million was contributed by Hong Kong. In July-August FY 2023-24, as per the provisional list provided by the SBP, Pakistan received \$260.4 million, marking a substantial increase of 76% compared to the \$176.4 million received during the corresponding period in the previous financial year.

Al-Shifa Trust cautions
against glaucoma
rising in children

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Glaucoma is a dangerous eye ailment that is affecting more and more children across the world and in Pakistan. This disease can cause vision problems and even blindness if not cured in a timely manner, Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital said Wednesday. The situation has become alarming, which is unnerving the eye care professionals, as the many affected children and adults are not getting timely treatment, it said. If patients get the right help, like proper medicine or having an operation, they may not have problems with their eyesight for the rest of their lives, said Dr. Farah Akhtar, Head of Glaucoma Department, Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital. Talking to media men, she said that our doctors are experts in treating glaucoma and other eye diseases, and we provide free treatment for 80 percent of the patients. It's crucial for parents to routinely take their kids to doctors so that any issues

may be identified early and treated effectively, as glaucoma is stealing the eyesight of many, she added. The prevalence of glaucoma in children and adults is on the rise everywhere in the world, including in Pakistan, but the issue is not getting the attention it deserves, she said, adding that this disease is a silent killer, that it is usually detected when it's late, and that the surgery is not painful at all. Dr. Farah Akhtar said that treatment of glaucoma in children needs specialized medical and surgical care and frequent follow-ups; hence, parents of children suffering from childhood glaucoma have to face psychological stress. Parents of children with childhood glaucoma must deal with emotional and financial hardship since treating glaucoma in children requires specialized medical and surgical care as well as frequent follow-ups, she informed. She added that Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital provides 80 percent free medical and surgical

treatment to patients by experienced and highly skilled specialists. Several types of pediatric glaucoma procedures are conducted every day, with an average of 25 operations per day, she said, adding that due to the effective care provided to these patients, we have been receiving referrals from all across the country and neighboring nations. A significant portion of glaucoma cases involve secondary causes such as trauma, prior eye surgery, related ocular malformations, or inappropriate steroid usage. Moreover, careless prescription and usage of over-the-counter eye drops with steroids have impaired the vision of many youngsters, which should be noticed, she demanded. It is pertinent to mention that Al-Shifa Eye Hospitals in Rawalpindi, Sukkar, Kohat, and Muzaffarabad have performed 22,000 glaucoma surgeries until now, while the total number of glaucoma patients treated to date is more than one hundred thousand.

Show-cause
notices issued
to police
officials
over poor
performance

ISLAMABAD: Chief Traffic Officer has issued show-cause notices to police officials over poor performance and inadequate arrangements at parking places, negligence, and carelessness in official duties. According to police spokesperson, Chief Traffic Officer Syed Mustafa Tanveer has directed to take legal action against illegal parking, double parking, and encroachment on pedestrian walkways outside commercial centers and shopping plazas including the Margala Road, Super Market F-6, Jinnah Super Market F-7, F-8 Markaz, F-10, G-8 Markaz and other commercial areas. Furthermore, he has instructed to further improve the smooth flow of traffic, control accidents and provide the maximum possible travel facilities to citizens and take strict legal action against drivers who violate traffic laws. He emphasized that law enforcement should be swift against violators of traffic laws, including those riding motorcycles without helmets, driving recklessly, not wearing seat belts.—DNA

CJP is improving
the judicial system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Qazi Faiz Isa, has taken commendable steps as soon as he took charge. A full court session has been held after a while, and the proceedings have been watched by millions

of people on TV, giving hope to the public and the business community, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that improving the judicial system through reforms and restoring the public's trust in this institution will be his big test, in which the Chief Justice will succeed, insha'Allah. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa is striving for transparency and accountability in the justice system, and he wants


to end the cases pending for years so that the people can get relief. The business leader said that the Chief Justice should deal with revenue cases and litigation on business disputes on a priority basis, as capital and revenue worth trillions of rupees are stuck in these cases and the business community is also in a dilemma. The judgment of these cases will either provide relief to the businessmen and industrialists who filed the cases or generate revenue for the govern-

ment, both of which are not happening at present, he observed. Mian Zahid Hussain said that if those who file false cases are given severe punishment, then the trend of useless litigation can be ended, while some people harass those who invest in property and other sectors by taking stay orders for no reason, which needs to be stopped. Various institutions and laws are discouraging investment instead of promoting it, due to which the country has reached this situation.


NHMP
increases
fine amount
over different
offences

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) has advised the motorists to strictly follow the traffic rules while driving on motorways and highways as the fine amount over different violations have been increased and being implemented with immediate effect. A letter issued by the office of Inspector General of Police NHMP said here Wednesday that as per the decision of a meeting chaired by the Federal Minister the implementation of the revised fine amount was approved under 12th schedule of NHSO-2000. It said that all the field formations of NHMP have been directed to launch briefing, campaigns and distribution of pamphlets and brochures regarding implementation of revised fine amount on priority basis for awareness and sensitization of drivers, commuters, passengers and general public. According to the revised fine amount list, the minimum fine starts from Rs 500 and maximum amount is Rs 5000 depending upon the nature of offence. Similarly six new fines were added in the list over different violations. The new violations to be fined included use of unlawful police light, mimic Law enforcing agencies in the vehicle to be charged with Rs 5000, use of fancy number plates with Rs 1000, use of HID lights Rs 2000, use of evading of law by improvised tinting of glasses Rs 1000, driving without fastening seat belts either by driver or commuter Rs 1500, use of phone, tab while driving Rs 500 and driving vehicle without side mirrors Rs 500. The other penalties include exceeding speed limits Rs 2500, overtaking where prohibited Rs 1500, failure to yield the right of way to other vehicle Rs 1000, interfering with an emergency vehicle Rs 5000, driving at night without proper light Rs 5000, driving on wrong side of the road Rs 2500, disobeying stop sign Rs 3000, following too closely or cutting in too sharply Rs 1000, driving with rear screen covered partially or fully Rs 750, jumping traffic queue Rs 1000, using turn indicator for any purpose other than those prescribed Rs 750, failure to observe lightening hours Rs 1000, obstructing traffic Rs 2000, failure to observe slow sign Rs 2000, prohibited land changing Rs 1000, careless driving Rs 1500, driving without license Rs 5000, driving unregistered vehicle Rs 2000, opening door dangerously Rs 1000, improper turn Rs 2500, improper



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Biden's Test: Improving ties assessment

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi concluded their "candid, substantive, and constructive discussions" in Malta on Sunday. The Joe Biden administration said they are "part of the ongoing efforts to maintain open lines of communication and responsibly manage the relationship". But such efforts it seems are like a red rag to a bull for the China hawks in Washington. Mike Gallagher, chair of the House of Representatives select committee on China, wrote to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas on Tuesday, goading the Biden administration to intensify the sanctions on China. He said that certain Chinese officials had not been sanctioned given their role in facilitating "genocide" and "human rights violations" in the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region. He also claimed that dozens of Xinjiang-linked companies had not been added to the US Entity List under the so-called Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act that would bar their imports. The US Congress has passed a series of laws in recent years aimed at pressuring China over what the State Department says is the ongoing "genocide" of Uyghurs and other largely Muslim minority groups in Xinjiang. And the US has sanctioned a handful of Chinese officials and entities linked to Xinjiang under various channels, including the Global Magnitsky Act and by executive order. Now the committee head has singled out the so-called Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act passed in 2020 – which requires the US president to identify and sanction Chinese officials responsible for abuses – criticizing the Biden administration for not issuing any sanctions under the act. At the same time, the Uyghur separatists and activists backed by the US also claimed that the Biden administration's Xinjiang-related actions were "inadequate" in relation to the scale of "atrocities committed". It is clear those anti-China lawmakers and their proxies are alarmed by the upturn in Sino-US relations after the Biden administration realized that peaceful co-existence is in the interests of both sides. The Biden administration is well aware that this round of Xinjiang hoopla is nothing but an integral part of the China hawks' propaganda war. Xinjiang has a robust economy and enjoys social stability, unity and prosperity. The US' exploitation of the fabricated claims of the Xinjiang separatists was initiated by the previous administration, which gathered a cast, including think tanks and media outlets, and other willing echoes on Washington's payroll to hype up the lies of the Uyghur separatists. Reportedly, it is the "Chinese spying balloon" incident that distracted the Biden administration's attention from the Xinjiang act. However, as Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the media late last week, before his retirement at the end of the month, the balloon wasn't spying at all. It was the China hawks that hyped it up to disturb the otherwise easing momentum of Sino-US ties. After dealing with China with an iron hand in a velvet glove for so long, the Biden administration should know that it cannot coerce or bully Beijing, and that any attempts to do so will invariably hurt the US. It should cherish the positive momentum that has been generated, continue to keep the communications channels open, and avoid sending wrong signals at such critical juncture.

EU anti-subsidy probe hurts open market

The anti-subsidy investigation into Chinese electric vehicles that the European Union announced last week is supposedly to protect Europe's own industry through fair competition. It is speculated that the probe, likely to last nine months, could ultimately lead to tariffs of about 10-15 percent being levied on imported Chinese EVs if it determines that China has kept prices of its cars artificially low by providing huge subsidies to the detriment of European producers. Yet the protectionist move has met with lukewarm response from its target beneficiaries in Europe. Rather, it has sparked worries about the negative impacts it will have on healthy competition within the automotive industry and global supply chains. "An open market is what drives growth and what drives wealth creation," Mercedes-Benz CEO Ola Kallenius said in an interview with Bloomberg on Tuesday. "Let's keep markets open and let market participants fight it out." The remarks are revealing, given that the trade defense measures some EU politicians are seeking to adopt against China will only serve to create market barriers and disrupt global automotive supply chains, while seriously harming China-EU trade and economic relations. As Ola noted, supply chains "can be fragile". "It would be a complete illusion to think we can divide the automotive world into individual regions," he said. China has always advocated an open market and fair competition, and welcomed EU automotive companies to expand investment in the country, which has become the largest overseas market for many European auto companies. For instance, alongside Volkswagen and BMW, China is Mercedes-Benz's single most important market, accounting for about one-third of its sales. The opening up of markets under the World Trade Organization framework has produced win-win results for all market participants. It is not the first time that China and the EU have become embroiled in a trade dispute. Ten years ago the EU imposed hefty punitive tariffs on what it believed were underpriced solar panels and their components, only to see the tensions dissolved soon after the two sides reached an agreement on prices and the volume of Chinese exports of solar panels to the EU. It is hoped that this time, taking into account the bigger picture of maintaining the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership and the stability of global industry and supply chains, the two sides will again work to settle their dispute through dialogue and consultation. It would serve both sides' interests if they could build a fair, nondiscriminatory and predictable market environment for the development of the EV industry, and jointly address climate change.



Fachhochschule

Dr M Ali Hamza



The word pronounces like "Fah-Ho-Shuelai", often referred to as University of Applied Sciences. Fachhochschulen (the plural of Fachhochschule) were formally established in Germany in between 1950s and 1970s, played a vital role in German Higher Education System (HES) and were instrumental in shaping the country's economic success and fostering innovation. After World War II, Germany needed a highly skilled workforce to aid in its post-war reconstruction

Do you know that more than 75% of words in English Language are borrowed from other languages, for instance the word Banana is from West African Language Wolof, Lemon from Arabic, Ketchup from Chinese, Cigar from Spanish, Cartoon from Italian etc. Likewise Fachhochschule is one of the borrowed words having a German origin. The word pronounces like "Fah-Ho-Shuelai", often referred to as University of Applied Sciences. Fachhochschulen (the plural of Fachhochschule) were formally established in Germany in between 1950s and 1970s, played a vital role in German Higher Education System (HES) and were instrumental in shaping the country's economic success and fostering innovation. After World War II, Germany needed a highly skilled workforce to aid in its post-war reconstruction and economic growth. Traditional universities were seen as focusing too much on theory and basic research, leaving a gap in practical and job-oriented education. On the contrary Fachhochschulen promised to provide a more hands-on practical education in partnership with industry, preparing students for technical and engineering careers. The growth was not limited to technical fields; Fachhochschulen began offering a broader range of programs in areas like business, social sciences, and healthcare. These institutions forged close relationships with companies, allowing students to gain valuable real-world experience through internships and cooperative programs. Later European countries like Austria, Finland, Switzerland, Sweden and many more updated their HES in alignment with the concept of Fachhochschule that served as catalysts for growth and innovation. Fachhochschulen are often deeply rooted in their local communities. They contribute to regional development by providing skilled graduates who can address local economic and social challenges. This regional impact is particularly important

in case of developing countries like Pakistan. Pakistan is a country that, besides having ample production capabilities and natural resources, is highly import dependent. Why? There could be reasons lying in political will or others. In fact, the real problem is lack of human capital. Studies have established the fact that human capital based on practical/ applied education is a critical factor in driving economic growth and development in any country. Production enhancement, technological advancement, global competitiveness, reduction of unemployment, workforce alignment, industry academia collaboration, entrepreneurial spirit, and social & income equality are the result of higher human capital which is the product of practical and applied education. A poetic expression by Dr Allama Iqbal; national poet of Pakistan, rightly elaborated the importance of human capital saying; Jahan-e-Taza Ki Afkar-e-Taza Se Hai Namood Ke Sang-o-Khisht Se Hote Nahin Jahan Paida translated as "New worlds derive their pomp from thoughts quite fresh and new" Though Higher Education Institutes (HEI's) in Pakistan claim to offer applied education, but reality is very bleak. Public universities in particular and private universities in general are totally distant from industry issues. Policies of HEI's do not allow teachers to be entrepreneurial. Majority of the teachers at HEI's are having zero or negligible industry experience. Courses taught in undergrad (UG) programs are mostly wordy. Teaching methodology is pedagogical instead of andragogical (the art or science of teaching adults); we do not consider university students adult and keep on spoon feeding. Follow up of internship programs is poor, thus bringing-in no benefit. Research produced in these HEI's are shelved and offers no solution to local problem. Mug-up culture is still in appreciation. It shows that policy makers at syndicate level are drowned into trivial matters or over occupied with mortar & brick and lack the ability to sense the future. Indeed, few institutes must be doing something good,

but that something does not solve the problem. We need to change the lens from where HEI's look at education in the larger context of life and survival in future. One of a newly established government institute in KPK; Mang Haripur, carries this lens. A notable partnership between Pakistan, Austria and China in the realm of higher education, resulting in the establishment of the Pak-Austria Fachhochschule (PAF). The story of PAF began with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the governments of Pakistan and Austria in 2017. Austria; renowned for its excellence in technical and vocational education, was the ideal partner to assist Pakistan in strengthening its educational landscape. Within 3 years' time, infrastructure was built and PAF inauguration took place in September 2020. It is the first university in Asia, and possibly in the world in which eight leading engineering universities; three from Austria and five from China have come together as partners. PAF offers opportunities to Pakistani students to benefit from lectures and courses of these foreign universities, and some will even get degrees from those universities. At the moment this Fachhochschule is offering 38 UG programs, of the fields in high global demand i.e., artificial intelligence, cyber security, data sciences, robotics etc. It is expected that combining Austrian & Chinese expertise with Pakistan's educational needs, PAF would revolutionize technical and vocational education in Pakistan, preparing students to excel in a rapidly evolving world. PAF's first UG batch is going to land in the market by mid of 2024, and this will be a litmus test of the quality of education promised and provided. There are three hallmarks of any Fachhochschule; i) Practical and Applied Learning, ii) Strong Industry Connections, and iii) Focus on Employability & Entrepreneurship. This means that entire scheme of study, teaching methodology, research priorities, teachers' training program, policy design has to be seen from the new lens.

Global misperceptions

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

When we meet our friends around the globe, who haven't yet visited Pakistan, they usually ask us strange questions as there are hooligans roaming our streets, vandalism is a common observation and people firing on each other is quite frequent. It is not only limited to international observers, even when I watch our own news channels it scares me as there are criminals waiting at the end of my street to snatch everything I have. But fortunately, in a span of three decades of my professional life it never happened that a gunshot I noticed around me except during New Year celebrations

Probably the most important challenge for Pakistan is the global misperception about the country and the same is the biggest challenge for the progress of CPEC. When we meet our friends around the globe, who haven't yet visited Pakistan, they usually ask us strange questions as there are hooligans roaming our streets, vandalism is a common observation and people firing on each other is quite frequent. It is not only limited to international observers, even when I watch our own news channels it scares me as there are criminals waiting at the end of my street to snatch everything I have. But fortunately, in a span of three decades of my professional life it never happened that a gunshot I noticed around me except during New Year celebrations. Despite extensive social, legal and official engagements, being elder in the family, I never found a need to bribe anyone even for complex issues. I worked in different cities of Pakistan with other ethnicities but never noticed any discrimination; rather I made very good friends from Karachi to Peshawar. Pakistan is a country of 241 million human beings; history of mankind proves that this planet never witnessed a society free of evil, crime and negativity. Our scriptures authenticate that criminal mindset existed even in the times of Adam () and Eve (). Crimes are not strange to any of us around the globe but howling about miss happenings on mainstream media will certainly damage reputation of the nation as it is doing for Pakistan. Statistically Pakistan is in the bottom nations with incidents of robbery, theft and murders. Reports of World Population Review and The Global Economy are easily available on the internet, which clearly suggest that countries like Denmark, Sweden, Uruguay and Australia are top four countries while UK is at number 6 in the world with highest theft rates. Costa Rica, Argentina, Chili, Uruguay and Ecuador are top five countries with recorded robbery incidents while Pakistan is not among even top 50 countries. But if we look at the global media it will give you an image as these nations at the top of life-threatening crimes are less dangerous than Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan is being portrayed by both national and international media as an unattractive

destination. It is this perception which actually haunts Pakistan's progress on every front, resultantly, economy bears the downside of misperceptions. Separatist movements are operating in several countries including India but it is Pakistan which remains on the radar depicting as a destination for extremists. Pakistan sacrificed so much to eliminate terrorism from this planet but doesn't get appropriate international recognition. Pakistan put everything at stake and remained committed to fight against terrorism, didn't even spare Pakistani citizens involved in any kind of extremism. Informal corridors of remittances exist from Americas to African countries and some Asian nations but it was Pakistan which faced stringent FATF monitoring measures which resulted into the 'blessing in disguise' and refined several financial sector services of the country. Political instability remains a challenge despite completion of last four democratically elected governments during two decades; but still there is a lot to do to ensure political stability for smooth progress of every sector. Political instability somehow contributes to the fragility of security apparatus and all these factors eventually shrink the overall productive capacity of the country. It is essential to eliminate pseudo misperceptions about Pakistan if we actually desire to realize the dream of economic progress. It was anticipated that CPEC with excellent connectivity potential will bring prosperity not only for Pakistani businesses but will also support regional entrepreneurs to conveniently access potential markets beyond regional borders, however, there is not much advancement in this aspect since the inception of the project. China being a surplus economy direly needs shipping and logistic hubs around the globe, which was one of the important reasons for the inception of CPEC. Gwadar being aptly located port provided Pakistan with an advantage over other regional ports to become a shipping and logistic hub facilitating China's reach to rest of the world. Logistic sectors in both countries are thriving. China has already unveiled state-owned logistic giant to improve competitiveness globally. According to a senior official, the company will strive to ensure smooth flow of production factors under 'dual circulation' development

paradigm and develop a secure, dependable and highly efficient modern logistic system. Pakistan's logistics sector is growing rapidly, making it an excellent investment time for Chinese enterprises. There is significant rise in religious tourism around the globe, according to a report published this year, "The faith-based tourism market size is projected to grow by USD 25.85 billion." Among many historical traditions of Pakistan, Buddhist monuments and art, stand out and are known throughout the world. Some of the regions that now form part of Pakistan were important in the development and growth of Buddhism in the world. These regions were considered among the holiest places in Buddhism and for hundreds of years attracted travelers, holy men and women from everywhere. The road network built under CPEC offers convenient connectivity to several Buddhist religious sites in Pakistan such as Taxila, Mohra Muradu, Jandial, Mankiala, Takht-i-Bahi, Nimogram and Dangram. Advent of CPEC exposed unmatched generally hidden marine beauty of Pakistan. Anyone who visited Gwadar stayed astonished and hypnotized to the crystal clear, blue and calm waters of Gwadar. Coastal tourism can contribute significantly in the economy of country having natural blessings of beaches such as Kund Malir Beach, Daran Beach Jiwani, Ormara Beach, Sonmiani Beach and Gwadar Beach. China is world's most dynamic food and farm produce market. It is a net importer of bulk agricultural products such as grains, cottons, edible oils, sugar, meat and milk. About 70 % of China's agricultural imports come from the far-flung corners of the world including United States, Brazil, and Australia. Pakistan should utilize the opportunity of China's increased demand for food which is currently estimated at \$1 trillion per annum. However, it will be only possible if all stakeholders from top to bottom join hands to eliminate global misperceptions about the Country.

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Briefs

PM Kakar stresses adequate...

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agreements. Kakar expressed Pakistan's support for the Global Development Initiative (GDI), highlighted the need for adequate financing and called for action in key areas to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. He expressed Pakistan's support for the GDI and commended the milestones achieved in its implementation, the most recent being the successful launch of the Inter-Agency Task Force on GDI. Prime Minister Kakar stressed that China's Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor were vital vehicles for achieving the SDGs. He stated that Pakistan looked forward to enhancing its cooperation with China and other members of the Group of Friends of GDI to realise their collective aspiration for the implementation of SDGs. The event also featured the opening remarks by Vice President of China Han Zheng, President of the General Assembly Dennis Francis, and other high-level dignitaries, as well as a video briefing and presentation on GDI cooperation.

Zelenskyy urges...

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food shortage on [the] global market in exchange for recognition of some, if not all, of captured territories". He also accused Russia of committing genocide by kidnapping Ukrainian children and said Kyiv was working on preparing a global peace summit. The war in Ukraine has figured prominently on the first day of the high-level UN General Debate, with several world leaders pledging continued support for Kyiv during the most widely watched event of the UN's annual calendar. The United States and its allies have provided billions of dollars worth of humanitarian and security aid for Ukraine since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of the country in February 2022. At the UNGA on Tuesday morning, US President Joe Biden - who will meet Zelenskyy later this week at the White House - told other leaders that "Russia believes that the world will grow weary and allow it to brutalise Ukraine without consequence."

CJP holds consultations with the...

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Group is in majority at the PBC while Professional Lawyers Group is dominant at the SCBA. Meanwhile, the PBC representative in the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), Akhtar Hussain, has urged the new CJP to notify a committee led by Senior Puisne Judge Sardar Tariq Masood for evolving criteria regarding the appointment of superior court judges. The CJP is also chairman of the JCP, the constitutional forum responsible for elevation and promotion of superior court judges. Before his retirement, former CJP Gulzar Ahmed had formed a five-member committee led by his successor Umar Ata Bandial.

80 to face reopened NAB cases

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The NAB will present the relevant record to the accountability court within a day or two. These decisions were taken during an emergency meeting of the NAB held Thursday to consult the implementation of the apex court's verdict given last week. Sources said the record of all the important cases would be compiled and submitted to the Islamabad accountability court. Cases of several big guns, including former president Asif Ali Zardari and former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Yousuf Raza Gilani stand restored after the apex court's landmark verdict. According to sources, the NAB is restoring the cases against 80 persons, including former president Asif Ali Zardari, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Others.

Saudis and Huthis welcome talks on Yemen's War

Saudi Arabia and Iran-backed Huthi rebels put a positive spin on historic but inconclusive talks in Riyadh as diplomatic efforts increased to end Yemen's bitter war

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and the Iran-backed Huthi rebels put a positive spin on historic but inconclusive talks in Riyadh as diplomatic efforts increased on Wednesday to end Yemen's bitter war. Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman (R) met the Huthi delegation in Riyadh. Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman (R) met the Huthi delegation in Riyadh. The five days of talks were "positive", Saudi officials and a senior Huthi said, after the rebel delegation ended the first public visit to the Saudi capital since hostilities broke out between the two sides. Saudi Arabia mobilised an international military coalition against the Huthis in March 2015, months after the northern fighters with links to Tehran had seized the capital and threatened to overrun the country. Hundreds of thousands have died in the fighting or from its impacts, including famine, and millions have been displaced in what the United Nations calls one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. As the Riyadh talks ended, the top diplomats of the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - a key coalition



member, and influential in Yemen's government-held south - met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said it was a "productive meeting" with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and their Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed. "We discussed the urgent need for a durable resolution to the conflict in Yemen, and other priorities," Blinken wrote on X, formerly Twitter. "Coordination with our partners on Yemen and regional challenges is critical to peace and stability." Separately, Sheikh Abdullah

met the chairman of the Yemeni government's Presidential Leadership Council, Rashad al-Alimi, discussing "international efforts made to reach a political solution to the Yemeni crisis", the UAE's official WAM news agency said. The Saudi-Huthi talks in Riyadh were the latest ray of light for Yemen, which has endured decades of instability and where three-quarters of the population are dependent on aid. Optimism has increased since Saudi Arabia and Iran ended a seven-year rupture in ties in March, with nearly 900 prisoners released in an ex-

change deal soon afterwards and a Saudi delegation holding talks in Yemen's capital Sanaa in April. Meanwhile a UN-brokered ceasefire is largely holding, despite officially expiring last October. Huthi spokesman Mohammed Abdel Salam, who led the delegation, indicated that both sides were looking for solutions to problems that were raised in Sanaa in April. "We discussed some options and alternatives to overcome the issues of disagreement that the previous round touched upon," he said on X. Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, younger brother of de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, said he "reaffirmed our commitment... to reach a comprehensive political solution under UN supervision" in talks with the Huthis. "We look forward to the success of these critical discussions," Prince Khalid wrote on X. The process appears to have snagged on Huthi demands which include payment of their civil servants' salaries by the displaced Yemeni government, and the launch of new destinations from Sanaa airport. Ali al-Qhoom, a member of the Huthis' political council, said "there will be a new round of negotiations", but he also made no mention of any concrete achievements out of Riyadh.

Man City lacked finishing touch: Pep Guardiola

Manager unhappy after UCL champions come from behind to beat Red Star 3-1

PARIS: Manchester City overcame an early scare to get their Champions League defence off to a solid start on Tuesday but nine-man Celtic endured a rough night in Rotterdam. Barcelona cruised past Antwerp and Kylian Mbappe helped Paris-Saint Germain to an opening win on a breathless beginning to the group stage of Europe's top club competition. Newcastle returned to the high table of European football for the first time in two decades with a battling goalless draw against AC Milan at the San Siro and Lazio grabbed an equaliser deep in injury time to hold Atletico Madrid. In Manchester, Pep Guardiola's City were stunned when Red Star's Osman Bukari opened the scoring in first half stoppage time. But Julian Alvarez continued his sparkling early season form by levelling just two minutes after the break.



The Argentine then got some help from Red Star goalkeeper Omri Glazer as he flapped at Alvarez's freekick to allow the ball to fly into the far corner. Rodri rounded off a 3-1 win with a composed finish 17 minutes from time. "If we scored two goals early in the beginning it would've been completely different," said Guardiola,

who was frustrated at his side's finishing. "Having 22 (first-half) shots on goal means you are playing really good. It has to be the responsibility of the people in front to score the goals." City are next away to RB Leipzig, who share top place in Group E after a 3-1 win at Swiss champions Young Boys. Mohamed Si-

maken earned the distinction of scoring the first goal of the group stages with the 2023/24 competition only three minutes old. The French-born defender's header put Leipzig into a lightning lead in Bernie but Elia levelled for the Swiss hosts before Xaver Schlager and Benjamin Sesko wrapped up the win for the Austrian visitors. In Catalonia Joao Felix struck twice as Barcelona flexed their muscles with a crushing 5-0 win over Royal Antwerp to show their determination to be considered among Europe's elite once again. After consecutive humiliating group stage eliminations Barcelona are desperate to go deep in this season's competition, last winning it eight years ago. Felix shone for the Spanish champions on a stroll on a warm night in the Catalan capital, helped on their way by an own goal, with Robert Lewandowski and Gavi also scoring. - Agencies

ICC confirms venues for Men's T20 WC 2024

NEW YORK: The International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed on Wednesday that Dallas, Florida and New York have been picked as hosts of the Men's T20 World Cup 2024. The 2024 World Cup will be jointly hosted by the USA and West Indies. Grand Prairie in Dallas, Broward County in Florida and Nassau County in New York will be T20 World Cup 2024 venues as the event is staged in the USA for the first time. In this connection, an agreement has been reached for the construction of a 34,000-seat modular stadium in Eisenhower Park, a purpose-built sports and events park in Nassau County, New York, on awarding of the required permit next month. The existing venues in Grand Prairie and Broward County will be increased in size by modular stadium solutions to expand seating, media and premium hospitality areas subject to final agreement. ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said: "We're delighted to announce the three USA venues that will host part of the biggest ICC Men's T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams competing for the trophy. "The USA is a strategically important market and these venues give us an excellent opportunity to make a statement in the world's biggest sport market." A number of other venues around the USA, including George Mason University in Washington, the new home of MLC team Washington Freedom, have also been identified as potential venues for pre-event matches. This July, reports emerged that the ICC has finalised the schedule for the T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to be co-hosted by the United States of America (USA) and West Indies. According to the report, the next edition of the T20 World Cup will run from June 4 to 30. Ireland, Scotland, and Papua New Guinea (PNG) qualified for the 20-team T20 World Cup this week through the ICC's pathway of regional qualifiers. PNG won the East Asia-Pacific Region Qualifier while Ireland and Scotland secured the top two positions in the Europe Region Qualifier, which concluded earlier this week. - Agencies

Siraj soars to Men's ODI Bowling Rankings summit

DUBAI: India's right-arm pacer Mohammed Siraj made a big leap to top the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's ODI Bowling Rankings. Siraj, who dismantled Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup 2023 final, got the reward for his astounding performance and jumped eight places to reclaim the top rankings in ODI bowling rankings, a place he last occupied in March 2023, before being displaced by Josh Hazlewood. Siraj took a total of 10 wickets at an average of 12.2 in the Asia Cup 2023 which powered him to jump eight spots in the latest ranking update and overtake the likes of Hazlewood, Trent Boult, Rashid Khan and Mitchell Starc. Afghanistan's spin duo of Rashid Khan and Mujeeb Ur Rahman also made great gains in the bowling rankings and occupied the fourth and fifth spot respectively. Meanwhile, Pakistan's ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi remained at 10th in the latest ICC Men's ODI Bowling Rankings. The left-arm pacer bagged 10 wickets in the recently concluded Asia Cup 2023 at an average of 23.50. Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam extended his dominance at the top of the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings, however, Indian youngster Shubman Gill continued to pose a threat to his top position. - Agencies

Shehroze Kashif achieves another milestone by scaling Mt. Manaslu

ISLAMABAD: The unflinching determination of Pakistani climber Shehroze Kashif enabled him to achieve another feat when he successfully summited Nepal's 8,163 metres Mount Manaslu. "Congratulations to Shehroze on his amazing feat of climbing the eighth-highest mountain in the world, Manaslu. He is now the youngest climber to reach the summit of 12 summits over 8000 metres. It is really amazing," Secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan, Karrar Haidri said in a statement. "His commitment and the encouragement he's received from everyone are admirable. I hope he has a safe descent and more luck on his upcoming adventures," he added. Two years back, in September 2021 he had ascended Manaslu, but after two days it was revealed that he had missed the actual summit point. "Congratulations to Shehroze Kashif



on his triumphant summit of Mount Manaslu. Shehroze reached the summit of Mount Manaslu on 20th September at 5:01AM PST. "BARD Foundation is beaming with pride for this remarkable achievement. Summiting Mount Manaslu is a significant step towards his dream of becoming the youngest mountaineer to summit all 14 tallest peaks," the BARD Foundation, which sponsors Shehroze's expeditions said in a statement. Born on March 11, 2002, Shehroze made history by becoming the youngest climber in the world to summit K2 on July 27, 2021. He also became the youngest Pakistani to summit Mount Everest on May 11, 2021. After the successful summit of Mount Everest, Sports Board Punjab made him the youth ambassador of Punjab. He summited Broad Peak at the age of 17, after which he was called 'The Broad Boy'. - DNA

Most of Spain's women's players end boycott

Spain's World Cup-winning players ended their boycott of the women's national team after the government intervened

SPORTS DESK

MADRID: Most of Spain's World Cup-winning players ended their boycott of the women's national team early Wednesday after the government intervened to help shape an agreement that was expected to lead to immediate structural changes at the country's soccer federation. Only two players, Barcelona teammates Patri Guijarro and Mapi León, opted to leave the training camp in the eastern city of Valencia after receiving guarantees from the government that they would not be sanctioned, with the rest staying after being told that some of their demands for reform would be met. The players reported to camp on Tuesday after being picked by new coach Montse Tomé against their will on Monday in the latest twist in the crisis that has engulfed Spanish soccer since former federation president Luis Rubiales kissed player Jenni Hermoso on the lips during the awards ceremony following Spain's Women's World Cup title in Australia last month. Specific details of the changes agreed upon

were not revealed following the hours-long meetings involving the government's top sports official, players, Tomé and federation officials. The meetings ended at nearly

5 a.m. on Wednesday. The president of the FUTRPO players' union, Amanda Gutiérrez, said steps had been made toward establishing the same treatment for Spain's

women's and men's national teams. "An agreement has been reached to make changes to the structure of women's soccer, so that the executive and administrative staff will match that of the men's team, to further professionalize the team and staff," Gutiérrez said. Victor Francos, Spain's Secretary for Sports and president of the Higher Council for Sports, said the "cordial meetings" led to the creation of a committee involving players, the federation and the government. He said the agreements should promote advances in gender policies and equal pay, as well as lead to structural changes in women's soccer. It was not clear, though, if any firings would take place in the federation. Among the demands by the players was to have interim president Pedro Rocha, who took over after Rubiales' resignation, to also step down. León and Guijarro have not played for Spain since they formed part of a player revolt by 15 team members last year when they refused to play for the national team until the federation established a more "professional" working environment, in what turned out to be prequel to the current uprising.



India's 'network of...

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Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement of "credible evidence" linking India to Nijjar's murder, the FO spokesperson said: "India's assassination of a Canadian national on Canadian soil is a clear violation of international law and the UN principle of state sovereignty." Terming the incident as a "reckless and irresponsible act", Baloch questioned India's reliability as a credible international partner and its claims for enhanced global responsibilities. She also recalled India's previous record in such extra-territorial activities accentuating that the Indian premier intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), had been actively involved in abductions and assassinations in South Asia.

Not surprised by Canadian...

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five-day visit to the US to attend the 78th UNGA session, stated this during a media briefing at the Pakistan mission in UN on Wednesday. "India's terrorism in Canada is not a matter of surprise for Pakistan," the top diplomat remarked. The foreign secretary said Pakistan did not find anything unusual in the Canadian PM's allegations as Pakistan had arrested a serving Indian naval officer Kulbhushan Yadav - an operative of the Indian Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) from Balochistan in March 2016. The Indian spy was later sentenced to death after he was found guilty of espionage and terror activities to destabilise Pakistan.

ECP, political...

FROM PAGE 01
their feedback during the consultation. A copy of the draft Code of Conduct is also available on the Election Commission's website www.ecp.gov.pk," the ECP statement said. The October 4 meeting follows separate meetings between the ECP and political parties on the electoral roadmap amid disagreements over the timeframe for elections. The ECP has ruled out elections this year, citing the need for fresh delimitation of constituencies following the notification of the latest 2023 digital census.

Imran charged...

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that nine additional sections pertaining to treason have been included in the challans for the cases of vandalism and violence that erupted after the deposed prime minister's arrest in the infamous £190 million National Crime Agency (NCA) UK settlement case on May 9, against all the suspects including Khan. The investigation official said evidence of inciting mutiny and planning vandalism have been found against the PTI chief. "Section 120(B) [pertaining to punishment of criminal conspiracy] of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) has been added to all the cases related to the May 9 incidents," Masood said. She further added that all the objections raised by the prosecution have been removed before the submission of the case challans in the court.

IMF 'rejects' electricity relief plan

FORM PAGE 01
bill of a consumer comes over 200 units in six months, the sources said. Earlier, Caretaker Minister for Energy and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali, asserted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has not rejected the proposal for the provision of additional subsidies in power tariffs as the government deals with protests against inflated electricity bills. Speaking at ARY News programme 'Khabar', the caretaker minister said that the government was exchanging data regarding electricity bills with the global lender on daily basis.

Briefs

Turkiye donates medicines, equipment to Afghanistan

ANKARA : Turkiye provided 20 tons of medicines and medical equipment to Afghanistan's Health Ministry. The equipment include operating room machines, radiography cassettes, and X-ray machines, said a statement from Afghanistan's Information Ministry on Tuesday. Maulvi Mohammad Dawood Mansuri, head of the Health Ministry's international relations cell, received the equipment and medicines. Thanking Ankara for the donation, Mansuri called for enhancement of cooperation between the two countries in the health sector, the statement added.—APP

Flydubai see record number of passengers

ABU DHABI : The UAE-based flydubai airline has made a historic increase in its seasonal operations by carrying over four million passengers between June and mid-September 2023, up 30 percent compared to the same period in 2022. According to a statement by the company, the carrier operated over 32,000 flights across 120 destinations in 52 countries, with Corfu in Greece and Olbia in Sardinia as the latest two additions to flydubai's summer routes. Ghaith Al-Ghaith, CEO at flydubai, said they continue to create free trade and tourism flows by offering the right product at the right time, making travel accessible to new and previously underserved markets. "By doing so, we have enabled more than four million passengers to travel this summer via Dubai's aviation hub," Al-Ghaith added. He further said that they are very pleased to see year-on-year growth in demand on their seasonal destinations, adding that they have recorded a 70 percent increase in passenger numbers to Trabzon and more than 40 percent to Bodrum this summer. "We believe these figures could have potentially been even higher if the aircraft.—Agencies

S.Korea investigates 17 US soldiers for drug crimes

SEOUL: Seventeen American soldiers stationed in South Korea are being investigated by the local police for "alleged illegal drug behavior," the United States Forces Korea said Wednesday. Two women, a South Korean and a Filipino, involved in the case have been arrested for allegedly smuggling drugs from the United States through military mail, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported. The women also engaged in the use, sale, or distribution of the banned substances, it said. The 17 American soldiers have been referred to prosecutors and could face charges but have not been detained, Yonhap said. "United States Forces Korea is aware of the Korean National Police's investigation of 17 Soldiers for alleged illegal drug behavior and misuse of the military mail system," the USFK said in a statement Wednesday. "Currently, no soldiers are in confinement or being detained in relation to this incident." South Korean police have seized drug sales proceeds of \$12,850 as well as 80 ml of synthetic cannabis and other related material from the suspects, according to Yonhap. Consumption, possession or sale of illegal substances are criminal offenses under South Korea's tough illicit drugs legislation. Smoking synthetic cannabis, which is classified as one of the most strictly regulated psychoactive substances in South Korea, is a crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison or a fine of 100 million won (\$75,332). Selling the banned substance is punishable by up to life in prison. USFK said it "does not condone any behaviors among its personnel that violate South Korean laws, rules or directives" and that it "supports this investigation."—APP

Smuggled DRPK National Flags in Hangzhou AG

North Korea decided to send 280 athletes, coaches, and staff to the Hangzhou Asian Games and the first wave of its delegation, NK soccer team, arrived in China on Sept 15th. Beginning with a soccer match against Taiwan on the 19th, the North Koreans will participate in 17 events including swimming, boxing, gymnastics, wrestling and women's basketball.

North Korea had planned to send its delegation to Hangzhou following the end of IOC's sanction on North Korea prohibiting the country from participating in international sporting events. The IOC had imposed the ban following the North's refusal to participate in the Tokyo Summer Olympics in 2021. However, flying the North Korean flag at the Asian Games will be banned in

Hangzhou due to WADA's sanctions that were imposed in Oct 2021 and are still effective. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) which oversees the Asian Games and the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee are both obligated to adhere to WADA regulations. If the North Korean flag is allowed to be flown, they could both be sanctioned by WADA. OCA Constitution &



Rules Article 52.3 (Eligibility Code) : To be eligible for participation in the OCA GAMES, a competitor must comply with all aspects of WADA and OCA Anti-Doping Rules Code and refrain from using substances and drugs prohibited by the said organisations. WADA has notified North Korea's National Anti Doping Organization (NADO) that until they regain the 'Compliant State' status, the flag of a sanctioned

state can not be flown at any regional, continental or world championships organized by major organizations. This sanction applies to all situations where the organizer of the event officially displays the flag in any place, area, or stadium where the event is being held. However, despite media reports of North Korean flags being flown at stadiums, athletes village, volunteer center ahead of the opening ceremony on the

23rd, the organizing committee is not taking any action. (see attached pictures) The North Koreans attempted to fly their flag at the ITF World Championships held in Kazakhstan in August. At the time, the international sports community warned Kazakhstan, the hosting country, of the consequences such as being barred from hosting further international sporting events. Amid warnings from the WADA and press reports, the organizing committee of

the ITF event in Kazakhstan reversed its decision to allow the North Korean flag to be flown. If the North Korean flag is flown at the Hangzhou Asian Games, the biggest sporting event in Asia, sanctions against OCA and the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee for violating WADA rules will be unavoidable. There are concerns that if no action is taken, not only will WADA lose its authority but the global sports order could collapse.

Algeria urges UN to grant Palestine full state membership

President Tebboune also sought UN Security Council reforms in order to make the body more effective in promoting global peace and security

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK : Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has urged the UN to convene a special session for the purpose of conducting a vote on granting full state membership to Palestine. Tebboune's Tuesday address touched on regional and global issues, including the Palestinian cause, during his speech at the

78th UN General Assembly in New York City. He also stressed Algeria's support for the Arab Peace Initiative, advocating for an independent Palestinian state within 1967 borders, and cited Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories as a key factor in regional instability. Tebboune urged the UN Security Council to pass a resolution for a two-state solution and ending Israeli occupation. New world order founded on

equality President Tebboune reiterated his country's call for the establishment of a new world order based on equality, "Reforms are also needed in the UN Security Council, which has been weak in fulfilling its duty to maintain international peace and security and in preventing the use of force," he said. He highlighted the "historical injustice" done to Africa and the importance of ending it

by granting the continent representation in the UN Security Council. Tebboune also emphasized Algeria's stance on the crisis in neighbouring Niger, supporting the restoration of constitutional order, a peaceful political resolution and rejecting foreign military intervention. Palestine's status at UN Palestine holds the status of a "non-member observer state" within the 193-member organi-

sation. In 2012, the UN General Assembly elevated Palestine's status from an "observer entity" to a "non-member observer state." For Palestine to attain full UN membership, it requires approval from the UN Security Council followed by a vote in the UN General Assembly. Palestine applied for full UN membership in 2011 but did not garner the necessary support in the UN Security Council.

Poland refuses EU proposals to transfer irregular migrants

WARSAW : Poland has rejected the European Union's proposals to transfer migrants from the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa across member states, a minister said. "Nobody can force us to do this. We will act in such a way as not to accept immigrants. The EU is preparing to introduce such coercion. That is why we are holding a referendum so that Poles can have their say," Maciej Wasik, a deputy interior minister, told

Polish Radio on Wednesday. A public vote on migration and three other issues, and parliamentary elections in Poland are scheduled for October 15. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's 10-point plan for Lampedusa includes, among other pledges, supporting the transfer of migrants to other EU member states, and returning them to their countries of origin. Last week, several thou-

sand people arrived on the Italian island by boat from North Africa, forcing the local authorities to declare a state of emergency. Reduce irregular migration. The EU says the plan is meant to reduce irregular migration and provide immediate EU assistance to the Italian authorities, in accordance with fundamental rights and international conventions. Asked by the radio host "How many migrants from Lampedusa will Poland

accept," Wasik replied: "None." "Let me remind you that such proposals have been around since 2015 ...PiS [Law and Justice party] does not agree to any forced relocation," he said. "The situation in Europe must change, the European Commission must change its approach to this, and in general the attitude in several European countries that have so far been leading in accepting immigrants must change."—Agencies

Sudan army chief headed to UNGA

PORT SUDAN: Sudanese army chief General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, at war for months with paramilitaries, was headed to New York on Wednesday to address the UN General Assembly, his office said. Burhan, de facto leader of Sudan since a 2021 coup, "will lead the Sudanese delegation" to the annual session, the Sovereignty Council he heads said in a statement. The army chief has made a flurry of visits abroad in recent weeks after shifting base to Port Sudan late last month from army headquarters in Khartoum where he had been holed up under siege since fighting broke out with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of his former deputy, General Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, on April 15. Analysts have said his diplomatic offensive is a drive to burnish his legitimacy in the event of negotiations to end the fighting. Burhan has already visited Egypt, South Sudan, Qatar, Eritrea, Turkiye and Uganda. During his UN visit, Burhan intends to address the UN General Assembly and will attend "high level meetings" on the sidelines, the statement said. The fighting in Sudan has killed at least 7,500 people, according to the NGO Aclad and the United Nations says more than five million people have fled their homes.—DNA

Ties with Iran 'reaching new highs': Defense chief

MOSCOW : Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu says relations with Iran are "reaching new highs" in defiance of the West's pressure campaign targeting both countries. Speaking during a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani in Tehran on Wednesday, Shoigu said Russia and Iran are determined to undertake planned activities despite opposition from the US and its Western allies. "The pressure of sanctions on Russia and Iran is proving to be futile, while

Russia-Iran cooperation is reaching new highs," he added. The Russian defense chief further expressed his satisfaction with the enhanced Russia-Iran dialogue that resulted from the trust-based relationship between the leaders of the two countries. "The high intensity of meetings confirms our common determination to continue boosting the strategic defense partnership," he noted. Shoigu also announced Russia's readiness "to take further joint steps [with Iran] to strengthen stability and security in the Middle East."

Ashtiani, for his part, said that Iran-Russia cooperation in regional and international arenas can guarantee the interests and security of both states. "The defense and military cooperation between the two countries has always been pursued with the support of high-ranking leaders in a bid to strengthen and consolidate stability and security in the region and the international system," he noted. "Dealing with common challenges, including the US unilateralism, is one of the important and strategic issues regarding the

joint cooperation." Ashtiani described as successful bilateral cooperation in the counter-terrorism fight in West Asia, saying military and defense ties will definitely continue within the framework of international peace and security. The Iranian defense minister also expressed his opposition to the presence of extra-regional forces in West Asia. "Preserving the territorial integrity of regional countries and international borders is among the red lines of the Islamic Republic.—Agencies

Nigeria opposition appeals verdict, seeks president's removal

ABUJA: Nigeria's main opposition candidates in this year's presidential election appealed a ruling that upheld President Bola Tinubu's victory and asked the nation's Supreme Court in separate applications to declare them the winner instead, according to documents seen by The Associated Press on Tuesday. In the documents filed, both the Peoples Democratic Party's Atiku Abubakar, who came second in the election, and the Labour Party's Peter Obi, who finished third, said the appeals court which dismissed challenges against Tinubu's election victory this month "erred in law" by not supporting their claims of illegality. Three opposing candidates challenged February's election of Tinubu who is attending this year's United Nations General Assembly as a first-time president. Observers said though the conduct of the election was an improvement from previous ones.—APP

GCC and US seek diplomacy for Iran, de-escalation

FOREIGN DESK

RIYADH: Gulf states and the US said they welcomed the diplomatic engagement with Iran and are seeking to stop any escalation in the region, a joint statement issued by the minister said. "Ministers welcomed diplomatic engagement by Saudi Arabia and other GCC states with Iran to pursue regional de-escalation and emphasized the importance of adherence to international law, including the UN Charter, by states of the region," it read. Ministers renewed their commitment to ensuring the freedom of navigation in the region and maritime security. They renewed their "determination to deter illegal actions at sea or elsewhere that might threaten shipping lanes, international trade, and oil installations in the GCC states." The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 78th UN General Assembly in New York and was attended by

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and his US and GCC counterparts. The ministers also called on "Iran to cease its proliferation of unmanned aerial vehicles and other dangerous weapons that pose a grave security threat to the region." In a separate meeting involving the US,

KSA and UAE, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken welcomed Saudi Arabia hosting a delegation from Sanaa in Riyadh. The discussions are aimed at finding a roadmap to the conflict that has raged since 2014 through "a Yemeni-led political process under UN auspices, as well as Saudi Arabia's

commitment to provide \$1.2 billion in economic support for the Yemen Government," the US State Department said. Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman met with the delegation on Monday and the Kingdom welcomed positive results of discussions with the group. On the Isra-

li-Palestinian conflict, ministers highlighted their commitment to the Arab Peace Initiative and finding a "comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with the two-state solution." On the issue of three UAE islands at the heart of a dispute between the Emirates and Iran, the statement said: "The Ministers reiterated their support for the United Arab Emirates' call to reach a peaceful solution to the dispute over the three islands, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, through bilateral negotiations or the International Court of Justice, in accordance with the rules of international law including the UN Charter." As for the demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq border they stressed the "importance of Iraq's commitment to Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity and respect for international conventions and UN resolutions, especially UNSC Resolution 833 regarding the demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq boundary," the joint statement said.



King Charles begins state visit to France

LONDON : King Charles III, accompanied by Queen Camilla, arrived in France on Wednesday as part of a three-day state visit. The trip to France, the first since Charles' accession, was originally scheduled for March but was postponed due to protests over pension reforms introduced by President Emmanuel Macron's government. "The visit will celebrate the United Kingdom's relationship with France, marking our shared histories, culture and values," Buckingham Palace said in a statement. Joined by Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron, the Royal couple's visit, which includes Paris and Bordeaux, will begin with a ceremony of remembrance and wreath laying at the Arc de Triomphe. "You visited as a Prince, you return as a King. Your Majesty, welcome," Macron wrote on social media platform X, sharing a video footage featuring Charles' previous France visits as prince.—APP

Russian Strike in Kupyansk: Death Toll 8

KYIV: The death toll from Tuesday's Russian strike on the Ukrainian city of Kupyansk has risen to eight people, authorities said, after Ukrainian rescuers found another two bodies in the rubble. Kupyansk is less than 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the frontline in Ukraine's north-eastern Kharkiv region, where Moscow has made some gains in recent months. "Unfortunately, the bodies of two more dead civilian men were found," Kharkiv governor Oleg Syneghubov said on Telegram Wednesday. That brought the death toll in Tuesday's strike to eight people, he said: "Six men and two women, including two volunteers who were evacuating people." Russian forces struck the city with a Grom missile, he said, posting a photo of what appeared to be a burnt-out car.—APP

Rolling Plus to invest \$1.07bn in tire factory in Egypt

RIYADH: Egypt's automotive industry is set to experience significant growth with Rolling Plus Chemical Industries Co. announcing plans to establish a tire manufacturing plant with an investment of 1 billion euros (\$1.07 billion). The company has signed a contract with the Egyptian government to establish the plant, which will be located in the Suez Canal Economic Zone, as reported by Al-Arabiya. The tire manufacturing facility will be spread over an area of 400,000 sq. meters and will have an annual production capacity of 7 million tires. The project will be implemented in three phases, and it will produce tires for passenger cars, as well as light and heavy commercial vehicles.—APP

Briefs

LHC gives IGP 'last opportunity'

DNA
LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday gave the Punjab police chief a "last opportunity" to recover missing anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan by September 26, adjourning the proceedings in a petition demanding his recovery till then. Imran Riaz — a YouTuber and television anchor — was arrested two days after violent protests broke out across the country following PTI Chairman Imran Khan's arrest on May 9. He was last known to be taken to Cantt police station after his arrest and later to the Sialkot prison. On May 15, a law officer told the court that the anchorperson was released from jail after taking an undertaking in writing. His whereabouts remain unknown. Subsequently, a first information report (FIR) of Imran's alleged abduction was registered with Sialkot Civil Lines police on May 16 on the complaint of the anchorperson's father, Muhammad Riaz. The FIR was registered against "unidentified persons" and police officials for allegedly kidnapping Imran, invoking Section 365 (kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

India warns citizens in Canada to be cautious

DNA
NEW DELHI: India has issued an advisory urging its citizens travelling to or living in Canada to "exercise utmost caution". The advisory comes a day after tensions escalated between the countries with each expelling a diplomat from the other side. Canada said it was investigating "credible allegations" linking the Indian state with the killing of a Sikh separatist leader. India strongly denied this, calling the allegations "absurd". Analysts say relations between the countries, which have been strained for months, are now at an all-time low. On Wednesday, India's foreign ministry said it issued the advisory "in view of growing anti-India activities and politically-condoned hate crimes and criminal violence in Canada". The Indian government has often reacted sharply to demands by Sikh separatists in Western countries for Khalistan, or a separate Sikh homeland. The Khalistan movement peaked in India in the 1980s with a violent insurgency centred in Sikh-majority Punjab state. It was quelled by force and has little resonance in India now, but is still popular among some in the Sikh diaspora in countries such as Canada, Australia and the UK.

UN urges Taliban govt to stop torture the detainees

The UN mission, or UNAMA, uses the term "de facto authorities" for the Taliban government. Its report acknowledges some steps taken by government agencies to monitor places of detention and investigate allegations of abuse

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations said Wednesday it has documented more than 1,600 cases of human rights violations committed by authorities in Afghanistan during arrests and detentions of people, and urged the Taliban government to stop torture and protect the rights of detainees. Nearly 50 percent of the violations consisted of "torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment," the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said. The report by the mission's Human Rights Service covered 19 months — from January 2022 until the end of July 2023 — with cases documented across 29 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. It said 11 percent of the cases involved women. It said the torture aimed at extracting confessions and other information included beatings, suffocation, suspension from the ceiling and electric shocks. Cases that were not considered sufficiently credible and reliable were

not included in the report, it said. The Taliban have promised a more moderate rule than during their previous period in power in the 1990s. But they have imposed harsh measures since seizing Afghanistan in mid-August 2021 as US and NATO forces were pulling out from the country after two decades of war. "The personal accounts of beatings, electric shocks, water torture, and numerous other forms of cruel and degrading treatment, along with threats made against individuals and their families, are harrowing," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said in a statement issued with the report. "This report suggests that torture is also used as a tool — in lieu of effective investigations. I urge all concerned de facto authorities to put in place concrete measures to halt these abuses and hold perpetrators accountable," he said. The UN mission, or UNAMA, uses the term "de facto authorities" for the Taliban government. Its report acknowledges some steps taken by govern-

ment agencies to monitor places of detention and investigate allegations of abuse. "Although there have been some encouraging signs in terms of leadership directives as well as an openness among many de facto officials to engage constructively with UNAMA, and allow visits to prisons, these documented cases highlight the need for urgent, accelerated action by all," Roza Otunbayeva, the UN secretary-general's special representative for Afghanistan and head of the mission, said in a statement. The report said of the torture and other degrading treatment that 259 instances involved physical suffering and 207 involved mental suffering. UNAMA said it believes that ill-treatment of individuals in custody is widely underreported and that the figures in the report represent only a snapshot of violations of people in detention across Afghanistan. It said a pervasive climate of surveillance, harassment and intimidation, threats to

people not to speak about their experiences in detention, and the need for prisoners to provide guarantees by family members and other third parties to be released from custody hamper the willingness of many people to speak freely to the UN mission. The report said 44 percent of the interviewees were civilians with no particular affiliation, 21 percent were former government or security personnel, 16 percent were members of civic organizations or human rights groups, 9 percent were members of armed groups and 8 percent were journalists and media workers. The remainder were "family members of persons of interest." In a response that was included in the report, the Taliban-led Foreign Ministry said government agencies have taken steps to improve the human rights situation of detainees, and that Islamic law, or Shariah, prohibits torture. It also questioned some of the report's data. The Ministry of Interior said it has identified only 21 cases of human rights violations.

China, Pakistan are 'ironclad friends'

DNA
BEIJING: The Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Nong Rong stated that mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Pakistan will help improve the quality of life of all Pakistanis, including those residing in the Balochistan province. During a meeting the Balochistan press corps, the Chinese diplomat described China and Pakistan's relationship as that of "ironclad friends" who always support and stand by each other in times of difficulty and otherwise. "China attaches great importance to the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and is willing to deepen industrial cooperation with Pakistan and accelerate the implementation of livelihood projects," he said. Rong noted the significant progress at Gwadar Port and encouraged the media to cover these developments. He stressed creating a secure and predictable business environment to foster development and security. The visiting Balochistan press corps acknowledged the consensus in Pakistan regarding its friendship with China. They pointed out that projects like Gwadar Port, roads, hospitals, and schools have improved regional connectivity and created job opportunities.

Court halts proceedings in Sharif murder case

COURT REPORTER
ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad district and sessions court stopped proceedings in the case of journalist Arshad Sharif's killing due to a "lack of interest" from the prosecution, it emerged today. On September 9, a civil judge-cum-judicial magistrate had issued non-bailable arrest warrants against the spouse of the slain journalist — who was shot dead in Kenya in October last year — the producer of a private television channel, and other witnesses for repeatedly failing to appear before the court to record their statements in the case. Reportedly, Judicial Magistrate Abbas Shah repeatedly summoned Sumiyya Arshad, producer Ali Usman, and other prosecution witnesses to record their testimony in the trial but due to their failure to appear before the court, warrants were issued.



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the SDG Summit Leaders Dialogue 6 on the topic "Mobilizing finance and investments and the means of implementation for SDG achievement" in UN Headquarters. News on Page 01 — DNA

FM vows to remain steadfast to fight against terrorism

NEW YORK: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani has said Pakistan's relations with the United States are one of the most consequential of bilateral relationships. Addressing the Asia Society in New York, he said security and defense cooperation remains an important pillar but equal emphasis is laid by both sides to strengthen cooperation in non-security areas like trade and investment, climate change, energy, health, agriculture, IT and tech sector. He said relationship now stands de-hyphenated from all other bilateral ties and both sides are focused on tapping the inherent potential of standalone bilateral relations. About Afghanistan, Jilil Abbas Jilani said Pakistan has the greatest stake in an Afghanistan that is at peace within and with its regional and international partners. He said Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to fight terrorism and extremism. He said the biggest concern right now for Pakistan is the enhanced terrorist threat from TTP and ISIS-K, and their ability to use Afghan soil for launching attacks on Pakistan. We remain closely engaged with the Afghan authorities on this issue. He said terrorist outfits trying to gain a foothold in Afghanistan should be treated as a threat to the neighborhood and entire international community. The Foreign Minister said Pakistan desires peaceful and cooperative neighborly ties with India. He said unfortunately Pakistan positive outreach and peace overtures have been met with negativity. — DNA

6 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces

WEST BANK: In the span of less than 24 hours, Israeli occupation have killed six Palestinians youths during military raid in several areas in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Last night, one Palestinian identified as Yousef Radwan, 25, was killed and others injured today after Israeli soldiers opened fire at protesters gathering at the Gaza border with Israel. Wafa correspondent said the Israeli soldiers stationed at the borders opened fire and killed the youth from Bani Suhayia, east of Khan Yunis, in the south of the Gaza Strip, after he was shot in the head, and nine others were injured, one of them critical. In the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, large forces of the Israeli occupation army stormed the Jenin refugee camp, surrounded two houses, bombed them with several missiles, and prevented ambulances and medical teams from reaching the casualties. A drone was also used in the attack against the Palestinian gunmen as armed clashes broke out during the raid. The Ministry of Health announced that Rafat Omar Khamesh, 22, Mahmoud Ali Saadi, 23, and Mahmoud Khaled Ararawi, 24, were killed and 30 wounded, some of them critically, during the army assault. Earlier this morning, medical sources confirmed Yasser Atta Musa, 29, from the village of Marka, south of Jenin, succumbed to his wounds earlier this morning. He was shot by the Israeli occupation forces during the military raid in the occupied refugee camp. In Jericho, Israeli occupation forces Wednesday morning shot and killed a Palestinian youth identified as Dhargham Mohammad Yahya Al-Akhras, 19, during a military raid into the refugee camp of AqabatJabr in the occupied West Bank city of Jericho Al-Akhras was killed due to his critical head wounds after being shot by Israeli forces' bullets during the raid. — Agencies

ADB sees implementation of reforms key to economic stability

"Pakistan's economic prospects are closely tied to the steadfast and consistent implementation of policy reforms to stabilize the economy and rebuild fiscal and external buffers," said ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's adherence to an economic adjustment program through April 2024 will be critical to restoring macroeconomic stability and the gradual recovery of the country's growth, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report on Wednesday. According to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) September 2023, Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to recover modestly to 1.9% in fiscal year 2024 (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024) from 0.3% in FY2023, with price pressures remaining elevated. However, significant downside risks to the outlook remained unchanged, including global price shocks and slower global growth. "Pakistan's economic prospects are closely tied to the steadfast and consistent implementation of policy reforms to stabilize the economy and rebuild fiscal and external buffers," said ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye. "Greater fiscal discipline, a market-determined exchange rate, and speedier progress on reforms in the energy sector and state-owned enterprises are key to reviving economic growth and protecting social and development spending," Yong Ye added. Pakistan's economy was jolted by severe floods, global price shocks, and political instability in FY2023, causing growth to weaken and inflation to rise. According to the ADO, the implementation of the economic adjustment program and a smooth general election in FY2024 are expected to boost confidence, while easing import controls is likely to support investment. — APP

PML-N will fight election with a comprehensive economic plan



KHAYAM ABBASI
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N Secretary General and former Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal has said that the business community should play a role in increasing Pakistan's exports. PML-N is entering the election field with a comprehensive economic plan. PML-N is the only party that has seen performance in the economic field. The government, army and judiciary will have to get out of the feeling of insecurity from each other. He expressed these views while presenting the economic agenda of Muslim League-N at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday. He said that if the country's institutions, the government and the people work together for the development of the economy, the problems can be overcome. The PML-N government has delivered every time in the past. In 1998, Pakistan had surplus electricity, after 8 years the demand of electricity was more than the

production, in 2013 when PML-N government came, there was load shedding of 13 to 16 hours, we solved this problem. After taking over the government launched Vision 2025 in consultation with all the provincial governments. If Vision 2025 had been fully implemented, Pakistan would have been among the top 20 economies by now. Due to the reversal of our economic policies the country has crashed today, Bangladesh and India had political stability and continuity of policies which led them to advance. Due to lack of consistency in policies, we could not increase exports. The biggest challenge for Pakistan is that we have to pay back 77 billion dollars of debt in the next 3 to 4 years. It has become necessary for the businessman of Pakistan to knock the doors of every market of the world with his product. In the next seven to eight years, we have to take our exports to 100 billion dollars. He said that no government can be successful without the business community. Speaking at the event, ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that long-term economic policies have to be formulated to overcome the economic challenges. The country will move ahead economically only if the wheel of the industry is in motion. It is not possible to do business at the current rate of interest. Due to the increase in electricity prices, the cost of production has increased tremendously. Despite being an agricultural country, we have to import agricultural commodities worth more than 6 to 7 billion dollars annually.

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