



# Islamabad POST

Thursday, August 29, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Reset with EU will not reverse Brexit, says UK PM Starmer**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Mushahid terms China ties central to Pak Future**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Emma Raducanu 'sad' after early US Open exit**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Cabinet approves plan

# Over 82 state enterprises to be merged: PM

The move aims to boost government performance, optimise human capital, improve policymaking, and reduce delays

DNA / FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet has approved recommendations submitted by the Rightsizing of the Federal Government Committee for the merger and dissolution of 82 State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). The Cabinet, which met in Islamabad today with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the chair, while assenting to the recommendations, also constituted a committee to protect the interests of employees, who will be affected by the merger and dissolution of various departments. These 82 entities are being transformed into robust institutions through digitization, smart management, efficient governance, transparency, and swift implementation to provide better facilities to the common man. The Federal Cabinet was informed that in the first phase, enforcement of the committee's recommendations has begun in six ministries. This will help improve government performance, correct use of human capital, and policymaking as well as end unnecessary delays in implementation of decisions. The Cabinet was briefed that savings worth one hundred and thirty million dollars have been made by stopping the import of Urea and providing uninterrupted gas supply to Urea factories. The Prime Minister appreciated the decisions taken by the Ministries of Finance, Energy and National Food Security to ensure the provision of an unhindered supply of Urea fertilizer during the upcoming Rabi crop season. The Cabinet was also given a detailed briefing on the implementation of austerity measures as per the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to reduce government expenditure. The Federal Cabinet approved the continuation of the austerity measures which include voluntary waiver of salary by cabinet members, a ban on the purchase of

Continued on Page 06

## Internet slowdown likely to continue till October: PTA

PTA says submarine cable AAE-1 has been repaired which may improve internet experience

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The ongoing internet disruption across the country is likely to continue for over a month as the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Wednesday said the submarine cable, which caused degradation of the services, was expected to repair by early October. The internet disruptions faced strong criticism from netizens and information technology (IT) sector, attributing the prevailing internet slowdown and limited connectivity to the purported testing of an internet firewall to rein in social media, which is equipped with filters to block unwanted content from reaching a wider audience. Last week, the PTA blamed the internet slowdown on fault in "two of the seven international submarine cables connecting Pakistan internationally". In a statement issued today, the telecommunication authority said that

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding economic growth and investment. – DNA

## Bangladesh revokes ban imposed on Jamaat-e-Islami

Caretaker govt lifts ban as no evidence of involvement in "terrorist activities" found against party

FOREIGN DESK

DHAKA: Bangladesh's caretaker government revoked a ban on the country's main, Jamaat-e-Islami party and its affiliated groups on Wednesday, saying it has not found evidence of their involvement in "terrorist activities". Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's government had banned its rival political party under an anti-terrorism law, blaming it for stoking deadly violence during student-led protests that turned into an uprising against Hasina.

Continued on Page 06

## Government outlook 'positive' Moody's lifts Pak debt, currency ratings to 'Caa2'

Upgrade reflects improving macro economic conditions and moderately better liquidity, says rating agency

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Moody's Ratings has upgraded Pakistan's local and foreign currency issuer and senior unsecured debt ratings to Caa2 from Caa3 owing to improvement in macro-economic conditions, it said in a release on Tuesday. "We have also upgraded the rating for the senior unsecured MTN programme to (P)Caa2 from (P)Caa3. Concurrently, the outlook for the Government of Pakistan has changed to positive from stable," the rating agency said in a statement. The upgrade to Caa2 reflects Pakistan's improving macroeconomic conditions and moderately better government liquidity and external positions, from very weak levels. Accordingly, Pakistan's default risk has reduced to a level consistent with a Caa2 rating, as per Moody's. "There is now greater certainty

Continued on Page 06

## KP's good governance committee gives lie to ex-minister claims

Report reveal the accusations made against the secretary communications were baseless

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: A new Pandora's box has been opened days after the removal of former provincial minister Shakeel Khan from the cabinet. KP's Good Governance Committee's report revealed that the accusations made by Shakeel Khan against the secretary communications were baseless.

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### CEC Raja leaves for Azerbaijan

Election Commissioner would attend the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja has departed for Azerbaijan. According to the sources, Sikandar Sultan Raja went on an official visit to Baku, the Capital of Azerbaijan. Chief Election Commissioner would attend the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan as a foreign observer. The parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held on September 11.

### Nawaz likely to depart for London

Nawaz Sharif is expected to leave for London for a medical checkup

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif is expected to depart for London in the second week of September. According to PML-N sources, Nawaz Sharif is expected to leave for London on September 11 where he would undergo a medical checkup. Sources claimed that he is also expected to attend significant political meeting in London. Ex-premier had returned to Pakistan last year in October. Nawaz Sharif left for London on November 19, 2019 in an air ambulance for medical treatment before he was declared an absconder by Pakistani courts.

## Pledges to restore peace

# KP Governor asks CM to seek vote of confidence

He criticised past decisions to resettle militants, calling it a grave mistake, as these groups have now taken up arms against the country

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has asked the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to take a vote of confidence from the provincial assembly. The KP governor, during his visit to Jamia Ashrafia in Lahore, talked to the media and said the law and order situation in the province has deteriorated, with no-go areas emerging. He emphasised the need to restore peace in the province, assuring that the federal government has provided full support. Governor Kundi acknowledged that while differences with the provincial government persist, there should be no politics over peace and

Continued on Page 06



## Senate seats were not on agenda with PTI: JUI-F

KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi needs to stop making irresponsible remarks, advises Aslam Ghori

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) F spokesperson Aslam Ghori said that Senate seats were not on the agenda with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Ghori clarified that the issue of Senate seats never came up during meetings with PTI's negotiating teams. He blamed attempts to create divisions between the parties with baseless

Continued on Page 06

## Rains, floods claim 245 lives in 27 days

Around 1,002 houses were destroyed and 3,475 were partially damaged

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Rains and floods have wreaked havoc across the country, claiming 245 lives in the past 27 days, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The report released by the authority said 92 people lost their lives in Punjab, 74 in KP, 47 in Sindh, 22 in Balochistan and four in Gilgit-Baltistan. Around 1,002 houses were completely destroyed and 3,475 were partially damaged.

Continued on Page 06

# Traders observe nationwide strike against hike in taxes

"[We] reject the hike in taxes and electricity bills," says Sindh president of All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE/KARACHI: To protest against the government's tax reforms, traders across the country are observing a nationwide strike on Wednesday with support from traders associations and political parties. The political parties throwing weight behind the traders include Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and Awami National Party (ANP). Ahead of the countrywide strike, Anjuman-e-Tajiran Karachi had announced a complete closure of business today. "The political leadership has failed," said Javed Shams, the president of the All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran's Sindh chapter, announcing his support for the nationwide strike. Shams added that all business will be completely closed today in all small and big cities of Sindh. "[We] reject the hike in taxes and electricity bills." He added that the ruling class wants to take away the right to live from the business class and the people, insisting that the "Trader Friendly Scheme"

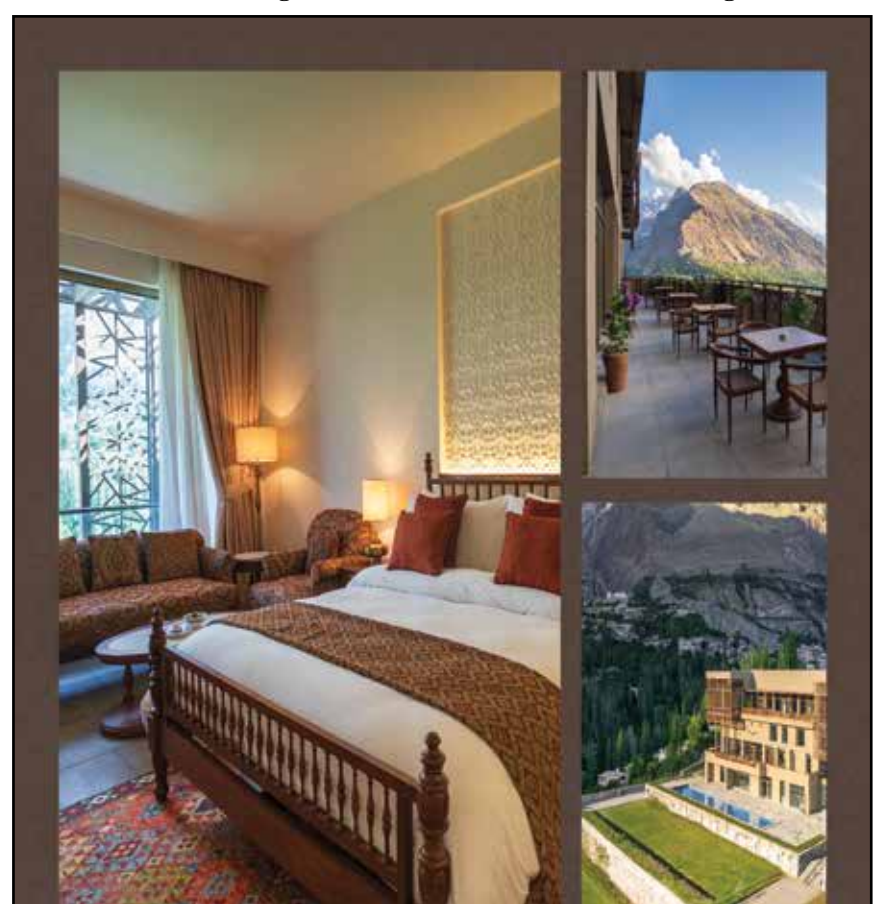
Continued on Page 06

## Ji's Baloch warns of nationwide long march

DNA

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami leader Liaquat Baloch Wednesday expressed gratitude to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and business representatives for the successful strike, highlighting the public's discontent with the current economic situation, reported 24NewsHD TV channel. At a press conference in Rawalpindi, Baloch criticized the government for soaring inflation, expensive electricity, and excessive taxes, condemning the luxurious lifestyles of the rulers amidst widespread suffering. He stated that the people are now rebelling against the economic crisis, which has made life increasingly difficult for the middle class. Baloch also voiced strong opposition to

Continued on Page 06



## Discover Serenity and Unmatched Comfort

Experience ultimate comfort with breathtaking views, your serene escape amidst the stunning landscapes of Hunza Valley awaits.



For more information, please contact: 03555997984 | reservation.hsh@serena.com.pk

## 520 ltrs adulterated milk discarded

MUZAFFARGARH: Punjab Food Authority disposed of about 520 litres adulterated milk after checking 17 vehicles at multiple pickets set up in different parts of the city here on Wednesday. Official spokesman said, the food safety team checked vehicles of milk and out of 17, two were carrying adulterated milk. The team imposed Rs.10,000 fine on violators DG PFA, Asim Javed said in this regard that the traces of water and chemicals besides shortage of essential fats were detected in the milk. The entire stuff 'being taken away in the name of milk' was disposed of at the road side, he said. Nobody would be allowed to play with lives of consumers, he said. He appealed the masses to cooperate with Punjab Food Authority to dispel activities of the mafia involved in mixing and adulteration in common food items. —APP

## Outlaws torture BISP staffers

SARGODHA: A group of people stormed into Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) regional office at Qainchi morr and tortured the staffers with batons and iron rods here on Wednesday. Deputy Director BISP Razia Yasmin told APP that some influential people came to office and asked survey staff to do the survey first to those ladies who had come with them. Staffers told them that their survey would be conducted through their token serial number. In fit of rage, they broke windows panes and tortured BISP driver Tariq, two messengers—Maqsood and Hamza with iron rods. Razia Yasmin said that police was not still filing FIR against the outlaws. The outlaws were belonged to 92 Morr areas, official informed. —APP

## Tahir Ashrafi condemns recent violence in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Pakistan Ulama Council, Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi on Thursday condemned recent incidents of violence in Balochistan, resulting in the loss of innocent lives. Ashrafi, in a news conference, extended his condolences to the family of the late Maulana Qazi Abdul Rasheed and emphasized the importance of unity within the country. He stated that the people of Balochistan are as patriotic as those from other provinces and condemned the silence of individuals and groups who claim to advocate for human rights. The council chairman announced that the days from September 1 to September 10 would be celebrated as Defense, End of Prophethood, and Defense of Pakistan, promoting unity and solidarity within the country. Ashrafi urged the state to take strict action against elements spreading unrest in Balochistan, alleging an external agenda behind the recent incidents. He further asserted that the whole nation stands united against terrorism, pointing to the alleged involvement of Israel and India in terrorist activities within Pakistan. —APP

## Fracturing stereotypes

KHADIA NOOR

SEPTEMBER 4th commemorates World Hijab Day, a global celebration of the practice of hijab, an integral part of Islam for women. Just as offering prayers (Namaz) is obligatory, wearing hijab is also compulsory for women. We will be held accountable for it. However, many sisters in our society don't take it seriously, ignoring it and claiming that pure intentions are enough. While intentions important, practically wearing hijab is not a choice, but an order from Allah that we must follow "O Prophet, enjoin your wives and your daughters and the believing women, to draw a part of their outer coverings around them. It is likelier that they will be recognised and not molested Aiah is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful" (33:59) Women in our society face discouragement from wearing hijab due to obstacles like workplace dress codes, societal stereotypes, and educational institutions restrictions. These biases limit their opportunities in fields like education, employment, and healthcare. From being told to remove their hijab for job interviews to facing social media backlash, women encounter numerous concrete barriers that deter them from practicing hijab. Behind the facade of modernity, our society still discriminates against and marginalizes

women who practice hijab. Society struggles to accept them, limiting opportunities in various fields. Hijabis are frequently discriminated against, denied jobs despite their skills, and subjected to prejudice. As a witness, I have observed many women being challenged and triggered simply for practicing hijab. This unjust treatment must end. We need to promote hijab and support women who wear it, smashing the stereotype that hijab hinders success. Instead, we should recognize that hijab empowers us, providing self-autonomy and security. Let's embrace hijab as a symbol of empowerment and encourage those held back by societal pressure to take the first step towards wearing it with confidence. Acknowledging the importance of hijab will not hinder their path to success but liberate them from societal expectations, allowing them to embrace their true identity as confident, capable, and empowered women. It's time to stand up for hijabis and celebrate their strength. We must assert that hijab is not a barrier to success but a symbol of resilience and determination. To all hijabis, I say: own your hijab, hold your self-esteem high, and don't let the cruel world pull you down. Embrace your hijab, and never let anyone diminish your worth. Together, let's create a society that values diversity, inclusivity, and acceptance, where hijabis can thrive without fear of discrimination or prejudice.

# British HC security manager awarded honorary MBE

British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said: "There is no greater priority for a High Commission than keeping our people safe. Captain Rehman has gone above and beyond the call of duty through his career, and for that we are all extremely grateful"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Captain Shakeel ur Rehman MBE, formerly of the Pakistan Army, has been awarded an honorary MBE for Services to UK-Pakistan Relations.

Rehman, who joined the British High Commission in 2005, was presented his award by the British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott. During his time at the High Commission, he has worked for seven High Commissioners, and overseen security for several UK Ministerial and Royal visits. Before joining the British High Commission, Captain Shakeel ur Rehman served in the Pakistan Army from September 1989 to May 2022, where he held roles such as Company Commander, Staff Captain, and MTO Infantry Battalion. Notably, Captain Rehman played a critical role during the 2006 earthquake in Islamabad, where he was among the first to be deployed to Shifa hospital, ensuring support for the British High Commission personnel under treatment. His standouts



moments also include managing security for Royal visits in 2006 and 2019, as well as visits from Prime Ministers Tony Blair and David Cameron. British High Commissioner, Jane

Marriott CMG OBE, said: "There is no greater priority for a High Commission than keeping our people safe. Captain Rehman has gone above and beyond the call of duty through his career, and for that we are all extremely grateful. In doing so, he does it with a kindness that positivity that make him a delight to work with, and it is wonderful to see his efforts recognised." Shakeel ur Rehman MBE said:

"I am deeply honoured to be recognised by His Majesty King Charles III for my contributions for my work at the British High Commission. This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of many, and I am proud to be a part of a community striving for excellence."

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire was established by King George V in 1917 to honour individuals who have made significant contributions to the Arts, Sciences, Charitable work, and Public Service.

## 1 killed in car-truck collision on Swat Expressway

ISLAMABAD: A speeding car collided with a truck on Swat Expressway, Malakand as a result of which one person was killed on Wednesday. According to Police, the accident took place near Swat Expressway where a car went out of control due to high speed and collided with the truck, in a result a person died on the spot, a private news channel reported. The police said that the people in the car had not been identified yet, but the body was being shifted to a nearby Hospital. —APP

## Woman poisoned to death by husband

SARGODHA: A woman was poisoned to death by husband here at Midh Ranjha area on Wednesday. Police said that Ahmed Raza (30) r/o Ghala Purr, Midh Ranjha often exchange harsh words over domestic issues with his wife Sumaira (28) r/o Sargodha. On the day of incident, they had an altercation and Raza poisoned his wife by mixing toxic substance in food. Police concerned launched investigation. —APP

## Rs 960 million approved for nine road projects

SARGODHA: The Divisional Development Working Party has approved nine different road projects worth Rs 960 million in the districts of Bhakkar and Khushab. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Commissioner Sargodha division, Jahanzeb Awan, held in his committee room on Wednesday. Seven road construction and repair schemes for Bhakkar, estimated at Rs 715 million, and two schemes for Khushab, costing Rs 250 million, were approved in the meeting. It was informed at the meeting that complete funds were released for all the schemes, and they would be completed this year. The commissioner emphasized the need for deputy commissioners to personally monitor all development schemes to ensure their sustainability and longevity. He directed officials to convey to the contractors that any construction deviating from the approved scope would not be tolerated. He further clarified that a third-party audit would be conducted for all schemes. —APP

## Jeddah Consul General will participate in the second Pakistan investment summit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Founder Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas and Fahad Barlas Convener Exhibition met Consul General Khalid Majeed and Commercial Consul Madam Sadia Khan at Pakistan Consulate Jeddah. In the meeting, Chairman Khurshid Barlas gave a detailed briefing to Consul General of Pakistan Khalid

Majeed and Madam Sadia Khan Commercial Consul about the arrangements for the second Pakistan Investment Summit and Smart Expo on November 2, 2024 at Jeddah Hilton Hotel. A large number of different business community related to tourism, minerals, medical, civil aviation industry, construction material, private developer, education and other sectors will participate in the exhibition. Consul General Khalid

Majeed inaugurated the first Pakistan Investment Summit and Smart Expo in Jeddah. Appreciated the organization and assured Khurshid Barlas that he will also be a part of this conference and support you fully and we stand by your side. Your efforts to increase the country's economy are commendable. It is very important to hold a conference and expo between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, it will strengthen the mutual relations between the two countries and strengthen the economy, on this occasion the Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas presented the invitation letter to Consul General Khalid Majeed for the exhibition and Madam Sadia Khan, Commercial Consul Fahad Barlas, Convener Exhibition and Marketing Director of Jeddah Vision for Expo and Conference, Najdi Bakhsh were also present.

lations between the two countries and strengthen the economy, on this occasion the Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas presented the invitation letter to Consul General Khalid Majeed for the exhibition and Madam Sadia Khan, Commercial Consul Fahad Barlas, Convener Exhibition and Marketing Director of Jeddah Vision for Expo and Conference, Najdi Bakhsh were also present.

## PDMA Sindh prepares for monsoon spell

ISLAMABAD: Director General (DG) Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh, Syed Salman Shah Wednesday urged the public to stay informed through official channels and adhere to safety precautions during current heavy rainfall as a new spell of monsoon is expected to hit southern Sindh from the night of August 29. The downpour is likely to affect areas near Karachi and Badin, bringing much-needed relief from the sweltering heat, but also posing a risk of flash flooding and urban flooding in low-lying areas, he said while talking to a Private news channel. He said that the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh is reviewing arrangements and taking significant steps to manage the ongoing rainfall in the province. In a bid to mitigate the impact of the heavy downpour, the PDMA is providing dewatering pumps to various district administrations and municipal corporations. This move aims to expedite the drainage of accumulated water and prevent urban flooding. Additionally, the

PDMA is working closely with district authorities to identify vulnerable areas and take proactive measures to protect lives and property, he added. The authority is also coordinating with emergency services, including rescue teams and medical personnel, to ensure a swift response to any emergencies that may arise, he mentioned. Syed Salman Shah, Director General of PDMA Sindh, emphasized the importance of preparedness and coordination in managing the situation. The PDMA's efforts are part of a broader strategy to enhance disaster resilience in Sindh, which includes infrastructure development, public awareness campaigns, and capacity building of emergency responders, he said. By taking proactive measures, the authority aims to reduce the risk of flooding and ensure a safe and secure environment for the people of Sindh, he added. Heavy rains with gusty winds are also expected at scattered places in Sindh, south Punjab and east/south Balochistan during the period, he added. —APP



## Newly launched book highlights insight into edu reforms

ISLAMABAD: The international book, 'The Political Economy of Education in South Asia (Pakistan Chapter)', authored by John Richards, Manzoor Ahmed, and Shahidul Islam, was officially launched here on Wednesday. The event was graced by esteemed guests of honor, including Farah Naz Akbar, Member of the National Assembly, and Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmed. Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), and the National Book Foundation jointly organized the book launch. The "Political Economy of Education in South Asia (Pakistan Edition)" has been critically reviewed by distinguished academics, including Dr. Faisal Bari, Associate Professor of Economics and Education at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Dr. Farid Panjwani, Dean at the Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED), and Dr. Rabea Malik, CEO and Fellow at the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS). Dr. Faisal Bari emphasized the book's significance, stating, "The book is timely. If we are to achieve the SDG education targets and other international and national commitments, the work needs to pick up pace. The ideas for reform and change presented in the book are well-researched and supported by academic and policy literature. We hope the book gains readership among all relevant education and policy constituencies." The book delves into the challenges of weak core competency outcomes in government primary schools across South Asia, specifically in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. It examines the rapid expansion of non-government schools over the past two decades and compares teacher training, hiring, and management in South Asian schools with those in Singapore and Finland. The authors argue that public good and priorities are better served when both public and non-government education providers operate within a robust public policy and accountability framework. —DNA

## The importance of Mother's milk is immense" – Dr. Mazhar

ISLAMABAD: the Chief Executive Officer of the Punjab Health Department, Dr. Mian Mazhar Hayat, spoke during a campaign about the benefits of breastfeeding at DHQ Hospital Jhelum. The campaign, organized for the public, media, and mothers, aimed to promote the advantages of Mother's Milk and will continue next week (from August 26, 2024, to August 31, 2024). During the event, the CEO mentioned that the Health Department has arranged various programs in schools and colleges to highlight the importance of breastfeeding. At the event, the benefits of Mother's Milk were shared with the mothers present. The CEO emphasized that the media should also play a role in raising awareness among the public about the importance of breastfeeding. During the ceremony, certificates and gifts were distributed to the mothers of newborns. In his concluding speech, Dr. Mian Mazhar Hayat stated that Mother's Milk has immense importance and cannot be replaced by anything else. He urged everyone to increase awareness about breastfeeding to ensure that newborns benefit fully from it. The event was also attended by the District Coordinator, IRMNCH Program Jhelum, Dr. Muhammad Jawad, along with other Health Department officers. —DNA

The Smooth Moving Connection

# freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING

IATA IAM FIDI FCIM

### Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

Head Office  
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.  
Tel: (+92-51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822211, 2874289 - Fax: (+92-51) 2825132, 2274227.  
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Branch Offices

Karachi: Plot No. 14 & 15, 3rd Floor, Kalkandah Road, Main Bang Road, 17D Block 2, P.E.C.I.S. Karachi. Tel: (+92-21) 3403008, 3401949. Fax: (+92-21) 3402147. E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com

Lahore: P-4, Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92-42) 3579881, 3579195. Fax: (+92-42) 3571620. E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com

Peshawar: Office No. C-6, 3rd Floor, Zafar Plaza, Left A Road, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92-91) 2922778. Fax: (+92-91) 2922999. E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com

Kabul: House A-4, Street #4, Chah-Negar Road, Doha-e-Nau, Kabul - Afghanistan. Tel: (+92-9021) 173, 93 79395 95, 93 77949 208. E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### AUGUST

- Aug 01/China Armed Forces Day
- Aug 01/Switzerland National Day
- Aug 01/Lebanon Armed Forces Day
- Aug 01 /Syria Armed Forces Day
- Aug 4/Bukino Faso National Day
- Aug 09 /Singapore
- Aug 15/DPR Korea Independence Day
- Aug 15/India Independence Day
- Aug 15/Poland Armed Forces Day
- Aug 17 /Indonesia Independence Day
- Aug 24/Ukraine Independence Day
- Aug 25/Uruguay Independence Day
- Aug 30 /Turkey Armed Forces Day
- Aug 31/Kyrgyz Republic Independence Day
- Aug 31/Malaysia National Day

### Hotels & Restaurants

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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

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



### Enquiry

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



### Hospitals

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



### Departments

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

### Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Finance minister lauds services of outgoing Türkiye ambassador

Pakistan, Türkiye vow to expand bilateral trade relations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: August 28, 2024 Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, paid a farewell courtesy call on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division today. The meeting underscored the deep-rooted and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, founded on shared faith, history, and cultural affinities. The finance minister expressed appreciation for the outgoing Ambassador's contributions to strengthening bilateral relations and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continue deepening its partnership with Türkiye across various sectors, including trade, investment, technical cooperation, and more. The Minister also highlighted the progress made during the recent visit of the Turkish trade delegation to Pakistan, led by H.E. Prof. Dr. Omer Bolat, Trade Minister of Türkiye, which helped in exploring new avenues for cooperation in sectors such as energy, agriculture, infrastructure, and technology.



Ambassador Paçacı, in his remarks, expressed gratitude for the cooperation and support extended by the Government of Pakistan during his tenure. He also extended appreciation on behalf of the trade delegation of Türkiye and noted that these engagements would further solidify economic ties and help unlock the vast potential for bilateral trade and investment. The meeting also highlighted the signing of the Trade in Goods Agreement 2022, as a significant step towards achieving the bilateral trade target of USD 5 billion. Both sides underscored the need for enhancing the trade and investment portfolio through more Government-to-Government (G2G) and Business-to-Business (B2B) arrangements. In the end, the Minister extended his best wishes to Ambassador Paçacı in his future endeavors and expressed confidence for continued collaboration and enduring friendship between Pakistan and Türkiye. The Ambassador also assured of Türkiye's continued commitment to working towards the common goals of both nations.

# PM climate aid calls for protesting breastfeeding women from climatic impacts

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordinator said that breastfeeding is a vital practice with profound health benefits for both infants and mothers. Because, it provides infants with essential nutrients, boosts their immune systems, and fosters an emotional bond between mother and child. "Breastfeeding supports healthy development, strengthens the mother-infant bond and yields positive economic and environmental impacts. However, promoting and supporting breastfeeding through education, policy and community support can lead to healthier individuals and a more sustainable future," Ms. Alam said while addressing as keynote speaker at a seminar "National Advocacy & Sensitisation with Parliamentarians on the World Breastfeeding Awareness Week" held here at a local hotel on Wednesday. The event was organized by Save the Children in collaboration with Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ministry, WHO, Unicef, and World Food Programme. Highlighting climate change impacts on mothers' access to healthy nutrition, PM's Climate aide told the participants that Pakistan is on the frontline of climate change impacts, facing extreme weather events, water scarcity, and shifts in agricultural productivity. These challenges have a direct impact on food security

and, by extension, on maternal and child nutrition, she added. The PM's Climate Aide, however, emphasized upon the need for hammering out policies and action plans to protect the breastfeeding women from exacerbating fallouts of climate change, particularly floods and heatwaves. "As climate change exacerbates poverty and food insecurity, the most vulnerable segments of our population—women and children—are at increased risk of malnutrition," she remarked. Romina Khurshid suggested, "To address this, we must integrate climate resilience into our national nutrition programmes and policies." "This means promoting sustainable agricultural practices, ensuring that our food systems are resilient to climate shocks, and prioritizing nutrition in our climate adaptation strategies. By doing so, we can protect our children from the dual threats of malnutrition and climate change," she elaborated. The PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised that breastfeeding lies at the heart of our nation's future—empowering maternal, child, and adolescent nutrition in Pakistan. She remarked, "Achieving adequate and health-boosting nutrition is not just a health challenge for mother and child during breastfeeding age, it is also a cornerstone for the development of our society, our economy, and our resilience to the growing challenges posed by climate change." Romina Khurshid also highlighted that

breastfeeding in Pakistan has long been recognised as a crucial practice for ensuring the health and survival of our children. Yet, despite these benefits, the practice of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life was not as widespread as it should be for different reasons," she observed. Romina Khurshid Alam said the mother-child health policymakers, practitioners and children's rights activists should enhance their efforts to protect and promote this practice as healthy children are at the heart of healthy society. "This requires a collective effort from all sectors—healthcare professionals, community leaders, policymakers, and media—to create environments where mothers feel empowered to breastfeed," Ms. Alam underlined. Promoting breastfeeding is not possible without dispelling myths, providing accurate information, and supporting mothers, especially in rural and underserved areas, where access to healthcare and information may be limited, PM's coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam cautioned. She said further that as we work towards empowering women and ensuring gender equality, it is vital to implement family-friendly policies that support working mothers. The PM's Coordinator suggested that Pakistan, where women play an essential role in both the economy and the home, policies such as paid maternity leave, flexible work hours, and access to quality childcare are crucial. These policies not only

benefit mothers and their children but also contribute to a more productive and resilient workforce, she added. Highlighting governments' efforts, Romina Khurshid said that the government has taken various steps towards this by enhancing maternity leave policies and encouraging workplaces to adopt more family-friendly practices. However, "the government is also pushing for broader implementation, particularly in the private sector, and ensure that these policies are accessible to women in all parts of the country", she highlighted. Secretary of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus Dr. Shahida Rehmani said while addressing the event that of the most pressing challenges we face in protecting breastfeeding is the aggressive marketing of breast milk substitutes. In Pakistan, this issue is particularly acute, with widespread marketing that often targets vulnerable mothers, leading them to believe that formula milk is a better option, she pointed out. The International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes is a global standard designed to curb these practices, and Pakistan has committed to upholding it. She said that protecting breastfeeding is not just a matter of health; it is a matter of national responsibility. "Our commitment to empowering maternal, child, and adolescent nutrition in Pakistan must be rooted in our cultural values, supported by robust policies, and reinforced by our efforts to combat climate change," Dr Shahida Rehmani suggested.

# RDA inflows rise to \$8.416 bn in July 2024

ISLAMABAD: The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$8.416 billion by the end of July 2024 as compared to US \$8.255 billion by June (2024) end, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The data showed that the inflows of remittances during July were recorded at US\$161 million as compared to US\$ 200 million in June and US\$ 224 million in May 2024. These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and investment activities in Pakistan. The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 10,820 to 723,598 in July 2024 from 712,778 accounts in June 2024. By the end of July, overseas Pakistanis have invested US \$357 million in Naya Pakistan Certificates, US \$618 in Naya Pakistan Islamic Certificates, and US \$39 million in Roshan Equity Investment.—APP

# Shibli highlights CPEC as Pakistan's development lifeline

ISLAMABAD: Leader of Opposition, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz on Wednesday called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a lifeline for Pakistan's development and future growth. He remarked, while addressing the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. The event was organised by the Pakistan-China Institute. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz praised China's policy of Reform and Opening-Up, which has propelled it to become the world's second-largest economy and stressed the relevance of these principles for Pakistan's economic and social development. Emphasising the deep-rooted and enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, highlighting it as a model of bilateral relations built on mutual respect and shared goals, he reaffirmed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) commitment to this vital relationship, noting its importance not only in terms of bilateral cooperation but also as a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. Acknowledging China's pivotal role in global affairs, particularly within the Global South, and expressed support for China's vision of a multipolar world, he highlighted China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a transformative project with the potential to reshape global trade routes and foster the economic cooperation. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz reiterated PTI's commitment to strengthening Pakistan-China relations and working closely with Chinese counterparts to explore new avenues of cooperation. He extended best wishes to the Pakistan-China Institute for its continued efforts in fostering mutual understanding and collaboration between the two nations.—DNA

# PM condoles death of PML-N AJK leader

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his deep grief over the death of Vice President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter of Pakistan Muslim League-N and former senior minister Chaudhary Muhammad Uzair. Praying for peace for the departed soul and patience for his family, the prime minister remembered him as an active politician in AJK politics. With the death of Chaudhary Uzair, the AJK politics has become bereft of a shining star, the prime minister remarked.—APP

# Inauguration of Software Technology Park (STP) Kotli

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Following the successful establishment of STPs in Mirpur, Muzaffarabad and Poonch, Special Communications Organization (SCO) has inaugurated another state-of-the-art Software Technology Park (STP) in Kotli. This modern facility, built to international standards, is a testament to SCO's commitment in enhancing IT infrastructure across Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Kotli STP marks another milestone in providing local youth with access to high-speed internet, computing resources and wide-ranging IT facilities. Maj Gen Umar Ahmad Shah, Director General SCO, inaugurated the facility, with university officials, senior civil and military representatives, IT professionals, and students in attendance.

# DPO presides Crime Control meeting

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: The District Police Officer Sardar Ghias Gul Khan while presiding over the Crime Control Committee meeting has reiterated all the field officers of district Police to accelerate the crackdown against the gangsters of heinous crimes include target killers, robbers, dacoits, drugs pushing, car, motorbike lifters, specially murder cases under investigation and arresting the criminals of category A without further loss of time. The crime control meeting was also attended by all police circle officers, SHOs of police stations and investigation officers of the Police Department. On this occasion, a detailed briefing on crime ra-

ti was also made to the DPO who reviewed the overall progress of the Attock Police with particular reference to bring the proclaimed offenders of category-A, car lifters, killers, bandits and other street criminals to book. He directed to ensure protection of life and properties of the people being their first prime responsibility besides launching effective patrolling duties in their jurisdictions. He also advised all the office officers to eradicate the theft dacoities, theft cases minimizing the sense of insecurity among the people. Strict action is being taken against those involved in drug peddling, gambling, running prostitution dens, possessing illegal arms and violating traffic rules, he added. As per reported by our district

representative Faisal Munir that The District Police Officer further said that police will never allow any evil elements to disturb the peace and law and order and strict legal action will be taken against such elements. He directed all the officers to ensure zero tolerance for protection of lives, properties and honors of the citizens being their priority to avoid any untoward incident within the sensitive inter provincial bordering territory of the district. DPO Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan has issued orders to make strict security arrangements at all mosques and imambarahs across the district during Taraweeh prayers on the arrival of Ramadan. On the arrival of Ramadan, Attock Police is taking all measures to protect the public, he added.

**AUGUST 2024**

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk  
www.dnanews.com.pl  
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

**Islamabad POST**

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



## Briefs

ANF seizes  
137 kg  
drugs in six  
operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 137 kg drugs worth over Rs 10 million and arrested six accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that 8.7 kg ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Australia at a courier office in Rawalpindi. In second operation, 88.3 kg hashish was recovered from Karam Agency. 30 kg opium was recovered from the Dalbandim Chagai area. In fourth operation, 2.4 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects including a woman arrested in Rawalpindi. During another operation conducted near Rawalpindi, 7.2 kg hashish and 29 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of two suspects. 1.2 kg hashish was recovered from an accused netted near Motorway Islamabad. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.—APP

NHMP  
imposes Rs  
350,000 fine  
on foodlets

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP), in its ongoing drive against overcharging and expired items of checking foodlets in the services area on Wednesday, inspected various sites and fined Rs 350,000 for violating Food Authority Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). NHMP North Zone spokesman Muhammad Saqib said that the teams comprising respective Assistant Commissioners, Motorway Police, and Food Authority officials, while inspecting on M-1, M-2, the Saat Expressway, and Hazara Expressway, found expired items at several outlets and discarded them on the spot. The teams also sealed various outlets for overcharging and imposed Rs 350,000 on them. He further said that strict action was being taken against the violators on the motorways to ensure the provision of hygienic food to the customers.—APP

Death  
anniversary  
of Kaleem  
Usmani  
observed

ISLAMABAD: Death anniversary of prominent Urdu poet and film songwriter Kaleem Usmani was observed on Wednesday. Born on February 28, 1928 in Saharanpur, India, his real name was Ehtsham Elahi and he was after the establishment of Pakistan, Kaleem Usmani settled in Lahore. In 1955, he started his career as song writer with the film Intikhab. Later, Kaleem Usmani wrote popular songs for several films.—APP

Pakistan and key stakeholders sign a  
declaration to advance maternal nutrition

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: August 28, 2024: In Pakistan, 41.7% of women suffer from anaemia, 14.4% are underweight, and 24% are overweight. Undoubtedly, such grim indicators call for concerted action to improve maternal nutrition in the country, which if not addressed, could cost the nation a generation of under-nourished children and huge human capital and economic losses.

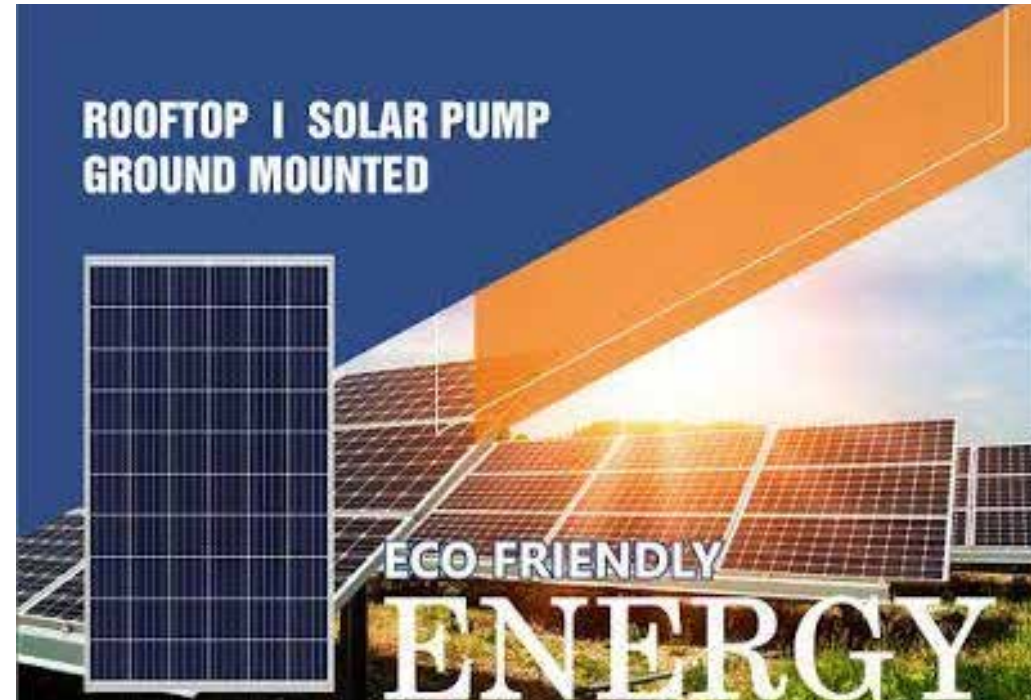
To tackle this urgent challenge, federal and provincial governments and other key stakeholders signed the 'Bhuban Declaration' today to reaffirm their commitment to enhance maternal nutrition in the country. The declaration was signed at the 'National Policy Dialogue on Economic Case for Maternal Nutrition', jointly organized by Nutrition International and the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSRC). The dec-

Electricity price hike brings  
new chance for PV companies

Still, solar energy still has plenty of room to grow in this South Asian country that has suffered from power dilemmas for years, as photovoltaic accounts for a negligible proportion of Pakistan's power structure

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Electricity price hike in Pakistan brings new chance for photovoltaic companies, says a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. "Our business has grown rapidly in the past two years due to about 90% of the people here have started using solar energy facing the high electricity costs. On account of the large backlog of orders, our workers are working day and night to install and repair solar photovoltaic panels. By now, we still have seven orders to complete," said Muhammad, a solar photovoltaic panel installation contractor in Islamabad, who has been very busy recently. The reporter learned that a principal cause that an increasing number of Pakistanis choose solar photovoltaic power generation is that the country's electricity bills continue to rise, and no sign of any decline. Data shows that in 2024, the average monthly electricity bill for Pakistani households is USD 350, while a year ago, the figure was USD 100. In July, when the country received a new USD 7 billion loan from the IMF, the average price per unit of electricity for residential users rose 18%. "Many residents are finding that electricity bills - typically a small portion of household expenses - are more than their monthly rent of USD 100 to USD 700," said Samiullah Tariq, head of research at Pakistan Kuwait Invest-



ment Co. In addition, during peak hours of electricity consumption, the country often suffers power outages, which also causes trouble to residents' lives. In contrast, the installation of household solar photovoltaic panels costs about USD 3,500, and the power generation is relatively stable. "My family has installed photovoltaic panels. In the past, there were always power outages when the electricity supply was insufficient. Even if without power outages,

the current electricity bills are unaffordable for our living standard. Installing photovoltaic panels could obviously save electricity costs for a lifetime with a one-time investment. It is a cost-effective deal in any way," Raja, from Rawalpindi, told the reporter. Another solar panel supplier Syed Khan indicated that the sales of photovoltaic panels, which are mainly imported from China, are growing exponentially. The sales of solar panels have increased by more

than 50% this summer. The average price of each solar panel here is about USD 90 with vary in size and capacity." Still, solar energy still has plenty of room to grow in this South Asian country that has suffered from power dilemmas for years, as photovoltaic accounts for a negligible proportion of Pakistan's power structure. As of June 2023, Pakistan's installed solar power capacity was 630 MW, accounting for only 1.4% of the total installed capacity. Ac-

ording to NEPRA, Pakistan's installed photovoltaic capacity is expected to reach 12.8GW by 2030 and 26.9GW by 2047. At present, Chinese companies such as Zonergy, LONGI, SOFAR and Ningbo Deye have already laid out the photovoltaic storage market in Pakistan for many years and occupy an important position.

Also, the Sindh government lately announced to provide solar systems to 200,000 households across the province, including 50,000 homes in Karachi. "A total of 6,656 solar systems will be distributed in each district of the province," the Director of Sindh Solar Energy has confirmed. Ali Majid, Pakistan General Manager of leading solar solutions provider LONGI, told Gwadar Pro, believing that it is undoubtedly good news for Pakistan's photovoltaic industry, specifically, for Chinese PV companies that have been deeply involved in the local market. "Nestled in a region blessed with ample sunlight, Pakistan boasts approximately 2.9 million MW of solar power potential," Ali told in an interview with Gwadar Pro. "And while the initial cost of solar technology has been a deterrent, the decreasing global cost is making it more economically viable for Pakistan." "The global photovoltaic industry is developing in full swing. China-Pakistan cooperation in related industries can make due contributions to the global response to climate change," Majid told GP.

IRSA  
releases  
290,600  
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 290,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 308,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 183,700 cusecs and 183,200 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1217.50 feet, which was 169.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 25,600 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 230,000, 163,500, 278,000 and 307,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 37,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 33,800 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

PM  
Coordinator  
appeal  
traders to  
join tax net

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister Rana Ehsan Afzal on Wednesday appealed the traders to join the tax system and share their genuine concerns which create a conducive environment for traders to comply with tax regulations and contribute to the country's economic development. Talking to a private news channel, Afzal urged traders to come forward and register themselves under the tax net, promising that the government would provide necessary support and facilitation. He also warned that failure to comply with tax regulations would result in consequences, but emphasized that the government's preference was to work together with traders to achieve mutual goals. The Coordinator's appeal comes at a time when the government is facing significant revenue shortfalls. By bringing more traders into the tax net, the government hopes to increase revenue collection and allocate resources more effectively.—APP

Current policies will never  
make electricity affordable

FARRUKAH SHEHZAD

The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that Pakistan's gas reserves are rapidly depleting. At the same time, electricity is being generated using imported fuel instead of local resources. He said the cost of electricity is continuously increasing, affecting the whole country due to capacity charges, line losses, theft, and non-payment of bills. Mian Zahid Hussain said that power-intensive industries

have no future in Pakistan as electricity and gas prices continue to rise. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said electricity and gas can be cheap when the dollar remains costly. He said that economic managers try to counter the expensive dollar by borrowing and printing more currency than needed, tantamount to undermining the country's economy. Mian Zahid Hussain said that while dams, solar power, wind power, etc., have been continuously neglected, industries that use more energy have been encouraged, posing great threats to the country's economy. He observed that when the country's natural resources can no longer supply the fertilizer industry with gas, it will have to shift

to imported gas, which will cost more than imported fertilizer. This will be the final nail in the coffin of this industry. Similarly, the future of cement, automobile, steel, sugar, textile, and other industries also looks uncertain due to the current energy policies, which may threaten the employment of millions of people. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the steel industry's first significant expense is the acquisition of raw materials, and its second major expense is electricity. Therefore, it has become impossible for the steel industry to operate.

The business leader said it is easy to estimate the sustainability of the country's infrastructure when the steel industry obtains half of its raw materials from prohib-

ed sources.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country's current energy mix is a problem for the future of the industries and the economy. Various industrial groups will soon compete to get cheaper energy, and the weaker groups will lose out. He underlined that the struggle to get cheaper natural gas has already resulted in the end of the CNG industry, and the same will be valid for other sectors in the future.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that it is valuable to temporarily provide relief to the people by the federal and Punjab governments. Still, the permanent solution to this problem lies in using the surplus electricity by promoting industrialization, thereby reducing the capacity charges.

Sino-Pak cooperation  
in art education  
expanding

ISLAMABAD: Hebei Academy of Fine Arts signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Quaid-i-Azam University to initial bilateral cooperation in art, history and archaeology, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. Under the MoU, the China-Pakistan Institute will be established, in which undergraduate education, postgraduate education, doctoral education, student exchange, visiting scholars, short-term study trip, etc. are being planned. Zhen Zhongyi, President of Hebei Academy of Fine Arts and Niaz Ahmad Akhter, Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University expressed their expectations for future cooperation, and emphasize the significance of art education in fostering understanding and friendship between different cultures and peoples at the meeting. They hoped the bilateral cooperation would contribute to cultural exchange and art development not only between the two brotherly countries but also globally. Hebei Academy of Fine Arts has attached great importance to developing cooperation with Pakistani universities in art education. In 2022, Hebei Academy of Fine Arts signed an agreement with University of Education Lahore to build a culture education cooperation and exchange center. The two universities are offering joint programs in Art Theory and Cultural Heritage currently. In 2023, 2023 China-Pakistan Contemporary Art Exchange Exhibition and China-Pakistan Culture, Art and Education Exchange Forum were held by Hebei Academy of Fine Arts, University of Education Lahore and Lahore Museum.—DNA

Commerce minister meets  
'apparel sectoral councils'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday holds virtual meeting with textiles and apparel sectoral Councils to resolve their issue for promoting exports in the country. In pivotal virtual meetings, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan engaged with the Council for Apparel, Made-ups, and Technical Textiles, alongside the other Council representing Textile Fibers, Yarns, and Fabrics, said a press release issued here. The sessions focused to deliberate on addressing the critical issues impacting the textiles and apparel industry, a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy. The members of both councils pointed out several impediments hindering export growth, including the high energy tariffs, unsustainable taxation, liquidity crunch, complexities surrounding Statutory Regulatory Orders (SROs), limited export financing with high borrowing cost, and tariff-related challenges. Participants in these meetings urged the government to sort out these issues and take necessary measures, which they believe are crucial for maintaining the export momentum. The meeting also touched upon the need to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the establishment of new plug and play garment cities, which are seen as essential for fostering growth in the sector. The Council members highlighted that, given the current geopolitical situation, Pakistan has a unique opportunity to capture a larger share of the international market.—APP

General Practice  
HEALTHCARE CENTRE

Keeping you Healthy!

Welcome to Islamabad's finest private medical centre, where your complete wellbeing is our top priority. Keeping you healthy and in good physical condition is at the heart of everything we do. Our aim is to establish long-term trusting relationships with our patients and their families, offering them easy accessibility to health and continuity of care.

+92334 7474701 | +92 51 8900 682  
28, Ground Floor, Executive Complex,  
G-8 Markaz, Islamabad

Facebook icon /generalpracticeislamabad  
www.generalpractice.com.pk

## China's soft power

As its soft power is increasingly challenged, the United States appears to be relying more on its hard power to uphold its vision of a rules-based international order. In contrast, China is establishing the socio-economic and civilisational foundations of an equitable world order through its vision of a "community with a shared future". On Sunday, amid rising concern that a broader regional conflict is in the offing, Israel and Hezbollah engaged in their most intense cross-border strikes since the Gaza war began. Earlier, the US deployed warships and aircraft carriers to the Middle East to deter potential hostility with Iran. Simultaneously, in the western Pacific, the US is working to contain what it sees as the threat from China through defence alliances and groupings. As the world's sole superpower, it continues to maintain an extensive global military presence. However, the US presidential election in November could disrupt this strategy. Republican presidential candidate and former US president Donald Trump seems keen to reduce American military commitments worldwide, leaving allies and partners such as Ukraine, Taiwan and the Philippines uncertain about their future security. Inconsistent global leadership from a deeply divided US could raise doubts about its reliability in defending the rules-based international order. Despite internal divisions, the US maintains a unified stance on certain key issues, particularly the threat China poses to its global dominance. While Trump might avoid direct military confrontation, he is likely to pursue other strategies to contain China. Another area of consensus is the conflict in Gaza; the outcome of November's election is unlikely to alter the broad bipartisan support for Israel's actions against Hamas. However, unflinching US support for Israel is gravely damaging its reputation. Washington's inability to broker a ceasefire in Gaza has undermined US global leadership in the eyes of some in the Global South. On Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a politically divided US leaves it with an inconsistent stance, leading to greater unpredictability. Meanwhile, even a united US undermines its leadership by unwaveringly supporting Israel. While US allies await the results of the November election to determine the future of their security strategies, the Global South is advancing its own initiatives. China has emerged as a key partner for these developing countries as they seek closer economic ties with Beijing. Additionally, a growing list of nations is seeking to join the China-backed Brics. Chinese President Xi Jinping's farsighted vision of a "community with a shared future for mankind" is shaping an emerging alternative world order. Central to this vision is the Global Development Initiative (GDI), with the Belt and Road Initiative as its cornerstone. Since its inception a decade ago, China's belt and road strategy has invigorated economic growth in the Global South. The West's response to the Belt and Road Initiative includes efforts such as the US-led Build Back Better World announced at the G7 summit in 2021 and the European Union's Global Gateway. However, these efforts have yet to make a comparable impact. Their limited effectiveness is partly because of their apparent geoeconomic objective of containing China. In contrast, efforts such as the Belt and Road Initiative and Brics are viewed as tools for levelling the playing field. The GDI, in particular, is driving a shift in the global economic centre from Global North to the Global South.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 237

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



## World War III alarm

In the face of various international and regional hot issues, the "World War III alarm" has sounded frequently, such as "the world is on the verge of WWII" and "there is a need to be fully prepared for WWII." This alarm intensifies people's worries about the turbulent situation around the world. Upon closer observation, different reasons behind these alarms can be seen. Some are extremely worried that the situation will worsen or even get out of control. For example, amid the Ukraine crisis and the new round of the Palestine-Israel conflict, relevant countries, especially major powers, lack consensus on how to address the political and battlefield deadlock, while some countries have adopted panic policy to respond. Meanwhile, some countries attempt to find "reasonable explanations" for their security policy adjustments with the "WWIII alarm." Of course, perhaps some people use this as a tool to incite public opinion. Whatever their reasons or intentions, the scarring effect of the two world wars on all mankind has not been forgotten, and the unstoppable trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation in today's world is undervalued. First, the world is well aware that WWII would certainly cause heavy damage to human civilization. With the emergence and development of nuclear weapons, nuclear war is generally regarded as the inevitable form WWII would take. The global concerns about the risk of nuclear war are also increasing. But the stance put forward in the Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races on January 3, 2022 that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought" remains firm. No-first-use of Nuclear Weapons Initiative Working Paper submitted by China in July 2024 advocates the five nuclear-weapon states to negotiate and conclude a treaty on "mutual no-first-use of nuclear weapons" or issue a relevant political statement, which has also been supported by the vast majority of countries. The world has a clear understanding of the tremendous damage of a nuclear war, and will not tolerate any challenges to the common value of firmly safeguarding the development and continuation of human civilization. Second, it is essential to distinguish between the inevitability of historical trends and the contingency of historical events. When comparing the history before the outbreak of the first two world wars, one can identify certain subtle similarities between those times and the so-called signs of a World War III in the current situation. For example, the occasional escalation of territorial disputes left over from history, the weakening effectiveness of political and security coordination mechanisms, and the lack of mutual trust between major powers. However, alongside the pursuit of economic modernization, human society has also been striving to build a relatively stable international security framework. It is precisely due to the profound reflection on the two world wars that countries around the world, having learned painful lessons, established an international system centered on the UN, an international order based on international law, and basic norms of international relations grounded in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. These have become key in preventing humanity from repeating another disastrous mistake. Although frequent regional conflicts have posed certain challenges to the UN's role in maintaining international peace and security, countries still regard it as the most authoritative and representative collective security mechanism.

# How Blinken's disinformation perpetuates the suffering in Gaza

Jamal Kanj

As such, the Biden Administration's calls for a ceasefire are as hollow as a jellyfish, and as insincere as a Trump apology. Biden calls for a ceasefire while he continues to provide the fuel to fan the flames. This week, for instance, his administration reached a new milestone in stoking the fire by delivering the 500th airlift, or 50,000 tons of weapons to "Israel", almost two shipments per day since October 7. Driven solely by Israeli interest, the Biden Administration has been pursuing a two-pronged strategy. One uses negotiations to evade, delay, or mitigate any retaliation against "Israel's" aggression on Beirut, Iran, and Yemen, while the second gives Israel a free hand to maximize...

AFTER a three-hour meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu, Antony Blinken professed "Israel's" acceptance of a supposed ceasefire proposal. However, less than 48 hours later, it became evident that this proclamation was likely part of a PR disinformation strategy designed to dress the wolf in sheep's clothing. The complicity between the Joe Biden Administration and Netanyahu became more apparent when White House National Security (Israeli) Communications Advisor John Kirby responded to a question about the Administration's stance on Netanyahu's conditions on the ceasefire, particularly regarding "Israel's" control of Gaza's southern borders and military stationed inside Gaza. Kirby's subtle reply implied US acceptance of Netanyahu's conditions, stating that the Israeli army could have security responsibilities on the border. He added the focus should be now on the release of Israeli (100) captives and "six weeks of calm"—only a respite before "Israel" resumes its horrific crimes against 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Meanwhile, it was revealed that Egypt and "Israel" were scheduled to discuss Netanyahu's additional terms on the new American amended ceasefire plan. Following the conclusion of these meetings, Egypt reiterated its rejection of Netanyahu's conditions to maintain an Israeli presence at Rafah and in the Philadelphia Corridor. If Egypt and "Israel" do not agree on Netanyahu's new conditions, why would Blinken expect the Palestinians to accept something Egypt wouldn't allow? Is this part of an American-Israeli scheme to pressure the Palestinians into agreeing to terms that Egypt opposes? Could it be a tactic to use Palestini-

an acceptance as leverage against Egypt? Or, is Blinken, in effect, acting as a Zionist agent, colluding with "Israel" to maintain Israeli control over the Gaza-Egypt border, in violation of existing bilateral agreements? In his distorted statement regarding the repackaging of Netanyahu's conditions as a "bridged proposal", Blinken went further by suggesting that the suffering of Gaza's 2.3 million people is a consequence of the Resistance's refusal to accept the new American/Israeli diktat, rather than being a result of "Israel's" malevolent war. In other words, by refusing to surrender—one of Netanyahu's key demands—the Palestinians are blamed by the West for their own suffering. Although Blinken attempted to reframe the American adoption of Netanyahu's conditions as a new American proposal, Netanyahu quickly exposed Blinken's misrepresentation of some kind of an agreement by rejecting any American suggestion for a permanent ceasefire and insisting on Israeli control over Gaza's border with Egypt, a fact confirmed by CNN, which reported that "Israel" did not change its position on resuming the war after the release of Israeli captives, and that Blinken's so-called "bridged proposal" calls only for a partial deal. Any individual, let alone a high-ranking U.S. official, should show a little self-respect as Netanyahu continues to embarrass Blinken and expose him as biased, not to say a liar. Netanyahu's deliberate humiliation of the Biden Administration appears to be part of the Israeli interference in the American elections, potentially in coordination with the Donald Trump campaign, aimed at portraying Biden as weak by undermining the

ceasefire so as not to benefit the Democratic candidate in the upcoming US election. Despite this, the Biden Administration continues to provide "Israel" with political cover for its crimes by circulating false narratives about baseless progress in the negotiations as far back as late February. Biden, and now Kamala Harris, along with Netanyahu, share a mutual need in perpetuating these endless talks—Harris, for the upcoming U.S. election, and "Israel", to precipitate the suffering of the Palestinians with impunity. As such, the Biden Administration's calls for a ceasefire are as hollow as a jellyfish, and as insincere as a Trump apology. Biden calls for a ceasefire while he continues to provide the fuel to fan the flames. This week, for instance, his administration reached a new milestone in stoking the fire by delivering the 500th airlift, or 50,000 tons of weapons to "Israel", almost two shipments per day since October 7. Driven solely by Israeli interest, the Biden Administration has been pursuing a two-pronged strategy. One uses negotiations to evade, delay, or mitigate any retaliation against "Israel's" aggression on Beirut, Iran, and Yemen, while the second gives Israel a free hand to maximize the civilian suffering in order to blackmail the Palestinian Resistance to accept Netanyahu's new conditions. This strategy, however, is not sustainable. The initial response by the Lebanese Resistance earlier this week is a prelude, encapsulated in a stark warning of further retaliations. A swarm of drones reached their military targets in the suburbs of Tel Aviv, carrying a clear message that the future ceasefire negotiations may no longer be about Gaza.

## The true price of peace: Understanding the pain of a Martyr's family

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



In Pakistan, such tragedies are not uncommon, particularly among the families of soldiers. These brave men—whether they be Sepoy, Havildar, Lance Naik, Second Lieutenant, Lieutenant Captain, or Major—serve with honor and courage, knowing full well that death could claim them at any moment

IN the course of life, there is one inevitable truth that no one can escape—death. It is the one certainty that transcends all boundaries, uniting every soul regardless of status, wealth, or power. Every living being is destined to taste death, and its timing is as fixed as the rising and setting of the sun. This universal fact is often accepted in theory, yet the reality of facing the departure of a loved one is a profoundly painful experience, one that shakes the very foundations of those left behind. The grief is especially poignant when death comes unexpectedly, claiming the life of someone who is neither aged nor suffering from any life-threatening illness. Such losses are like a thief in the night, robbing families of their joy and leaving a void that can never be filled. The shock is compounded when the deceased is young, full of dreams, and with their whole life ahead of them. For those who had only just begun to experience the springtime of their lives, who were on the cusp of milestones such as marriage or the birth of a child, death seems unbearably cruel. Imagine a family preparing to decorate their daughter's head with the crown of a bride, only to be told that the groom has been taken by the cold hand of death. Picture a father who has not yet seen the face of his unborn child, or a brother who was planning to arrange for his sister's wedding, only to receive the heart-wrenching news that their loved one has fallen in battle. The dreams of a future filled with joy and celebration are shattered in an instant, replaced by the harsh reality of loss and mourning. In Pakistan, such tragedies are not uncommon, particularly among the families of soldiers. These brave men—whether they be Sepoy, Havildar, Lance Naik, Second Lieutenant, Lieutenant Captain, or Major—

serve with honor and courage, knowing full well that death could claim them at any moment. Yet they go forth willingly, not for the paltry sum of money they earn, but for the love of their homeland and the protection of its people. The salary of a soldier, no matter how high, can never truly compensate for the life they risk every day. Human life is far too precious to be measured in rupees, yet these soldiers lay down their lives with the knowledge that their sacrifice is for a greater cause. The land of Pakistan has also been a witness to countless sacrifices, where the atmosphere has reverberated with the tales of valor and dedication. Those who bore the weight of four stars on their shoulders and chests, symbols of their courage and glory, have selflessly embraced death for the sake of the nation. These brave souls, standing at the forefront of duty, have laid down their lives with unwavering commitment, ensuring that the spirit of patriotism and honor continues to inspire future generations. Their legacy is etched into the very soil of the country, a testament to their unwavering devotion to Pakistan. When the body of a martyr returns to his home, the scene is one of unspeakable sorrow. The wails of mothers, the silent tears of fathers, the devastated expressions of siblings and spouses—all speak to the immeasurable loss that has befallen them. The grief of losing a loved one to war is compounded by the pride in knowing that they died a hero, yet this pride does little to ease the pain. It is in moments like these that the true cost of freedom and security is felt, not in abstract terms, but in the raw, personal agony of families who must go on without their beloved son, brother, or husband. It is difficult to truly understand this pain unless one has experienced it firsthand. The sudden absence of

someone who was once the center of a family's world leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of those who remain. And yet, for the sake of the nation, these families bear their grief with dignity, knowing that their loved one's sacrifice was not in vain. It is a reminder that the freedoms and security we often take for granted are built on the sacrifices of those who came before us, and those who continue to serve. As a responsible citizen, it is our duty to honor these martyrs, not just in words, but in our actions and attitudes. We must recognize the enormity of their sacrifice and appreciate the peace and safety they have provided for us. It is easy to become absorbed in the trivialities of daily life, forgetting that there are those who have given everything so that we may live in peace. Yet, it is precisely because of their sacrifice that we have the luxury to do so. Living nations are those that remember and honor their heroes. They understand that their freedom was bought with blood, and they do not let the memory of their martyrs fade away with time. Instead, they keep their legacies alive, teaching future generations about the price of freedom and the value of sacrifice. In this way, the memories of the fallen are preserved, and their sacrifices continue to inspire and protect the nation long after they have gone. So, the next time you hear of a soldier who has been martyred, take a moment to reflect on the life that was lost and the family that is now grieving. Consider the dreams that will never be fulfilled, the joys that will never be experienced, and the future that was cut short. Let this be a reminder to cherish those who are still with you, to appreciate the sacrifices made on your behalf, and to honor the memory of those who gave their lives for your tomorrow.

## Briefs

## Over 82 state enterprises to be...

FROM PAGE 01  
government vehicles other than essential vehicles such as ambulances, a ban on the purchase of new equipment and machinery, a creation of new government posts, unnecessary travel abroad at government expense and ban on medical treatments abroad. Appreciating the implementation of austerity measures by federal ministries, the Prime Minister directed them to ensure the continuation of the same. The Federal Cabinet condemned in strongest terms the incidents of terrorism in Balochistan and the cowardly attacks by terrorists on innocent citizens. Fateha was offered for the martyred civilians and security personnel during these incidents. The Cabinet emphasised taking strict action against the terrorist elements involved in these incidents.

## Internet slowdown likely to...

FROM PAGE 01  
the ongoing internet disruption was mainly due to fault in two submarine cables. "It is updated that fault in SMW-4 submarine cable is likely to be repaired by early October 2024," it said. The statement added, "Whereas submarine cable AAE-1 has been repaired which may improve internet experience." Earlier this month, PTA Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) Hafeezur Rehman admitted that upgradation of the National Firewall System (NFS) or Web Management System (WMS) was under way for controlling or removing contents from social media, following directions received from executives or courts.

## Traders observe nationwide..

FROM PAGE 01  
is not acceptable in its current form. The Karachi Electronics Dealers Association has also backed the strike call. KEDA President Mohammad Rizwan said all trade unions from Karachi to Khyber are participating in the strike. "If the issues are not resolved, the duration of the strike may increase," said Rizwan. All Karachi Traders Union President Atiq Mir termed the strike as one of the citizens and not traders. "The common man is worried about inflation." Reacting to the countrywide strike, Coordinator to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Implementation and Monitoring, Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan, said government will not be pressured by traders.

## JI's Baloch warns of...

FROM PAGE 01  
the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) contracts, labelling them as unacceptable and accusing the government of pouring billions into these "blind wells" at the expense of the public. He warned that today's strike is merely a "trailer" for a larger nationwide long march towards Islamabad, indicating that the people's peaceful resistance will intensify if the government does not heed their demands.

## KP Governor asks CM to...

FROM PAGE 01  
development in KP. He also mentioned his intention to meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to call an Apex Committee meeting to discuss the restoration of law and order. Highlighting the deteriorating security situation, he pointed out attacks on rural health centres, saying, "We are in search of peace." He criticised past decisions to resettle militants, calling it a grave mistake, as these groups have now taken up arms against the country. He also referenced efforts such as fencing the Afghan border to bring stability. Kundi remarked on the shifting political landscape, noting, "Those who used to mock Maulana Fazlur Rehman are now seeking his guidance."



ISLAMABAD: Mirza Ikhtiar Baig MNA/Convener in a group photo with H.E. Mohamed Karmoune Ambassador of Morocco, Additional Secretary Africa MOFA Hamid Asghar Khan, DG Africa MOFA Husnain Yousuf, Secretary Africa Ministry of Commerce Muhammad Arifullah and Participants of Friendship Group (PFG) in a meeting at Parliament House. - DNA

## Emma Raducanu 'sad' after US Open exit

"It's a lesson to learn for next year." Having opted to skip this summer's Olympic Games in Paris, Raducanu also missed WTA 1,000 events in Toronto and Cincinnati in the lead-up to US Open. Raducanu admitted afterwards that she lacked some match sharpness against Kenin.

## WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Emma Raducanu says she wants to play more matches before Grand Slam tournaments after losing to Sofia Kenin in the US Open first round. Britain's Raducanu, who lost 6-1 3-6 6-4, was searching for her first victory in New York since unexpectedly winning the title in 2021 as a teenage qualifier. She fell in the first round in 2022 and missed last year's tournament as she recovered from wrist and ankle surgery. Raducanu played just one tournament between Wimbledon in July and the US Open, reaching the quar-

ter-finals in Washington earlier this month. The 21-year-old fought back tears in a news conference after her loss to fellow Grand Slam champion Kenin and said she felt "sad" and "down". She said she would "learn from it" and "manage my schedule slightly differently" for future Grand Slams. "I would like to play more matches," Raducanu told media. "I wouldn't probably still play every single tournament leading up, but I would probably play more than I did this time. "It's a lesson to learn for next year." Having opted to skip this summer's Olympic Games in Paris, Raducanu also missed WTA 1,000



events in Toronto and Cincinnati in the lead-up to the US Open. Raducanu admitted afterwards that she lacked some match sharpness against Kenin. "I got off to a bit of a slow start, but did really well to fight back in sets two and three and there wasn't much in it," Raducanu said. "I think I worked my way into the match pretty well, but at this level you can't really afford to have a slow start of the set and start from a set down. "I know when I have a lot of matches, just like every player, you feel really good, you feel like everything's automatic. "I can learn from it and manage my schedule slightly differently." After an injury-plagued 2023, Raducanu returned to the tour in January and reached the second round of the Australian Open. She skipped the clay-court French Open to focus on being fit for the British grass season - a decision that seemed to have paid off when she made an impressive run to the Wimbledon fourth round. "I think I've made progress considering where I was at the start of the year - I didn't play for seven months," the world number 71 added. "I had a month of December training after three surgeries so I think to climb back into the top 100 was a really good achievement."

## Schedule of Champions One-Day Cup confirmed

## FOREIGN DESK

LAHORE: The Champions One-Day Cup, featuring the country's 150 best of the best cricketers, will be played at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad from September 12-29. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Wednesday. The opening match will be played between the Wolves and Panthers. The full team names and 15-player squads will be unveiled in the coming days. The 50-over tournament will be played in a single-league format with the matches to commence at 3pm. There will be three playoffs in four days with the final on Sunday, 29 September. Except for the 16 September match

between Lions and Panthers, which will commence at 9.30am local time, all other 13 matches will begin at 3pm. Lions and Panthers will lock horns in a morning match to allow Pakistan women's versus South Africa women's T20I to be broadcast live. Event schedule (all matches at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad)  
12 Sep - Wolves v Panthers  
13 Sep - Stallions v Lions  
14 Sep - Dolphins v Panthers  
15 Sep - Wolves v Stallions  
16 Sep - Lions v Panthers  
17 Sep - Dolphins v Wolves  
19 Sep - Stallions v Dolphins  
20 Sep - Lions v Wolves  
21 Sep - Panthers v Stallions  
22 Sep - Dolphins v Lions

24 Sep - Qualifier (Team No.1 v Team No. 2)  
25 Sep - Eliminator 1 (Team No.3 v Team No.4)  
27 Sep - Eliminator 2 (Losing Qualifier v Winning Eliminator 2)  
29 Sep - Final  
Note: 16 Sep match will start at 9.30am, rest of the matches will start at 3pm  
On Monday, PCB announced five team mentors of the upcoming Champions Cup. Sarfaraz Ahmed, Misbah-ul-Haq, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Malik and Waqar Younis were confirmed as mentors of the sides on three-year contracts following a transparent and robust recruitment process.

## Babar Azam drops down in ICC Rankings

DUBAI: Former Pakistan captain Babar Azam has dropped an astonishing six places, falling from third to ninth in the ICC Test Rankings following a disappointing performance in the first Test against Bangladesh. Meanwhile, wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has climbed seven spots, achieving a new career-high by breaking into the top 10 at joint 10th after scoring a century in the same match. This leaves Babar just six rating points ahead of Rizwan in the updated rankings for Test batters, with Pakistan vice-captain Saud Shakeel not far behind after moving up one place to 13th overall, thanks to his own century against Bangladesh. On the other hand, Harry Brook has now secured the fourth spot, while his teammate Joe Root maintains his position as the No.1 ranked Test batter. Bangladesh's right-hander Mushfiqur Rahim has reached a career-high rating, climbing seven spots to 17th, while Sri Lanka's Dinesh Chandimal (up four places to 23rd) and Kamindu Mendis (up eight rungs to 36th), along with England's newcomer Jamie Smith (up 22 to 42nd), also made gains in the Test batter rankings. India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin remains at the top of the rankings for Test bowlers, though fellow spinner Prabhakar Jayasuriya has moved up one place to ninth for Sri Lanka following his five-wicket haul in Manchester against England. England seamer Chris Woakes (up four rungs to 16th) and Sri Lanka's Asitha Fernando (up 10 spots to 17th) have also gained ground, while Pakistan right-arm Naseem Shah (up four spots to 33rd) and England's Gus Atkinson (up four places to 42nd) achieved new career-best ratings after impressive recent performances. Woakes has also improved by one place to move up to eighth on the list for Test all-rounders, with India's spinner Ravindra Jadeja leading that category. There has been significant movement in the latest T20I rankings, with several West Indies players climbing into the top 10 of their respective categories following the first two matches of their home series against South Africa. - DNA

## Dawid Malan announces international retirement

LONDON: England's former No.1-ranked T20I batter, Dawid Malan, has announced retirement from international cricket after featuring in 22 Tests, 30 ODIs, and 62 T20Is. Alongside Jos Buttler, he is one of only two England men's batters to have made centuries in all three formats of the game. The left-handed batter officially made this decision after not being selected in the squad for the forthcoming white-ball series against Australia. Meanwhile, Malan made his debut for England in T20I cricket back in

2017, scoring 78 runs from 44 balls in his face-off against South Africa. Additionally, the top-ranked batter achieved his first milestone in Test cricket during the Ashes, where he scored 140 runs in single innings. However, the cricketer bagged criticism in T20I fixtures due to his tendency to gradually start the innings and then accelerate it later. Meanwhile, he scored six ODI centuries in just 30 innings. Speaking in an interview with The Times, Malan opened up his biggest regret, that he always found Test

cricket challenging in maintaining the performance in long series. He further added, "But you know on the field I always did what I felt was right to win a game for the team. I never walked off the field if I got runs not caring about whether we had won or lost. It was always about winning and I'd always question myself as to whether I'd made the right decisions on the field to do that." Malan is expected to continue playing T20 franchise leagues. Recently, he was part of the Oval Invincibles and ended up winning The Hundred. Additionally, he has also played for teams like Sunrisers Eastern Cape in the SA20 and was also in action for Multan Sultans in the Pakistan Super League (PSL). - Agencies

## President Zardari for improving Cricket infrastructure in Sindh

The delegation briefed the President about the role of SPL in uncovering and promoting Sindh's cricketing talent and improving Cricket infrastructure

## SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasised the need to improve Cricket infrastructure and training facilities in Sindh to nurture and promote the province's Cricket talent. He called for exploring the possibility of joint ventures in the Cricket sector to develop state-of-the-art stadiums, besides providing modern coaching and mentoring opportunities to Sindh's youth. The President expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Sindh Premier League (SPL), led by Chairman SPL Malik Aslam, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Department of Sindh, Mr Jalaluddin Mahar, Vice Chairman SPL, Major General (r) Zahid Mehmood, President SPL, Mr Arif Malik, CEO SPL, Chaudhary Shahzad Akhtar, and senior government officials attended the meeting. During the meeting, the President said that the Sindh Premier League (SPL) is providing a great platform to showcase Sindh's cricket talent. He urged the need to devise



a comprehensive long-term roadmap to promote Cricket in the province. "Promoting sports and Cricket leagues in Pakistan will not only enhance sports tourism but will also boost economic activities," he remarked. The delegation briefed the President about the role of SPL in uncovering and promoting Sindh's cricketing talent and improving Cricket infrastructure. The delegation also highlighted the achievements of SPL's inaugural season and shared future plans for establishing a high-performance centre in Karachi aimed at training young talent, particularly from rural and underrepresented areas of Sindh. The delegation also apprised the President about the problems being faced by the League. President Asif Ali Zardari assured the delegation of his support to encourage and promote Cricket in Sindh, stating that he would ask the Sindh Government and the Pakistan Cricket Board to extend all necessary assistance to help improve Cricketing infrastructure in Sindh as well as provide mentoring to make SPL a success. Later, the SPL delegation also presented an SPL shirt to the President.

## Senate seats were not on agenda with PTI: JUI-F

FROM PAGE 01  
table stories and said that yesterday's sub-committee meeting focused on daily parliamentary matters. He said that discussions between JUI-F and PTI were issue-specific. Ghori further added that KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi needs to stop making irresponsible remarks and learn proper etiquette for discussions. He said that the governor should take guidance from the President in this regard. It is to be recalled that the PTI had earlier constituted a five-member committee for holding talks with the JUI-F. According to the sources, committee led by PTI chief Barrister Gohar and comprising spokesperson Raof Hassan, Omar Ayub Khan, Shibli Faraz and former NA speaker Asad Qaiser.

## KP's good governance committee...

FROM PAGE 01  
The report indicated that the approval of funds for projects was made by Shakeel Khan himself, instead of the secretary. Shakeel Khan was also found to have illegally promoted 30 employees within the department. Furthermore, there was an evidence of him soliciting bribes from a senior officer. The committee's report also mentioned that Shakeel Khan met PTI founder Imran Khan after the evidence came to light. It stated that there was no solid proof of allegations against the KP chief minister. The report noted that the allegations of favouring federal minister Amir Muqam's company were baseless. The World Bank had awarded the project to Muqam's company.

## Moody's lifts Pak debt, currency...

FROM PAGE 01  
on Pakistan's sources of external financing, following the sovereign's staff-level agreement with the IMF on 12 July 2024 for a 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of \$7 billion." Moreover, the rating agency expected the IMF Executive Board to approve the Pakistan loan deal in the next few weeks. Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have about doubled since June 2023, although they remain below what is required to meet its external financing needs, it said. According to Moody's, the country remains reliant on timely financing from official partners to fully meet its external debt obligations.

## Bangladesh revokesban..

FROM PAGE 01  
forcing her to resign and flee to India on August 5. A gazette notification on Wednesday by the caretaker government that replaced Hasina's administration said there was "no specific evidence of involvement of Jamaat" and its affiliates "in terrorist activities". The party has denied allegations that it stoked violence and had condemned the ban as "illegal, extrajudicial and unconstitutional." Jamaat-e-Islami has not been able to contest elections of 2014, 2018 and 2024 in Bangladesh after a court said in 2013 its registration as a political party conflicted with Bangladesh's secular constitution.

## Rains, floods...

FROM PAGE 01  
The authority reported 121 children, and 48 women were among the dead, 446 people had also been injured including 158 men, 107 women and 181 children. The report further states that the rains and floods have damaged 8 schools and 35 bridges, while 609 livestock have perished. Additionally, the floods and rains have also impacted the railway system. The NDMA's report stated that the track on the Sibi to Harnai section had been damaged, and repair work was ongoing, expected to be completed by Sept 10.

## Briefs

## Showdown looms over 'boys' club' lineup for EU commission

BRUSSELS, Belgium: A showdown is brewing over the gender makeup of the next European Commission after member states put forward an overwhelmingly male candidate lineup - in open defiance of EU chief Ursula von der Leyen, the clock ticking down on a Friday deadline for European Union capitals to offer nominees for von der Leyen's 26-person team, 16 of the 21 names known so far are men. That is despite the fact the commission chief asked states explicitly, following her re-election in July, to give her a choice of one male and one female candidate. Not a single country has done so - and as it stands, women may occupy as few as six posts in the next EU executive, including von der Leyen herself and the nominee for foreign policy chief, Estonia's outgoing leader Kaja Kallas.

The European Women's Lobby (EWL), an umbrella group working toward gender equality in the bloc, said the situation was indicative of an "old boys' club" mindset, calling it "beyond embarrassing". "If member states truly believe only men are fit for these roles or that there are no qualified women in their countries, they're not just out of touch - they're delusional," said the group's spokesperson Mirta Baselovic. Lina Galvez, chair of the European Parliament committee on gender equality, likewise said the numbers suggested a clear lack of "political will" from member states that sent a "very bad signal, especially to younger women and girls". At the root of the situation is a power play between von der Leyen and European capitals that may well back goals like gender parity on paper, but in practice resist having their hands tied in any way. As member states we expect von der Leyen to strive for gender parity," said an EU diplomat on condition of anonymity. "At the same time, we also believe that it is up to us to propose the commissioner we prefer." "Unfortunately those two desires don't seem to align this time around." Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said the quiet part out loud when he unveiled his candidate - a man - reminding the EU chief that the bloc's treaties require only one nominee.-APP

## Pacific Island leaders 'endorse' joint policing plan

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga: Australia said Pacific Island leaders meeting at a summit in Tonga endorsed a contentious regional policing plan Wednesday, a move seen as trying to limit China's security role in the region. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said leaders had agreed to establish up to four regional police training centres and a multinational crisis reaction force. Under the plan, a corps of about 200 officers drawn from different Pacific Island nations could be dispatched to regional hot spots and disaster zones when needed and invited. "This demonstrates how Pacific leaders are working together to shape the future that we want to see," said Albanese, hailing the agreement. He was flanked by leaders of Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Tonga - a symbolic show of unity in a region riven by competition between China and the United States. According to Mihai Sora of the Lowy Institute, a Sydney-based think tank, Wednesday's endorsement was a diplomatic victory for Australia and for the Pacific Islands Forum, which had appeared deeply divided on the topic. China's regional allies - most notably Vanuatu and Solomon Islands - had voiced concern that the policing plan represented a "geo-strategic denial security doctrine", designed to box out Beijing. While all members of the forum have endorsed the deal in principle, national leaders will have to decide how much they participate, if at all.-Agencies

## ICCI election 2024-26: Founder group unveils its candidates

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: The business community is united in its efforts to contribute to the country's growth and development. Despite various challenges, entrepreneurs and business leaders are working tirelessly to create opportunities, generate employment and drive innovation. This has been stated by Khalid Iqbal Malik, Chairman Founder Group, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry while inaugurating the Election Office. On this occasion, he unveiled the names of the candidates, the Group fielded for the election 2024-26 to be held on September 17, 2024. The event was hugely attended by the Presidents, General Secretaries and other office bearers of Traders Welfare Associations of different markets. Khalid Iqbal Malik lavishly praised Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, for his selfless dedication to the community, highlighting his remarkable willingness to personally bear expenses in the pursuit of serving others which made the ICCI as number one Chamber amongst the 54 Chambers of the country. On the occasion, he also extended heartfelt condolences to the families affected by the Balochistan incident, reaffirming the business community's unwavering support for the armed forces in



their resolute efforts to eradicate terrorism from the country. Accordingly, the CM-Class candidates for Executive body will be: Malik Aqeel Ahmed, Faisal Muzamil, Umar Hussain Malik, Sardar Tahir Mahmood, Nasir Mahmood Qureshi, Zakria

A Zia, Sanaullah Khan, Atiq ur Rehman, Amir Raheem Qureshi, Najeeb Elahi Malik, Raja Naveed Akhter Satti, M Kaleem Ullah, Umair Abdul Nasir and Ali Nawaz. The AM-Class candidates for the Executive body will be:

Malik Mohsin Khalid, Abdul Raman Siddiqui, Rohail Anwar Butt, Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, Muhammad Irfan Chaudhry, M.Waseem Chaudhry, Tahir Ayub, Malik Abdul Aziz, M. Ishaq Sial, M.Imran Minhas, Chaudhry

Nadeem Ahmed, Umer Khayam Abbasi, Chaudhry Aftab Ahmed Gujjar and M. Zulqarnain Abbasi. In his address, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that he did his best

to serve the business community from the core of his heart and devotion by voicing his optimism that the fraternity would reciprocate by voting overwhelmingly in favor of the Founder Group candidates, ensuring their success by a significant margin. Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of the United Business Group, reiterated the business community's firm commitment to stand in solidarity with the armed forces of Pakistan, from Khyber to Karachi, and thwart any attempts by enemies to create divisions between the masses and the military. Bakhtawari also highlighted his successful efforts to empower market committees and vowed to continue this mission, ensuring that no internal or external intrigues undermine the community's progress. Nasir Qureshi, President Industrial Area Association stated that the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) serves as the authentic voice of the city's business community, tirelessly advocating for their interests and resolving their issues with unwavering dedication, adding that its doors will remain open to the business fraternity for fostering a spirit of collaboration and support. He vowed to serve the community without any discrimination upon his election as the President.

## UN condemns Taliban's morality law targeting Afghan women

The law adopted last week imposes a lengthy list of repressive provisions on women, including mandates that they wear clothing covering their entire bodies, bans on their voices being heard in public, and further restrictions on their movement without a male relative, it was pointed out

UNITED NATIONS: A new morality law enacted by the Taliban in Afghanistan, cements policies that "completely erase" women's presence in public, the UN Human Rights Office, OHCHR, said Tuesday, calling for it to be immediately revoked. The "Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice" silences women's voices and deprives them of their autonomy, "effectively attempting to render them into faceless, voiceless shadows," said Ravina Shamdasani, OHCHR's Chief Spokesperson, in Geneva. "This is utterly intolerable," she stressed. "We call on the de facto authorities to immediately repeal this legislation, which is in

clear violation of Afghanistan's obligations under international human rights law." The law adopted last week imposes a lengthy list of repressive provisions on women, including mandates that they wear clothing covering their entire bodies, bans on their voices being heard in public, and further restrictions on their movement without a male relative, it was pointed out. Even the sound of a female voice outside the home is apparently deemed a moral violation. The law also requires men to grow beards, bans drivers from playing music, and restricts the media from publishing images of people. State agents are granted broad powers to detain individuals and

impose punishments. Ms. Shamdasani emphasized that disempowering and rendering Afghan women and girls invisible will only worsen the human rights and humanitarian crisis in the country. "Rather, this is a time to bring together all the people of Afghanistan, irrespective of their gender, religion or ethnicity, to help resolve the many challenges the country faces," she urged. The UN's top envoy to Afghanistan, Roza Otunbayeva, also denounced the new law, describing it a "distressing vision" for the country's future. "After decades of war and in the midst of a terrible humanitarian crisis, the Afghan people deserve much better than being threatened or jailed if

they happen to be late for prayers, glance at a member of the opposite sex who is not a family member, or possess a photo of a loved one," she said in a statement. Ms Otunbayeva added that the international community "had been seeking, in good faith" to constructively engage with the Taliban. "The world wants to see Afghanistan on the path of peace and prosperity, where all Afghans have a stake in their future, are citizens with rights and not just subjects to be disciplined." She emphasized that further restricting the rights of the Afghans and holding them in constant fear will make achieving that goal "even harder".-Agencies

## AIOU strives to reach poor strata across country

This initiative reflects AIOU's dedication to expanding educational access and ensuring that no potential student is left behind. The university aims to integrate out-of-school children into the educational system and increase overall student enrollment

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is making significant strides in enhancing access to education nationwide. According to AIOU, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood has undertaken a series of high-profile visits to remote and underserved regions, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sindh, and various overlooked areas in Punjab. These efforts underscore the university's commitment to reaching every aspiring student, regardless of their location, it added. During these visits, Professor Dr. Mahmood, accompanied by Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmad Khan, Director General of Regional Services, and Syed Zia-ul-Hussain, Director of Admissions, engaged with local communities and addressed gatherings of students. The discussions focused on the university's educational offerings and the support available to students, emphasizing the importance of education and the opportunities provided by AIOU. This initiative reflects AIOU's dedication to expanding educational access and ensuring that no potential student is left behind. The university aims to integrate out-of-school children into the educational system and increase overall student enrollment.-DNA

## Israeli military's evacuation orders threaten to uproot Gaza aid hub again: UN

UNITED NATIONS: The plight of Gaza's people continues to worsen in the war-ravaged enclave where humanitarian operations are "ongoing where feasible" amid repeated evacuation orders from the Israeli military, the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, warned Tuesday. In an update, OCHA spokesperson Jens Laerke rejected any suggestion of stopping the lifesaving aid operation, despite the multiple challenges linked to the war and ongoing fighting. "There's been no decision to halt, there never has been, we've been there for 10 months, so [it is] ongoing where feasible. I want to remind you that only 11 per cent of the territory of the Gaza Strip is not under evacuation orders... so we're trying to work with that number and keep the operation going." Laerke noted that a total of 16 evacuation orders have been issued for the month of August alone, creating upheaval for Gazans already uprooted multiple times. The same orders have also encompassed the UN's aid hub in the central city of Deir Al-Balah. Previously, the UN and partners' main humanitarian response had been in based in Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, close to Egypt, but the Israeli military operation that began there in early May resulted in an exodus of almost all of those sheltering in and around Rafah to the continually shrinking humanitarian zone at the coast. According to OCHA, since last Friday, the Israeli military has issued three new evacuation orders for over 19 neighbourhoods in northern Gaza and in Deir Al-Balah. More than 8,000 people sheltering in these areas have been impacted. There is particular concern about the evacuation order issued on Sunday affecting part of Deir Al-Balah used by humanitarians, the OCHA spokesperson told journalists during a scheduled briefing in Geneva: "It affected 15 premises hosting UN and NGO aid workers, four UN warehouses, Al Aqsa hospital, two clinics, three wells, one water reservoir and one desalination plant... [these evacuations happened] "at very short notice and in dangerous conditions". Laerke added that "it effectively upends a whole lifesaving humanitarian hub that was set up in Deir Al-Balah after its earlier evacuation from Rafah back in May... And that, of course, severely impacts our ability to deliver essential support and services." According to UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestine refugees, ongoing military operations in Deir Al-Balah have left only three of the area's 18 water wells still functioning. Apart from the daily challenge of securing water and food in the enclave, the UN health agency insisted on the urgent need to conduct a polio vaccination campaign, now that some 1.2 million vaccines have reached the enclave, in coordination with the Israeli authorities.-DNA

## Crackdown on illegal vehicle modifications; 53 vehicle registrations suspended

ISLAMABAD: The Excise and Taxation Department of Islamabad has intensified its crackdown on vehicles violating excise laws in the Federal Capital, targeting illegal modifications and unpaid taxes. According to the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, the Excise and Taxation Department has launched an extensive operation against vehicles with fancy number plates, tinted windows, unauthorized police lights, and those not paying the required token tax. Excise officials are actively conducting operations across major highways, busy markets, and other key locations in Islamabad. As part of today's operation, action was taken against 66 vehicles with tinted windows and 99 vehicles without registration plates. In addition to these actions, the registration of 53 vehicles was suspended for various violations of excise laws. Three vehicles illegally using police lights had these lights removed, and the vehicles were seized by authorities. Furthermore, token taxes were collected from 200 vehicles, with fines imposed for non-payment. Director of Excise and Taxation, Bilal Azam, has urged citizens to remove non-standard number plates and tinted windows from their vehicles to avoid penalties. He also advised against using HD lights in public vehicles and called on vehicle owners to immediately pay any outstanding token taxes and register any unregistered vehicles.-DNA

## UNGA moves UNSC reform talks to its 79th session

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations General Assembly Tuesday unanimously decided that the long-running intergovernmental negotiations (IGN) on restructuring the UN Security Council will continue during its upcoming 79th session, with Pakistan calling the process "the most appropriate platform" to pursue 15-member body's reform. "We welcome the adoption of the oral decision today to 'roll over' the negotiations on Security Council reform within the IGN process," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the 193-member Assembly after the vote. With the aim of "instilling new life" into the discussions on Security Council reform, the General Assembly further decided to include in its next session's agenda the item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council". Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he "very much hopes that member states, in their wisdom, will bring the process of Security Council reform to a result". The UN chief "has been extremely vocal, especially lately, on the need for reform, notably on the need to find a (permanent) seat for an African country on the Security Council," his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in response to a question at the regular noon briefing at UN Headquarters in New York. Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five clusters- the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly. Despite a general agreement on enlarging the Council, as part of the UN reform process, member states remain divided over the details. The so-called Group of Four - India, Brazil, Germany and Japan - who seek for themselves permanent seats on the Council have shown no flexibility in their push for expanding the Council by 10 seats, with six additional permanent and four non-permanent members. On the other hand, the Italy/Pakistan-led Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group, which firmly opposes additional permanent members, has proposed a new category of members - non permanent members - with longer duration in terms and a possibility to get re-elected. The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States - and 10 non-permanent members elected to serve for two years. In his remarks, Ambassador Jadoon also called for more active consultation with regional and sub-regional groups - including the African Union, the Arab Group and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Furthermore, he said, it is vital to ensure increased representation of small and medium-sized countries, including small island developing States, in the Council and "treat Africa as a special case" to redress the historical injustice.-DNA

## Prosecutors resubmit charges that Trump tried to overturn election

WASHINGTON: Prosecutors on Tuesday filed a revised indictment of Donald Trump, pressing ahead on bombshell charges that he tried to overturn the 2020 US election after losing to Joe Biden. The superseding indictment retains the same four charges against Trump as in an earlier version but takes into account a recent Supreme Court ruling that a former president has broad immunity from criminal prosecution. The new indictment is 36 pages long, down from 45 pages, and removes material potentially affected by the presidential immunity ruling by the conservative-dominated top court. However, it retains the same core, stating that Trump lost in 2020 but "was determined to stay in power" and attempted to subvert the results. The Supreme Court ruled in July that an ex-president has broad immunity from criminal prosecution for

official acts conducted while in office, but can be pursued for unofficial acts. This threw into doubt the historic prosecution of the ex-president. The new indictment comes three days before Special Counsel Jack Smith, who brought the charges against Trump, and lawyers for the former president had been scheduled to file a schedule for pretrial proceedings. Judge Tanya Chutkan, who is presiding over the case, had also scheduled a status hearing in the case for September 5 and it was not immediately clear if that would go ahead now, following the filing of the superseding indictment. Trump's lawyers have been seeking to delay a trial until after November's presidential election, in which Trump is the Republican candidate, running against Vice President Kamala Harris. Trump is accused of conspiracy to

defraud the United States and conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding - the January 6, 2021 joint session of Congress that was attacked by Trump supporters. Trump is also accused of seeking to disenfranchise American voters with his campaign of false claims that he won the 2020 election. He was originally scheduled to go on trial on March 4, but it was put on hold while his lawyers pushed his claim of presidential immunity all the way up to the Supreme Court. It will be up to Chutkan, an appointee of former Democratic president Barack Obama, to decide which of Trump's actions regarding the 2020 election were official acts and which were unofficial acts subject to potential prosecution. That - along with other pre-trial issues - is expected to take months, making it un-

likely the case will go to trial before the November 5 presidential election. Trump was convicted in New York in May of 34 counts of falsifying business records to cover up hush money payments made to porn star Stormy Daniels. Sentencing has been scheduled for September 18, but Trump's lawyers have asked for his conviction to be tossed, citing the Supreme Court immunity ruling, and sentencing to be delayed. Trump also faces charges in Georgia related to efforts to overturn the 2020 election. Trump was also charged in Florida with mishandling top secret documents after leaving the White House. The judge presiding over the documents case, Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee, dismissed the charges because Smith, the special counsel, was unlawfully appointed. Smith has appealed Cannon's ruling.-APP

## Briefs

**KP CM Gandapur granted bail in May 9 cases**

DNA

FAISALABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has been granted bail in May 9 cases. Gandapur appeared before the Special Anti-Terrorism Court in Faisalabad. After the hearing, the KP chief minister left for his province amid security protocol. The KP chief minister, along with many PTI leaders and workers, had been facing several May 9 cases. There were nationwide protest demonstrations in the country after Imran Khan's arrest. Around 1,900 people of PTI were arrested. The KP CM appeared before the court in connection with the May 9 cases against him and was granted bail.

**ECP issues notices to political parties**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday issued notices to the heads of political parties for not issuing five percent tickets to the women candidates in the general elections 2024. The ECP issued notices to 12 parties including the Awami National Party (ANP), the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), the Tehreek-e-Labbay-ik Pakistan (TLP) and the Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT). The notices were issued under Section 207 of the Election Act. The ECP will conduct the hearing on Sept 4.

**No light at the end of the tunnel for Imran**

SHAMIM SHAHID

MARDAN: Federal Minister for SAFRON Amir Muqam said on Wednesday Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's chapter seemed to have been closed as he did not see the latter coming out of jail anytime soon. Speaking to reporters in Mardan, Muqam said the future of the PTI founder was bleak, pointing out the 126-day-long sit-in of the PTI which, he said, didn't bring any change. He further said the PTI was struggling to get the founder out of jail. The minister praised Jamiat-ul-Ulma-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman for his experience in politics, suggesting that he should play a positive role during the current circumstances. Speaking about internal rifts in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, he said PTI's own leaders were turning against the provincial leadership. He dismissed all claims of the opposition regarding ouster of the government, maintaining that civil and military leaderships were doing combined efforts to improve the overall situation of the country.

**New indictment for Donald Trump**

WASHINGTON: US prosecutors have issued revised charges against Donald Trump for the former president's alleged attempts to interfere in the 2020 election after losing the contest. The updated wording tries to navigate a Supreme Court ruling that presidents have broad immunity from criminal prosecution for official acts. The ruling had thrown this case into doubt. Trump denies accusations that he pressured officials to reverse the results, knowingly spread lies about election fraud and sought to exploit a riot at the US Capitol to delay the certification of Joe Biden's victory. It appears unlikely the case - and other criminal cases he faces - will reach court before the next election on 5 November. The revised indictment, brought by DOJ Special Counsel Jack Smith. - Agencies

# Naqvi urges UN to play role in rehabilitation of Afghan refugees

Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for decades. He said that the phase wise repatriation of illegal foreigners has been already started

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with the UN delegation led by UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Indrika Ratwatte. The high-level delegation included UN Resident Coordinator Mohamed Yahya, Fady El Meouchy, Special Assistant to the DSRSG and Head of the UN mission in Afghanistan Malik Ceasay. Federal Interior Minister welcomed the UN delegation at the Ministry of Interior. The UN Special Representative for Afghanistan strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan. Interior Minister said that terrorism is a global issue and Pakistan is the most affected country by it. He highlighted that Pakistan's security forces, police, and people have rendered unparalleled sacrifices in the war against terrorism. He also informed the delegation about the involvement of banned TTP in the terrorist attacks in Pakistan. He stated that



banned TTP is using Afghan soil for these attacks, which must be stopped. He said that Pakistan is desirous of peace and stability in Afghanistan and is providing all possible support in this regard. Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for decades. He said that the phase wise repatriation of illegal foreigners has been already started. He stated that no action is being taken against individuals holding legal documents, adding that no one can be allowed to stay in Pakistan without visa or other legal documents. He said that the second phase of the repatriation of Afghan refugees will be started soon. He emphasized the need for the role of the United Nations and the international community in the rehabilitation of Afghan refugees. UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Indrika Ratwatte praised Pakistan's role regarding Afghan refugees and Doha dialogue. He said that UN is closely working with the Afghan Government for the permanent rehabilitation of Afghan refugees.

**Starmar: Reset with EU will not reverse Brexit**

LONDON: The UK's desire to reset relations with the European Union does not mean reversing Brexit, Sir Keir Starmer has said. The prime minister said he wanted a closer relationship with Europe but the UK had no plans for a youth mobility scheme, which could give young people in the EU the right to live and work in the UK, and vice versa. Sir Keir was speaking at a joint news conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin, after the pair began talks on a new co-operation agreement between the two countries. The PM said the agreement aimed to boost trade, create jobs and deliver economic growth in both countries. Two leaders hope to sign a treaty, covering areas including defence, energy security, science and technology, by early next year. During the visit, they also agreed a joint action plan to tackle illegal migration and smuggling gangs by sharing intelligence and data. Sir Keir has previously said he will seek a better deal on trade with the EU than the one negotiated by Boris Johnson in late 2020. His Labour government wants to strike deals with the EU to reduce border checks on food products, lessen paperwork for touring artists, and boost recognition of work qualifications, making it easier for some professionals to work abroad. It also wants to broker a security pact with the EU, as well as a new returns agreement for failed asylum seekers. However, it remains unclear whether Brussels would entertain major changes to the UK's existing Brexit trade deal, which is due to be reviewed in 2026. Taking questions from journalists after the news conference, Sir Keir was pressed over what concessions the UK would have to offer to secure a better deal. - Agencies

# Israeli raids across occupied West Bank have killed 9

NEWS DESK

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Israel launched raids across the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, where its forces killed at least nine Palestinians and sealed off the volatile city of Jenin, according to Palestinian officials. Israel has carried out near-daily raids across the West Bank since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Gaza triggered the ongoing war there. Palestinian militant groups said they were exchanging fire with the Israeli military. The governor of Jenin, Kamal Abu Al-Rub, said on Palestinian radio that Israeli forces had surrounded the city, blocking exit and entry points and access to hospitals, and ripping up infrastructure in the camp. The Palestinian Health Ministry in the West Bank said Israeli forces had blocked the roads leading to a hospital with dirt barriers and surrounded other medical facilities in Jenin. The Israeli military confirmed it was operating in the cities of Jenin and Tulkarem but did not provide further details. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz drew comparisons with Gaza and called for similar measures in the West Bank. "We must deal with the threat just as we deal with the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza, including the temporary evacuation of Palestinian residents and whatever steps might be required. This is a war in every respect, and we must win it," he wrote on the platform X.

Hamas called on Palestinians in the West Bank to rise up, saying the raids are part of a larger plan to expand the war in Gaza and blaming the escalation on US support for Israel. The militant group called on security forces loyal to the Western-backed Palestinian Authority, which cooperate with Israel, to "join the sacred battle of our people." At least 652 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed by Israeli fire since the war in Gaza began over 10 months ago, according to the Palestinian ministry. Most have died during such raids, which often trigger gunbattles with militants. Israel says the operations are required to dismantle Hamas and other militant groups and to prevent attacks on Israelis, which have also risen since the start of the war. The Palestinian Health Ministry said the bodies of seven people were brought to the hospital in Tubas, another West Bank city, and another two were brought to the hospital in Jenin. The ministry identified two killed in Jenin as Qassam Jabarin, 25, and Asem Balout, 39. Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three for a future state. Israel has built scores of settlements across the West Bank, which are home to over 500,000 Jewish settlers. They have Israeli citizenship, while the 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank live under Israeli military rule, with the Palestinian Authority exercising limited control over population centers.

# CJP urges HC chief justices to nominate additional judges

Chief Justice Isa cites Judicial Commission rules to enhance nomination transparency.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa, has called on the chief justices of the country's high courts to initiate the process of nominating additional judges. In a letter dated 28 August 2024, Justice Isa emphasised the importance of filling vacancies in the judiciary to ensure the smooth functioning of the courts. According to CJP Isa, the Supreme Court, which comprises sixteen judges, including himself, recently resumed full operations after two and a half years on 25 June 2024. The Shariat Appellate Bench also became functional again after the appointment of a second aaim member in July. Justice Isa urged the high courts to consider suitable candidates for judicial appointments, highlighting the need for transparency and adherence to democratic principles in the selection process. He referenced the rules of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, established in 2010, which were designed to make the nomination process more transparent.

# Another petition for recovery of PTI worker

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The family of PTI worker Umer Sultan has approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) for his recovery. Umer Sultan's father, Sultan Javed filed a petition in the IHC. The petition claimed that Umer Sultan was arrested without a warrant by Islamabad police on Aug 26. He was arrested near a petrol pump in F-10 Sector,

Islamabad. Despite filing a request at the police station for his recovery, no action was taken. The petition urged the court to issue an order for Umer Sultan's appearance before the court, to provide details about any cases or detention orders against him. It was further pledged to declare his arrest and abduction as illegal. The petition also requested an impartial inquiry into the unlawful detention, identification of the abductors, and action against the involved officers. The petition named the state, the Interior Secretary, the IG Islamabad, and the SHO of F-10 police station as respondents. Missing Umer Sultan was a core member of former prime minister Imran Khan's personal security team.

# Oxford urged to consider Imran Khan's candidacy

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: As incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder seeks nomination for ceremonial post of Oxford University's chancellor, the prestigious British varsity has received a number of emails and a petition raising concerns about the former premier's candidacy. University sources have confirmed that its office has received several emails raising concerns about his support for the Taliban in the past and corruption cases. The university has told media that the shortestlist of candidates fit for the position of Oxford's chancellor will be announced in early October. Khan has run from jail that he has submitted his nomination to run for Oxford's new chancellor because the university helped him in his early years and he wanted to "give back" and that "I am committed to giving back to the world the resilience, determination and integrity that life has taught me, even when the odds are stacked against me". The petition to the university says that "while Mr Khan is a prominent figure, there are significant aspects of his public and personal record that are deeply troubling and deserve careful consideration". It tells the Oxford University: "Mr Imran Khan has fre-

quently expressed views and taken actions that align with extremist elements, particularly the Taliban. Mr Khan has proposed allowing the Taliban to open an office in Pakistan, which sparked widespread criticism both within the country and internationally. This suggestion was particularly alarming given the Taliban's history of violence and human rights abuses. He has referred to the Taliban as freedom fighters, especially during the US presence in Afghanistan. After the US withdrawal, Mr Khan celebrated the event as the Afghans 'breaking the shackles of slavery', a statement widely interpreted as support for the Taliban's return to power." The petition says that Imran Khan also supported Osama Bin Laden. "In a speech to Pakistan's National Assembly, Mr Khan controversially referred to Osama bin Laden as a 'shaheed' (martyr), a term that honours his death rather than condemning his actions as a global terrorist. Mr Khan has made numerous statements that have drawn criticism for promoting misogynistic views. He has repeatedly blamed women's clothing for incidents of rape, claiming that 'if a woman wears very few clothes, it will have an impact on men unless they're robots'. Such remarks shift the blame away from the perpetrators and perpetuate harmful stereotypes about women."

# Political parties unite to reaffirm unwavering support for CPEC

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute, emphasised the pivotal role of the CPC in China's ongoing journey of reform and modernization



MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, successfully organised a unique event under its 'Friends of Silk Road' series, which brought together leaders of 8 political parties on one platform to reaffirm support for CPEC. Leaders belonging to parties from Government and Opposition, PML-N, PPP, PTI, MQM, BAP, NP, NDM and JUI-F, from all provinces, were represented. They also discussed the results of the recently-concluded 3rd Plenum of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and its impact on China and its foreign relations. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute, emphasised the pivotal role of the CPC in China's ongoing journey of reform and modernization, adding CPC is the world's biggest political party with 100 million members and longest-serving political party, which has transformed China. Citing figures of China's phenomenal progress since the 1979 Reform & Opening Up, he said that China had per capita income of \$ 157 while now it's \$ 12,000, then China's GDP was \$ 150 billion, now it's \$ 18 trillion. And Fortune 500 now

counts China with 142, largest number of companies. Senator Mushahid Hussain listed 5 reasons for the China Success Story in such a short time: Quality of Leadership, Ability to do Course Correction, Continuity of Policy, Learning from others, and Peaceful Foreign Policy. Senator Sherry Rehman noted that the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee will have far-reaching impacts not only on China but also on the world. "China has played a crucial role in the development of the Global South, and CPEC has created numerous investment opportunities in Pakistan," Senator Rehman stated. She praised China's Global Security Initiative, calling it a commendable effort that will ensure peace and stability globally. Additionally, she highlighted China's role in clean energy development under CPEC as a significant contribution to sustainable development in Pakistan and the region. Saadia Khaqan Abbasi commended China's leadership in technological advancement, human development, and labor productivity. "The focus on security and development is a unique selling point of China", she added. Senator Shibli Faraz, Leader of Opposition, PTI emphasised China's development story as a role model for the world and highlighted the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as having the potential for shared development and prosperity across the globe.

**MURREE SPARKLETT'S**  
Bottled Drinking Water

**WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!**

**330ml** **750ml**

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Adeel Butt 03334131756	Kaiser Waheed 03325808422	Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------