



# Islamabad POST

Friday, September 22, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

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Detailed News On Page-07

**King Charles urges stronger UK-France ties**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Naila Kayani makes history at Manaslu**

Detailed News On Page-06



## End of uncertainty

# Polls to be held in last week of January: ECP

PDM parties 'welcome' announcement of election date; PTI to move top court

MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced on Thursday that general elections in the country will take place in the last week of January 2024. The electoral body said a preliminary list of delimitations, which are being carried out in line with the new census, will be published on September 27. The ECP said it reviewed the progress on the delimitation process today and decided that the final list of constituencies will be published on November 30 after hearing the objections and suggestions related to the delimitations. Subsequently, the polls will be held in the last week of January 2024 following the completion of the 54-day election schedule, the ECP statement added. The ECP's statement finally ended the uncertainty surrounding the elections as the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government's move to approve a new census mandated the electoral body to carry out new delimitation before holding polls, sparking fears of an undue delay in polls. Following the premature dissolution of national and provincial assemblies earlier in August this year, the ECP was required to hold elections within 90-day stipulated time period, meaning the polls should take place no later than November 6. However, the ECP said it was constitutionally bound to draw fresh boundaries ahead of the elections, hence holding elections within a 90-day time period was not possible. Reacting to the development, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) viewed it as positive while Awami National Party (ANP) called for a specific date, however, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

## Political bigwigs to face accountability

NAB to 'appoint spy agency officers' to probe high-profile corruption cases

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In line with the Supreme Court's order to restore graft cases against public office holders, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) submitted a record of corruption references to an accountability court in Islamabad. Accountability Judge Muhammad Bashir directed the registrar of the court to review the cases' records and present them before him. The judge directed the NAB prosecutors to review the legal aspects of the cases as the nature of cases against private individuals, public office holders, and government employees is different. The development came as NAB prosecutors Sohail Arif and Sardar Muzaffar appeared in the accountability court to brief the judge on the reopening of the cases. "You [prosecutors] have to tell which case can be heard and which is not in a [court's] jurisdiction, Judge Bashir stated.

Continued on Page 06

## Bajwa, Faiz' should be held accountable

Sanaullah called the former top military officials "culprits of the nation"

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former interior minister Rana Sanaullah has held former army chief Gen (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa and former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Faiz Hamid responsible for prevailing political and economic crises in the country. In an interview with a local TV channel on Wednesday, Sanaullah called the former top military officials "culprits of the nation", demanding that they should be brought to justice for causing political and economic instability in the country. The News reported. In response to a question, Sanaullah said: "These people are culprits of the nation. They are the culprits of Pakistan. They are culprits of not just the PML-N but also of the entire nation." "They will not be forgiven. These people must be held accountable. They are responsible for the current instability in the country and they must be asked why they created instability in 2017," he added. Answering another question what action

Continued on Page 06

## Solangi for eliminating prejudices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has emphasized the need to eliminate prejudices and ensure the rights of all segments of society in order to harness the full potential of the country. Addressing the International Peace Festival in Islamabad on Thursday, he pointed out that our strength lies in our diversity, and those who seek to undermine this strength are, in fact, attempting to weaken Pakistan. Alluding to the August 11th, 1947 speech of the founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Murtaza Solangi stated that safeguarding the rights of minorities is fundamental to the foundation of Pakistan.

Continued on Page 06



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar meets IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva. - DNA

# IMF wants Pak to tax the rich to protect poor

The PM expressed gratitude for the IMF's approval of a \$3 billion Stand-By Agreement (SBA) to support Pakistan's economy

CENTRELINE REPORT

NEW YORK: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has urged Pakistan to "collect more taxes from the wealthy and protect the poor people". Talking to a local news channel after meeting with caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, Ms Georgieva said, "Of course, it is difficult but Pakistan has to do it in line with the IMF programme as we stand by the people of Pakistan." Responding to a question, she said it is in the interest of the people of Pakistan that the country revitalises its economy and addresses some of the "shortcomings" of the past. Later in a post on X (formerly Twitter), the IMF chief said

Continued on Page 06

## Govt refutes propaganda of privatization

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal government has refuted the propaganda of privatization of institutions as its ministers clarified on Thursday that they have not started any privatization plan. Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad and Information Minister Murtaza Solangi held a joint press conference in

Continued on Page 06

# India suspends visas for Canadian people

DNA

NEW DELHI: India has suspended visa services for Canadian citizens over what it says are "security threats" against diplomats in Canada, escalating a spat between both countries after Ottawa accused New Delhi of potentially being behind the assassination of a Sikh separatist activist on its soil. BLS International, which handles visa applications for India in Canada, sent a letter to

Continued on Page 06

## President Alvi condemns killing of Sikh leader

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has strongly condemned the involvement of India in the murder of

Continued on Page 06

# Security forces kill eight terrorists in KP

Locals of the area appreciated the operation. Security forces of Pakistan remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism: ISPR

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Eight terrorists were killed by security forces during two separate intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the military's media affairs wing said on Thursday. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the first operation was conducted in the Jani Khel general area of Bannu district. "An intense fire exchange took place between our troops and terrorists. Resultantly, six terrorists were sent to hell while five were apprehended," it stated. The ISPR said the terrorists were involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces, including facilitation of motorcycle borne suicide attack on a military convoy in Jani Khel on August 31, during which "nine brave

Continued on Page 06

## Verified refugees shouldn't be jailed

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has asked the federal government to establish a mechanism in accordance with Article 31 of the Refugee Convention, 1951. This mechanism should enable refugees to voluntarily report upon arrival in Pakistan that they seek refuge and wish to register with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to seek asylum in a third country. "It must also be noted that in a case where the

Continued on Page 06

# Elections in January: the expected political scenarios

COMMENT

ANSAR M BHATTI

THE Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has made a significant announcement, confirming that the general elections are slated to take place in the final week of January 2024. This announcement has triggered discussions among legal experts, as it appears to deviate from the Constitutional mandate requiring elections to be held within 90 days following the dissolution of the assemblies. Legal experts are raising concerns about the absence of a legal framework supporting this decision by the ECP. Many argue that such a move necessitates a clear legal basis. In response to this development, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has taken a proactive stance, indicating their intent to bring the matter before the apex court. Meanwhile, other political parties, most notably the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which has consistently advocated for elections to be held within the constitutionally mandated 90-day window, are expected to unveil their strategies and future courses of action in the coming days. The political landscape in Pakistan is heating up as various parties grapple



with the implications of this decision, setting the stage for what promises to be an eventful election season in early 2024. In addition to the ordinary citizens of Pakistan, international actors have also expressed a strong desire for early, free, and fair elections in the country. Diplomats from prominent nations, including the USA, UK, Australia, UAE, and Saudi Arabia, have engaged in discussions not only with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) but also with leaders from a diverse array of political parties. Against this backdrop, it becomes apparent that the ECP's announcement may have been influenced by a combination of external and internal pressures, undoubtedly with the explicit consent of influential stakeholders. Concerning the issue of whether all political parties enjoy an equal and fair playing field, it is evident that this is not the current reality. This is particularly apparent at this juncture, as the Chairman of PTI is incarcerated, and a relentless crackdown on PTI members and supporters persists without respite. If the PTI, which seemingly boasts significant public support, is not granted a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the election, it could cast doubt on the authenticity of the entire electoral process. The PML-N, which aspires to lead the country, has been working diligently to foster unity within the party through increased inter-party communications. One of the paramount challenges facing the par-

ty is the secure and swift return of Nawaz Sharif. He is arguably the only leader who possesses the capability to aid the PML-N in its quest to rekindle its former prestige and support base. However, the recent Supreme Court ruling, which nullified the NAB amendments passed during the PDM government's tenure, has exacerbated the challenges facing Nawaz Sharif. In a surprising turn of events, Nawaz

“The real concern lies in whether a government formed through maneuvering and gerrymandering can truly address the wounds afflicting our nation and breathe life into our nearly moribund economy. Unfortunately, the answer appears to be a resounding no”

Sharif has called upon Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz to convene in London for a series of discussions concerning the ever-evolving political landscape. Naturally, this move has left the PML-N leadership somewhat apprehensive, particularly in light of the potential reopening of NAB cases. Should the caretaker government choose not to file a review petition, it would imply that the powers-that-be are in alignment with the verdict

of the apex court. Just a few days ago, Nawaz Sharif confidently asserted that the PML-N is poised to assume power in the upcoming government. In fact, he went a step further by expressing his party's intent to hold certain individuals accountable, including former army chief General Bajwa, former ISI Chief Faiz Hameed, and the next Chief Justice of Pakistan,

Justice Ijazul Ahsan, whom he accused of 'patronizing' anti-PML-N factions. It's worth noting that this particular assertion might have raised eyebrows within the ranks of the Establishment. Even in my previous analysis, I emphasized the inherent challenge of Nawaz Sharif and the Establishment coexisting peacefully. It is undeniable that the Establishment wields significant influence within Pakistani politics, actively

contributing to the shaping of political landscapes. Political parties readily acknowledge this influence when they find themselves in the opposition, but once in power, they often seem to disregard this crucial factor. This shift in perspective is where the real issue arises, potentially explaining why no prime minister has managed to complete a full term to date. If the elections proceed under the current circumstances, it seems highly likely that no single party will be able to secure an outright majority. In this scenario, the PML-N appears to be in a favorable position to secure a significant number of seats, particularly given the prevailing political landscape that seeks to exclude the PTI from the equation. A plausible outcome could be the formation of a coalition government involving the PML-N, the recently established Pakistan Istehkam Party, along with several smaller parties and independent candidates. Collaborating with the PPP would likely be the PML-N's least preferred option, serving as a last resort. However, the real concern lies in whether a government formed through maneuvering and gerrymandering can truly address the wounds afflicting our nation and breathe life into our nearly moribund economy. Unfortunately, the answer appears to be a resounding "no." So, what lies ahead? Are we destined to witness yet another cycle of a short-lived prime minister and a government that withers prematurely?

## Briefs

### Sheikh Rashid's Lal Haveli sealed

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) officials have sealed the Awami Muslim League (AML) Sheikh Rashid Ahmad's Lal Haveli in Rawalpindi in an operation on Thursday morning amid heavy presence of FIA personnel and police. The ETPB officers locked former interior minister's office, Lal Haveli's main hall, political baithak (drawing room) and five other entry points. The ETPB reclaimed the property on the orders of the Supreme Court as its team led by Deputy Administrator Asif Khan completely sealed the Lal Haveli without any hindrance.

### ECP's fixing of month for poll surprising

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson expressed surprise over the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) announcement of fixing month instead of a date for the forthcoming general election, saying that the nation would not accept any date out of the constitutionally defined timeframe of 90-day. Reacting strongly to the ECP's announcement of holding elections in the last week of January, PTI spokesperson said that the Constitution binds the ECP to hold elections within the constitutionally mandated timeframe of 90 days after the dissolution of the assembly.



# Ahsan calls for export emergency to boost exports

MUHAMMAD ADIL

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Secretary General, PML(N) and former Federal Minister for Planning & Development stressed on imposing an export emergency to boost exports and revive the economy. He said that the business community will have to play an active role in promoting exports by visiting foreign countries along with samples of products. He said that in the next 7-8 years, Pakistan will have to take its exports to US\$ 100 billion to improve the economy. He said that the government should fully support the business community and remove all the hurdles in business promotion. He said this while addressing the business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Former Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Hafiz Hafeezur Rahman and former MNA Mian Abdul Manan also accompanied him on the occasion. Ahsan Iqbal said that the biggest challenge for Pakistan is to repay the debt of USD 77 billion in the next 3 years and a rapid increase in exports is inevitable to discharge this obligation. He said that the countries are focusing on brands for exports and Pakistan also needs to promote its brands for exports promotion. He said that the interest rate should be reduced for the industry. He said that if the PML-N government comes in power,

it will remove all obstacles in the way of business and promote ease of doing business in the country. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that all political parties should agree on a charter of economy to ensure long-term economic policies and steer the country out of the current crisis. He said that industrialization is key to strengthening the economy. He said that 22 percent policy interest rate is a major hurdle for business and investment promotion. High energy tariffs led to the high cost of doing business and the government should address these issues to help business growth. He said that despite being an agricultural country, Pakistan's agricultural imports are US\$ 8-10, which should be a cause of concern for the government. He said that the Chinese companies should be encouraged to invest in Pakistan with technology transfer. He invited all the political parties to present their economic manifesto in ICCI, which will improve the confidence of the business community. Hafiz Hafeezur Rahman, Former Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan said that 70% of the work on Diamir Bhasha Dam has been completed, while the work on Dasu Dam is also in progress and the completion of these two dams will generate 10,000 MW of cheap electricity. He said that political stability is necessary for economic stability, so everyone has to play a role in this regard.

He said that development projects worth 52 billion rupees have been finalized in GB and their completion will lead to better development of the region. Former MNA of MPL(N) Mian Abdul Manan stressed that all stakeholders have to play a role for economic stability in Pakistan and end the ongoing crisis. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI said that the government should make economic policies in consultation with the business community, which will create a conducive environment for business and industrial activities. All loss-making SOEs should be privatized as they are a big burden on the national exchequer. Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that the enemy is creating an atmosphere of inflation and instability in Pakistan through hybrid war, so we all have to work together to thwart this conspiracy. It is the urgent need of the hour that all the political parties put aside their differences and play their role for the economic stability of Pakistan. The government should focus on hydropower to provide cheap energy to industry. Anjuman-e-Tajaran Pakistan President Ajmal Baloch, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Akhtar Hussain, Maqsood Tabish and others also expressed their views and emphasized that all political parties and institutions should work together to get Pakistan out of the current economic crisis.



ISLAMABAD: Former Senator and Federal Minister, Muhammad Ali Durrani, called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. —APP

## KP Govt allocates Rs. 65 million for renovation of temples

PESHAWAR: The district government of Peshawar has allocated a hefty fund of Rs. 65 million for solarization of Churches in the city besides renovation of worship places of minority communities. This was said by Mayor Peshawar, Zubair Ali while talking to media persons here on Thursday after inauguration of renovation work at Peshawar Press Club. Talking to newsmen, Mayor Zubair Ali said that he was giving special attention to minority community and in this regard had started face lifting of different Churches, Temples and Gurdwaras. A hefty amount is allocated for solarization of Churches on which work is completed in most of places, he reiterated, adding, the district government has decided to award 1000 scholarships to deserving students for free studies and among these around 50 students will be selected from minority and 50 from religious seminaries. He said the government has also announced cash award schemes for position holder students to encourage them by giving prize of Rs. 150,000 to first, Rs. 100,000 to second and Rs. 50,000 for third position holder. Similarly, teachers were also encouraged by announcing laptop scheme for those whose students showed excellent performance. The Mayor said public sector schools lacks basic facilities like laboratories and for this purpose steps are being taken to equip them with modern needs. Earlier while inauguration of PPC facelift, Zubair Ali announced applying titles and marble in the front portion and within the premises. He also issued directives for provision of two electric water coolers for Press Club and provision of necessary playing kits and accessories for journalist community. District government, he continued, has also chalked out a plan of giving honorarium to senior columnists and writers who are now not able to continue writing due to health issues. He asked president Peshawar Press Club, Arshad Aziz Malik to decide the amount of honorarium and inform the district government. On this occasion, Zubair Ali also announced a cash grant of Rs. 500,000 for Peshawar Press Club.

## CSP at ISSI hosts talk on Pakistan's foreign policy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an In-House session, titled "Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Conversation with Former Foreign Secretary, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan." The Round Table interaction was moderated by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan shed

light on a broad range of subjects pertaining to Pakistan's foreign policy - including policy formulation process, determinants of foreign policy, Pakistan's trajectory over the decades, strengths and weaknesses in pursuit of foreign policy goals, and threats and challenges as well as opportunities for Pakistan in the global and regional milieu marked by flux and transformations. The talk was followed by a vibrant Q&A session. The key takeaways from the talk and

interactive session included: the need to clearly recognize the challenges and opportunities in the wake of a rapidly transforming world; the imperatives of internal stability and economic strength; and the importance of vigilant, nimble and innovative diplomacy. Chairman BoG ISSI Ambassador Khalid Mahmood made concluding remarks. The session was attended by the ISSI Research Faculty and University students interning at ISSI.

## Global plea for mercy towards Afghan People

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Former senior Afghan diplomat and bureaucrat Abdul Jabbar Naemi has requested world community, especially Iran, Pakistan and other Islamic countries to be merciful with war affected Afghans as they are ahead with imposed wars and hostilities in motherland from last five decades. "None of Afghan wants to be part of these imposed wars, for which they are suffering and hunting for shelter throughout the world," Jabbar Naemi remarked in a press statement on Thursday. Naemi who besides serving in Pakistan in a senior diplomatic capacity in 90's, had also served Afghanistan's four provinces as its Governor, has shown severe concern over continuous arrests, detention and forcible deportation to Afghanistan from a number of countries, especially Iran and Pakistan. He said that Afghans are most patriotic

and love their motherland and unfortunately, "Afghanistan has been made field of battles by external elements." Former Afghan bureaucrat has recalled that on the grounds of Islamic norms, all of the Islamic countries, especially neighbours like Pakistan and Iran are bound to help the war-affected Afghans at this crucial stage. These war affected Afghans are ahead with worst kind of situation in Pakistan and Iran from last several months, he remarked, adding "almost of them have confined them to rented homes and apartments in Karachi, Islamabad, Quetta, Peshawar and other places. A large number including women and children are being arrested and even teen aged boys and girls have been detached from their families including parents, he emphasized. Similar is the situation in Western and European world, which are the final destinations

of these war affected people in hunt of best fortune. Jabbar Naemi said that no one can deny the fact that Afghanistan and its people have been dragged into a war, which didn't own or beneficial to them. But this war was imposed on them by most effective block of global community for meeting its nefarious designs, he said, adding "still certain elements are fuelling internal hostilities in Afghanistan for purposes known best to its policy makers." He said that Afghans have been made fed up by these imposed wars and hostilities and they are praying for peace and stability in their motherland. He called upon the global community to address genuine wish of the Afghans who are desirous to live with peace and dignity in their motherland. Former governor of Kunduz, Khost, Laghman and Maidan Wardag has also called up on United States, United Nations, European Community.—APP



## IG Punjab gives houses of martyrs families

LAHORE: Inspector General Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar is continuing to take priority measures for the welfare of police martyrs, in continuation of which IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar has given residential houses to the families of two more police martyrs. The family of Constable Saifullah Shaheed received a house worth Rs 13.5 million in the private housing scheme of Gujranwala, while the family of Constable Muhammad Akbar Shaheed also received house of same worth Rs 13.5 million in the private housing scheme of Gujranwala and RPO Bahawalpur sent the cases to the Central Police Office to provide houses to the families of the two martyrs. IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar gave the final approval for the purchase of the houses of the families of the two martyrs. IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar said "the best welfare of the families of the martyrs is my first priority," adding that priority measures would remain continue in that regard.—APP

## 25 composite waste disposal plants planned

QAZI SHOAB KHAN

ATTOCK: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha while reviewing the progress of the ongoing projects on Thursday said that on said that 25 composite plants including ten in Rawalpindi and five each in Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal districts would be set up for waste disposal. A spokesman of his office told media on Thursday that chairing the meeting regarding Composite Plant establishment, he said that Integrated Resource Recovery Centers (IRRC) were the need of the hour as according to this method garbage was segregated in a modern way after door-to-door collection. He directed that by involving the local community and welfare organizations as well as philanthropists in this public welfare project, an immediate proposal should be prepared for setting up ten plants in Rawalpindi and five each in Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal districts. Liaqat said

that about 60 per cent of the collected waste consisted of organic waste which was converted into composite form after processing, adding 25 per cent of the remaining waste was recyclable while only 15 per cent was disposed of at a landfill site. He said that this model had been launched in Pakistan after achieving success in other Asian countries. He directed to organize a meeting again in the next fifteen days to review the progress and identify the places where these plants could be installed. The Commissioner directed to setting up of two waste treatment plants in Murree so that the cost and labour of transferring the waste from Murree to the Losar site could be avoided. He further said that the composite plant would help save huge amounts of money spent on waste transfer and would also have a positive impact on the environment and control the spread of infectious diseases due to filth. On the occasion, while giving a briefing by IRRC, it was informed that these plants were being successfully operated at

five locations in Pakistan, including G-15, B-17, and Jinnah Garden Islamabad, Mardan KPk and Sarkand Town Sindh. Recently this plant had been installed in Tehsil Khazro of Attock in Rawalpindi Division. Similarly, the feasibility report of the plant in Tehsil Gujranwala had also been prepared, the meeting was briefed. It was informed that around two kanals of space were required to scale two tons of waste. The meeting was briefed that the Primary focus of the model was organic waste, which typically comes from kitchens, restaurants, plant trimming, and wholesale vegetable or fruit markets while the composite produced from this plant was very important for nurseries and farmers. Director General PHA Ahmed Hasan Ranjha, CEO Rawalpindi Waste Management Company Rana Sajid Safdar, Assistant Commissioner General Maleeha Ilesar, Dr Samira Akhtar, Hameed Khan Memorial Trust, Dr Adnan Jilani Arid University and other concerned Officers participated, spokesman added.

## PID CVE Media Cell launches Policy Working Group

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Representatives from leading thinktanks in Islamabad participated in an inaugural meeting to launch Press Information Department's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Media Cell's Policy Working Group. The formation of the policy working group would help enhance the media cell's research capability while also building broad-based consensus on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's CVE efforts. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Raisa Adil, Director General Home Publicity, and featured a comprehensive presentation by Deputy Project Director Mr. Asad Shabbir. Participants included Dr. Shafiq Munir from Sustainable Development Policy Institute



(SDPI), Dr. Talat Shabbir from Institute of Regional Studies Islamabad (IRS), Ms. Reema Shaukat from

Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Mr. Hassan Ahmad from Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), Mr.

Asad Ullah Khan from Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies, Mr. Shahab Siddiqi from Tabadlab, Mr. Naufil

Shahrukh from Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), and Ms. Alishba Naem from Social Protection Resource Centre.

## HIRING OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR RESTRUCTURING OF PIACL INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL PROPOSALS

Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Ltd. (PIACL), the national flag carrier of Pakistan, operates over a network spanning over 20 countries across the globe, and to over 25 cities within Pakistan.

PIACL seeks to hire the services of reputable corporate finance/accounting and legal firms as the "Consultants" or "Financial Adviser", with extensive experience in corporate restructuring, demerger, preferably in airline businesses, to assist and advise PIACL in formulation and implementation of Restructuring Plan together with consequential corporate actions under the Companies Act 2017 and PIAC (Conversion) Act 2016. A detailed request for proposals (RFP) and draft agreement for provision of advisory services / FASA (in pdf format) along with the scope of work are available at <https://www.piac.com.pk/corporate/sales-procurement/tenders> and can be downloaded free of cost.

Interested parties are requested to submit the technical and financial proposals conforming to instructions in the RFP by: (1). Email to [gm.cm@piac.aero](mailto:gm.cm@piac.aero) (only password protected proposals will be considered); or (2). through courier or physically (five copies each of Technical & Financial Proposals) delivered at the office of undersigned. Each interested party shall pay a non-refundable processing/ tender fee of PKR 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) by banker's cheque/ wire transfer to bank account given in the RFP, on or before 06 October 2023 (Friday) at 3:00 pm (PKT). The electronic proposals, which are not password protected, will be rejected. The technical proposals accompanied by processing/ tender fee will be opened at 3:30 pm on the same day in presence of interested parties or their reps, which/who opt to be present at the tender room SCM building Karachi. The interested party, who has submitted electronic proposals, shall provide password of the technical proposal only between 3:25 pm to 3:40 pm on 06 October 2023 at the time of opening technical proposal in person or through email. Date and time for provision of password of financial proposal will be communicated through email to the interested party who has qualified the technical proposal.

PIACL reserves the right to reject any or all bids or cancel the tender process at any stage in line with PPRA rules.

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**Supply Chain Management Building** PID K 940/23  
**PJA Head Office, Karachi**  
**Telephone: 021-99044216, Email: gm.cm@piac.aero**



## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### September

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

### Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

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



### Enquiry

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



### Hospitals

CMH.....5611111  
MH.....561116  
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11  
DHQ.....5556311-4  
RGH.....9290301-7  
Holy Family.....9290322-7  
PIMS.....9261170-29  
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: Federal Planning Minister Sami Saeed witnessing photo exhibition on the occasion of the National Day of Nepal.—DNA

## China-Arab expo is a testament to global collaboration

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Delivers Inspiring Video Message at the 6th China-Arab States Expo on its 10th Anniversary

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani delivered a video message at the 6th Sino-Arab States Expo in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, marking the occasion of the expo's 10th anniversary. The four-day event, taking place from September 21 to 24, saw participation from over 50 countries, including Saudi Arabia and Mauritania. This year's Expo is a testament to global collaboration, featuring engaging forums on a wide array of topics such as trade

and investment, modern agriculture, cross-border trade, cultural tourism, health, water resources utilization, and meteorological co-operation. Chairman Senate's video message was also prominently screened during the Expo's opening ceremony, emphasizing the importance of Pakistan's involvement in this significant event. In his address, the Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani congratulated China and the Arab States on the 10th anniversary of the China-Arab States Expo, highlighting its role as a crucial platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and mutual development. The participation of

Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, was lauded as a welcome endeavor, underlining their pivotal role in promoting cultural and economic growth. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani emphasized the expo's potential to further regional development and economic prosperity, acknowledging Pakistan's enduring partnership and trust with China and Arab countries. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was highlighted as a cornerstone of their cooperation, not only ensuring development for their nations but also serving as a vital corridor between China and the Arab countries.

As the expo coincides with the 10th anniversary of China's proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Chairman Senate stressed the need to ensure timely investment and development in the face of emerging competition in the region. He encouraged exploring joint ventures in technology, trade, tourism, sports, and other sectors to achieve a common vision of development. Chairman Senate expressed optimism for the future with the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. He envisioned this expo creating abundant investment opportunities,

particularly in Pakistan, reinforcing its role as an attractive destination for investment. Highlighting the global challenge of climate change, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani urged developed countries to support Pakistan in combating its effects, considering the country's low share of global carbon emissions but significant vulnerability to climate impacts. In conclusion, Chairman Senate emphasized that this Expo and future endeavours should pave the way for a prosperous, harmonious, and interconnected future, promoting global cooperation and shared prosperity.

## PNCA holds calligraphy workshop

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts hosted a one-day Calligraphy Workshop conducted by the renowned calligrapher, Mr. M. Ashraf Heera. This workshop was an exceptional opportunity for artists, students, and calligraphy enthusiasts to delve into the artistry of calligraphy, with a focus on the Kufi script and more. Calligraphy is a timeless art form that combines the elegance of design with the precision of handwriting. It is a visual representation of culture and heritage, reflecting the rich history and traditions of Pakistan. Mr. M. Ashraf Heera, a skilled and celebrated calligrapher, shared his expertise and passion for this art form with participants. Mr. M. Ashraf Heera made this workshop an invaluable learning experience for all



attendees. This workshop was designed to cater to all skill levels. The workshop began with an overview of different types materials and techniques involved. Mr. Ashraf gave a demo of what he was going to teach in the workshop including kufi script before the commencement of the workshop and guided the participants throughout.

The event was heavily covered by media and press and the workshop was followed by refreshments for the participants and media. PNCA is dedicated to promote Pakistani Art on local and international scale. Our elevate and unique programs that present the traditional and contemporary art practices we reflect upon the excel-

lence and cultural diversity of Pakistan as well as support professional development of the artist. PNCA is committed to promoting significant aspects of the country and encourages community participation in gallery activities, fostering curatorial practice to artist's own understanding of their work and encourages a healthy.

## NACTA focused on combating intolerance issues

ISLAMABAD : National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Muhammad Tahir Rai Thursday said the authority was actively engaged in developing mechanisms to strategize solutions for prevailing issue of growing intolerance in the country. He was addressing the four-day National Peace Festival organized by NACTA in commemoration of United Nations International Day of Peace (marked September 21) concluded here. The objective of this event was to uphold and enhance social agreement against extremism and engage social actors in exchanging knowledge and proposing solutions to promote lasting peace in the country. The National Peace Festival was concluded with the Minister for information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, as Chief Guest. The National Coordinator NACTA said, "Global events like wars, epidemics and climate change have definitely affected billions of people in fields of food and energy. Billions are facing hunger. We are also affected, obviously. But still Pakistanis are able to face it boldly by sharing food and happiness with each other. We have many blessings which other people don't have." Pakistan with its cultural diversity, he said exemplified the strength of unity in the face of diversity. "We are working with our partners in other ministries and institutions to give solutions and most importantly engage with youth", he said. The National Coordinator apprised the participants that NACTA was also working with local and international partners, think tanks and other stakeholders to reach out to educational institutions to promote Pakistani way of life which is based on indigenous Pakistani values of hospitality, sympathy and pursuit of happiness. He informed that NACTA had developed a comprehensive National CVE Policy 2023.—DNA

## Day-long workshop integrated energy planning held

### MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Planning Minister for Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed said that Integrated Energy Planning will help in tackling the energy crisis being faced by the country. He made these remarks while addressing at the workshop titled "Integrated Energy Planning for Sustainable Development, organized by the Energy Wing of the Planning Ministry on Wednesday. Under the vision 2025, the project IEP was envisioned to make a centralized Energy Planning and Resource Centre (EPRC) that meets the demands of energy planning for the fast development in the world. The Planning Minister said that the outcomes of the Low Emission Analysis Platform (LEAP)

model by the Integrated Energy Planning (IEP) will help in achieving the high industrial growth— export-led economic base and to save the foreign exchange reserves. The event was attended by the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Jehanzeb Khan, country's leading experts in the energy sectors and other stakeholders. LEAP model is an effort to present a holistic integrated initial approach to Energy Demand and Supply Analysis; containing all components of integrated balances, it is used to compute long-term energy prices under various scenarios. It is noted that in August 2022, IEP for Sustainable Development took the initiative of providing an in-person LEAP training program where relevant energy sector stakeholders were invited to participate in the train-

ing process. EPRC working under IEP started working on Pakistan's first LEAP energy model using an integrated top-down approach. During the workshop, three thematic sessions were held which include Underlying Assumptions for LEAP Model & Estimation of Integrated Energy Demand, Power Sector Energy Mix to Meet Future Demand Using the LEAP Model and Fuel Sector Planning to Address Future Demand Using the LEAP Model by the leading experts like Syed Akhtar Ali, former Member Energy, Planning Ministry, Dr Afia Malik, Senior Research Economist, PIDE, Sajid Akram, Director General Tariff, Khurram Lalani, Consultant on Energy, Omar Haroon Malik, Head Strategy & Power Market Development CPPA-G.

## Supreme Court upholds CCP enquiry

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a historic judgment, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has unanimously upheld the statutory powers of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP). The powers relate to gathering of information and conducting of enquiries. A three-member bench comprising former Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, and Justice Ayesha A. Malik passed the judgement. The Supreme Court declared that there is no restriction on CCP's general regulatory powers to call for information under Section 36 of the Competition Act, 2010. It has also stated a clear obligation on undertakings to fully comply with CCP's directives for the provision of information. The apex court has further declared that CCP is not obligated to provide detailed reasoning before commencing an enquiry. The court stated that initiation of an enquiry under Section 37 of the Act is not an adverse action. It is merely a fact-finding exercise distinct from show cause proceedings under Section 30 of the Act. In 2020, CCP had inquired cooking oil and ghee companies for information about ghee and cooking oil prices. Dalda Foods was the sole entity to challenge in the Islamabad High Court. Dalda asserted that CCP did not possess sufficient grounds to justify the enquiry or the call for information. The Islamabad High Court had set aside CCP's call for information letters and the initiation of enquiry.

## NUST offers 6-month diploma in health professions

ISLAMABAD :With a view to enhancing the knowledge and skills of healthcare professionals, the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) has introduced a comprehensive six-month Certificate in Healthcare Professions Education (CHPE). The programme was geared towards advancing healthcare services vis- vis patient experiences and overall healthcare outcomes. The initiative came at a time when the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) made it mandatory for all medical faculty to acquire this certification. CHPE has been tailored to cater to the growing demand for highly skilled educators and trainers in the healthcare industry. Carefully designed by the experts in the field, the curriculum equips healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to excel as educators and mentors in these epoch-making times. The healthcare industry currently faces unprecedented challenges with regard to improved affordability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare. NUST recognised these challenges and was committed to address them by leveraging cutting-edge technologies.—DNA

SEPTEMBER 2023

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## Briefs

## FPCCI delegation calls on Minister Khalid George

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) led by Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman, Vice President of FPCCI held a meeting with Mr. Khalid George the caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights and discussed strategies and initiatives to enhance international trade, promote exports, and improve the ease of doing business including industrial development. Among others, Mr. Muhammad Aslam Sheikh & Mr. Muhammad Ali Sheikh Former Vice Presidents of FPCCI were also part of the delegation. On this occasion, various issues including the country's economic challenges, and problems faced by the business community were discussed in detail. During the meeting, Mr. Umar Masood ur Rehman, Vice President FPCCI, while appreciating the energetic caretaker minister for HR, discussed various issues about human rights nationally. He also drew his attention toward the rights of overseas Pakistanis who are our big resource of foreign exchange earnings and inward remittances. The Vice President FPCCI urged strong collaboration between the Ministry of HR, the Ministry of Industry, and the Ministry of Education and Technical Training. Education and Technical training is the basic right of our youth. He said that today our industry is facing a shortage of skilled labour.

## Pakexhibitors enthusiastic at Arab States expo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani exhibitors are eagerly looking forward to exploring new opportunities at the Sixth China-Arab States Expo, which kicked off in Yinchuan, capital city of China's northwest autonomous region of Ningxia on Thursday. The event serves as a platform for businesses from China and Arab countries to come together and foster economic cooperation with the world, said Muhammad Irfan, Commercial Counselor at the Guangzhou Consulate of Pakistan. Muhammad Irfan told China Economic Net (CEN) that Pakistan, being a key player in the region, recognizes the importance of strengthening its ties with China in terms of trade and investments. The participation of Pakistani exhibitors at this event signifies their commitment to expanding bilateral trade relations and tapping into potential business prospects. "China's Belt and Road Initiative has already paved the way for increased trade and infrastructure development between the two countries.

## Calligraphy exhibition held at PNCA to celebrate Rabi-ul-Awwal

The exhibition was a testament to the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan and the enduring power of art to inspire and uplift societal norms and traditions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) organized a calligraphy exhibition, 'Mehtar-e-Qalam', to celebrate the holy month of Rabi-ul-Awwal with religious enthusiasm. The exhibition showcased the extraordinary works of calligraphic styles, from traditional to contemporary, and embodied the spiritual resonance of the holy month of M. Ashraf Heera, Shabbir Zia, M. Jamal Muhsin, Arif Khan, Aslam Dogar, and M. Waseem Ashraf Wasi, a press release on Wednesday said. Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and DG PNCA M. Ayoub Jamali inaugurated the exhibition on September 19 followed by a soft opening on September 20, in which DG-PNCA distributed certificates of appreciation to all the participating artists. DG-PNCA said that he was grateful to the Visual Arts team and participants for their hard work and dedication in making the exhibition possible. He praised their creativity, talent, and commitment to the art of calligraphy and expressed confidence that the event would be a resounding success. The exhibition was a visual feast that paid homage to the profound



significance of the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal. Visitors had the opportunity to witness the beauty of Arabic calligraphy, explore the fusion of traditional and contemporary elements, and experience the

spiritual resonance that each piece embodied. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet the artists and engage in conversations about the significance of calligraphy in Islamic art. The exhibition was a valuable

opportunity to immerse oneself in the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan. The Mehtar-e-Qalam calligraphy exhibition was a resounding success, showcasing the masterful works of some of Pakistan's most

celebrated calligraphers. The exhibition was a testament to the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan and the enduring power of art to inspire and uplift societal norms and traditions.

## AIOU holds RDs conference

ISLAMABAD : Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood chaired the Regional Directors Conference of Punjab at Multan Regional Campus the other day. Different educational issues from admissions to examinations and issuance of degrees were discussed and various measures were suggested for the convenience of students in the meeting. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said there was a need to promote and popularize education as well as social and economic activities to eradicate poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy. Regional offices and Model Study Centres of AIOU will be established in every part of the country that lacks the basic facilities for education. He asked regional directors to submit the results of the assignments within the stipulated time frame to conduct the final examinations as per scheduled timings. He further said that the student supported system was our priority as students' facilitation were very important in the distance education system. —APP

## Increased surveillance underway in rural areas to combat dengue

ISLAMABAD : In an effort to combat the spread of dengue fever in rural Islamabad, the Assistant Commissioner Rural, on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon, visited various areas of the Rural Sub-Division. Assistant Commissioner Rural conducted inspections of garbage bins, tyre shops, service stations, and construction sites, ICT Spokesman said on Thursday. Accompanied by dengue monitoring teams, the Assistant Commissioner Rural identified and issued warnings to several violators of dengue prevention guidelines. In two cases, however, the violations were so egregious that the Assistant Commissioner ordered the arrest of the perpetrators, who were subsequently transferred to the police station. The heightened surveillance and enforcement measures in rural Islamabad reflect the growing concern among health officials about the potential for a dengue outbreak in this region. Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection that can cause a range of symptoms, including fever, headache, muscle aches, and rash. In severe cases, dengue can lead to hospitalization and even death.

## Stability in Afghanistan vital for regional connectivity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) held a round table discussion on Political-economic situation of Afghanistan and its impact on regional connectivity. Participants in the roundtable discussion included former ambassadors, mainstream media representatives, academic professionals, and activists. Ambassador Abrar Hussain, Vice Chairman Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) spoke about internal and external threats facing the interim government in Afghanistan. At present, the Taliban did not face any real threat to

their rule. Taliban would require reforms in education, inclusivity, women education and governance to gain international recognition. Although most regional countries have started active engagements with the Taliban, yet recognition remains a far cry. Dr Farah Naz, Assistant Professor at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad, discussed the ground economic realities of Afghanistan. She was of the view that the Taliban had averted an economic domestic crisis and were running the country's economy under sanctions but almost 80 percent of the population was still liv-

ing below the poverty line, with drought and famine contributing to the unfavourable living standards for the people. Salman Javed, Director General of the Pakistan Afghan Youth Forum (PAYF) highlighted the numerous agreements the Taliban have made with neighboring countries which had altered the trade balance in Afghanistan's favour with many regional countries including Pakistan. Nizamuddin Khan, Editor at HUM Network stated that there was a dire need for Pakistan to understand the contextual nuances of Afghanistan in order to effectively engage with Afghanistan as the gateway of

this region, tapping into the economic potential of the country. He pressed on the fact that there may be many projects in process with Afghanistan, but the lack of their implementation and absence of improved security situation was proving to be a constant struggle for the Afghan population. President IRS, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz while concluding the event stressed the need for constant engagement with the Taliban, internal stability and consistent policies at home for ensuring betterment in bilateral ties. He also stressed that without a stable Afghanistan, regional connectivity would remain a mirage.

## 'BRI and CPEC vital vehicles for achieving SDGs'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar noted that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are vital vehicles for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He was participating in a High-Level Meeting on Global Development Initiative (GDI) Cooperation Outcomes held on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. The GDI was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping on September 20, 2022. In his remarks, the Prime Minister highlighted that progress towards achieving the SDGs has suffered a serious setback due to the poly crises of COVID, conflict and climate change. 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. And he highlighted the need for action in 5 key areas: food production, infrastructure investment, industrialization, resilient healthcare systems and the bridging the digital divide. The Prime Minister further highlighted the necessity of adequate and appropriate finance at all levels of the development process and welcomed President Xi's announcement of the setting up another fund of USD 10 billion dedicated to the implementation of the GDI. In conclusion, the Prime Minister stated that Pakistan looks forward to enhancing its cooperation with China and other members of the Group of Friends of GDI to realize their collective aspiration for implementation of the SDGs. The event also heard opening remarks by Mr. Han Zheng, Vice President of China, Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the General Assembly, and other high-level dignitaries, as well as a video briefing and presentation on GDI cooperation.

## PRA assures to highlight business community issues in parliament

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted a luncheon in honor of the newly elected Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA), which was also attended by representatives of the National Press Club and Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalists. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that parliamentary reporters have an important role in keeping the society informed about the activities of Parliament which is commendable. He said that Pakistan needs business-friendly and long-term economic policies to wriggle out of the current crisis and promote business and investment activities. He said that Bangladesh and many other countries have left Pakistan behind by creating business friendly policies. Bangladesh is trying to increase pharmaceutical exports in the coming days. Due to high utility tariffs, the cost of doing business has increased manifold. The government should revise contracts with IPPs because if they are not revised, people will not be able to pay the electric-


ity bills in the coming days. The people of Pakistan cannot bear the burden of circular debt, which has surged to trillions of rupees. The parliamentary reporters should raise all these issues in the Parliament so that the issues of the business community and the people are addressed. Usman Khan, President, Parliamentary Reporters Association, thanked ICCI for hosting lunch in their honor and assured that PRA would highlight the issues of the business community through its platform for their redress. He said that PRA will also raise its voice in Parliament for better protection of the interests of the business community so that they can be facilitated in growth of business activities. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan showed concerns over the rising political polarization in the country due to which the economy is also suffering. He stressed that the media should play a role to promote unity and end polarization in the nation. He urged that the businessmen should be encouraged as role models in the society as they are playing a vital role in the development of the country. The business community should be given representation at the highest positions of the country to formulate business friendly policies.

## KS relief distributes 9,400 food packages in deluge areas

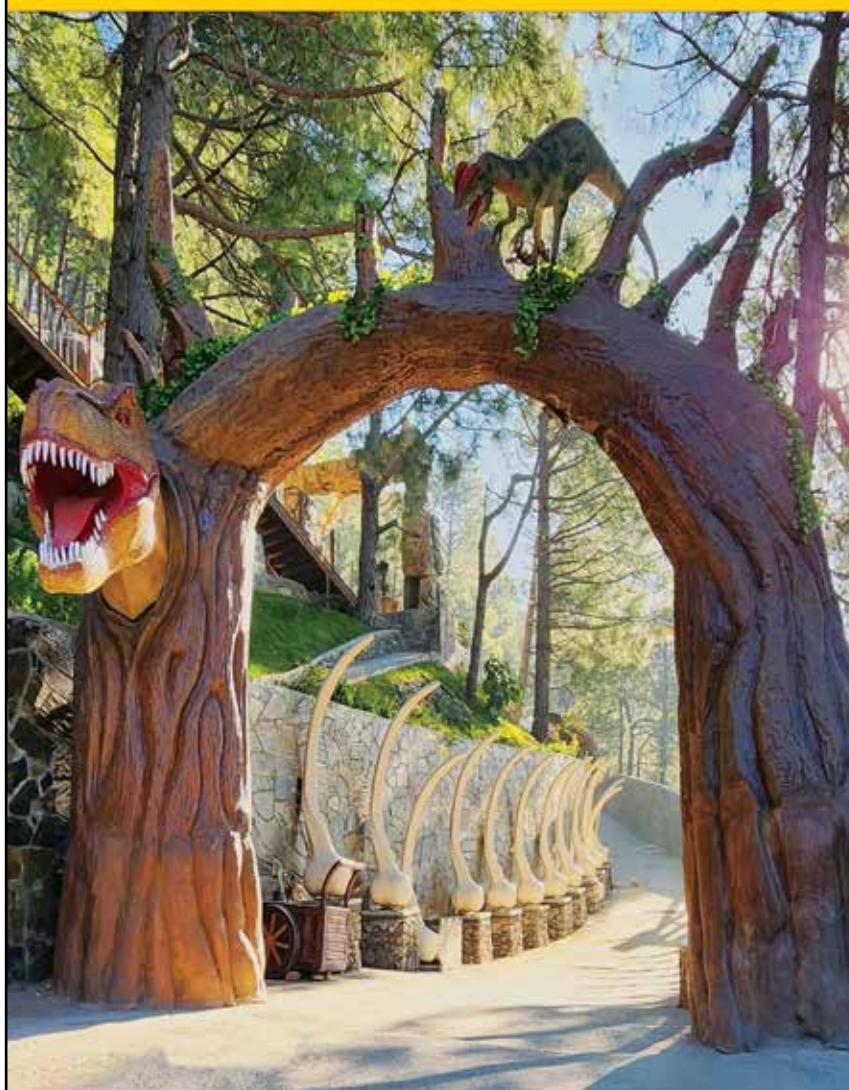
ISLAMABAD : King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) has distributed 9,400 essential food packages to assist individuals affected by recent floods in various regions of Sindh and Punjab. The center distributed packages in Sindh's Dadu and Sujawal and Punjab's Bahawalnagar and Muzaffargarh regions in a collaborative effort with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), said a statement issued by Saudi embassy on Thursday. According to this initiative, it would bring much-needed relief to 65,800 people across the country. Each package is thoughtfully designed to provide essential sustenance, weighing a total of 95 kgs and containing 80kg of flour.—APP



Pic21-009 ISLAMABAD: Motorists are on their way at Faisal Avenue during rain fall in Federal Capital.— Online



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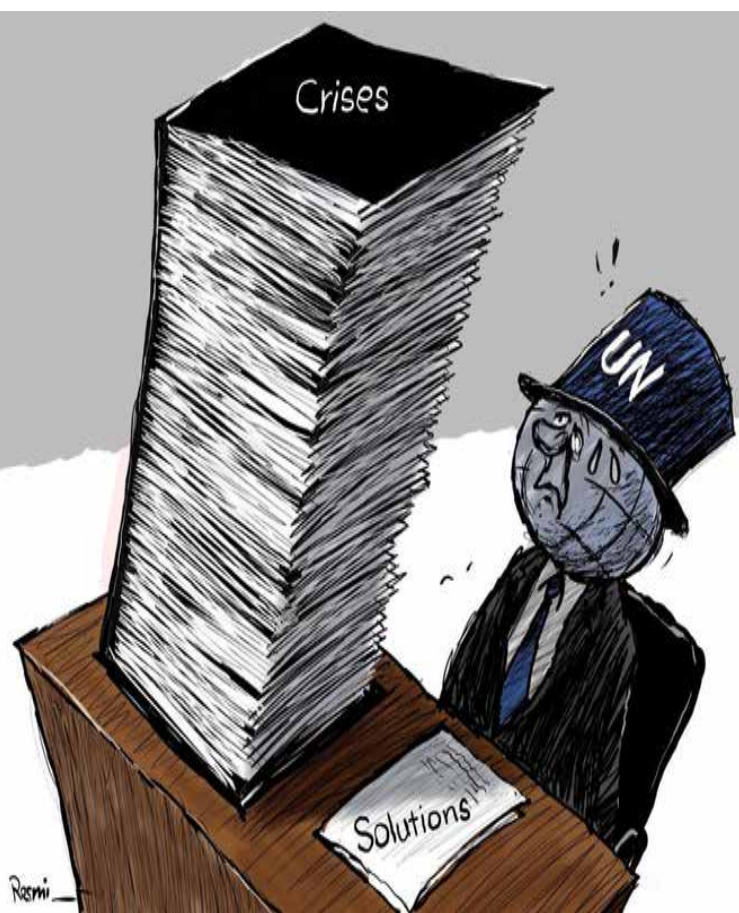
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Vol: 04 Issue: 348

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## US actions impact Chinese tech development

In his remarks at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, US President Joe Biden once again stressed that the United States seeks to responsibly manage the competition with China so "it does not tip into conflict" and claimed that it pursues "de-risking, not decoupling with China". Yet the same day, US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo told a US House of Representatives hearing that she was "upset" by news of the launch of Huawei's Mate 60 Pro during her visit to China last month. "The only good news, if there is any, is we don't have any evidence that they can manufacture 7-nanometer (chips) at scale," she said. Which clearly exposes the zero-sum mentality that prevails in Washington. When China adopted its reform and opening-up policy in 1978, the US was a main source of knowledge and experiences that it learned from. Likewise, it was by absorbing talent and ideas from all over the world that the US turned itself into the leading global powerhouse for the development of technologies after World War II. Now, half a century later, the US is striving to prevent China doing the same. That means that the US will continue sanctioning China by targeting its high-tech sector. Yet by doing so, the US is stymieing not just China's tech development but also its own. By seeking to shut its door to China, the US is damaging the profitability of its tech companies, thus constraining their input into R&D. This will in turn be a drag on the US' future tech leadership. The Boston Consulting Group has estimated that US companies could lose 18 percentage points of global share and 37 percent of their revenues if the US completely bans semiconductor companies from selling to Chinese customers, effectively causing a technology decoupling from China. The Chinese market for semiconductor tools is enormous, and US companies such as Applied Materials and Lam Research, benefit greatly from selling to this market. As an article in Forbes pointed out last year, it is more than just the impact on their bottom lines, as many in Washington may proclaim. Selling to the Chinese market gives them increased scale of efficiencies and the profits necessary to invest in future technologies. Referring to the Vietnam War in his speech on Tuesday, Biden said that with careful effort, adversaries can become partners, overwhelming challenges can be resolved and deep wounds can heal. That is an attitude that the US should adopt in relation to China, rather than clinging to its current confrontational and coercive approach. It should recognize the common hopes that bind all humanity – hopes for peace, a healthy environment and a better life are dependent on cooperation and collaboration, in technology as well as other areas – and choose to work with China "to bend the arc of history" for the common good of all peoples around the world.

## Strategic autonomy key to good trilateral ties

Following Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's meeting with former Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi in Jakarta in mid-July, and ROK President Yoon Suk-yeol expressing on multiple occasions Seoul's willingness to help resume the China-ROK-Japan meeting mechanism, there has been speculation that the vice-ministerial-level meetings of the three countries will be resumed. Reports have now emerged suggesting that a meeting is due to be held in Seoul on Tuesday. The meeting mechanism was initiated in 2007 and was suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019. An important reason why it has not been resumed till now is the divisive efforts of the United States to unite its anti-China front in East Asia by brokering a "reconciliation" between the Fumio Kishida government of Japan and the Yoon Suk-yeol government of the Republic of Korea. Although both Seoul and Tokyo have expressed their respective willingness to push for the resumption of the trilateral communication mechanism, both the ROK and Japan are part of the US' chip alliance, as well as regional security alliance network, both of which target China. US President Joe Biden hosted Kishida and Yoon at Camp David in Maryland last month, effectively consolidating the anti-China troika in East Asia. So whether the mooted Tuesday gathering in the ROK capital can bear any fruit if it does take place will largely depend on the extent to which Seoul and Tokyo can shun the influence of the US. The meeting, should it materialize, will be held at a time when there has been a slight thaw in what were rapidly freezing relations between China and the US after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Beijing in June. But it must be pointed out that the US has never ceased tightening its tech export controls targeting China nor its provocative military moves in the Asia-Pacific. So what substantial progress can be expected in relations between China and its two neighbors that are stringently tied to Washington is open to conjecture. Their one-sided pro-US diplomacy recently earned Kishida and Yoon the Profile in Courage Award from the US. That speaks volumes of the fact that even Washington knows that their attempts to make the most robust world growth engine a sacrificial lamb on the altar of US hegemony also face strong opposition and resistance from the public in Japan and the ROK. As China-ROK-Japan trilateral ties stand at a crossroad, the latter two should exercise their strategic autonomy for real to honor their commitment to putting the relations back on the right track of healthy development. China-ROK-Japan relations have to press forward, or they will slide backward. Beijing maintains continuity and stability in its policy of good-neighborliness and friendship toward both Japan and the ROK. Tokyo and Seoul need to show more foresight and stop portraying China as the greatest strategic challenge and hyping up the fabricated "China threat". Being cooperative partners is in the best interest of all the three countries and the region at large.

## Cracking illicit dollar trade: A solution or a temporary fix?

Qamar Bashir



Businesses, in particular, are bearing the brunt of these circumstances. Elevated operational costs can force them to make tough decisions such as downsizing or restraining new hires. This, in turn, compounds the challenges for job seekers and families seeking to support themselves. The pervasive nature of high inflation underscores the urgency of addressing this issue to alleviate the hardships faced by both individuals and enterprises in Pakistan. Since March 2022, the Pakistani rupee has experienced a substantial depreciation against the US dollar which has appreciated by 100% from Rs. 170 to Rs. 340 before gradually stabilizing at the current rate of Rs. 290, though still notably higher. This dramatic fluctuation in the exchange rate

High inflation in Pakistan is significantly impacting both the economy and its citizens. This persistent inflation is eroding people's purchasing power, making it increasingly challenging for them to afford essential goods and services. Furthermore, it's putting immense strain on businesses, which are grappling with elevated operating costs and dwindling demand. The soaring prices of basic necessities are directly contributing to a decline in people's purchasing power, exacerbating poverty levels and food insecurity. As prices rise, individuals find themselves burdened with mounting debts, fostering widespread financial stress and anxiety within society. Additionally, the relentless increase in prices threatens to constrain employment opportunities. Businesses, in particular, are bearing the brunt of these circumstances. Elevated operational costs can force them to make tough decisions such as downsizing or restraining new hires. This, in turn, compounds the challenges for job seekers and families seeking to support themselves. The pervasive nature of high inflation underscores the urgency of addressing this issue to alleviate the hardships faced by both individuals and enterprises in Pakistan. Since March 2022, the Pakistani rupee has experienced a substantial depreciation against the US dollar which has appreciated by 100% from Rs. 170 to Rs. 340 before gradually stabilizing at the current rate of Rs. 290, though still notably higher. This dramatic fluctuation in the exchange rate has triggered several distortions in the economy with far-reaching consequences. First and foremost, the soaring value of the US dollar amplifies the cost of importing goods and services denominated in US dollars. This, in turn, results in higher prices for imported products, which can significantly contribute to inflationary pressures. Additionally, the appreciating dollar makes Pakistani exports more expensive for foreign buyers, potentially diminishing demand for Pakistani goods in international markets. This poses a direct threat to Pakistan's export-oriented industries. Furthermore, the escalating cost of imports due to the stronger dollar contributes to overall inflation, eroding the purchasing power of consumers and consequently lowering their standard of living. The situation is exacerbated for essential commodities that heavily rely on imports, such as to become more costly, the country is prone to experiencing a larger trade deficit. Lastly, foreign investors may adopt a cautious stance towards investing in Pakistan due to concerns surrounding exchange rate volatility and the economic repercussions of a rapidly appreciating dollar. This heightened uncertainty could potentially result in reduced foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the country, affecting economic growth and stability. Addressing these exchange rate challenges is crucial to mitigate the adverse impacts on Pakistan's economy and ensure a more stable and conducive environment for trade and investment. The swift and stringent crackdown on Hundi, Hawala, and

illegal currency exchange operations, along with border closures with Afghanistan, has indeed had a positive impact on the Pakistani rupee's exchange rate in a remarkably short span. This has provided a degree of stability and relief to an economy that has been grappling with challenges. However, it's essential to recognize that this represents a temporary solution, and sustainable remedies are required, both at the macro and micro levels, to establish lasting stability, consistency, and predictability in the exchange rate—a fundamental requirement for a healthy economy. While government regulators and the State Bank of Pakistan may have limited options, it's crucial for the State Bank to adopt innovative monetary policies to manage inflation and stabilize the exchange rate, even within these constraints. Simultaneously, the government should explore measures to support export-oriented industries and proactively manage the fiscal deficit to mitigate the impact of a stronger dollar on the economy. Additionally, the central bank may need to intervene in the foreign exchange market to maintain currency stability and prevent excessive volatility while keeping in view factors such as market sentiment, economic conditions, and geopolitical events. In this context, the latest Asian Development report on Pakistan's economy presents a sobering picture. It predicts a 0.3% slowdown in the economy for fiscal year 2023, in contrast to the 6.0% growth observed in FY2022. This decline is attributed to a combination of factors, including devastating floods, policy tightening, and substantial efforts to address significant fiscal and external imbalances. The report observed that the floods have resulted in an estimated \$30 billion in damages to infrastructure and crops and have displaced millions of people. The ADB report projects that Pakistan's economic growth is expected to rebound to 1.9% in FY2024, contingent upon the government's ability to restore macroeconomic stability and implement crucial reforms. The report acknowledges that the government's efforts in post-flood reconstruction will contribute to economic growth in the upcoming years. Nevertheless, the ADB report emphasizes significant risks to this outlook, including the potential for additional flooding, a global economic slowdown, and an increase in global interest rates. It also underscores the ongoing risks posed by the war in Ukraine and the persistent COVID-19 pandemic, which could negatively affect Pakistan's economy. In this backdrop, reforms aimed at enhancing economic efficiency and promoting private sector investment are essential. These reforms should target sectors such as energy, taxation, and labor markets to foster growth. Given Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, investments in climate resilience and social safety nets are imperative to shield the economy from future shocks and protect the vulnerable from economic hardships. Innovative solutions involving high-end technology and artificial intelligence can transform the tax system, making it more progressive and alleviating the burden on low-income house-

holds, thereby reducing poverty and inequality. Efficiency improvements in the energy sector are also paramount, as it currently faces issues like inefficiency, theft, and mismanagement, contributing to high energy prices. Enhancing energy sector efficiency can bolster competitiveness. Fostering a favorable investment climate by reducing bureaucracy and corruption and improving infrastructure can stimulate private sector investment, which is a crucial driver of economic growth. Investing in human capital through improvements in education and healthcare is essential to cultivate a skilled and productive workforce, thereby boosting economic growth and reducing poverty. Lastly, targeted support for the poor and vulnerable, such as food subsidies and cash transfers, can help them cope with the challenges posed by high prices. While the crackdowns of illegal currency hoarders provide immediate relief, it's imperative to implement long-term solutions to mitigate the incentives for such illicit activities. One enduring solution is the establishment and enforcement of robust Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) Regulations. Many countries have stringent AML and KYC regulations in place to meticulously monitor and control currency transactions. These regulations make it arduous for individuals and entities to hoard or transfer large sums of foreign currency without proper documentation. Governments and financial authorities can bolster their efforts by employing advanced financial surveillance systems to detect unusual or suspicious transactions, which may include large-scale currency hoarding or smuggling. While cracking down on illegal currency activities provides immediate relief, the long-term goal should focus on reducing the incentives for smuggling and hoarding. This requires the implementation of creative monetary and fiscal policies, updated foreign currency rules and regulations, and the effective use of technology for monitoring and enforcement. Without addressing the root causes and incentives, unscrupulous elements may continue to find new ways to engage in such activities, potentially corrupting regulators and law enforcement personnel along the way. Pakistan faces a complex economic landscape, and addressing these challenges will require a multifaceted approach that includes monetary policy innovation, support for key industries, fiscal responsibility, and structural economic reforms aimed at improving competitiveness, reducing reliance on imports, and attracting foreign investment. These efforts are vital to ensure a more stable and resilient economic future for the country.

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

## Major changes needed to bring UN into 21st century

Ray Hanania

Those five nations ratified the UN Charter, which defined how the new international organization would operate, creating a General Assembly for all members and a Security Council for the five founding members. Resolutions agreed in the UNGA are advisory but carry moral weight, while UNSC resolutions are enforceable as international law. The UNSC can also make recommendations to the UNGA on admitting new member states. UN membership has now more than tripled to 193 nations. At the time the UN was founded, the major focus was on preventing another world war and, almost immediately, it faced its first major obstacle when

When the UN was founded in 1945, following the end of the Second World War, it replaced the League of Nations, which had failed to prevent that war. The new organization consisted of 51 member nations, with special powers for the five key Allied countries that won the war — the US, the Soviet Union, China, France and the UK. Those five nations ratified the UN Charter, which defined how the new international organization would operate, creating a General Assembly for all members and a Security Council for the five founding members. Resolutions agreed in the UNGA are advisory but carry moral weight, while UNSC resolutions are enforceable as international law. The UNSC can also make recommendations to the UNGA on admitting new member states. UN membership has now more than tripled to 193 nations. At the time the UN was founded, the major focus was on preventing another world war and, almost immediately, it faced its first major obstacle when the Cold War erupted between the US and the Soviet Union. This divided the world once again, not in outright conflict but in a diplomatic conflict and limited military incursions. The UNSC today consists of 15 members, including the five founding permanent members and 10 additional seats that change hands each year. But the UNSC is handicapped by the ongoing ability of any of the five permanent members to issue a veto to block any decision, even if a majority of the council's 15 members agree. The UNSC is handicapped by the ongoing ability of any of the five permanent members to issue a veto to block any decision. That veto power has been the key factor that has undermined the ability of the UN to change with the times. Over the past 78 years, many things have changed. The year 2023 is so much different to 1945, yet the UNSC continues to operate like an old jalopy that struggles on despite its broken engine and worn-out seats. The UN needs change. Real change. Change that gives all members of the UNGA a stronger voice in world affairs, while respecting population-weighted variances between countries. For example, China is today home to 1.4 billion

people, while Qatar has a population of just 2.7 million. In fact, while the UN has 193 members, there are actually 234 recognized countries and "dependent territories" with independent governments, nearly five times the number the UN represented 78 years ago. For example, Puerto Rico is an American territory but it has its own provisional government and wide-ranging, divergent interests. The point is that the UNSC holds the world hostage to the divisions that exist among the five permanent members, with any one of those five members able to block progress by using their veto for any reason and without review. That problem could easily be addressed if the UN Charter was changed. For example, any UNSC permanent member that uses its veto should be required to get the backing of a supermajority of the UNGA membership. So, if, for instance, the US vetoed a resolution condemning Israel's war crimes in the Occupied Territories, that veto would have to be supported by 66 percent of the UNGA's 193 members — 128 countries — for it to be valid. This would prevent the UNSC's permanent members from acting like global dictators and would give the UNGA a say on the world events that are addressed by the UNSC. The permanent members would be forced to defend their vetoes and convince at least 128 member nations that their actions were in the best interests of the world, rather than merely themselves and their client states. Likewise, the change would prevent the Russians from vetoing UNSC resolutions that defend Ukraine, which has been forced to defend itself from a military invasion that Moscow launched in February last year. Without any pressure from the UNSC or muscle from the UNGA, the war will continue endlessly, resulting in tens of thousands of military and civilian fatalities. The UN is needed to enforce the laws that protect those who are less powerful and are victimized by the powerful. The UN was created to prevent exactly this kind of war from starting, but it has not been able to do that. Not in Ukraine. Not in the Middle East. In reality, nowhere. So, the UN has failed in the mission it set out for itself in 1945.

However, at no time has a functioning UN been needed more than it is today. The power of individual nations, regardless of population size, has now increased beyond simple measures of military manpower, armaments and weaponry to include cyberwarfare, which has proven to be destructive and debilitating. What needs to happen is for the UNSC to create a review committee that has the power to recommend changes to the UN Charter. It then needs to facilitate a process through which those changes can be implemented. Unless this is done, the UN will continue to be eclipsed by the growth of so many other international "mini-UNs," like the G20, BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which all impact global governance in a way that was originally intended to be done by the UN. In fact, one could argue that these cliques were created specifically because the UN has failed to effectively address the global issues raised by their individual member states. The problem is, of course, that if the world leaves the challenges to these groupings, the solutions will be driven by individual need rather than by global imperative. The nations in BRICS, for example, only consider what is best for their membership, rather than what is best for the world. The UN is needed to enforce the laws that protect those who are less powerful and are victimized by the powerful. The principles of the rule of law and the International Court of Justice are sacrosanct, though they have been willfully ignored by some nations whenever it suits them. Human rights is not a regional issue but rather a global issue. Climate change, humanitarian assistance for the needy and the challenges facing refugees, as well as the need to have one forum for all that weighs up the rights and wrongs of military conflicts, are all things that need a world body, rather than a narrowly focused club. The first club that needs to be changed is the UNSC. Until there is true global equity, the UN will never be anything more than a platform for self-promotion and angry debate with no results. —Sourced by Arab news



## Briefs

## Polls to be held in last week of...

**FROM PAGE 01**  
decided to challenge the move in court. Following the announcement of the poll date, the Imran Khan-led party has decided to challenge the Election Commission's decision to conduct elections in the last week of January. Speaking to Geo News, PTT's core committee member Niazullah Niazi said that the Constitution calls for elections within 90 days and exceeding the period is unlawful. "We will challenge the Election Commission's decision. The way the ECP is working it does not look like a constitutional institution," Niazi said, adding that President Arif Alvi has the authority to announce a date for polls. Senior PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal said that his party welcomed the decision by the ECP as it has ended the uncertainty about the delimitation. "Everyone knew from the first day that the election commission was bound to conduct delimitation after the census," said Iqbal. "Earlier, the ECP had said to complete the delimitation process by December 15 after which the polls were estimated to be held in February next year. However, our party had given suggestions to the ECP to reduce the delimitation period. In the light of those suggestions, the ECP reduced the delimitation time till November 30 and then announced elections at the end of January after the 54-day period," he added. Iqbal further said that uncertainty should end after the announcement of polls, adding that all the parties should start preparations now. "It is important that the elections are held peacefully and a stable government is formed that takes the country out of the economic crisis," the former planning minister said. He added that any party that comes into power should take all the parties on the same page and work on the economic agenda with consensus.

## Political bigwigs

**FROM PAGE 01**  
NAB prosecutor Abbasi assured the judge that the anti-graft watchdog will ensure the implementation of the apex court order and submit all relevant records to the court. Meanwhile, NAB is to 'appoint spy agency officers' to probe high-profile corruption cases.

## Security forces...

**FROM PAGE 01**  
sons of soil laid their lives". The second operation was conducted in the general area Datta Khel, North Waziristan District. "Two terrorists were sent to hell in a fierce encounter between security forces and terrorists," the ISPR said. It added that weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the slain terrorists and sanitisation of the surrounding areas was being carried out in the area. "Locals of the area appreciated the operation. Security forces of Pakistan remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism," the military's media wing added.

## Verified refugees...

**FROM PAGE 01**  
state has initially registered an FIR [First Information Report] under the Foreigners Act, [1946] but has subsequently verified through the instrumentality of [the] UNHCR that the foreigner in question is a bona fide and legitimate refugee seeking asylum in a third country, the state is not a hapless bystander. "Upon verification of the refugee status of a foreigner by [the] UNCHR, the refugee must not be kept incarcerated like an under trial prisoner," said a 21-page order authored by IHC judge Babar Sattar. An Afghan woman, Rahil Azizi, had moved the IHC against registration of a FIR against her under the Foreigners Act, 1946 for entering Pakistan without a visa.

## PCB to announce World cup squad today

PCB attended by National coaching staff headed by Mickey Arthur, captain Babar Azam, vice-captain Shadab Khan, and former captains Misbah ul Haq and Mohammad Hafeez also reviewed Pakistan performance in the Asia Cup 2023

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will name the squad for the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup 2023 on Friday (Today). This was decided during important meeting chaired by Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Management Committee Zaka Ashraf which attended by National coaching staff headed by Mickey Arthur, captain Babar Azam, vice-captain Shadab Khan, and former captains Misbah ul Haq and Mohammad Hafeez also reviewed Pakistan Men's cricket team performance in the ACC Asia Cup 2023. In the meeting, the complete men's national coaching staff which includes head coach Grant Bradburn, batting coach Andrew Puttick, and bowling coach Morne Morkel were also invited to report on the team's recent performance. The review meeting was also attended by Dr Sohail Saleem to brief about players' injuries and the way forward for players' rehabilitation programs. In a robust analysis, every aspect of recent team performance, player fitness, and future plans came into discussion with a view to bringing improvement to the side. There was an agreement on making a better approach and



strategy on players' workload. The importance of strengthening the bench was also emphasised. Chairman Management Committee Zaka Ashraf said that the philosophy behind this review was to create an atmosphere of open discussion and develop consensus. The idea is to have everyone on board and debate about performances, identifying the problems and their solutions. We have to debate strengths and

weaknesses so that we are clear about what and where we need to invest for the betterment of our team. "Discussion revealed that the previous management had allowed a lot of players to play league cricket which caused them to fatigued ahead of their national duty. But going forward we have agreed to form a proactive approach to tackle players workload and give national duty a priority. "I am glad we had a good

positive review session and are on the same page. We are confident that the experience gained in the Asia Cup was a learning curve and will help prepare for the ICC Men's World Cup. "Our team is filled with talent, and we believe they have the capability to compete and win at the highest level. We have world-class batters and bowlers and are committed to providing them with the necessary support and resources to en-

sure they are well-equipped ahead of the mega event." Inzamam ul Haq, chief selector, who couldn't make into the meeting yesterday due to a medical emergency but met Zaka Ashraf on Thursday afternoon to share his input. After the completion of the review, Inzamam has finalised the Pakistan squad for the ICC World Cup, which will be announced on Friday morning in a press conference.

## Naila becomes first Pakistani woman to summit Manaslu

LAHORE: Naila Kiani becomes the first Pakistani woman mountaineer to climb 8,163 metres high Manaslu - the world's eighth tallest peak in Nepal - on Thursday morning after starting the final push towards the summit from camp 2 the previous evening. Kiani is the only woman from Pakistan to reach the summits of nine mountains which are over 8,000 metres high as she has previously climbed Mount Everest, K2, Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I,



Gasherbrum 2, Annapurna, Lhotse and Broad Peak. She also enjoys the distinction of being the first wom-

an from Pakistan to summit Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I, Gasherbrum 2, Lhotse and Broad Peak. The top

mountaineer from Pakistan has already planned to climb two peaks in China - Chuayo and Shishapangma - during the current season as she aims to summit all the 14 mountains which are over 8,000 metres tall. Kiani belongs to Gujjar Khan - a tehsil of Rawalpindi district - who has studied aerospace engineering from the United Kingdom.

A day earlier, Shehroz Kashif had summit Manaslu, repeating the feat achieved by Sajid Sadpara last year.--APP

## Pakistani Athletes passionate at 19th Asian Games

BEIJING: "Hi Hangzhou! I already have an itch to try my best! All preparations for the Asian Games are in order. Pakistan Asia Federation has done a lot for us, providing training equipment and facilities. Hopefully we can help our country win medals in Hangzhou," said Abdul Khaliq, a Pakistani Wushu player in an exclusive interview with Gwadar Pro. According to Khaliq, he is a 60kg competitor, as well as a seasoned veteran. "I started training Wushu in 2008, and it has been 15 years now. So far, I have done pretty well. The competition in this event in Pakistan is also very fierce. In 2023 Asian Games, we hope to strive for medals. According to our brother China, Iran also has many masters in this field. There is no doubt that our game will be very exciting. Let's wait and see." "For us, not everyone has the opportunity to own the most professional equipment. Besides, reasonable diet and nutrition planning also requires professional nutritionists. In my country, not every athlete has all these opportunities.-- Agencies

## Chairman Senate honors Arshad

ISLAMABAD: Today, renowned athlete Arshad Nadeem was honoured in a prestigious meeting with Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, held here at Parliament House. During the meeting, Chairman Senate presented a commendable prize of Rs 1 million to Arshad Nadeem in recognition of his remarkable achievement - a silver medal at the recent World Athletics Championships. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani had previously announced this rewarding prize to motivate and acknowledge Arshad Nadeem's exceptional performance. Expressing appreciation for Nadeem's Olympic and World Athletics Championships feats, Chairman Senate congratulated him on his recent success. "Your unparalleled performance has brought immense pride to Pakistan," said Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, adding, "People like you are the epitome of our nation's pride and honor." Encouraging Arshad Nadeem to persist in his hard work and continue illuminating the name of Pakistan on the global stage, Chairman Senate pledged steadfast support. He further expressed determination to elevate Arshad Nadeem to the status of a brand ambassador and engage with the private sector for sponsorship opportunities, emphasizing the necessity of nurturing talent to promote sports in Pakistan. In the meeting, Arshad Nadeem shared his inspiring journey and expressed gratitude towards Chairman Senate for the encouragement and support. Present at the meeting was Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, who joined in lauding Arshad Nadeem's exceptional achievements, extending heartfelt congratulations for his remarkable journey in athletics. --DNA

## Inter Miami dominates Toronto 4-0, Messi early Exits

SPORTS DESK

FORTLAUDERDALE: Messi returned to the starting line-up after skipping Saturday's 5-2 defeat at Atlanta due to muscle fatigue but left the field in the 38th minute looking uncomfortable. His former Barcelona team-mate, Spaniard Jordi Alba who had also sat out the trip to Atlanta, also limped off three minutes earlier in the game. Inter Miami coach Gerardo Martino said the pair are now ruled out for Sunday's Florida derby with Orlando City and was uncertain about their involvement in next week's US Open Cup final. "We have to go day by day, see the doctor's report, what they tell us and we will decide. Obviously, there is no 'chance' that they will be there on Sunday," he said.

"I don't think it's anything new or bigger than what they had been having. It's just fatigue, I don't think there is a muscular injury," he said, defending the decision to play them. "Everything was in place for the players to play ... There is no possibility (that they were pressured to play). If we made them play it was because they were fit to play." "After talking to them, I don't have the same pessimism I had when I had to take them out," he said. Despite the blow of losing their star and one of their most influential players, Inter Miami swept aside the Eastern Conference's bottom club with ease, Messi's replacement Robert Taylor scoring twice after coming on. Facundo Farias opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time with a blistering volley after Toronto keeper Tomas Romero had meekly

palmed out a Noah Allen cross. Taylor then made it 2-0 in the 54th minute with an outstanding individual strike, dribbling across the box from the left before unleashing a sharply angled drive back into the bottom corner. Taylor then turned provider, releasing another substitute Benjamin Cremaschi who fired through the legs of Romero to make it 3-0. Finland international Taylor completed his impactful performance with the fourth, bringing down a floated pass over the top from Farias and blasting home from close range. Inter Miami moved up to 13th in the Eastern Conference and are now just five points off Wayne Rooney's D.C. United who occupy ninth spot, the final playoff position. Inter Miami have two games in hand. D.C. United were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Atlan-

ta while other results were also favourable for Inter Miami. Charlotte, who Inter Miami have to play twice, are now just two points ahead of the Florida side after they let a two-goal lead slip in a 2-2 draw at home to Philadelphia, conceding a stoppage-time penalty which was converted by Daniel Gazdag. The draw guaranteed Philadelphia a place in the playoffs. The Columbus Crew also secured their place in the playoffs beating the Chicago Fire 3-0 with Colombian Cucho Hernandez scoring all three inside 23 minutes - the second fastest hat-trick from the start in MLS history. Tenth-placed New York City kept their playoff hopes alive with a 2-0 win at home to second-placed Orlando City. Despite the defeat, Orlando are now sure of a place in the post-season.

## IMF wants...

**FROM PAGE 01**  
she had a good meeting with the Pakistani premier on the country's economic prospects. "We agreed on the vital need for strong policies to ensure stability, foster sustainable and inclusive growth, prioritise revenue collection, and protection for the most vulnerable in Pakistan," Georgieva added. PM Kakar and held a meeting with Managing Director of IMF Kristalina Georgieva on Wednesday in New York on the sidelines of 78th UNGA session on Wednesday afternoon. The prime minister expressed gratitude for the IMF's approval of a \$3 billion Stand-By Agreement (SBA) to support Pakistan's economy. He briefed the MD IMF on various measures taken by the Government of Pakistan to stabilize and revive the country's economy.

## Govt refutes...

**FROM PAGE 01**  
Islamabad on Thursday. Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad clarified that propaganda is being done regarding the privatization of institutions but the fact is that his caretaker government has not started any privatization plan. Talking about the election date, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi said that today is a day of disappointment for those who spread rumours as the elections are going to be held in the country and they are happy about it.

## India suspends...

**FROM PAGE 01**  
Indian stock exchanges on Thursday that said visa services "have been suspended till further notice." "Due to operation reasons, with immediate effect i.e. 21 September 2023, Indian visa services in Canada have been suspended till further notice," the letter, sent to the Bombay Stock Exchange, the National Stock Exchange of India and the Metropolitan Stock Exchange, read. Earlier, BLS International stated on its website that India had suspended visa services for Canadian citizens from Thursday, citing a notice from the Indian mission. The notice was briefly removed on Thursday before reappearing again, without explanation.

## President Alvi...

**FROM PAGE 01**  
Canadian Sikh leader Mr. Hardeep Singh Nijjar and has urged the world to take serious note of the state-sponsored killing on the Canadian soil. Expressing concern over the killing of the Sikh leader, the President said that it had been the policy of India to persecute and eliminate the leadership of minority groups in India and outside world. The brutal murder of the Sikh leader exposed the real face of India that has been intolerant towards the minority groups, the President added. He maintained that India had unleashed a reign of terror against the Muslims in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) and other minority communities for decades.

## Bajwa, Faiz...

**FROM PAGE 01**  
PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif would propose if his party came to power against Gen Bajwa, Gen Hamid, former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar and a sitting senior Supreme Court judge whom he named while addressing his party's Punjab Tanzeemi Committee meeting via video link on Tuesday or it was only a statement, Sanaullah said these people were responsible for citizens starving in the country because they brought about political instability, which in turn led to economic instability.

## Solangi for...

**FROM PAGE 01**  
He said the ideology of Pakistan underscores the equality of all its citizens, a principle articulated by the founding father in his speech. Murtaza Solangi further noted that promoting equality is our most potent weapon in the fight against extremism.

## Good expectations from top athletes in Asian Games: DG PSB

DG Pakistan Sports Board Shoaib Khoso expressed his best wishes for the athletes and expressed hope that Pakistani athletes will show their good skills in the Asian Games

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

ISLAMABAD: The Director General of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Shoaib Khoso said that he is hopeful with good expectations from top national athletes for good results in the 19th edition of Asian Games to be held in China. He was talking with the athletes and officials of different teams at Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad those met the Director General of Pakistan Sports Board and informed him about their preparations. DG Pakistan Sports Board Shoaib Khoso expressed his best wishes for the athletes and expressed hope that Pakistani athletes will show their good skills in the Asian Games, adding that sports players are the ambassadors of the country and they should shine the name of the country in the



world with their performance, hard work and honesty. Shoaib Khoso further said that the Pakistani nation is a sports loving nation and Pakistan Sports

Board is making all out efforts to promote sports in the country as we fully support the training camps which are set up for the Asian Games.

Meanwhile Pakistan Taekwondo, Squash and Hockey teams will leave for China on Thursday (Today) to participate in their respective games in the Asian Games as

Pakistan's contingent will compete in 25 different sports events in a mega event which will be held in Hangzhou, China. The Pakistan taekwondo team participating in the Asian Games includes Hamza Umar Saeed, Haroon Khan, Muhammad Arbaaz Khan, Aqdas Ullah Qadeer and Naila, while the team officials include Saba Shamim Akhtar (Manager), Seongoh Choi and Yousef Karami as coaches. Taekwondo players Hamza Umar Saeed and Haroon Khan said that preparations have been made for the Asian Games and they are hopeful of bringing medals to Pakistan in the event. The national squash team also leaving Pakistan on Thursday includes Noor ul Ain, Mehwish Ali, Sadia Gul, Noor ul Huda, Nasir Iqbal, Farhan Zaman, Noor Zaman, Muhammad Asim while Faheem Gul will be the coach.



## Briefs

UK soldier  
pleads not  
guilty to prison  
escape

LONDON: A former British soldier charged with terrorism and Official Secret Act offenses pleaded not guilty on Thursday to breaking out of prison and going on the run. Prosecutors say Daniel Abed Khalife, 21, escaped from London's Wandsworth prison on Sep. 6 by attaching himself to the underside of a food delivery truck. After a four-day nationwide manhunt, police said he was recaptured by a plain clothes officer while cycling alongside a canal in west London. Khalife, wearing a blue and yellow sweatshirt, appeared by videolink at the Old Bailey on Thursday and pleaded not guilty to one count of escaping from lawful custody. He was previously in custody awaiting trial on a charge of obtaining information from the Ministry of Defense's Joint Personnel Administration System, a charge under the Terrorism Act, while he was based at barracks in central England in 2021. Khalife is also accused of staging a bomb hoax by placing three canisters with wires on a desk and a further charge of obtaining information which might be "directly or indirectly useful to an enemy." — Agencies

Turkiye hikes  
policy  
interest rate  
500 points

ANKARA: The Central Bank of Türkiye on Thursday raised its policy rate by 500 basis points to 30%, meeting market forecasts. Economists polled by Anadolu survey last week said they expected a 500-basis-point interest rate hike, with the lowest estimate at 250 basis points and the highest at 600. "The Monetary Policy Committee decided to continue the monetary tightening process in order to establish the disinflation course as soon as possible, to anchor inflation expectations, and to control the deterioration in pricing behavior," a bank statement said. At its August meeting, the bank hiked its policy interest rate by 750 basis points to 25%. It pledged to continue the monetary tightening process to help bring down inflation. The bank stressed that the inflation came in above expectations in July and August. "As the strong course of domestic demand and the stickiness of services inflation persist, the increase in oil prices and the ongoing deterioration in inflation expectations pose additional upside risks to inflation," it noted. According to the latest data from TurkStat, Türkiye's annual consumer inflation rose to 58.94% in August, up from 47.8% in July. — DNA

Rising female  
workforce  
boosts SA  
economic  
growth

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's economy is poised to benefit from the increasing number of working women as the Kingdom's Vision 2030 initiative, aimed at enhancing female employment, has begun to demonstrate its potential economic impact, as outlined in a recent report by S&P Global. The study showed significant progress in expanding the female workforce in Saudi Arabia, reaching 36 percent of the total human capital in 2022, up from 19 percent in 2016, surpassing Vision 2030's target of 30 percent by the end of the decade. This growth in the participation of women in the labor market can be attributed to various factors, including improved access to education, declining fertility rates, and a more inclusive cultural environment. This comes as educational attainment has improved significantly in Saudi Arabia, with nearly 32 percent of women aged 25 and above holding at least a bachelor's degree in 2020, compared to 26 percent in 2017. The increase in female workforce has contributed to raising the overall employment participation rate in Saudi Arabia to a record high of 61.7 percent in March 2022, up from the 54.2 percent recorded. — APP

Ambassador of Pak to Belarus visits  
Gomel State Medical University

Highlighting the significance of this visit, Ambassador Khan inaugurated the Pakistan Cultural Centre on the university campus dedicated to fostering a greater understanding of Pakistan's rich heritage, traditions, and values

## DNA

MINSK: Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus, Sajjad Haider Khan, visited the Gomel State Medical University and held talks with the Rector and senior management of the university. The two sides discussed ways and means to broaden the educational collaborations. Presently 19 Pakistani students are enrolled at this university. Highlighting the significance of this visit, Ambassador Khan inaugurated the Pakistan Cultural Centre on the university campus dedicated to fostering a greater understanding of Pakistan's rich heritage, traditions, and values. During his visit, Ambassador Khan also had the privilege of meeting with Pakistani students currently pursuing their studies at



the university. He provided them with words of encouragement and inspiration, urging them to maintain their dedication to both academic pursuits and extracurricular activities for comprehensive personal growth. He assured them of the Embassy's support.

End of separatism: Azerbaijan  
declares its absolute victory

President praises troops for heroic anti-terror efforts

BAKU : As you know, yesterday morning, due to a terrorist act committed by the Armenian armed forces, six Azerbaijani citizens - two civilians, became victims of a mine terror. It is not the first time that Armenia has committed a terrorist act against us. Since the end of the Second Karabakh War, more than 300 Azerbaijani citizens have become victims of mine terrorism or have been seriously injured. Yesterday's terrorist attack was one such incident. After the Second Karabakh War, mines were illegally delivered from Armenia to the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and planted in various locations until the Lachin border checkpoint was established. Some time ago, the mines discovered by the Azerbaijan Armed Forces were shown to representatives of the Russian peacekeeping contingent and the Russia-Türkiye Monitoring Center, and the issue of taking serious measures was raised with and demanded from them. These mines were produced in Armenia in 2021. So, it once again shows that after the Second Karabakh War, these mines were deliberately delivered to carry out terrorist acts against Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan duly punished



the enemy by immediately taking necessary steps. Local antiterrorist measures were started, and all pending objectives were completed in one day. The terrorists were punished, and it was shown to Armenia again that all of their provocations would be met with a fitting response. As a result of the initiation and successful completion of anti-terrorist measures, Azerbaijan regained its sovereignty at around 1:00 p.m. yesterday. Our servicemen have shown extraordinary heroism, bravery and professionalism during the anti-terrorist measures. In challenging terrain and despite the presence of fortifications created over

the years of engineering works by the enemy, given that the enemy's positions are located on hills and in favorable places, our servicemen once again, as I mentioned, showed heroism and professionalism and achieved significant military success in all directions in a short time. A large part of the army of the Armenian state, which was illegally stationed on the territory of Azerbaijan and has not been withdrawn to this day despite the obligation by the Armenian state, has been completely destroyed. Military equipment was obliterated and incapacitated. Before the operation, I once again gave a strict order to all our military units that the Armenian population living in the Karabakh

region should not be affected by the anti-terrorist measures and that the civilian population be protected. We have achieved this by using high-precision weapons. At the same time, civilians felt protected entirely thanks to the professionalism of our Armed Forces. In the meantime, I ordered that the civilian infrastructure not be targeted and only the military infrastructure be destroyed. I want to say again that the professionalism and technical capabilities of our Army and all of our Armed Forces made it possible to fulfill this duty with honor. Once again, Azerbaijani soldiers and officers showed high professionalism and moral qualities. As a result of short-term local anti-terrorist measures, I would like to note again that most of the enemy's weapons and equipment have been incapacitated. I should also state that more than a hundred tanks and armored vehicles belonging to the Armenian Army were illegally stationed in the territory of Azerbaijan. Electronic warfare systems were deployed. More than two hundred cannons and artillery installations, the most advanced anti-aircraft equipment, were deployed. Contrary to the Trilateral Statement of November 10, 2020, Armenia did not withdraw its armed forces. — DNA

TRNC Leader  
criticizes Greek  
Cyprus over history

ANKARA : The Cyprus crisis has been ongoing since 1963, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) President Ersin Tatar pointed out Wednesday as he hit back at claims from the Greek Cypriot administration that the crisis on the divided island began in 1974 when Türkiye launched a military offensive in response to a Greek-sponsored coup. "Greek Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides' claim is a figment of the imagination because the Cyprus issue has been ongoing since 1963. (Christodoulides) is not mentioning the suffering and forced migrations the Turkish Cypriots went through before 1974," Tatar told his country's state broadcaster BRT. Tensions have been rising recently between the internationally recognized Greek Cyprus in the south and the TRNC in the north, supported and only recognized by Ankara. Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Türkiye, as a guarantor power, prompted by a coup aimed at Greece's annexation of the island, launched a military intervention dubbed the Cyprus Peace Operation to protect Turkish Cypriots from persecution and violence. The division has been a source of tensions since then, including over who holds sway on the island's offshore exclusive economic zone, more than 40% of which was claimed by Türkiye following recent natural gas discoveries. Türkiye doesn't recognize the Greek Cypriot administration as a state. Christodoulides addressed the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Wednesday, claiming Türkiye "invaded" Cyprus in 1974 and "continues to occupy European territory 49 years on." The Greek Cypriot leader then urged the world body to appoint a special envoy to restart negotiations on the island, arguing it was "high time for the U.N. to become a driving force of dialogue by appointing as a first step an envoy on the Cyprus problem to explore and prepare the ground for the resumption of negotiations." "The United Nations and secretary-general have the responsibility prescribed in the U.N. Charter to act as a catalyst for peace in Cyprus," he said. He reiterated his call on the European Union to facilitate the peace talks, as well, something the Turkish side has rejected because of the EU's "pro-Greek attitude" regarding the crisis and how it has "blocked an acceptable agreement and perpetuated the status quo." The Greek Cypriot administration joined the EU in 2004, but only the Greek Cypriot side enjoys its full benefits. — DNA

Libya flood disaster  
displaced over  
43,000 people: IOM

DERNA: Libya's flood disaster, which killed thousands in the city of Derna, also displaced more than 43,000 people, the International Organization for Migration said Thursday. A tsunami-sized flash flood broke through two aging river dams upstream from the coastal city after the Mediterranean Storm Daniel lashed the area on September 10. It razed entire neighborhoods, sweeping untold thousands of people into the sea. The official death toll stands at more than 3,300 - but the eventual count is expected to be far higher, with international aid groups giving estimates of up to 10,000 people missing. "An estimated 43,059 individuals have been displaced by the floods in northeastern Libya," the IOM said, adding that a "lack of water supply is reportedly driving many displaced out of Derna" to other areas. "Urgent needs include food, drinking water and mental health and psychosocial support," it said. Mobile and Internet services were meanwhile restored after a two-day disruption, following protests Monday that saw angry residents blame the authorities for the high death toll. Authorities had blamed the communications outage on "a rupture in the optical fiber" link to Derna, but some Internet users. — APP

UN troops failed to protect  
civilians, quell rebellion: DRC

NEW YORK : The president of the Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC] has called for a speedy withdrawal of a key UN peacekeeping mission that has been in the nation for nearly 25 years. "It is time for our country to take full control of its destiny and become the main actor in its own stability," Felix Tshisekedi told the United Nations General Assembly. The final departure of the MONUSCO mission has been at the heart of debates on the DRC's future for years and a source of tension and populist rhetoric in the central African nation. Tshisekedi said that

the mission of some 15,000 peacekeepers "has not succeeded in confronting the rebellions and armed conflicts... nor in protecting the civilian populations." In 2020, the Security Council approved a plan for a phased withdrawal in DRC, setting parameters for transferring the responsibilities of UN troops to Congolese forces. While the plan under discussion was to begin withdrawal in December 2024, DRC in September asked the Security Council to start the process in December this year, when Tshisekedi is running for re-election. Tshisekedi

said at the UN it was "illusory and counterproductive to continue to cling to the maintenance of MONUSCO to restore peace." The United States warned at a Security Council meeting in June against a hasty withdrawal of the mission, assessing that the country was not ready to part with the Blue Helmets at the end of 2023. The discussions come as the United Nations has faced a series of attacks and demonstrations against the mission in the country. Nearly 50 people were killed in a crackdown on an anti-UN protest in eastern DRC in August. "The accel-

eration of the withdrawal of MONUSCO becomes absolutely necessary to ease tensions," said Tshisekedi. The DRC's east has been ravaged by militia violence for three decades, a legacy of regional wars that flared in the 1990s and 2000s. The UN peacekeeping mission in the region, in place since 1999, is one of the largest and costliest in the world, with an annual budget of about \$1 billion. But the UN comes in for sharp criticism in the DRC, where many people perceive the peacekeepers as failing to prevent conflict. — Agencies

Far-right  
attitudes  
on rise in  
Germany

BERLIN: One in 12 people in Germany shares a right-wing extremist worldview, according to a new study published on Thursday. The research by Friedrich Ebert Foundation has found that the number of people with far-right views has significantly increased in the past two years, and has exceeded 8%. In the foundation's 2020/2021 survey, less than 2% of the respondents had clearly expressed support for right-wing extremist views. Researchers said the consequences of the Russia-Ukraine war, skyrocketing energy prices, and high inflation are creating challenges for the democratic parties in the center, and strengthening the far-right. "Insecurities and conflicts over who gets what and how much, are providing a gateway for right-wing extremist ideologies and anti-democratic attitudes," the researchers said in a summary of their report. According to the survey, trust in the institutions and in the functioning of democracy in Germany has fallen to below 60%. The number of those who see themselves more to the right of the democratic center has significantly increased, from 9% to 15.5%. More than 16% of those surveyed approved xenophobic statements, while 5.7% expressed antisemitic views. Some 4% played down crimes committed by Hitler and praised Nazi ideology or policies. — APP

Lebanon  
probes  
shooting  
outside US  
Embassy

BEIRUT : Lebanon's security agencies have launched an investigation into a late night shooting outside the US embassy in Lebanon that caused no injuries. US Embassy spokesperson Jake Nelson said on Thursday that "there were no injuries, and our facility is safe." He added: "We are in close contact with host country law enforcement authorities." Shortly after the shooting on Wednesday night, the Lebanese army took measures near the embassy and later, security agencies started an investigation, including analysing security cameras in the area, a Lebanese official said on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. No one claimed responsibility for the small arms fire in the vicinity of the entrance of the heavily-fortified compound in Beirut's northeastern suburb of Awkar. It was not immediately clear if the incident was a politically motivated attack. — APP

Three die as  
SA navy  
personnel  
swept

CAPE TOWN : Three South African navy personnel died, and a senior officer was in critical condition after seven crew members of a submarine were swept off its deck by big sea waves as a helicopter attempted a "vertical transfer" of supplies, the Department of Defence has said.

The accident happened as an Air Force Lynx helicopter was attempting what's known as a "vertrep" - or vertical replenishment - of supplies to the SAS Manta-tisi submarine on the ocean surface off the coast of Cape Town, the department said on Thursday. The operation was immediately called off and a rescue effort was launched. All seven submariners were recovered, but three were pronounced dead. A crew member from the helicopter who was dispatched as a "surface swimmer" to assist in the rescue operation was also recovered and is in the hospital alongside the four surviving submariners. The National Sea Rescue Institute and other emergency services were called in to help with the rescue, the Department of Defence said. There will be an inquiry into the failed operation and the resulting deaths, the department said. The South African National Defense Force, which comprises all the armed forces, said a female officer with the rank of lieutenant commander was among the three who died. — Agency

## Japan's Plan Is Safe: Facts and science about ALPS treated water

## ITO TAKESHI

As Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, let me confirm Japan's unwavering priority on SAFETY. Japan will NEVER discharge water that can harm humans or the environment. The SAFETY is our top priority. On August 24, 2023, the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS) started the discharge of ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) treated water. Since the devastating tsunami hit FDNPS after the Great East Japan Earthquake on 11 March 2011, tons of water has become contaminated with radioactive materials through its use for cooling of the fuel debris and natu-

ral contact. Such contaminated water has been purified through the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS), which can remove the radionuclides except for tritium. The water treated by ALPS, which has been sufficiently purified until the concentration of radioactive materials other than tritium is below the regulatory standard, will be further diluted before it is discharged into the sea. The concentration level of tritium in the water after dilution will be 1/40 of the regulatory standard and 1/7 of the WHO drinking water standard. The concentration of radioactive materials other than tritium will be less than 1/100 of the regulatory standard. On July 4, 2023, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the world's center for coopera-

tion in the nuclear field promoting the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology, released its Comprehensive Report, summarizing the outcome of the review missions from an objective and professional standpoint based on scientific evidence. The report has concluded that: (i) the approach to the discharge of the ALPS treated water is consistent with relevant international safety standards; and (ii) the radiological impact on humans and the environment is negligible. In fact, discharging water into sea is commonly practiced in nuclear power plants around the world. The amount of tritium in the ALPS treated water is smaller than the amount of tritium discharged from many nuclear power plants and other facilities in other countries.

Furthermore, to ensure safety of the water, Japan has started multi-layered monitoring with the involvement of the IAEA, and should a problem be detected during this monitoring process such as detection of radioactive concentration that exceeds the standard, Japan will take appropriate measures as planned, including immediate suspension of the discharge. Since the discharge started on August 24, 2023, it has been confirmed that the concentration of nuclides including tritium in sea water and marine products are far below the standards, which indicates that the discharge is safe as planned. Also, the results of monitoring by the Government of Japan and Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) have been made public in a timely manner both domestically

and internationally on the website ([https://www.monitororbs.jp/index\\_en.html](https://www.monitororbs.jp/index_en.html)). The Government of Japan and TEPCO will continue to make every effort to ensure a safe discharge, with the continued involvement of the IAEA, including its reviews. Let me reiterate: the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea will be implemented in line with international standards and practice, and with all possible safety precautions. Specifically, radionuclides will be measured again for all water prior to discharge to ensure that the water meets regulatory standards. The Government of Japan will NEVER discharge water that exceeds regulatory standards into the sea. — The writer is the Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan.



Briefs

Court summons Imran in marriage case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in Islamabad issued a summons of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for September 25 in an "un-Islamicnikah" case with his third wife Bushra Bibi. Civil judge Qudratullah has asked the court staff to issue the summons to present the PTI chief in court to the Attock jail superintendent. The former prime minister was arrested from his Zam-an Park residence in Lahore on August 5 after being convicted in the Toshakhana case with accusations of misusing his 2018 to 2022 premiership to buy and sell gifts in state possession that were received during visits abroad and worth more than Rs140 million (\$635,000). Since his arrest, he was shifted to the Attock jail. While the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had overturned a lower court's decision to jail him, he remains behind bars due to his arrest in the cipher case. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) officially arrested the ousted premier - who was removed from power via a parliamentary vote in April last year - and Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cipher case last month after booking them under the Official Secrets Act. Qureshi was taken into custody from his residence in Islamabad in the same case on August 19 while Khan was arrested in the cipher case while he was serving the sentence in Attock jail.

Poland no longer supplying weapons to Ukraine

WARSAW: One of Ukraine's staunchest allies, Poland, has said it is no longer supplying weapons to its neighbour, amid a diplomatic dispute over Kyiv's grain exports. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said Poland's focus was instead on defending itself with more modern weapons. Poland has already sent Ukraine 320 Soviet-era tanks and 14 MiG-29 fighter jets and has little more to offer. However, the remarks coincide with high tensions between the two neighbours. On Tuesday, Poland summoned Ukraine's ambassador over comments made by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the United Nations after Poland, Hungary and Slovakia extended a ban on Ukrainian grain. Mr Zelenskyy said it was alarming how some of Ukraine's friends in Europe were playing out solidarity "in a political theatre - making a thriller from grain". Warsaw denounced his words as "unjustified concerning Poland, which has supported Ukraine since the first days of the war". - Agencies

Saudi Arabia moving 'closer' to Israel normalization: MBS

The crown prince, also known as MBS, voiced concern about the possibility that Iran, a mutual adversary of Saudi Arabia and Israel that the US wants to contain, could obtain a nuclear weapon

DNA

WASHINGTON: In a major development, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said the kingdom was moving closer to normalising ties with Israel at a steady pace and warned of getting a nuclear weapon if Iran gets one. In an interview with Fox News, the Saudi crown prince also rejected the reports that Saudi Arabia had paused negotiations for ties normalisation. "Every day we get closer, it seems it's for the first time real one serious. We get to see how it goes," he said, stressing the need to solve the "very important" Palestinian issue. The interview comes as US President Joe Biden-led administration puts efforts into broker historic ties between the two regional powerhouses - Saudi Arabia and Israel - Washington's top Middle East allies. The normalisation talks are the centrepiece of complex negotiations that also include discussions of US security guarantees and civilian nuclear help that Riyadh has sought, as well as possible Israeli concessions to the Palestinians. "For us, the Palestinian issue is very important. We need to solve that part," MBS, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, said when asked what it would take to get a normalisation agreement. "And we have a good negotiation strategy til now." "We got to see where we go. We hope that will reach a place that will ease the life of the Palestinians and get Israel as a player in the Middle East," he said, speaking in English. The crown prince, also known as MBS, voiced concern about the possibility that Iran, a mutual adversary of Saudi Arabia and Israel that the US wants to contain, could obtain a nuclear weapon. Tehran has denied seeking a nuclear bomb. "That's a bad move," he said. "If you use it, you got to have a big fight with the rest of the world." Asked what would happen if Iran did get a nuclear bomb, MBS said: "If they get one, we have to get one, for security reasons and the balance of power in the Middle East. But we don't want to see that."



While US officials insist any breakthrough is far away and steep obstacles remain, they privately tout the potential benefits of a regional mega-deal, according to Reuters. These include removing a possible flash-point in the Arab-Israeli conflict, strengthening the bulwark against Iran and countering China's inroads in the Gulf. Biden would also score a foreign policy win as he seeks re-election in November 2024. The broadcast of the crown prince's pre-announced meeting between Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in which they pledged to work together toward Israeli-Saudi normalisation, which could reshape the geopolitics of the Middle East. Both leaders also said Iran could not be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon. MBS issued the stark warning to Tehran despite the two countries having agreed in Chinese-brokered talks in March to restore relations after years of hostility. But he offered an olive branch to Iran, saying the two countries had made a "good start" and he hoped it would continue. Facing criticism from the US, MBS, whose country is the world's top oil exporter, also defended OPEC+'s decision to cut oil output, saying it was based on market stability and not intended to help energy-dependent Russia in its war in Ukraine. MBS, asked about Russia's military campaign, said the invasion of another country was "really bad" but he appeared to stick to his position of not taking sides in the war. Among the challenges the US faces in brokering a wide-ranging deal would be satisfying MBS' demands. He is reported to be seeking a treaty committing the US to defend the kingdom if attacked and also wants advanced weapons and assistance for a civilian nuclear programme. From the Israelis, MBS is pushing for significant concessions to the Palestinians to keep alive prospects for statehood in the occupied territories, something Biden is also pushing for but which Netanyahu's far-right government has shown little willingness to grant.

Five to be charged in UK with spying for Russia

LONDON: Five people suspected of spying for Russia are to be charged with conspiracy to conduct espionage. Orlin Roussev, Bizer Dzhambazov, Katrin Ivanova, Ivan Stoyanov, and Vanya Gaberova will appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Tuesday. The Bulgarian nationals are accused of conspiring to gather information which would be useful to an enemy between August 2020 and February 2023. It follows an investigation by the Metropolitan Police. The defendants are alleged to have worked in an operational spy cell for the Russian security services and that this work involved conducting surveillance on active operations in the UK and Europe and collecting and passing information to the Russian state. Mr Roussev, 45, is alleged to have run operations from the UK and acted as the link to those who received the intelligence. Officers who searched properties in London and Norfolk occupied by three of the defendants - Mr Roussev, Mr Dzhambazov, 41, and Ms Ivanova, 31 - found allegedly fake passport and official identity documents for the UK, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, and the Czech Republic. - Agencies



NEW YORK: Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. - DNA

Historic Senate speech King Charles hails 'stronger' UK-France relationship

PARIS: King Charles III became the first British monarch to make a speech from France's senate chamber on Thursday, praising the "indispensable relationship" between the UK and its neighbor which he said was "as firm as it has ever been." Charles and his wife, Queen Camilla, are on a three-day state trip to France, visiting Paris and Bordeaux, concluding Friday. The tour was originally planned for March but was postponed amid widespread demonstrations over President Emmanuel Macron's pension overhaul. The 74-year-old sovereign was given an enthusiastic welcome to the chamber - receiving a standing ovation from parliamentarians as he entered. When his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, visited in 2004, she made her speech from the adjoining Salle des Conférences. Charles vowed that "for the time that is granted to me as King" he would seek to strengthen UK-French ties, adding that "together, our potential is limitless." The King - whose speech came 231 years to the day since France abolished its own monarchy and established a republic - spoke of being "flattered" to have been

invited to speak by the two presidents of the two houses that make up France's parliament. During his address, he saved some of his strongest words to rebuke Russia's invasion of Ukraine, while also urging further action to tackle the climate crisis. "Now, more than 80 years since we fought, side by side, for the liberation of Europe, we once again face unprovoked aggression on our continent," Charles told lawmakers at the Palais du Luxembourg, where the French Senate is located. "Our alliance and our resolve are as important as ever. Together, we stand in resolute solidarity with the Ukrainian people. Together, we are steadfast in our determination Ukraine will triumph, and that our cherished freedoms will prevail." He continued: "These horrifying events have once more demonstrated the fragility of so much that we hold dear. Just as we stand together against military aggression, so must we strive together to protect the world from our most existential challenge of all - that of global warming, climate change and the catastrophic destruction of nature." - Agencies

South Korea raids US military bases in drugs probe

SEOUL: South Korean police are investigating 17 US soldiers and five other people who allegedly smuggled or used synthetic marijuana via military mail. This follows raids in at least two US army bases in May, including Camp Humphreys, its largest overseas base. A Filipino and a South Korean have been arrested, while prosecutors review the cases against all 22 suspects. A tip from the US Army's enforcement arm had sparked a four-month investigation by Korean authorities. It was one of the largest in recent years involving American soldiers, US media reported citing Cha Min-seok, a senior detective in South Korea. Joint raids by South Korean police and the US Army's Criminal Investigation Division found 77g (2.7oz) of synthetic cannabis, more than 4kg of "mixed liquids" used for vaping and a total of \$12,850 (£10,440) in cash at the 22 suspects' homes. They are accused of smuggling synthetic marijuana - known by the street names K2 and Spice - into the country through the US military's postal service. Seven of them, including five soldiers, are thought to have been involved in the sale of the drugs, 12 were users and three acted as middlemen. A soldier's spouse and another soldier's fiancée are also involved, the police told the BBC. The 17 soldiers are currently stationed at Camp Humphreys, about 48km (30 miles) south of the capital Seoul, and at Camp Casey, an army outpost about 40km north of Seoul, according to the police. They allegedly distributed the drugs on the bases while communicating via Snapchat. United States Forces Korea said on Wednesday that it was aware of the investigation. No soldiers are currently in confinement or being detained in relation to it, it said in a statement. - Agencies

KP Assembly outranks other legislatures

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly outperformed the three other provincial assemblies in Pakistan in terms of transparency and access to information between 2018 and 2023, according to the findings of a comparative analysis by the think tank Pildat. The Pildat and Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency shared its findings of the measure of the performance of last elected provincial legislatures in a press release on Thursday, stating that the KP Assembly scored the highest - 8.5 of 11 - in terms of transparency on access to information. It was the only one that provided the live telecast of assembly proceedings, it said, adding that while the live broadcast was initiated by the Punjab Assembly in 2002, the provincial legislature suspended it in 2021 and did not revive the practice. - APP

Saudi Chief of General Staff visits Air HQ

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff shared his pragmatic policy decisions aimed at modernizing PAF through smart acquisition of niche technologies with special focus on artificial intelligence

MEHTAB PIRAZADA

ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation, led by General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, called on Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad today. The meeting underscored, discussion on several key areas of mutual interest, defence co-operation and geo-strategic situation. On his arrival, a smartly

turned out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili the guard of honour. Later, the visiting dignitary was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers. During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff shared his pragmatic policy decisions aimed at modernizing PAF through smart acquisition of niche technologies with special focus on artificial intelligence, cyber, space, electronic warfare in addition to upgradation of infrastructure and revitalization of operational & training domains. The Air Chief highlighted that Saudi Arabia being the

center of the Muslim world and a significant strategic partner has longstanding religious, cultural and historical bond with Pakistan which is exemplified through robust bilateral relations. He also reiterated his unwavering commitment to enhancing the existing ties in realms of military-to-military cooperation, joint exercises and collaborative training. Highlighting the bond of brotherhood between the two nations, the Air Chief said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic and defence relationship with Saudi Arabia which is based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability." The Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces expressed his admiration for the exceptional progress made by Pakistan Air Force, particularly in the area of indigenization and lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel. He also pledged to play his role in further improving the existing bilateral ties at all levels and expressed his desire to consolidate cooperation in various fields including training, emerging technologies and mutual cooperation in the aviation industry. The Saudi delegation also visited different installations and technological infrastructure including PAF's National ISR & Integrated Air Operations Centre (NIIAOC) and PAF's Cyber Command along with National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), where they were briefed about the operational capabilities and ongoing projects of PAF's modernization drive.



Advertisement for DNA newspaper featuring the headline 'LIE IS OVER BUT ISN'T' and '25 NATIONAL NEWSPAPER READERSHIP DAY'. It includes logos for APNS and DNA, and a call to action to read newspapers.